

A collage of four images. The top-left image shows a person in a white lace-trimmed top playing a violin. The top-right image shows a person in a green shirt with a large 'PRES' sign in the background. The bottom-left image shows a group of people in a room. The bottom-right image shows a building with a clock tower.

2024-2025

Impact Report

E THE EBELL
of Los Angeles



A woman with a large, ornate gold turban is singing passionately into a microphone. She is wearing a dark, sequined dress with green and gold patterns. Her mouth is open in a wide, joyful expression, and her hands are raised in a gesture of praise or emphasis. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on her.

Mission

The mission of The Ebell of Los Angeles is to inspire women and build community through arts, culture, education, service, and stewardship of our historic campus and collections.

A Year in Review

Dear Friends,

The Ebell of Los Angeles was founded in 1894 by women who understood that access—to arts, to education, to civic life—was not a privilege, but a pathway to progress. That conviction continues to animate our work today.

The Ebell is still a place where people come together with purpose. But place, as we've come to understand, is more than geography. It holds memory, identity, culture, and opportunity. **For those long excluded from institutions of power or denied access to cultural life, the work of making space, and keeping it open, is transformative.**

Over the past year, we've grown our impact and deepened our commitment to that work. **We expanded community-serving programs by 45% and student programs by 62%.** We launched new partnerships and welcomed extraordinary voices, including Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Ketanji Brown Jackson, Dr. Jane Goodall, and Renée Fleming. Through The Ebell Institute, we are reshaping how Los Angeles history is told, with a particular focus on women and their stories that have too often been left out.

We also made important strides in access and inclusion. **In one of our most significant changes, we lowered membership dues by nearly 60%,** helping remove longstanding barriers and opening our doors to new participants across Los Angeles.

We will continue to platform new voices, unearth hidden histories, and reimagine this campus as a dynamic, inclusive space for dialogue, creativity, and change. The challenges facing our communities are real. But so is the power of people coming together—in shared space, with shared purpose—to respond, to reflect, and to reimagine what's next.

We're honored to do this work alongside you. Thank you for being part of it.

With gratitude,



Randi Jones
President



Stacy Brightman, Ph.D.
CEO

116

Public Community
Programs



80%
Women-Focused



70%
Free or Low-Cost
Programming

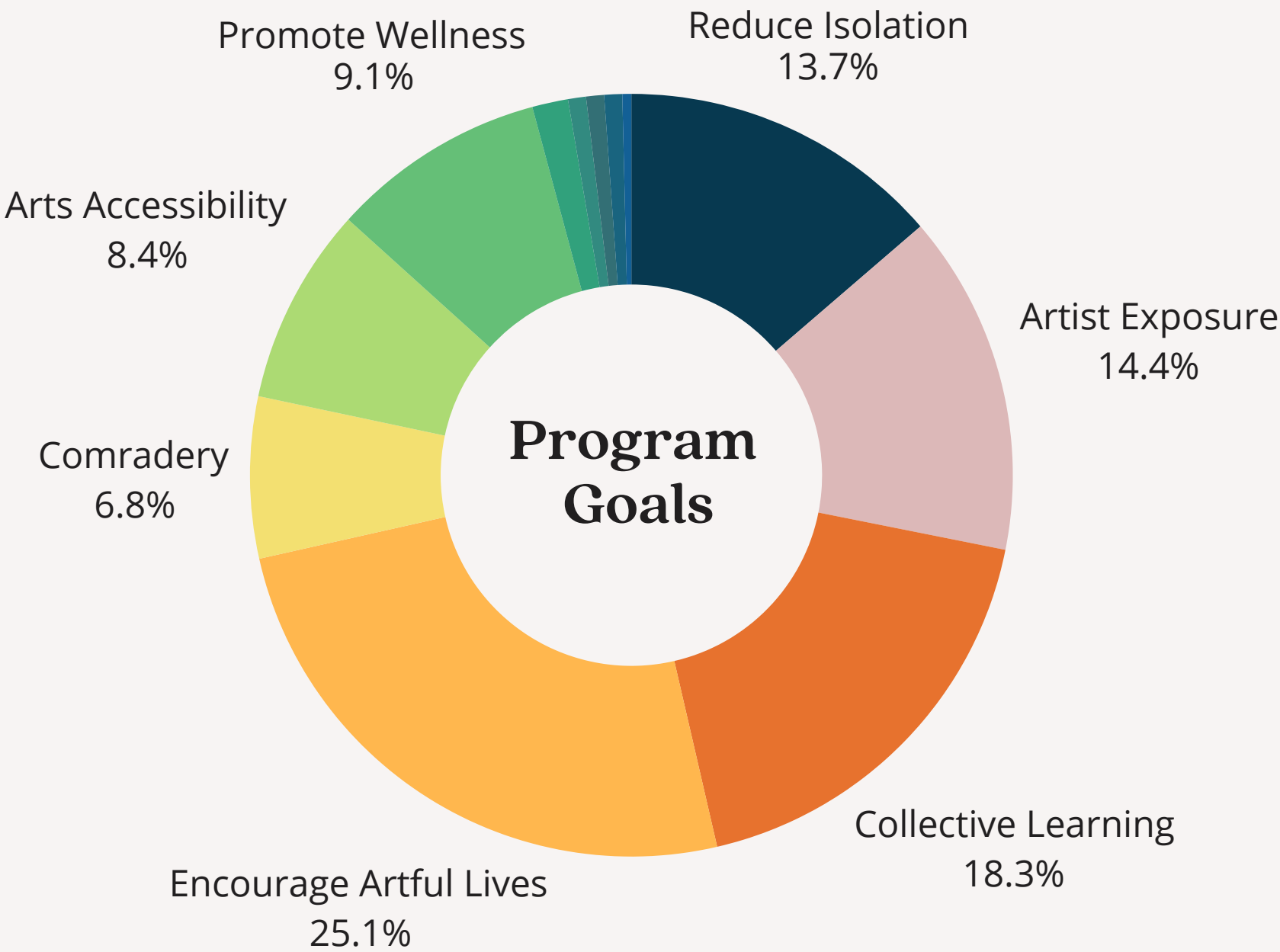


60
Community
Partners

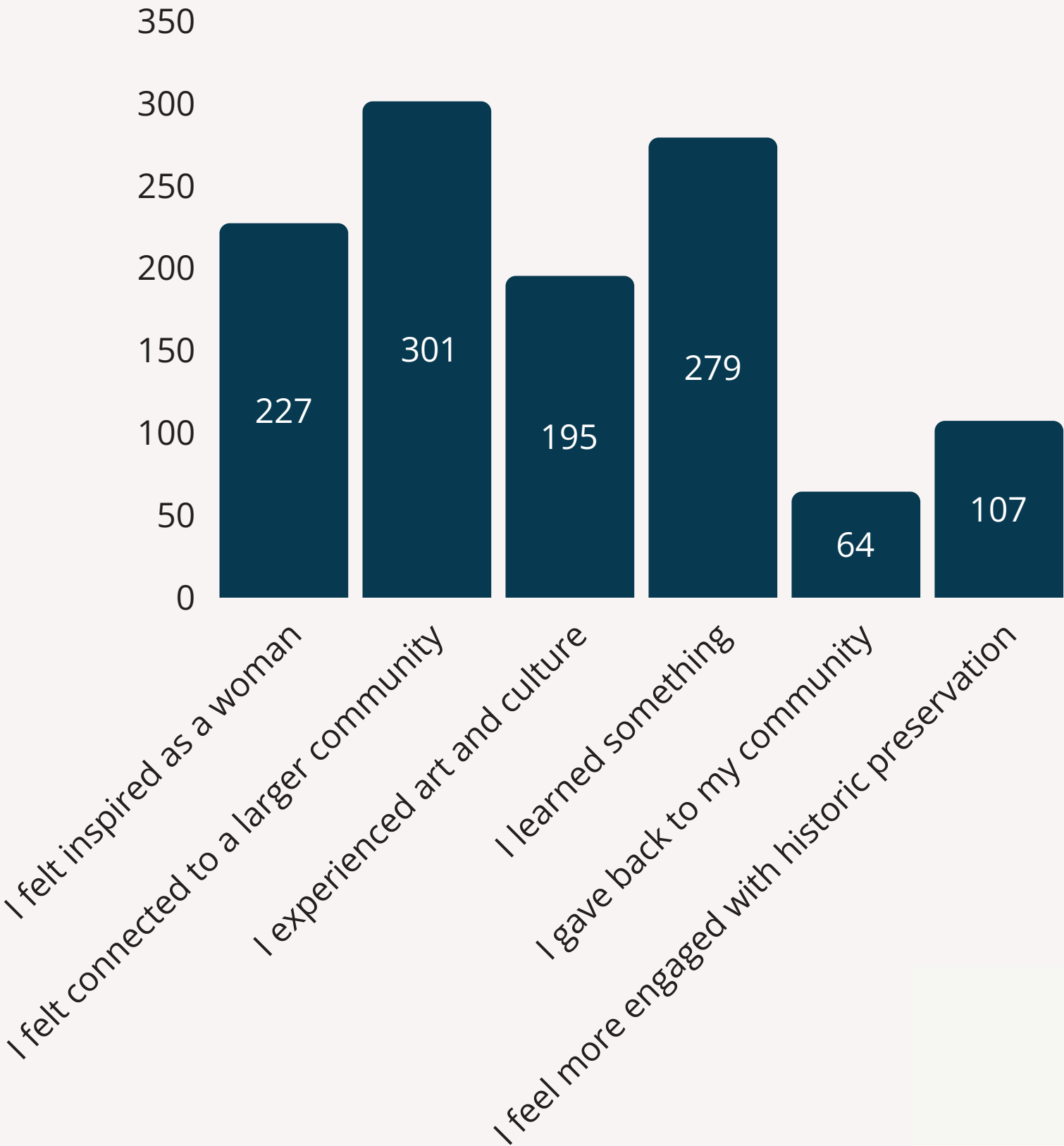
**Creativity.
Connection.
27,000 times over.**

The Ebell has reached 27,000 community members through our self-produced programming. We also welcomed 58,000 theatre-goers and 20,000 special event guests, increasing The Ebell's visibility and subsidizing our public programs.

2024-2025 Goals & Impacts



Event Survey Responses



Core Programming Pillars

Creativity as Catalyst

We believe the arts spark transformation. From performances and exhibitions to workshops and residencies, we foster creative expression as a powerful tool for dialogue, discovery, and change.

Advancement Through Knowledge

Education drives empowerment. Through The Ebell Institute, we produce and present lectures, classes, symposia, and public forums, offering lifelong learning opportunities that expand minds and build bridges.

Service as Purpose

Civic engagement is at our core. We support initiatives and partnerships that respond to community needs, amplify local voices, and inspire collective action.

Stewardship for the Future

We are caretakers of a legacy. From preserving our historic campus to mentoring emerging leaders, we invest in the sustainability of our mission and the city we serve.





Creativity as Catalyst

Ebell Arts



15K
Attendees



5,000+
Students Engaged



100
Public Arts
Events +
Classes



12
Original Series



Student Theatre Programs

In FY 2024-2025, The Ebell reached 62% more students through its continuum of educational programming. These programs introduce young people to the arts, illuminate women's contributions to Los Angeles history, and build early pathways to creative careers.



Living Herstory Project

Original musicals dramatizing the real-life achievements of Los Angeles women and exposing students to diverse theatrical traditions.



Shadow Days

Students shadow Ebell Theatre staff, exploring crew positions including lighting, rigging, sound, and front-of-house.



Internships

Paid preprofessional experience for high school students exploring careers in technical theatre. This year, we hosted 27 interns.

We Can Do It!

Book and Lyrics by Velina Hasu Houston
Composed by Brooke deRosa.



New Student Matinees



Versos y Besos

Created and performed by Susie
Garcia and Las Colibrí.

Artist Spotlight: Velina Hasu Houston

"Writing about women who worked in defense industries during World War II is important especially in conjunction with the desegregation of those industries by President Roosevelt via executive order. Because the factories were at a loss when men went to fight in the war, jobs opened up and women met the need. The issue of desegregation enriched this empowerment of women because it brought together women of different races in important roles in support of the war effort.

"These women had a huge impact on the journey of gender in U.S. society, a journey that is long from over. In my work, I am interested in telling the stories of women who break boundaries thrust in their pathways and transform their lives with the same kind of power by which art transforms society. Creating this piece in partnership with The Ebell is especially meaningful because we're sharing these important lessons with young minds at such an important time in their lives."



Velina Hasu Houston, Ph.D.
Playwright/Librettist of *We Can Do It!*
Interviewed in the *Larchmont Buzz*



On Stage

The Wilshire Ebell Theatre is the **oldest theatre in the nation continuously owned and operated by women**. This year, the theatre showcased original Ebell programs and presented rental and nonprofit collaborations.



125 productions



65k total audience members



75% increase nonprofit collaborations



Advancement Through Knowledge





The Ebell Institute

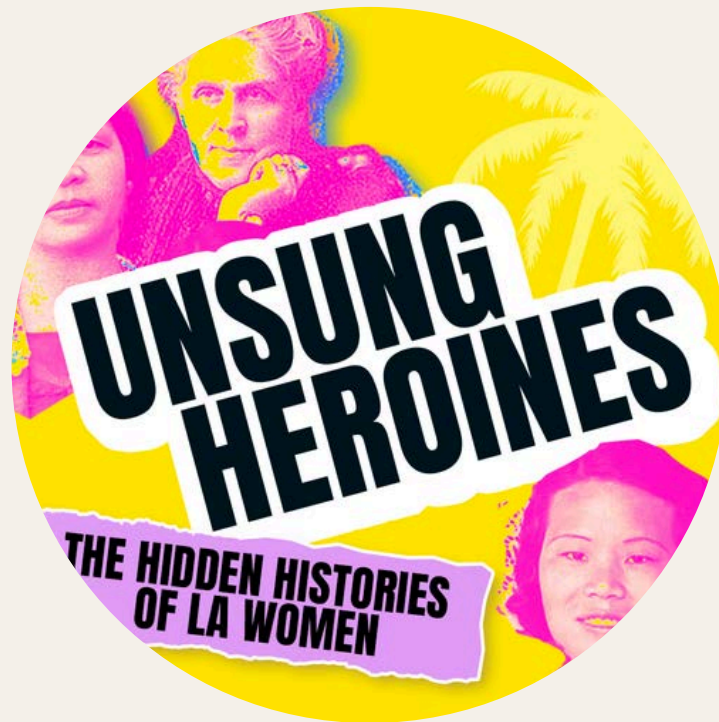
The Ebell Institute (TEI) supports the research and dissemination of the untold stories of Los Angeles **women** who have played a pivotal role in shaping the city as we know it, but whose contributions have been omitted from history books and ignored in public spheres.

“A shot in the arm of inspiration. Not only were the speakers highlighting really interesting women, the speakers and attendees themselves were highly accomplished and interesting.”

Survey Respondent
2025 TEI Symposium

TEI by the Numbers

Founded in 2023, The Ebell Institute (TEI) completed its second full year of programming in FY24-25.



10

Podcast Episodes

We're telling the stories of the women who shaped LA. With 10 episodes and listeners in 11 countries, their voices are finally being heard.



150

Symposium Attendees

Our second annual symposium drew a sold-out crowd for a powerful day of community and discovery, featuring nine scholars and a special presentation by the National Trust for Historic Preservation—all spotlighting the untold stories of Los Angeles women.



734

Items Catalogued

For the first time in its 130-year history, The Ebell of Los Angeles is searchable on the Online Archive of California (OAC)—a major milestone in expanding public access to our historic collections.

You Can't Be What You Can't See.

"One student is a foster youth and the other is from an impoverished part of East Los Angeles, and both young women said nothing in their lives ever made them think they'd be in the same room with two such extraordinary and inspirational women. We went and sat on the steps afterwards and talked for an hour, just to process how inspiring it was - and how the two of them could see reflected what they could absolutely be."

Student mentor attendee from Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson in conversation with Ava DuVernay at The Ebell



Art, Erasure, and Rediscovery

The Story of The Ebell's "Sibyl War"

After nearly a century of mystery, The Ebell of LA has uncovered one of its most storied treasures: the long-lost Sybil Frescoes by celebrated WPA muralist and Diego Rivera protégé Maxine Albro.

Commissioned in 1933, the frescoes—depicting four Roman sibyls—divided the membership. Some praised their modernism; others disliked their bold colors. The controversy, soon dubbed the "Sibyl War," captured national attention and sparked a larger debate: does a patron have the right to destroy a commissioned work of art? In 1935, after a contentious vote, the frescoes were ordered removed. But their fate remained unclear—destroyed or simply buried beneath paint?

In 2024, The Ebell Institute brought in leading conservator Kiernan Graves, who used nanogel technology to reveal vivid fragments—proving the frescoes survive, brighter than imagined.



Look What We Found!

When Objects Speak: Forgotten Histories Come to Light

By Meredith Drake Reitan, PhD, MPL
Ebell Scholar in Residence



Inspired by Zora Neale Hurston's definition of research as "formalized curiosity," I have spent many hours in dusty boxes and in thoughtful conversation with members. What began as a general interest in the things The Ebell collected over the years became something more significant: **the discovery of stories waiting to be told.**

Through my research, I was able to correct the historical record and reveal forgotten histories. For example, by comparing documents in The Ebell archives with city records, I discovered that Julia Morgan, California's first licensed female architect, designed the Rest Cottage in 1922. **For over a century, city records have incorrectly credited male architects with this work.** Without proper attribution, Morgan's Rest Cottage, located at 135 Park View, would have been vulnerable to demolition.

Perhaps even more exciting was what the archives revealed about the Fountain of Honor in the Ebell courtyard. When it was unveiled in 1930, the plaques at its base were said to commemorate 250 "sons, husbands, and brothers" who contributed to the war effort. However, the fountain honors 282 individuals, including seven women whose overseas service in World War I has not been well documented. Among them was Ebell member Dr. Helen Woodroffe, one of the first female physicians sent overseas by the American Red Cross.

These and other discoveries are significant because they reveal how women's contributions to Los Angeles have been systematically overlooked in official records and public memory.

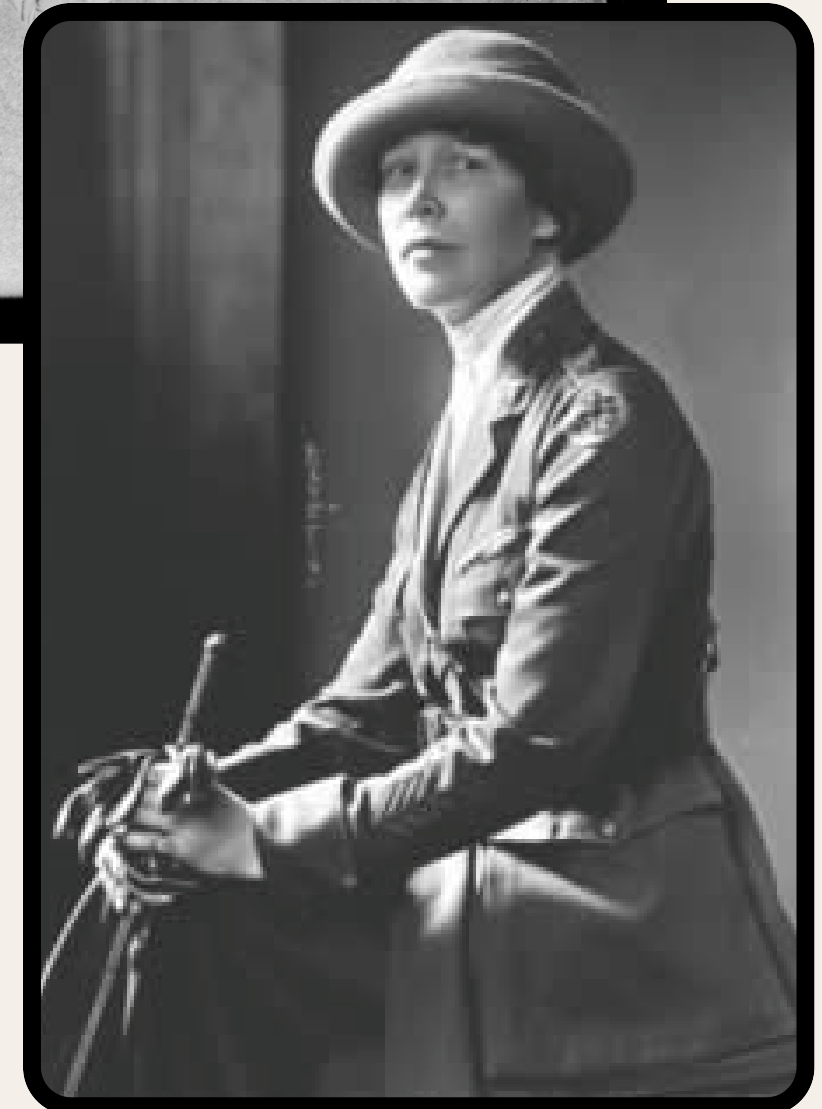
Every object uncovered, from turn-of-the-century language learning devices in the History Room to the books donated to the Library, reveals a network of women who built this city. When the full stories are told, we discover that Los Angeles was shaped by collaborative efforts, with women in roles that have been hiding in plain sight.

This isn't just about preserving the past; it's about understanding how the shadows of these women continue to inspire and guide us today. Just as Dr. Woodroffe proved that even in the darkest times, the lamp of learning and service can light the way, support for this research ensures that these stories will continue to illuminate the path forward. When these forgotten histories are recovered, we discover that this isn't simply women's history, it's Los Angeles history, told in its entirety at last.



Ebell member Dr. Helen Woodroffe treats children in Paris. Dr. Woodroffe was one of the first women to serve with the American Red Cross in France during World War I.

Photographer Lewis Wickes Hine, archived by the Library of Congress.





Service as Purpose

600+
Members



23K+
Service Hours



58%
Decrease in Dues



Membership

Ebell members are the heart of our organization. Together, they form a collective whose commitment to service, progress, and community has sustained The Ebell for more than 130 years and continues to shape its legacy today.

This year, we took a transformative step by reducing membership dues by 58%, broadening access and ensuring that even more voices join in shaping our movement.

Through their shared time, talent, and generosity, our members drive The Ebell forward as a dynamic force for creativity, service, and community in Los Angeles.

60

Community
Partners



44

Public Co-Productions



\$100K+

Theatre Subsidies



24K+

Audiences Engaged

Partnerships and Subsidies

The Ebell thrives on collaboration. We open our historic campus and resources to a wide range of partners and like-minded nonprofits, providing access to performance spaces, technical expertise, and professional support. These partnerships extend our impact far beyond our own programs, bringing new voices, audiences, and ideas into our home.

The Ebell/Flint Scholarship Fund

The Ebell is proud to champion the next generation of leaders, artists, and innovators with multi-year scholarships. Founded in 1919, The Ebell/Flint Scholarship program has distributed more than \$10.5 million to 4,500 Los Angeles students.

In FY24-25:



50
Recipients



\$248,000
Awarded



22
Graduates



Rest Cottage Association

Founded in 1919 as a home where Ebell members cared for women recovering from illness or hardship, the Rest Cottage Association now carries on that mission through grantmaking. Today, RCA supports Los Angeles women and girls by funding organizations that provide essential services, from safe havens to healthcare.



14
Grantees

\$159K
Grant Funding

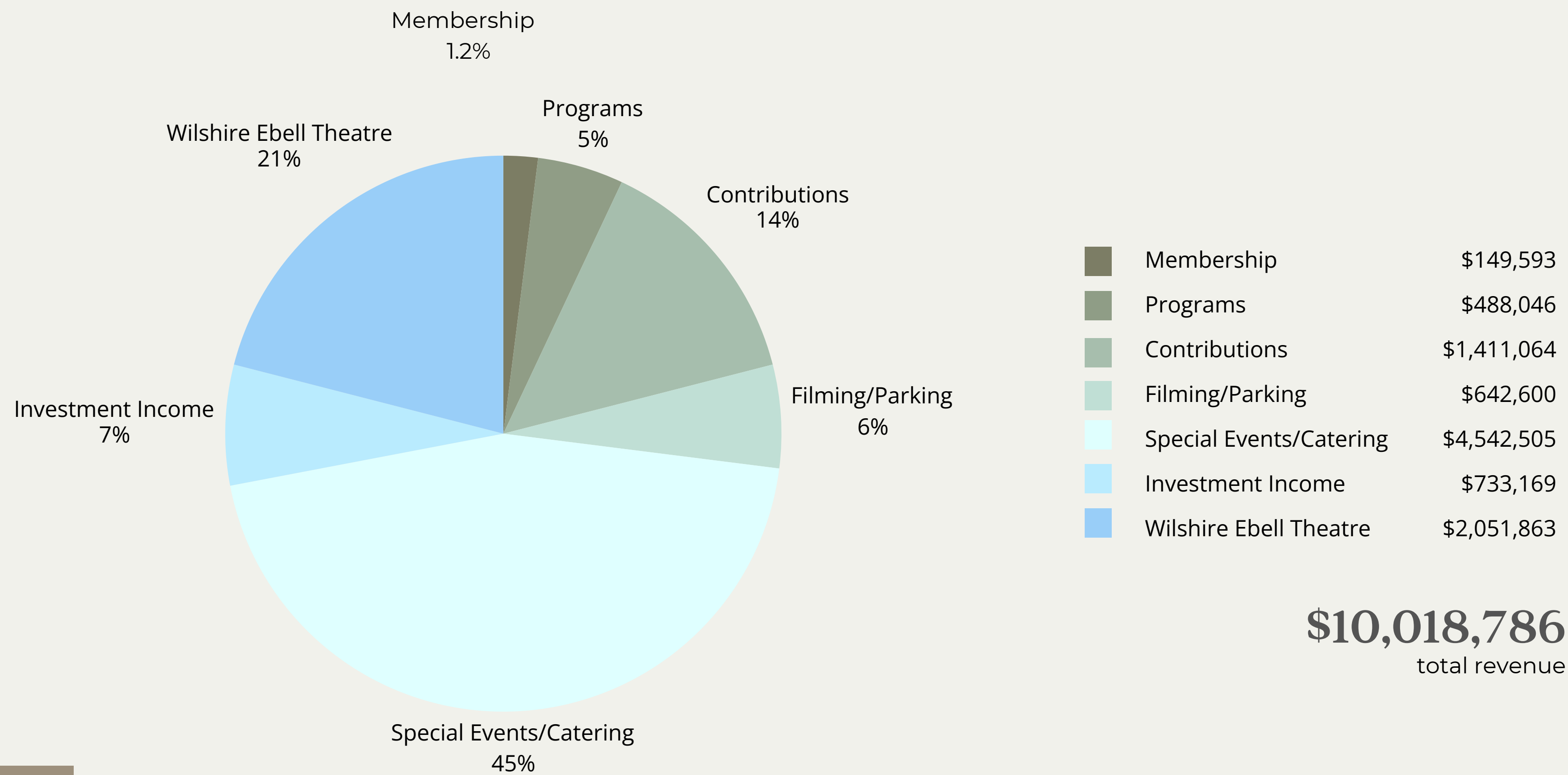


- Downtown Women's Center
- FID Group
- Good Shepherd Center/Farley House
- Harvest Home
- Home Again L.A.
- The HomeMore Project
- Jewish Family Services
- Ready to Launch
- St. Anne's Family Services
- Survivor Justice Center
- Treasures Ministries
- Upward Bound
- We Still Move
- YWCA Glendale & Pasadena

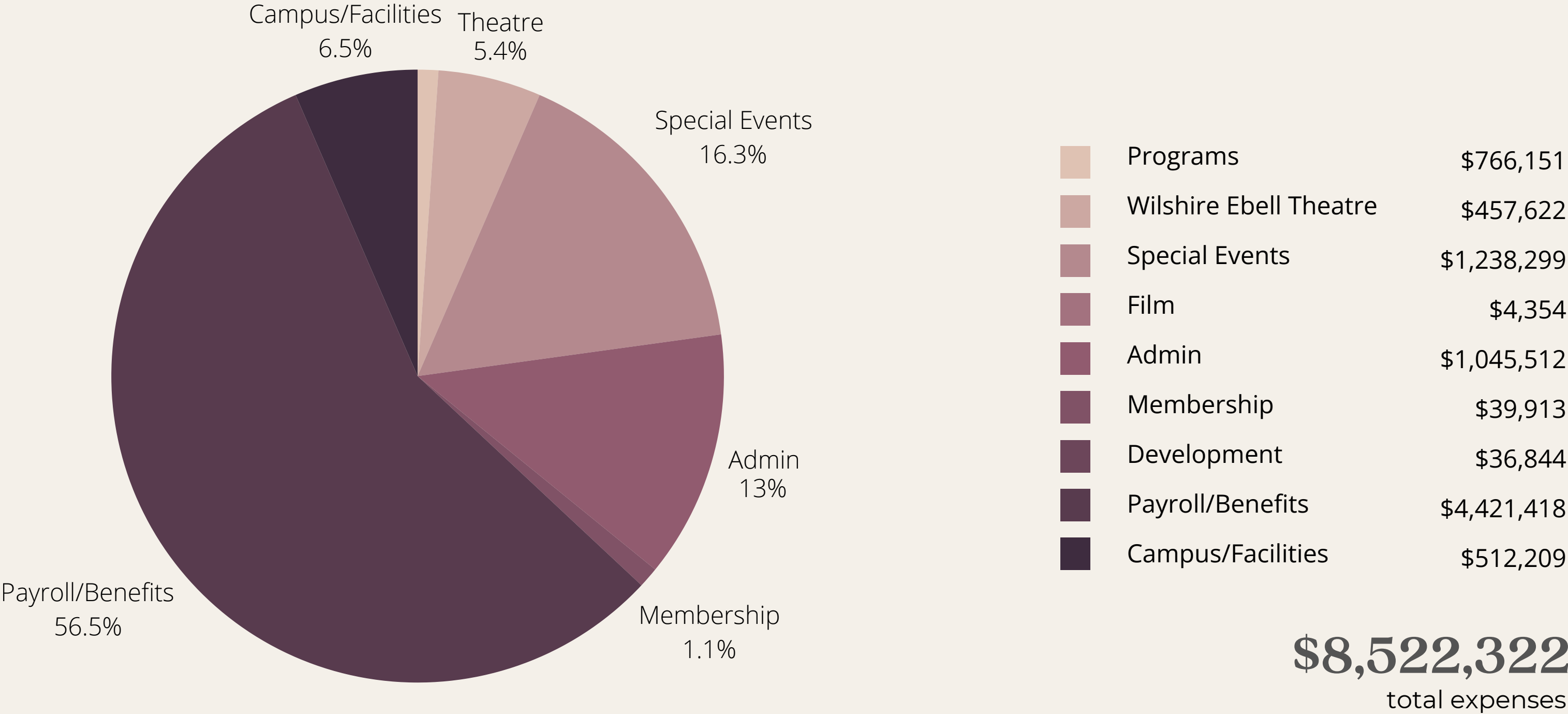


Stewardship for the Future

By the Numbers



By the Numbers



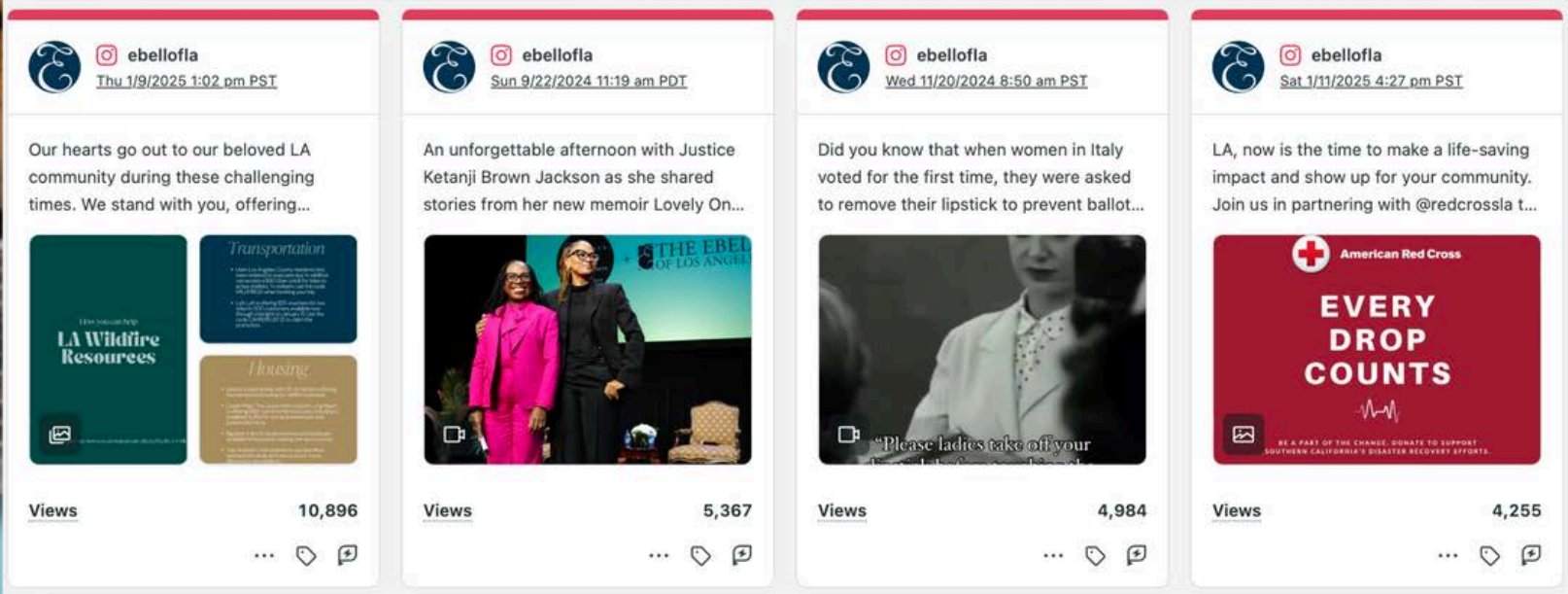
/28

520K+
Social Media Impressions

100K+
Website Visitors

5K+
Mailing List Subscribers

250K+
Constituents Reached



Planned and Contributed Gifts

Thank you to the generous leaders, donors, and champions who uplift The Ebell of Los Angeles.

Their generosity and support empower all our endeavors, propelling us forward in our pursuit of artistic excellence, educational inclusivity, and cultural preservation.



366
Donors



\$227,240
Raised

13
Grants

\$335,928
Received

\$855,503
Ebell Future Fund Gifts

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\$250,000+

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\$10,000-\$24,999

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