
The Morton Arboretum

**Financial Report
December 31, 2024**

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Trustees
The Morton Arboretum

Report on the Audits of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Morton Arboretum (the "Arboretum"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Arboretum as of December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the changes in its net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audits of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Arboretum and to meet our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As described in Note 4 to the financial statements, the financial statements include investments valued at \$122,268,511 (39.4 percent of net assets) and \$113,093,868 (38.0 percent of net assets) as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, whose fair values have been recorded by management using the most recent available statement adjusted by subsequent contributions and distributions. Because of the inherent uncertainty of the valuation, management's estimate of values may differ significantly from values that would have been used had a ready market existed for these securities, and the differences could be material. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Arboretum's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued or available to be issued.

To the Board of Trustees
The Morton Arboretum

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audits of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that audits conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing audits in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audits.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audits in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Arboretum's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Arboretum's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audits, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audits.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 11, 2025 on our consideration of The Morton Arboretum's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of The Morton Arboretum's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering The Morton Arboretum's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Plante & Moran, PLLC

April 11, 2025

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 14,286,718	\$ 6,626,530
Accounts receivable:		
Accrued interest and dividends	104,754	56,621
Grants	1,887,195	953,128
Pledges - Net	85,569	1,028,504
Other	211,260	237,102
Investments	289,991,484	282,299,588
Other assets	1,212,795	1,500,423
Property and equipment - Net	59,822,045	62,209,049
Total assets	\$ 367,601,820	\$ 354,910,945
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	\$ 6,283,951	\$ 6,244,467
Loan payable	936,000	1,000,000
Bonds payable - Net	50,159,713	50,129,589
Total liabilities	57,379,664	57,374,056
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	272,151,086	260,007,257
Board designated	24,991,624	24,593,817
Total without donor restrictions	297,142,710	284,601,074
With donor restrictions	13,079,446	12,935,815
Total net assets	310,222,156	297,536,889
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 367,601,820	\$ 354,910,945

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

	Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023					
	2024			2023		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenue, Gains, and Other Support						
Retail services	\$ 13,720,444	\$ -	\$ 13,720,444	\$ 11,798,354	\$ -	\$ 11,798,354
Admissions	2,962,385	-	2,962,385	2,178,345	-	2,178,345
Education	1,227,138	-	1,227,138	1,339,174	-	1,339,174
Visitor events	6,395,317	-	6,395,317	7,158,477	-	7,158,477
Development	8,862,345	403,547	9,265,892	8,007,264	885,771	8,893,035
Governmental grants	4,114,035	-	4,114,035	2,879,920	-	2,879,920
Membership	6,447,434	-	6,447,434	6,453,233	-	6,453,233
Net assets released from restrictions	1,349,132	(1,349,132)	-	1,215,215	(1,215,215)	-
Total revenue, gains, and other support	45,078,230	(945,585)	44,132,645	41,029,982	(329,444)	40,700,538
Expenses						
Program services:						
Collections and facilities	13,487,592	-	13,487,592	11,485,581	-	11,485,581
Education	1,676,180	-	1,676,180	1,629,633	-	1,629,633
Science and conservation	8,694,001	-	8,694,001	6,804,068	-	6,804,068
Public programs	2,718,973	-	2,718,973	2,229,092	-	2,229,092
Retail services	10,655,995	-	10,655,995	9,696,204	-	9,696,204
Visitor services	5,461,326	-	5,461,326	4,955,760	-	4,955,760
Interest	1,564,474	-	1,564,474	1,565,975	-	1,565,975
Depreciation	3,331,409	-	3,331,409	3,825,955	-	3,825,955
Total program services	47,589,950	-	47,589,950	42,192,268	-	42,192,268
Support services:						
Management and general	9,341,820	-	9,341,820	9,042,738	-	9,042,738
Membership	1,792,380	-	1,792,380	1,740,900	-	1,740,900
Development	2,440,979	-	2,440,979	2,176,211	-	2,176,211
Total support services	13,575,179	-	13,575,179	12,959,849	-	12,959,849
Total expenses	61,165,129	-	61,165,129	55,152,117	-	55,152,117
Decrease in Net Assets - Before other changes	(16,086,899)	(945,585)	(17,032,484)	(14,122,135)	(329,444)	(14,451,579)
Other Changes - Investment income - Net	28,628,535	1,089,216	29,717,751	30,143,213	1,059,325	31,202,538
Increase in Net Assets	12,541,636	143,631	12,685,267	16,021,078	729,881	16,750,959
Net Assets - Beginning of year	284,601,074	12,935,815	297,536,889	268,579,996	12,205,934	280,785,930
Net Assets - End of year	<u>\$ 297,142,710</u>	<u>\$ 13,079,446</u>	<u>\$ 310,222,156</u>	<u>\$ 284,601,074</u>	<u>\$ 12,935,815</u>	<u>\$ 297,536,889</u>

Statement of Functional Expenses

Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Program Services	Management and General	Membership and Development	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$ 19,568,107	\$ 6,147,397	\$ 2,634,152	\$ 28,349,656
Supplies and travel	4,407,876	444,868	912,522	5,765,266
Services and professional fees	12,580,739	2,749,555	686,685	16,016,979
Cost of sales	3,507,832	-	-	3,507,832
Occupancy	2,629,513	-	-	2,629,513
Interest	1,564,474	-	-	1,564,474
Depreciation and amortization	3,331,409	-	-	3,331,409
Total functional expenses	\$ 47,589,950	\$ 9,341,820	\$ 4,233,359	\$ 61,165,129

Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Program Services	Management and General	Membership and Development	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$ 17,563,618	\$ 5,875,049	\$ 2,352,492	\$ 25,791,158
Supplies and travel	4,232,033	385,515	846,912	5,464,460
Services and professional fees	9,734,531	2,782,175	717,707	13,234,413
Cost of sales	3,156,072	-	-	3,156,072
Occupancy	2,114,084	-	-	2,114,084
Interest	1,565,974	-	-	1,565,974
Depreciation and amortization	3,825,955	-	-	3,825,955
Total functional expenses	\$ 42,192,268	\$ 9,042,738	\$ 3,917,111	\$ 55,152,117

Statement of Cash Flows

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Increase in net assets	\$ 12,685,267	\$ 16,750,959
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash and cash equivalents from operating activities:		
Depreciation	3,331,409	3,825,955
Amortization of debt issuance costs and bond discount	30,124	30,124
Contributions restricted for long-term purposes	(75,083)	(100,000)
Net realized and unrealized investment gain	(27,097,759)	(27,817,479)
Gain on disposal of property and equipment	(6,450)	(13,586)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities that (used) provided cash and cash equivalents:		
Accrued interest and dividends receivable	(48,133)	73,785
Other receivables	25,842	5,156,807
Grants receivable	(934,067)	(276,528)
Pledges receivable	48,586	(4,143)
Other assets	287,628	(383,387)
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	63,964	(2,407,210)
Net cash and cash equivalents used in operating activities	(11,688,672)	(5,164,703)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Acquisition of property and equipment	(880,634)	(4,811,569)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	6,450	13,586
Purchases of marketable securities	(97,769,898)	(63,825,315)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of marketable securities	117,175,761	73,366,005
Acquisition of property and equipment with proceeds from contributions restricted for long-term purposes	(88,251)	(76,022)
Net cash and cash equivalents provided by investing activities	18,443,428	4,666,685
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Cash proceeds from contributions of stock - Restricted for long-term purposes	65,083	-
Cash collections from contributions restricted for long-term purposes	904,349	1,286,300
Payments on loan payable	(64,000)	-
Net cash and cash equivalents provided by financing activities	905,432	1,286,300
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	7,660,188	788,282
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of year	6,626,530	5,838,248
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of year	\$ 14,286,718	\$ 6,626,530
Supplemental Cash Flow Information		
Cash paid for interest	\$ 1,535,350	\$ 1,534,850
Property and equipment additions included in accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	24,480	37,548

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 1 - Nature of the Organization

The Morton Arboretum (the "Arboretum") is an outdoor museum of living woody plants. The Arboretum's mission is to collect, study, display, and conserve trees and other plants from around the world to inspire learning, foster enjoyment, benefit communities, encourage action, and enhance the environment.

Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with nonprofit reporting principles and practices.

Classification of Net Assets

Net assets of the Arboretum are classified as without donor restrictions or with donor restrictions depending on the presence and characteristics of donor-imposed restrictions limiting the Arboretum's ability to use or dispose of contributed assets or the economic benefits embodied in those assets.

Accordingly, net assets of the Arboretum are reported as follows:

Funds without Donor Restrictions

Those resources over which the board of trustees has discretionary control. These include any designated amounts the board has set aside for a particular purpose. These funds are broken out by board designation into the following funds:

- Undesignated - Represents the portion of expendable funds available for support of the Arboretum's operations
- Board-designated fund - Those funds designated by the board of trustees to function as endowments are classified as board-designated net assets. These funds include the Infrastructure Fund, Suzette Morton Davidson Rare Book and Print Fund, the Capital Development Fund, and the Capital Campaign Estate Gifts Fund. The Infrastructure Fund is intended to support the repair and replacement of significant buildings or site facilities. The Suzette Morton Davidson Rare Book and Print Fund supports the acquisition and maintenance of the Arboretum's rare books and prints. The Capital Development Fund finances major additions and renovations to the Arboretum's facilities. The Capital Campaign Estate Gifts Fund is composed of estate gifts received during a fundraising period if there is no stated restriction. These designations are based on board actions, which can be altered or revoked at a future time by the board.

Funds with Donor Restrictions

Those resources subject to donor-imposed restrictions that will be satisfied either by actions of the Arboretum or the passage of time or that stipulate that the principal of these endowments can be permanently invested by the Arboretum.

Earnings, gains, and losses on restricted net assets are classified as without donor restrictions unless specifically restricted by the donor or by applicable state law. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, donor-restricted net assets are released to net assets without donor restrictions.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less when purchased. The Arboretum maintains cash and cash equivalents in bank deposit accounts that at times may exceed federally insured limits.

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Investments

Investments are reported at fair value. Investment income, including realized and unrealized gains, is reflected in the statement of activities and changes in net assets as an increase in net assets. Interest and dividend income is recorded on the accrual basis. Realized gains and losses are determined based on specific identification of securities sold using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) accounting method.

The Arboretum's investments are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility. Due to these risk factors, it is reasonably possible that changes in the value of investments will occur in the near future and will materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

The Arboretum readily accepts marketable securities from donors, which may be delivered in certificate form or transferred to the Arboretum's brokerage account from the donor's brokerage account. The policy of the Arboretum is to sell all such securities as soon as possible after receipt.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are recorded at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. The Arboretum capitalizes additions of property and equipment in excess of \$25,000, with the exception of motor vehicles and attachments, which are capitalized regardless of cost. Costs of repairs and maintenance are charged to expense as incurred.

Revenue Recognition

The Arboretum derives exchange revenue from the following revenue streams:

- Retail services
- Admissions
- Education
- Visitor events
- Membership

Performance Obligations

The following explains the performance obligations related to each revenue stream and how those are recognized:

Retail Services

The Arboretum generates revenue from written or implied agreements for a specific exchange of merchandise, food, or facility rental priced at market value and recognized at time of performance.

Admissions

The Arboretum charges entrance to the grounds priced at market value and recognized at the date of admission.

Education

The Arboretum generates revenue from written agreements identifying the specific education course priced at market value and recognized at the end of the program.

Visitor Events

The Arboretum generates revenue from written agreements or implied special event admission, annual plant sale, and miscellaneous visitor services priced at market value and recognized at the time of performance.

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Membership

The Arboretum generates revenue from written agreements allowing free admission for a one- or two-year period priced at market value and recognized over the membership period, as applicable. There is a nominal value of privileges associated with membership.

Performance Obligation Balance

Contract liabilities arising from revenue with customers had a beginning balance as of January 1, 2024 and 2023 of \$2,233,109 and \$2,009,265, respectively. The closing balances, which are included within accounts payable and other accrued liabilities on the statement of financial position, were \$1,971,719 and \$2,233,109 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Development and Governmental Grants Revenue

Contributions of cash and other assets, including unconditional promises to give in the future, are reported as revenue when received and measured at fair value. Contributions received are recorded as without donor restrictions or with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or the purpose of the restriction is accomplished), donor-restricted net assets are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities and changes in net assets as net assets released from restrictions.

Conditional promises to give (those with a measurable performance or other barrier and a right of return) are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend have been met. Conditional contributions that have been awarded but not yet recognized total \$595,413 and \$1,129,288 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Pledges Receivable

The Arboretum's pledges receivable are primarily composed of promises made by donors for use in the Arboretum's activities. Unconditional promises expected to be collected within one year are recorded at fair value. Unconditional promises expected to be collected in future years are recorded as a receivable at the present value of expected future cash flows. The Arboretum has not recorded a provision for doubtful accounts since it is the opinion of management that those receivables are collectible in full.

Deferred Financing Costs

Bond issuance and discount costs are amortized using the straight-line method over the lives of the bonds, which is 27 years for the 2020 series bond. Amortization expense on the bond issuance and discount was \$30,124 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023. Unamortized bond issuance and discount costs of \$675,287 and \$705,411 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, are included in bonds payable as a reduction of the liability on the statement of financial position.

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing the program and support services have been reported on a functional basis in the statements of activities and changes in net assets and functional expenses. Costs are charged to program and support services on an actual basis. Management has determined that allocations for certain indirect costs, such as depreciation and occupancy expenses, that could be allocated to support services based on relative square footage are not material to the financial statements as a whole and have not been allocated. Even though the methods of allocation used are considered reasonable, other methods could be used that would produce a different amount.

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Donated Services and Assets

Certain donated services are recognized as support in the statement of activities and changes in net assets. The value of these services is determined based on estimated fair value if the services received create or enhance long-lived assets or require specialized skills and would need to be purchased if not provided by donation. Contributions of tangible assets are recognized at fair value when received. In-kind contributions that meet the criteria for recognition are included in the accompanying financial statements and are offset by like amounts as expenses or additions to property and equipment.

For the year ended December 31, 2024, there were no donated services or assets. For the year ended December 31, 2023, donated services or assets totaled \$4,971. The value of services would be determined based on their estimated fair value. Other volunteer services are not reflected in the financial statements because the criteria for recognition of those services has not been met.

Collection Items

The Arboretum's rare books and print collections are not capitalized in the accompanying financial statements. Living woody plants are also not capitalized unless they are part of a major capital project. Purchases of collection items that are not capitalized are recorded as decreases in net assets without donor restrictions.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Tax Status

The Arboretum is a not-for-profit entity and is exempt from tax under the provisions of Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Arboretum and recognize a tax liability if the Arboretum has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or other applicable taxing authorities.

Related Party Transactions

The Arboretum received \$1,584,337 and \$1,341,483 in contributions from its board in 2024 and 2023, respectively. Outstanding related party balances consisted of \$0 and \$307,126 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and have been recognized in pledges - net on the statement of financial position.

Subsequent Events

The financial statements and related disclosures include evaluation of events up through and including April 11, 2025, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 3 - Property and Equipment

The cost of property and equipment is summarized as follows:

	2024	2023	Depreciable Life - Years
Land	\$ 6,451,633	\$ 6,451,633	-
Land improvements	44,092,994	43,919,750	20
Buildings	61,654,204	54,011,102	30-45
Equipment and other property	10,636,548	10,235,639	2-10
Construction in progress	312,600	7,834,506	-
Total cost	123,147,979	122,452,630	
Accumulated depreciation	63,325,934	60,243,581	
Net property and equipment	<u>\$ 59,822,045</u>	<u>\$ 62,209,049</u>	

Depreciation expense for 2024 and 2023 was \$3,331,409 and \$3,825,955, respectively.

Construction in progress as of December 31, 2023 consisted of expenditures associated for the construction and renovation of the Firefly Pavilion. As of December 31, 2024, the Firefly Pavilion was put into service at the Arboretum.

Note 4 - Fair Value Measurements

Accounting standards require certain assets and liabilities be reported at fair value in the financial statements and provide a framework for establishing that fair value. The framework for determining fair value is based on a hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs and valuation techniques used to measure fair value.

Fair values determined by Level 1 inputs use quoted prices in active markets for identical assets that the Arboretum has the ability to access.

Fair values determined by Level 2 inputs use other inputs that are observable, either directly or indirectly. These Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets in active markets and other inputs, such as interest rates and yield curves, that are observable at commonly quoted intervals. The fair value of the pooled common funds is determined from the underlying securities within the fund that are traded at quoted active markets.

Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs, including inputs that are available in situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the related asset. These Level 3 fair value measurements are based primarily on management's own estimates using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies, or similar techniques taking into account the characteristics of the asset.

In instances where inputs used to measure fair value fall into different levels in the above fair value hierarchy, fair value measurements in their entirety are categorized based on the lowest level input that is significant to the valuation. The Arboretum's assessment of the significance of particular inputs to these fair value measurements requires judgment and considers factors specific to each asset.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 4 - Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The following tables present information about the Arboretum's assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the valuation techniques used by the Arboretum to determine those fair values:

Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis at December 31, 2024					
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Net Asset Value	Balance at December 31, 2024
Assets					
Investments:					
Common stock	\$ 83,347,736	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83,347,736
Fixed-income mutual funds -					
Corporate bonds	25,049,147	-	-	-	25,049,147
Pooled common funds	-	22,500,000	-	-	22,500,000
Real estate - Mutual fund	9,998,934	-	-	-	9,998,934
International equities	26,827,156	-	-	-	26,827,156
Partnerships - Other	-	-	-	82,326,634	82,326,634
Hedge funds	-	-	-	39,941,877	39,941,877
Total assets	<u>\$ 145,222,973</u>	<u>\$ 22,500,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 122,268,511</u>	<u>\$ 289,991,484</u>

Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis at December 31, 2023					
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Net Asset Value	Balance at December 31, 2023
Assets					
Investments:					
Common stock	\$ 94,473,479	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,473,479
Fixed-income mutual funds -					
Corporate bonds	34,124,560	-	-	-	34,124,560
Real estate - Mutual fund	1,080,508	-	-	-	1,080,508
International equities	39,527,173	-	-	-	39,527,173
Partnerships - Other	-	-	-	75,844,135	75,844,135
Hedge funds	-	-	-	37,249,733	37,249,733
Total assets	<u>\$ 169,205,720</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 113,093,868</u>	<u>\$ 282,299,588</u>

Investments in Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value per Share

The Arboretum holds shares or interests in investment companies at year end where the fair value of the investment held is estimated based on net asset value per share (or its equivalent) of the investment company.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 4 - Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

At year end, the fair value, unfunded commitments, and redemption rules of those investments valued at net asset value per share are as follows:

	2024	2023		2024	
	Fair Value	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency, if Eligible	Redemption Notice Period
Partnerships, other (a)	\$ 82,326,634	\$ 75,844,135	\$ 30,940,081	No redemption	N/A
Hedge funds, long-short equity portfolio funds (b)	11,863,515	13,827,761	-	Quarterly	45-60 days
Hedge funds, event-driven portfolio funds (c)	4,570,974	2,903,069	-	Quarterly	60 days
Hedge funds, relative value portfolio funds (d)	6,531,115	9,914,987	-	Quarterly - Annually	45-60 days
Hedge funds, global macro strategy portfolio funds (e)	2,673,528	3,430,692	-	Quarterly	60 days
Hedge funds, multistrategy portfolio funds (f)	14,302,745	7,173,224	-	Quarterly	45-65 days
Total	<u>\$ 122,268,511</u>	<u>\$ 113,093,868</u>	<u>\$ 30,940,081</u>		

(a) Partnerships, other includes several equity funds that invest in a wide range of equity and equity-related securities of management buyout transactions and special equity transactions. Within this category, there are limited partnerships and closed-end limited partnerships. Limited partnerships may not be redeemed without the prior written consent of the general partner. Closed-end limited partnerships cannot be redeemed. Liquidation will coincide with the term of the partnership.

(b) Long-short equity strategies seek to profit by taking positions in equities and generally involve fundamental analysis in the investment decision process. Managers in these strategies tend to be "stock pickers" and typically manage market exposure by shifting allocations between long and short investments, depending on market conditions and outlook. Long-short equity strategies may comprise investments in one or multiple countries, including emerging markets, and one or multiple sectors.

(c) Event-driven strategies involve investing in opportunities created by significant transaction events, such as spinoffs, mergers and acquisitions, and reorganizations. These strategies include risk arbitrage, distressed situations investing, special situations, and opportunistic investing.

(d) Relative value strategies seek to profit by exploiting pricing inefficiencies between related instruments while remaining long-term neutral to directional price movements in any one market. These strategies include, but are not limited to, convertible bond arbitrage, fixed-income arbitrage, options arbitrage, pairs trading, managed futures, statistical arbitrage, commodity trading advisors (CTAs), and multiple market neutral strategies.

(e) Global macro strategy focuses on investing in instruments whose prices fluctuate based on the changes in economic policies, along with the flow of capital around the globe and are generally focused on financial instruments that are broad in scope and move based on systemic risk.

(f) Multistrategy managers employ a combination of any of the above-mentioned strategies. The equity long/short hedge fund class includes investments in hedge funds that invest both long and short primarily in U.S. common stocks. Management of the hedge funds has the ability to shift investments from value to growth strategies, from small to large capitalization stocks, and from a net long position to a net short position. The fair values of the investments in this class have been estimated using net asset value per share of the investments.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 5 - Investment Income

Investment returns for 2024 and 2023 were as follows:

	2024	2023
Interest	\$ 716,260	\$ 331,684
Dividends	2,717,371	3,431,596
Investment expense	(732,000)	(369,865)
Tax expense	(81,639)	(8,356)
Net realized gain on sale of securities	13,919,594	4,014,601
Net unrealized gain on securities	13,178,165	23,802,878
Total	<u>\$ 29,717,751</u>	<u>\$ 31,202,538</u>

Note 6 - Pledges Receivable

Pledges receivable in excess of one year are adjusted to present value using a discount rate 1.68 percent as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the discount rate is determined when the pledge is initially recognized.

	2024	2023
Within one year	\$ 5,732	\$ 944,349
From one to five years	28,660	28,660
Thereafter	63,052	68,784
Less allowance for net present value discount	(11,875)	(13,289)
Net contributions receivable	<u>\$ 85,569</u>	<u>\$ 1,028,504</u>

Note 7 - Employee Benefit Plan

Effective July 1, 2005, the Arboretum established a defined contribution retirement plan operated under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. The plan covers all employees who have attained the age of 21. Participants, upon qualification, are eligible for a matching contribution equal to 100 percent of elective deferrals, up to a maximum of 6 percent of compensation. The Arboretum shall also make a nonelective contribution on behalf of each participant who has attained age 50 and has completed 10 or more years of service on or before January 1, 2009 in the amount of 2 percent of the participant's contribution. In addition, the Arboretum, at its discretion, may make a qualified nonelective contribution. Contributions to the plan of \$1,168,762 and \$1,094,372 were charged against operations in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Note 8 - Bonds Payable

On July 30, 2020, in conjunction with a bond repayment, the Arboretum entered into a loan agreement for the issuance of \$50,835,000 in revenue refunding bonds by the County of DuPage, Illinois. The revenue refunding bonds issued in 2020 bear an interest rate of 3.00 percent and mature on May 15, 2047, when full repayment of the principal balance is due. Interest is paid semiannually. Interest expense on the bonds amounted to \$1,534,350 and \$1,535,851 in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

	2024	2023
Bonds payable	\$ 50,835,000	\$ 50,835,000
Bond issuance costs	(441,290)	(460,975)
Bond discount	(233,997)	(244,436)
Total	<u>\$ 50,159,713</u>	<u>\$ 50,129,589</u>

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 9 - Loans Payable

On July 15, 2022, the Arboretum entered into a non-interest-bearing loan agreement for \$1,000,000 with a third party in conjunction with construction of the new Firefly Pavilion. Payments are due in equal monthly installments after construction is complete, starting in April 2024 until September 30, 2034.

Note 10 - Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

Net assets with donor restrictions are restricted for the following purposes or periods as of December 31:

	2024	2023
Time and purpose restrictions:		
Capital campaign - Second Century	\$ -	\$ 788,617
Pledges receivable - Time restricted - Annual fund	-	50,000
Total time and purpose restrictions	-	838,617
Purpose restrictions:		
Endowment revenue - Science and conservation	2,066,787	1,929,896
Endowment revenue - New plant development	192,928	89,959
Endowment revenue - Library	527,215	433,123
Endowment revenue - The Grand Garden	1,020,620	-
Total purpose restrictions	3,807,550	2,452,978
Estate gifts - Library	14,465	14,465
Program grants:		
Center for tree science	285,773	741,753
Other	705,382	793,698
Total	4,813,170	4,841,511
Net assets to be maintained in perpetuity:		
Davis Chair program	766,276	766,276
Charles C. Haffner Trust	500,000	500,000
Haerther New Plant Development	2,000,000	2,000,000
The Grand Garden Endowment	5,000,000	4,828,028
Total	8,266,276	8,094,304
Total with donor restrictions	\$ 13,079,446	\$ 12,935,815

Note 11 - Donor-restricted and Board-designated Endowments

The Arboretum's endowment includes both donor-restricted endowment funds and funds designated by the board of trustees to function as endowments. Net assets associated with endowment funds, including funds designated by the board of trustees to function as endowments, are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 11 - Donor-restricted and Board-designated Endowments (Continued)

Interpretation of Relevant Law

The Arboretum is subject to the State Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (SPMIFA) and, thus, classifies amounts in its donor-restricted endowment funds as net assets with donor restrictions because those net assets are time restricted until the board of trustees appropriates such amounts for expenditures. Most of those net assets are also subject to purpose restrictions that must be met before reclassifying those net assets to net assets without donor restrictions. The board of trustees of the Arboretum has interpreted SPMIFA as requiring the maintenance of purchasing power of the original gift amount contributed to an endowment fund unless a donor stipulates the contrary.

As a result of this interpretation, when reviewing its donor-restricted endowment funds, the Arboretum considers a fund to be underwater if the fair value of the fund is less than the sum of (a) the original value of initial and subsequent gift amounts donated to the fund and (b) any accumulations to the fund that are required to be maintained in perpetuity in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument. The Arboretum has interpreted SPMIFA to permit spending from underwater funds in accordance with the prudent measures required under the law. Additionally, in accordance with SPMIFA, the Arboretum considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

- The duration and preservation of the fund
- The purpose of the Arboretum and the donor-restricted endowment fund
- General economic conditions
- The possible effect of inflation and deflation
- The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
- Other resources of the Arboretum
- The investment policies of the Arboretum

Endowment Net Asset Composition by Type of Fund as of December 31, 2024			
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Board-designated endowment funds	\$ 24,991,624	\$ -	\$ 24,991,624
Donor-restricted endowment funds:			
Original donor-restricted gift amount and amounts required to be maintained in perpetuity by the donor	-	8,266,276	8,266,276
Accumulated investment gains	-	3,807,550	3,807,550
Total donor-restricted endowment funds	-	12,073,826	12,073,826
Total	\$ 24,991,624	\$ 12,073,826	\$ 37,065,450

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 11 - Donor-restricted and Board-designated Endowments (Continued)

	Changes in Endowment Net Assets for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Endowment net assets - Beginning of year	\$ 24,593,817	\$ 10,447,282	\$ 35,041,099
Investment return:			
Investment income	199,132	92,654	291,786
Realized gains	1,100,194	511,915	1,612,109
Unrealized gains	1,041,590	484,647	1,526,237
Total investment return	2,340,916	1,089,216	3,430,132
Contributions	-	958,428	958,428
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	(2,143,109)	(421,100)	(2,564,209)
Transfers	200,000	-	200,000
Endowment net assets - End of year	<u>\$ 24,991,624</u>	<u>\$ 12,073,826</u>	<u>\$ 37,065,450</u>
Endowment Net Asset Composition by Type of Fund as of December 31, 2023			
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Board-designated endowment funds	\$ 24,593,817	\$ -	\$ 24,593,817
Donor-restricted endowment funds:			
Original donor-restricted gift amount and amounts required to be maintained in perpetuity by the donor	-	7,994,304	7,994,304
Accumulated investment gains	-	2,452,978	2,452,978
Total donor-restricted endowment funds	-	10,447,282	10,447,282
Total	<u>\$ 24,593,817</u>	<u>\$ 10,447,282</u>	<u>\$ 35,041,099</u>

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 11 - Donor-restricted and Board-designated Endowments (Continued)

	Changes in Endowment Net Assets for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Endowment net assets - Beginning of year	\$ 30,063,663	\$ 8,548,337	\$ 38,612,000
Investment return:			
Investment income	328,510	114,714	443,224
Realized gains	390,400	136,326	526,726
Unrealized gains	2,314,710	808,285	3,122,995
Total investment return	3,033,620	1,059,325	4,092,945
Contributions	-	1,210,999	1,210,999
Transfers	200,000	-	200,000
Amounts appropriated for expenditure	(8,703,466)	(371,379)	(9,074,845)
Endowment net assets - End of year	\$ 24,593,817	\$ 10,447,282	\$ 35,041,099

Special Appropriation

During 2022, the board of trustees approved a special appropriation of up to \$6,400,000 from board-designated endowment funds for the construction of the Firefly Pavilion. As a result, during 2023, \$5,314,400 was appropriated to operations from the board-designated endowment fund for this purpose.

Funds with Deficiencies

From time to time, the fair value of assets associated with individual donor-restricted endowment funds may fall below the level that the donor or SPMIFA requires the Arboretum to retain as a fund of perpetual duration. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, there were no funds with deficiencies.

Return Objectives and Risk Parameters

The Arboretum has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets. Endowment assets include those assets of donor-restricted funds that the Arboretum must hold in perpetuity or for a donor-specified period. The long-term investment objective for the endowment funds is to generate sufficient income to support its programs while preserving the related principal.

Strategies Employed for Achieving Objectives

To satisfy its long-term rate-of-return objectives, the Arboretum relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Arboretum targets a diversified asset allocation that places a greater emphasis on equity-based investments to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk constraints.

Spending Policy and How the Investment Objectives Relate to Spending Policy

Through the combination of investment strategy and payout policy, the Arboretum strives to provide a reasonable and consistent payout from endowment funds to support operations while preserving the purchasing power of the endowment adjusted for inflation. The annual and long-term spending rate is subject to approval by the board of trustees. For 2024 and 2023, the board approved a spending rate of 5.0 and 4.8 percent, respectively. The Arboretum has a policy that permits prudent spending from underwater endowment funds depending on the degree to which the fund is underwater unless otherwise precluded by donor intent or relevant laws and regulations.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 12 - Liquidity and Availability of Resources

The following reflects the Arboretum's financial assets as of December 31, reduced by amounts not available for general use because of contractual or donor-imposed restrictions within one year of the statement of financial position date:

	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 14,286,718	\$ 6,626,530
Investments	289,991,484	282,299,588
Receivables - Net	2,203,209	1,246,851
Pledge receivables - Net	85,569	1,028,504
Financial assets - At year end	306,566,980	291,201,473
Less those unavailable for general expenditures within one year due to:		
Contractual or donor-imposed restrictions:		
Restricted by donor with time or purpose restrictions - Net of appropriations	79,838	84,155
Unappropriated donor-restricted endowment earnings - Net of appropriations	3,310,085	2,031,878
Net assets to be maintained in perpetuity	8,266,276	8,094,304
Illiquid investments	82,326,634	75,844,135
Board-designated endowment funds - Net of appropriations	24,338,274	22,814,816
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	\$ 188,245,873	\$ 182,332,185

As part of the Arboretum's liquidity management, financial assets are structured to be available as general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations come due. In addition, the Arboretum invests cash in excess of daily requirements in short-term investments. Amounts not available due to internal board designations include amounts set aside for long-term investing in the endowment fund that could be drawn upon in the event of an unanticipated liquidity need, if the governing board approves that action. Operating expenses are budgeted net of revenue and projected donor contributions. Any deficit is covered by a consistent payout from the endowment funds, as disclosed in Note 11.

The Arboretum has various sources of liquidity at its disposal, including cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities.

Note 13 - Power Purchase Agreement

In October 2022, the Arboretum entered into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with an unrelated third party under which solar panels will be constructed on the Arboretum's campus. The power generated from these solar panels will be made available to the Arboretum at a price per megawatt hour, which is subject to the terms of the PPA over a 30-year period. The PPA is considered a lease arrangement and is classified as a finance lease since the lease term is for the major part of the solar panel's remaining economic life. Monthly lease payments begin after construction is completed and are variable, representing actual energy delivered charged at agreed-upon rates per megawatt hour; therefore, the payments are considered contingent. Monthly payments for power are expected to begin in October 2025 when the solar panel construction and testing phase is complete, which is defined as the commercial operation date. The design, permitting, and construction costs are covered by the third party and are not the Arboretum's financial obligation. Since there is no minimum or fixed lease payment, the Arboretum is not expecting to record an amount as a lease liability or right-of-use asset upon commencement of the commercial operation date. Contingent rent payments will be expensed as they become due.

The PPA also includes a purchase option each year beginning on the sixth anniversary of the commercial operation date, which is based on the greater of the fair market value or the book value of the solar panels. The calculations to determine the value are outlined within the agreement and are dependent on which year the purchase option is initiated.

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Note 13 - Power Purchase Agreement (Continued)

At this time, the Arboretum's future obligation under this arrangement cannot be estimated.