

The background is a collage of four black and white photographs. The top-left photo shows a person wearing safety goggles and a lab coat, working with equipment. The top-right photo shows a group of students in a field, using tools like shovels and probes to dig in the soil. The bottom-left photo shows laboratory glassware, including beakers and a large bottle. The bottom-right photo shows a close-up of soil and rocks.

# 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

STEM LIBRARY LAB



EQUIPPING TEACHERS TO INSPIRE STUDENTS

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Howdy Dear Reader,

Well, I'm sure you're getting tired of hearing it from me, but this has been yet another super exciting year for STEM Library Lab. When it began, we were preparing to move out of our old home in Gentilly, and as it draws to a close, we are a staff of 6 in our new 12,000 ft STEM Ecosystem Hub headquarters in Metairie.

Along the way, we've reimaged our programs: a beautiful new Library for the Equipment Lending Co-op, a fully operational Teacher Free-Store rescuing thousands of dollars of classroom supplies from landfills, and a thoughtfully redesigned workshop series, *Engaging Students in LSSS-Aligned Instruction*. We've also expanded our reach through our new Service Learning Program.

Last year, I wrote that there were some significant new projects on the horizon; and that is certainly true. In addition to the changes above, we built and launched the EdOpportunities Database, which catalogs the amazing work happening across the region. The Database is poised to be a game changer for promoting equitable hands-on education in classrooms that traditionally have struggled to access and take advantage of the incredible opportunities nonprofits and businesses in New Orleans and across Louisiana provide.

All of this has only been possible because of the incredible team we've assembled. Our staff comprises the finest educators and humans in the south. Robin, Szabi, Maria, Monique, and Karen, thank you! Working with them means loving coming to work every day. They make STEM Library Lab the joyful experience it is for the teachers and community members who visit and benefit from our programs and services. It's a genuine pleasure to be able to work with them to serve the teachers of Greater New Orleans, and I'm thrilled to move into the next phase of STEM Library Lab side by side with this crew.

And we're looking forward to seeing you soon!

Todd M. Wackerman





## OUR MISSION

STEM Library Lab fosters high-quality active learning by providing teachers with access to equipment, programs, experiences and STEM instructional support to drive student success.

## OUR VISION

Students in every classroom have exposure to quality educational experiences that prepare them for a 21st Century future.

## OUR VALUES

Equity through Access | Community through Support | Empowerment through Science

## OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

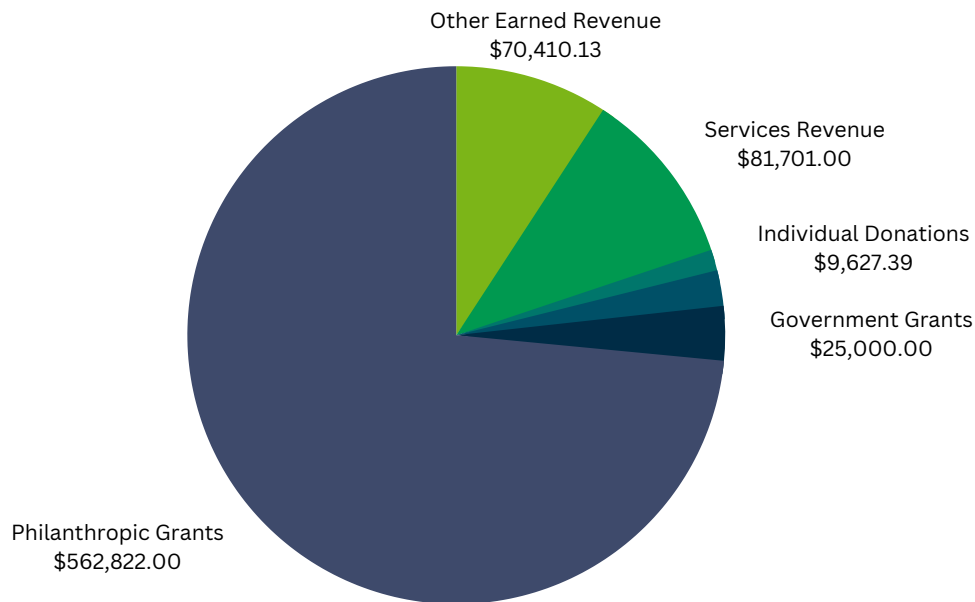
STEM Library Lab was founded in 2016 as a racial equity organization. We stand in solidarity with the civil discourse movements locally and nationally.



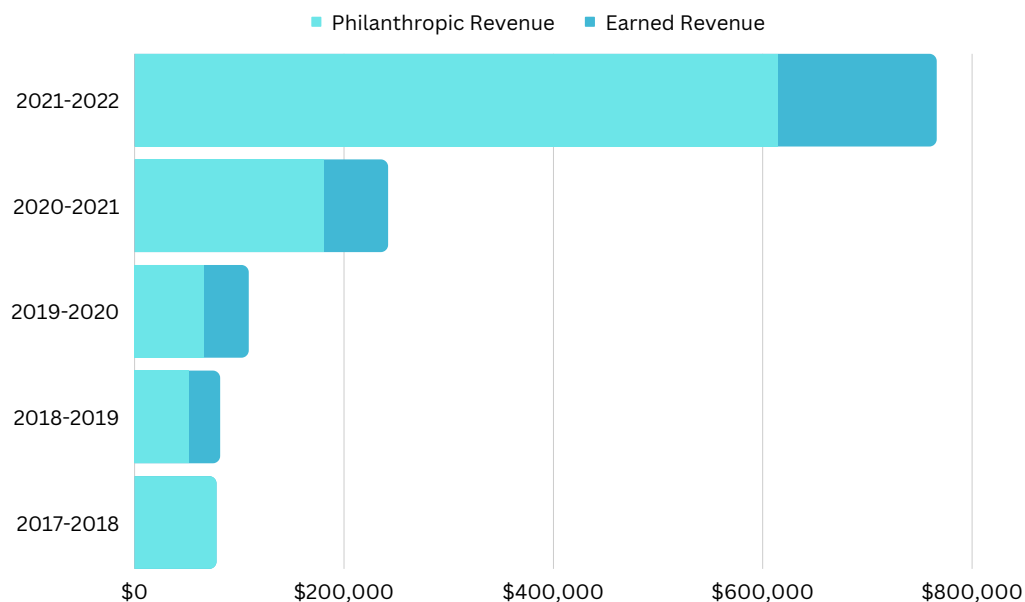
# FINANCIAL REVENUES

This year, a small number of large grants enabled us to significantly expand our programming. Alongside this, our earned revenues from programs and services saw a proportionate growth, through the expansion of the *Engaging Students LSSS-Aligned Instruction PD* and revenue from tenants and rentals at the Ecosystem Hub.

## REVENUES BY CATEGORY



## 4 YEAR REVENUE GROWTH

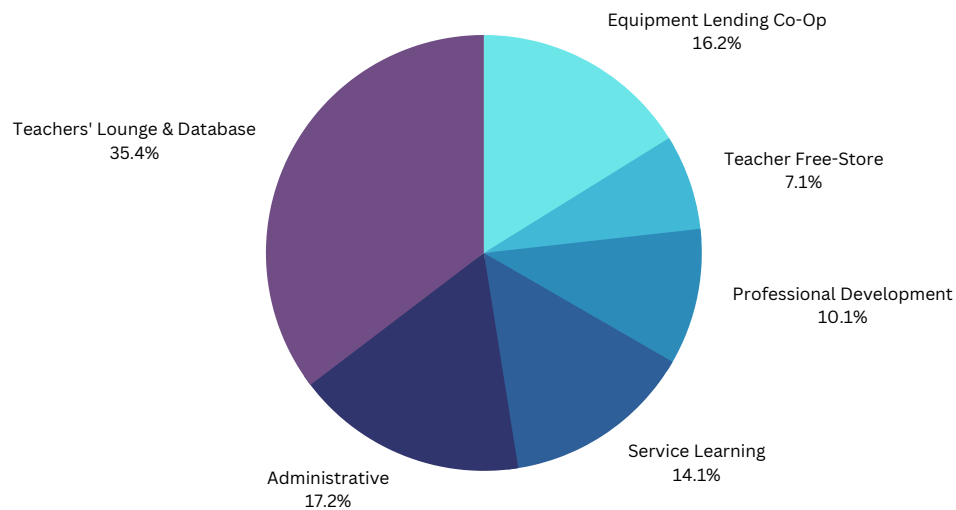




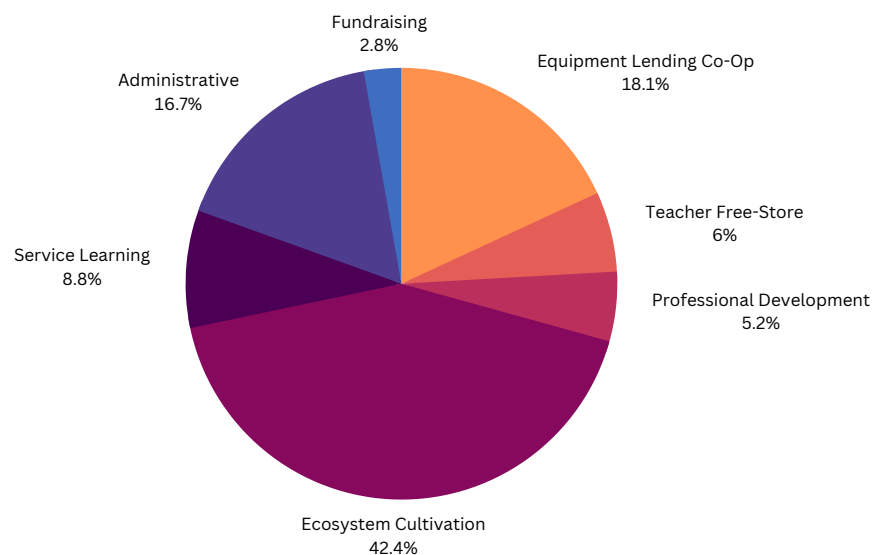
# FINANCIALS BY PROGRAM

Our flagship program, the Equipment Lending Co-op, saw steady revenues and spending. The growth of our other programs enabled us to serve more teachers than in years past. The biggest changes came from our EdOpportunities Database and Teachers' Lounge, which aim to bring together the STEM education Ecosystem on behalf of teachers.

## INCOME BY PROGRAM



## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM





# MEMBERS

## SCHOOLS:

Agile Learning Center  
Ask Wonder Explore  
Center for Resilience  
Collegiate Academies | Abramson Sci  
Collegiate Academies | Baton Rouge  
Collegiate Academies | G. W. Carver  
Collegiate Academies | Livingston  
Collegiate Academies | Rosenwald  
Community Academies of New Orleans |  
Esperanza  
Community Academies of New Orleans |  
Foundation Preparatory  
Community Academies of New Orleans |  
Lafayette  
Educators for Quality Alternatives |  
The Bridge  
Educators for Quality Alternatives |  
The NET: Central City  
Educators for Quality Alternatives |  
The NET: East (formerly NOAH)  
Educators for Quality Alternatives |  
The NET: Gentilly

Einstein Charter | Sarah T. Reed  
Einstein Charter | Sherwood Forest  
Einstein Charter | Village De L'est  
Einstein Charter Middle School  
International High School of New Orleans  
International School of Louisiana | Camp St  
International School of Louisiana | Dixon  
International School of Louisiana | Westbank  
KIPP | Booker T. Washington  
Living School  
Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans | Johnson  
Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans | Lower  
Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans | Priestley  
New Harmony High School  
ReNEW | Delores T. Aaron  
ReNEW | Laurel Elementary  
ReNEW | Schaumberg  
Young Audiences | Burmaster  
Young Audiences | Kate Middleton  
Young Audiences | Lawrence D. Crocker  
Young Audiences | Little YACS

## ORGANIZATIONS:

Electric Girls  
Greater New Orleans Science & Engineering Fair  
Ochsner Education Outreach  
Recirculating Farms

RoboRecovery  
Sankofa  
Son of a Saint  
Tulane Center for K-12 STEM

# DONORS



**We are beyond grateful to all of you who support our work:**

## **PHILANTHROPIC DONORS:**

Joe W. & Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation  
Bruce J. Heim Foundation  
KKR Foundation  
4.0 Schools  
McIlhenny Foundation  
Golding Family Foundation  
Pro Bono Publico Foundation  
Patrick F. Taylor Foundation  
Booth-Bricker Fund  
Mary Freeman Wisdom  
Rex Foundation  
Entergy Charitable Foundation  
Cox Communications  
Fluor Corporation  
Fidelity Bank

## **IN-KIND DONORS:**

Barts Office, Inc.  
Pond & Company  
SevITech  
Loyola University  
Tulane University Chemistry Department  
University of Holy Cross Food Services Program  
Greening NOLA  
Community Academies of New Orleans  
Jones Lang LaSalle  
Jean & Tom Brett  
Coca Cola Bottling Company  
Entergy New Orleans  
4.0 Schools  
Barriere Construction  
Trapolin-Peer Architects  
Frazier-Santiago Law & Title

## **SUSTAINING MONTHLY DONORS:**

David Gibbons  
Barbara MacPhee  
Hannah Paulding  
Yolande & Wayne Wackerman  
Sarah Cosse





# SLL PROGRAMS

STEM Library Lab programs are designed to empower teachers to become their best selves.

## 1 | EQUIPMENT LENDING CO-OP

Equipping teachers with STEM equipment and resources for hands-on learning

## 2 | SERVICE LEARNING

Pairing classrooms with academic service projects to engage and benefit their community

## 3 | TEACHER FREE-STORE

Repurposing office and school supplies from local businesses back into local classrooms

## 4 | EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES DATABASE

Connecting classrooms to amazing resources provided by nonprofits across the region

## 5 | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Providing science teachers with the planning and lesson design tools for inquiry-based learning





68

MEMBER  
SCHOOLS &  
ORGANIZATIONS

520

LOANS TO  
TEACHERS

154K

\$ VALUE OF  
ITEMS  
BORROWED

The STEM Lending Co-op has seen a tremendous amount of growth.

Though the first half of the school year showed a decrease in borrowing due to the move and construction within the new building, the second half has been a time of increase and evolution.

We have welcomed new members from both Orleans & Jefferson Parish schools; the grand opening and subsequent events have brought more visitors and an increase in co-op memberships.

The library has doubled in size, with more new items on teachers' wish lists to borrow and a larger variety of pre-made kits for K-8 teachers.

We are excited about these changes and look forward to more growth in the future.





**56**

APPLICATIONS

**41**

PROJECTS  
FUNDED

**100K**

DOLLARS  
AWARDED

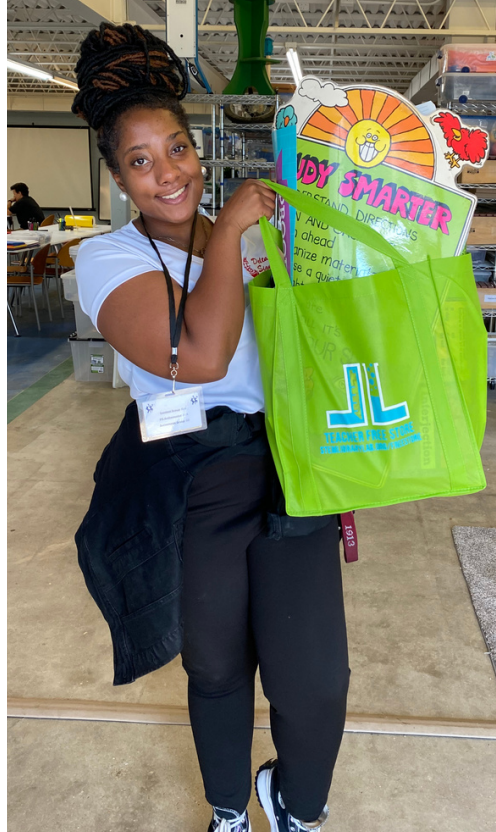
In February 2022, STEM Library Lab formally took over the Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation Service Learning Program.

The Service Learning Program pairs Louisiana and Mississippi classrooms with local nonprofits to complete a Service Learning Project in their community using the national IPARD model. Our Service Learning Manager began overseeing projects for the 2021-2022 school year and collecting new applications for the 2022-2023 school year.

Many Service Learning Projects have a STEM focus--such as planting marsh grass with LSU Coastal Roots and learning about erosion--but any academically tied service project is welcome and open to all subject areas.

We spent the past year cultivating relationships with several nonprofits to develop Ready-to-Go projects for the 2023-2024 school year. By selecting a community need, developing a relationship with a service partner organization, and preparing most of the curriculum, the aim is that service learning will be more accessible to more schools, particularly under-resourced schools.





86

TEACHERS  
SERVED

5K

STUDENTS  
IMPACTED

25K

\$ VALUE OF ITEMS  
GIVEN TO  
TEACHERS

The Teacher Free-Store, a slowly evolving project over the last three years, has grown from a pop-up event to a curbside pickup model during COVID to its new iteration, which formally opened in March of 2022 and quickly became the highest traffic program we operate, despite being entirely volunteer run.

The Free-Store reallocates basic supplies to schools in need by repurposing in-kind donations from community members, including office supplies, organizers, furniture, decorations, and more. Teachers can pick up these supplies at no cost, items they would otherwise purchase out of their pockets. The Free-Store also provides access to a Copy/Print Center for poster printing and laminating.



**62** PROVIDERS  
ACROSS 7  
PARISHES

**172** TEACHER  
OPPORTUNITY  
LISTINGS

The EdOpportunities Database is a virtual clearinghouse of all the things organizations offer to teachers and students in the Greater New Orleans region. These providers include nonprofits, businesses, museums, universities, and other stakeholders.

Teacher retention, access to instructional resources, and low student achievement are issues of educational inequity that require a community-centric approach. Many nonprofits and other regional entities, including SLL, provide high-quality resources but are underutilized because of a lack of educational outreach platforms.

Teachers, students and families can search for the opportunities they need, such as extra-curricular offerings, push-in programs, professional developments, lesson modules, field trips, internships, classroom grants, camps, guest speakers, volunteer support in classrooms, events, and more.

We've identified over 400 Providers across greater New Orleans and are working on getting them to add their opportunities to the Database. As it grows, the EdOpportunities Database will become a critical tool for equity in our under-resourced schools!





6

K-12 SCHOOLS  
AND NETWORKS

74

TEACHER  
PARTICIPANTS

100

PERCENT "WOULD  
RECOMMEND TO A  
COLLEAGUE"

Responsive to requests from administrators and teachers, SLL designed the *Engaging Students in LSSS-Aligned Instruction* workshop series. This 6-session series is modeled after NGSS and LSSS best practices that focus on phenomena and three-dimensional learning strategies.

This program is SLL's heaviest touch – striving to work deeply with selected schools to provide the teachers with targeted support in adapting to these shifts. Because each school has different curriculum needs and schedules, our goal is that at the end of the series, teachers are equipped with a toolbox for how to create engaging classrooms regardless of what content or curriculum they're given.

Our adaptive programming includes site visits and feedback sessions with administration tasked with observing science teachers. This way, we ensure that all stakeholders are accountable in the process of creating rigorous, engaging science classrooms.



# MEET THE TEAM



**TODD WACKERMAN**

Executive Director



**MONIQUE PILIÉ**

Director of Operations



**MARIA LANDRUM**

Service Learning &  
Outreach Manager



**KAREN MARSHALL**

Director of Professional  
Development



**SZABOLCS VARGA**

STEM Librarian



**ROBIN MARTIN**

Marketing Coordinator

"Many students come to me having never touched science materials before or having done the scientific process. STEM Library Lab enables me to get the materials to make both my chemistry and biology classes a productive and engaging learning environment.

Once we've finished an experiment or demo using the supplies I get from SLL, the students will ask almost every day when can they do another experiment."

~M. Phillips  
EQA Schools



## CALL TO ACTION!

**Volunteer**



**Donate**



**Connect**



**Website:** [www.stemlibrarylab.org](http://www.stemlibrarylab.org)

**Email:** [info@stemlibrarylab.org](mailto:info@stemlibrarylab.org)

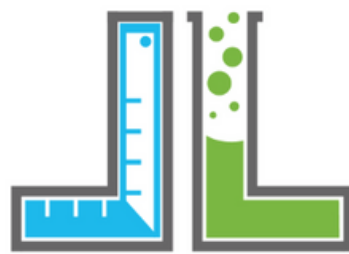
**Follow:** [@stemlibrarylab](https://www.instagram.com/stemlibrarylab)

**Phone:** 504.517.3584

### VISIT US:

3011 N I-10 Service Rd E.  
Metairie, LA 70002





**STEM LIBRARY LAB**

**[WWW.STEMLIBRARYLAB.ORG](http://WWW.STEMLIBRARYLAB.ORG)**