BUILDING CONNECTIONS

People enjoy feeling connected to their loved ones, to their friends and neighbors, and to where they live. Museums serve the community by providing a place where those connections are made, where families spend quality time together, where volunteers work together, and where strangers become neighbors.

The Los Altos History Museum works to help build connections, and is proud to be able to report on the new and deepening connections we made in 2018 and 2019.

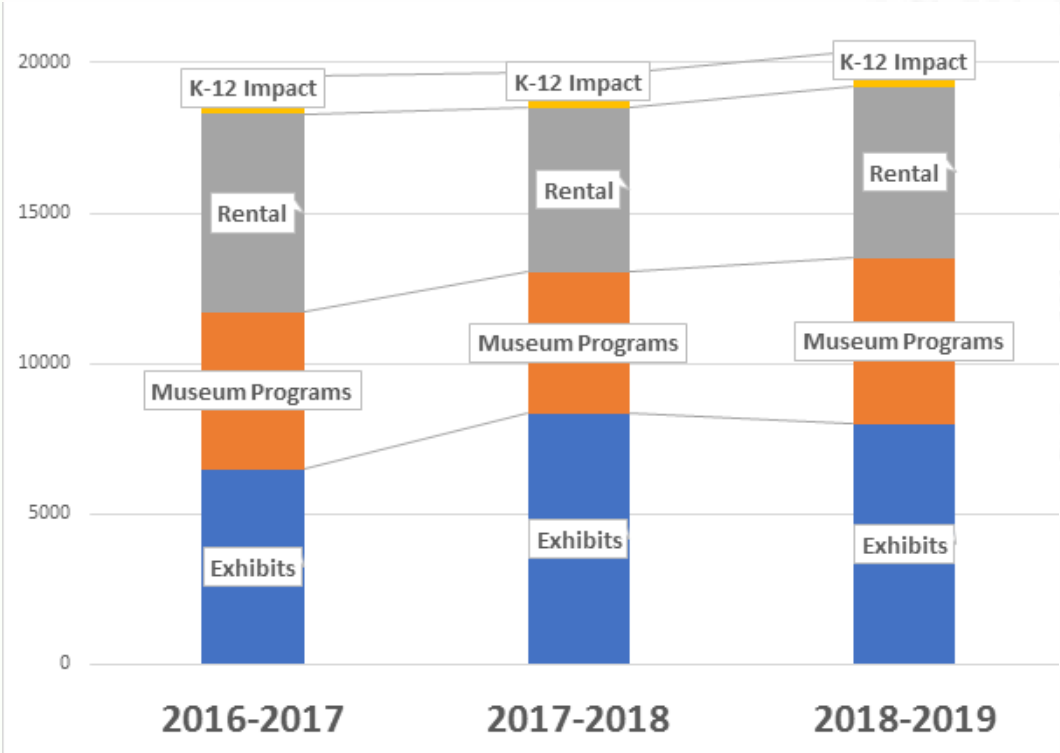
EXHIBITIONS

The Museum offers visitors a welcoming and engaging place to converse with one another and with our docents about meaningful topics. In a hectic world, these moments of connection are so important. Our primary exhibition in 2018-2019, **Inspired by Juana: La Doña de la Frontera**, was the museum's first bilingual exhibition, and provided an opportunity to reach out in many directions.

High-school students throughout the area, from San Jose to Redwood City, participated in creating the Juana Briones exhibition, which was on display for six months. The accompanying programs brought in diverse communities, from entrepreneurs to traditional healers. Families celebrated tamale making, Three Kings Day, and Rancho Days.

The subsequent exhibition, **April in Bloom: Celebrating Floral Artistry through the Years**, offered us the chance to work with, and get to know, many of the Ikebana students and the Garden Club members. The Garden Club of Los Altos partnered with the Museum to celebrate their 90th anniversary in 2019, with an exhibition in the Smith House, programs in the Main Gallery, and planned future projects in the garden!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The Museum's grounds and courtyard provide a wonderful location for families and friends to come together. 2018-2019 saw the realization of our ideal summer, book-ended by two museum programs that brought in thousands of people. June of 2018 was our first Apricot Stem Fair, and September of 2018 was our tenth, but hopefully not last, Train Days.

The Smith House was the setting for a Victorian funeral, drawing in new visitors to our first-ever "haunted tour." We continued our successful Education Program, bringing in over 1100 elementary school children to the Museum. New in 2018-2019 were tours of our historic orchard, led by Robin Chapman.

These community events represent months of planning and effort, and rely heavily on volunteer support.

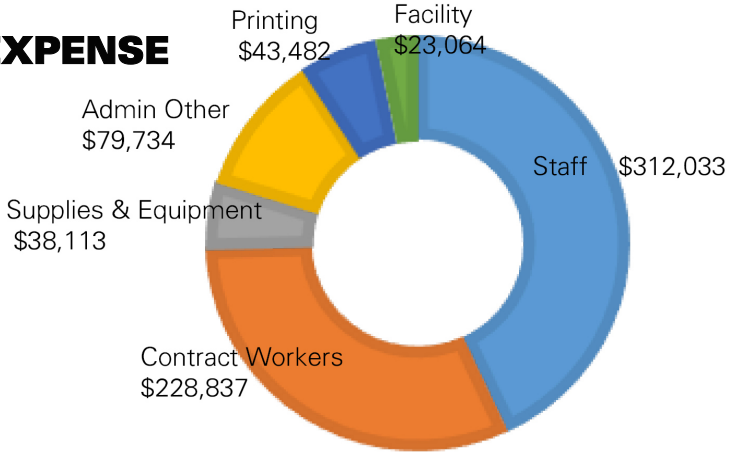
# of volunteers: 336 **Total hours: 9,596**

FINANCES

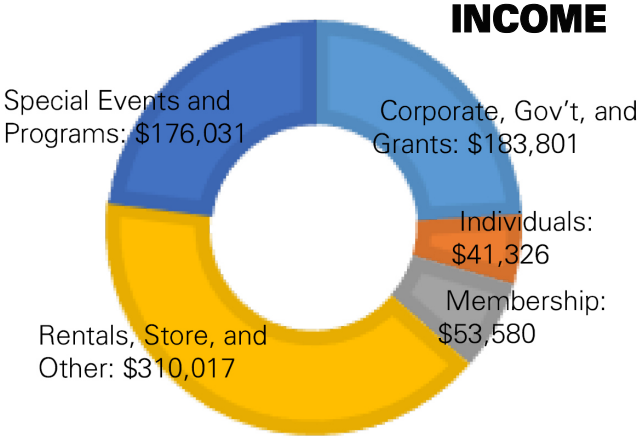
Events and fundraisers are memorable occasions for connections to be solidified over food, beverages and conversations in a safe and welcoming environment. In 2018-2019, the Museum organized a membership picnic on the Museum grounds, and four off-site fundraising events: Crab Feed; two Weathervane Society events at the homes of Jerre Hitz, and Jan and Bob Fenwick respectively; and a wonderful garden party at the historic Merriman-Winchester Home. We also expanded our partnerships with other area non-profits by hosting their fundraisers at the Museum, strengthening the relationship between area non-profits.

Total Expense: $725,263 **Total Income: $764, 754**

EXPENSE



INCOME



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SHARING KNOWLEDGE

When we know more about our past, we understand it better, and feel more connected to it and to the people who have lived in the area before us. Our Oral History program was reinvigorated last year, with 8 new oral histories completed: Marge Bruno, Art Carmichael, Dick Henning, Carol and Ralph Kuiper, Paul and Liz Nyberg, and Freddie Postman. In addition, we fielded over a dozen research requests and added archival material to our collections from The Los Altos Hills Club, among others.

THE FUTURE

In order to connect the diverse activities of the museum into a cohesive plan that helps everyone see where we are headed, the Museum Board passed a new Strategic plan in March of 2019.

This blueprint helps us see how we can continue to build on our strengths and connect more deeply with our community, with a major focus on expanding our outreach and enhancing our ability to tell the Los Altos story. Our new Vision Statement captures our ambition: "To be the premier local institution of inter-cultural and inter-generational connections."

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