



2023-2024

**Annual
REPORT**

JOE W. AND DOROTHY DORSEY
STEM CENTER

LIBRARY LAB



**EQUIPPING
TEACHERS
TO INSPIRE
STUDENTS**



Todd Wackerman
Executive Director

Greetings,

Last year was a “normal” year. It sounds strange to write that. But I believe that 2023-2024 was our first ever “normal” year. Since our launch inside a classroom in 2018, we’ve been exploring, evolving, and adapting. We’ve added programs, we’ve moved into our forever home, and like a caterpillar becoming a moth (moths are cool, too), we’ve undergone a metamorphosis.

If you still think of STEM Library Lab as a nonprofit that lends science equipment, you’re thinking about us incorrectly. We still do that, to be sure, but we’re much more now. With our Teacher Free-Store, Engaging Students Professional Development Series, Service Learning Program, and EdOpportunities Database, we’re much, much more.

Now we’re a convenor, a community hub, a change-agent for teachers and the nonprofit ecosystem that supports them through programming, services, events, and opportunities. STEM Library Lab is now focused on answering the question:

“How do we connect teachers with the dynamic array of resources already out there, offered by hundreds of amazing nonprofits and entities across our region, in order to support them and their students?”

But as mentioned, 2023-2024 was a “normal” year. As we move into this new phase of our organization, we grew to a staff of 11, including 4 ServeLA AmeriCorps members and a new face on the Leadership Team, Jestin Moorehead, our Director of Programs. Our 5 programs and services served 1,040 teachers in this “normal” year, essentially double our impact from 2022-2023.

***“Now we’re a
convenor, a
community hub, a
change-agent for
teachers”***

-Todd Wackerman

And we spent this year honing our work, developing systems and processes, so that next year we can grow intentionally across all of our impact work.

Take a peek inside to see more of the amazing “normal” things the STEM Library Lab team accomplished this year, and thank you for your support of our teachers, classrooms, and community.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2025!

Todd Wackerman

VISION

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

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.

COMMITMENT TO RACIAL AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Across the region, our schools are segregated.

Though white children make up 21% of the population under 20 years old in New Orleans, the public schools that received a D or F on recent School Performance Scores have less than a 1% white student population. Economically stable students are 2.8 times more likely to achieve academic Mastery in Science than their economically disadvantaged peers.

Systemic educational inequities permeate our schools, public, private, and parochial, and through our work with teachers, STEM Library Lab is working toward a future in which neither race nor economic status dictates your future potential.





SLL UPDATES



2023-2024
STEMMYS

Awards in STEM Teaching Excellence presented by SLL and the Krewe of Dolly

Congrats to the recipients of our inaugural STEMMY awards!

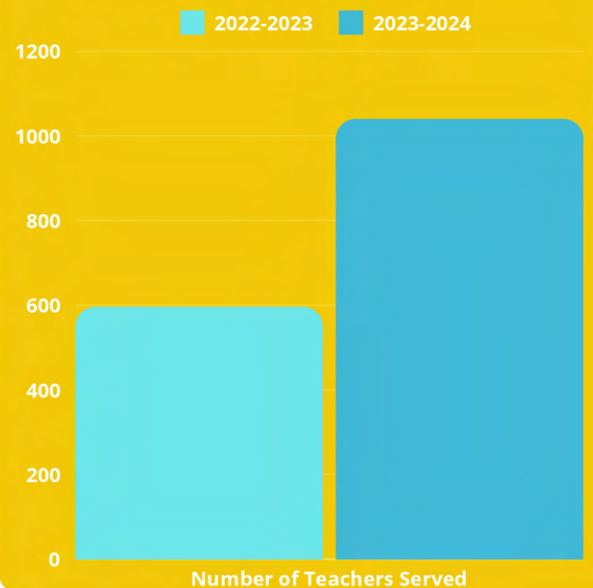


We welcomed Jestin, our new Director of Programming, to lead and expand our educational initiatives, further strengthening our support for teachers and students across the region.

By partnering with the City of New Orleans' Office of Youth and Families and the New Orleans Youth Alliance, we launched the Youth Programs Directory, a dedicated resource connected to our EdOpportunities Database, providing vital access to educational programs and opportunities for youth across Orleans Parish.



We significantly expanded access to critical STEM resources, thus empowering more educators to deliver impactful, hands-on learning experiences to thousands of students.



THE RENOVATION FOR INNOVATION

STEM LIBRARY LAB'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



We completed architectural plans for our Capital Renovation Project, setting the stage for exciting new spaces, including the Innovator's Lab, a revamped Teacher Free-Store and more workspace to serve educators, nonprofits, and the community throughout the region.




This \$450K campaign needs your help.

The STEM Ecosystem Hub is more than just a building. With many ways to get involved, joining our *Renovation for Innovation Campaign* means investing in the future of community driven education and collaborative innovation.

Connect with Todd and become a catalyst for change today!

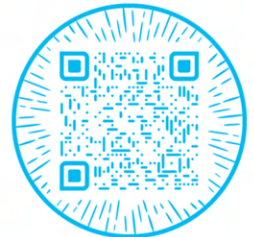
**Todd Wackerman,
Executive Director:**

 twackerman@stemlibrarylab.org

 504-872-3786

 stemlibrarylab.org/campaign

**or scan the QR Code for
more info**



THANK YOU!

**to our current
Capital Campaign
contributors**

- The Booth-Bricker Fund
- The Collins Diboll Foundation
- The Brown Foundation
- The Selley Foundation
- Jones Family Foundation
- Pro Bono Publico

PROGRAMS



EdOpportunities Database



*Robin Martin
EdOpportunities
Database Manager*

As a one-stop shop to discover local resources, the EdOpportunities Database is a central hub to search all that the Greater New Orleans region has to offer for teachers, students and their families. From nonprofits and businesses to museums and universities, we've assembled an extensive list of providers that offer a wide-variety of opportunities, including extracurricular programs, field trips, internships, classroom grants, guest speakers, and more. The EdOpportunities Database serves as a critical tool for equity in under-resourced schools.



With over 425 education opportunities provided by 134 different providers, the EdOpps Database brought new discoveries to 22 parishes.

Equipment Lending Co-op



*Szabi Varga
STEM Librarian*

By bridging the gap between limited school resources and cutting-edge equipment, technology and resources, the Equipment Lending Co-op remains a critical force for educational equity and excellence. The Co-op has enabled educators to bring hands-on learning to life, helping over 350 teachers impact more than 10,000 students throughout the year. Through grade-level and content-specific Communities of Practice workshops, teachers gained valuable insights into integrating STEM equipment into their curricula. Our pedagogy resource library and expert consultations ensured that educators were not only equipped with tools but empowered with the knowledge to use them effectively.



Service Learning



*Maria Landrum
Service Learning Manager*

Service Learning forges intentional connections between in-class instruction and hands-on community engagement, enabling students to be active scholars and stakeholders in addressing key issues in their local environments. At STEM Library Lab, we are dedicated to equipping and empowering the next generation of skilled and benevolent young leaders. Our Service Learning Program supports this endeavor by fully funding creative, purpose-filled and student-led projects that make a measurable, lasting impact in their communities.

**Out of 55
applications, 50
projects were
awarded a total
of \$152,671**



Teacher Free-Store



*Linzy Alston
Teacher Free-Store
Coordinator*

The Teacher Free-Store is dedicated to supporting Greater New Orleans educators by offering essential classroom supplies and resources—completely free of charge. Our mission is to ease the financial strain on teachers, reduce stress, and improve teacher retention in a region with significant educational challenges. We achieve this through initiatives like the Free-Store, which repurposes donated materials; the Copy/Print Center, providing access to printing and creative tools; and the Teachers' Lounge, a comfortable space to relax and work. Teachers are invited to visit the Free-Store for supplies, printing needs, or simply to unwind and connect.



Over 430 teachers from 121 schools saved \$30,500 on classroom supplies, benefiting over 12,000 students.

Professional Development



Karen Marshall
Director of Professional Development

Our Professional Development program is designed to support teachers and administrators in executing the switch to Phenomena Based Learning (LSSS aligned curriculum). This 9 session series walks teachers through instructional shifts in 3D learning used to facilitate inquiry-based classrooms, rooted in the Louisiana Student Standards for Science. These sessions highlight teacher phenomena--not topics--as required to be LSSS aligned in 2023.



100% of educators reported the sessions are engaging and helped them apply strategies to their actual curriculum

MEET OUR TEAM



TODD WACKERMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MONIQUE PILIÉ
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



JESTIN MOOREHEAD
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING



KAREN MARSHALL
DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



MARIA LANDRUM
SERVICE LEARNING MANAGER



SZABOLCS VARGA
STEM LIBRARIAN



ROBIN MARTIN
MARKETING MANAGER



AMERICORPS



BRENNA GOURGÉOT
LIBRARY COORDINATOR



SLATE ROSTAL
SERVICE LEARNING COORDINATOR



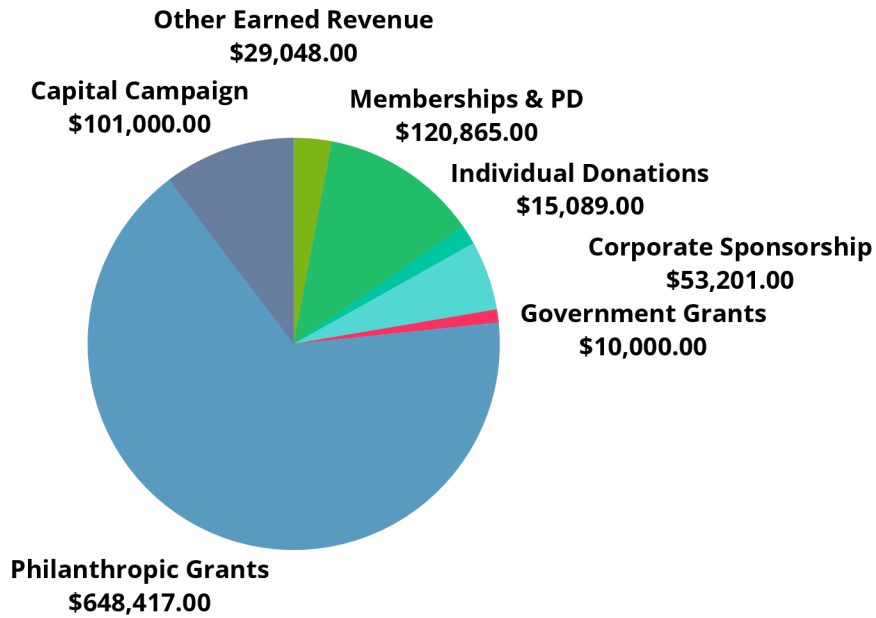
JULIE TRAN
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR



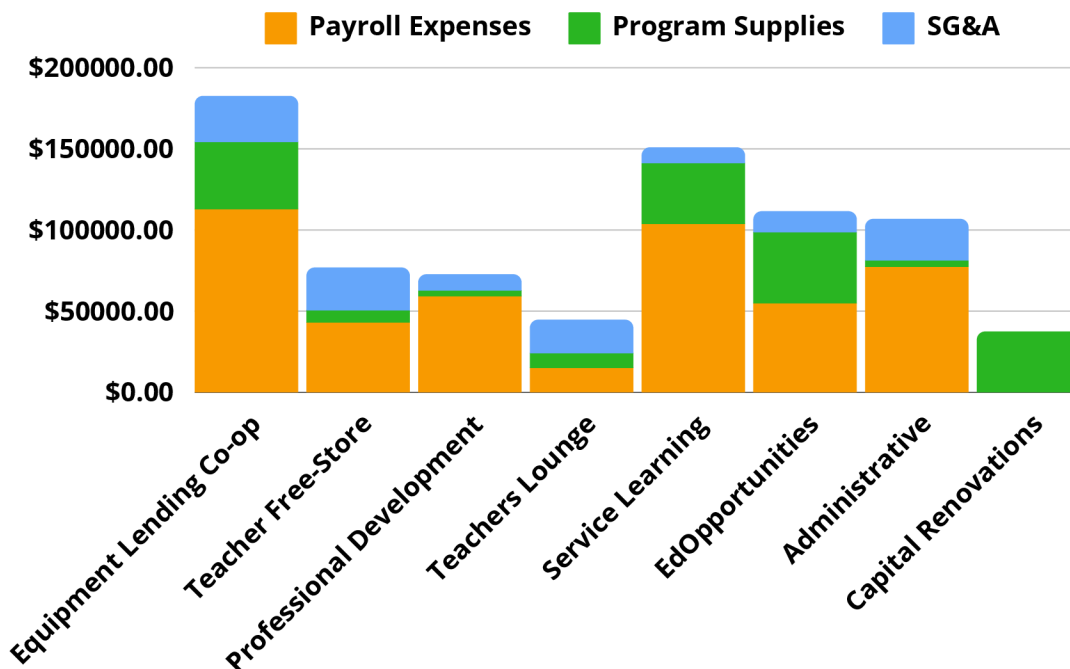
LINZY ALSTON
TEACHER FREE-STORE COORDINATOR

FINANCIALS

ORGANIZATION REVENUES



FINANCIALS BY PROGRAM



CO-OP MEMBERS

Co-op Member Schools contribute an annual membership for the teachers, and in return, in addition to borrowing equipment, SLL provides pickup/delivery, purchasing of new equipment, and targeted support.

2023-2024 SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Algiers Charter Schools Association:

- L.B. Landry
- Martin Behrman

Arthur School for Young Men

Collegiate Academies:

- Abramson Sci Academy
- Baton Rouge
- G. W. Carver
- Livingston
- Walter L. Cohen

Ecole Bilingue

Educators for Quality Alternatives:

- The Bridge
- The NET: Central City
- The NET: East (formerly NOAH)
- The NET: Gentilly

Einstein Charter Schools:

- Sarah T. Reed
- Sherwood Forest
- Village De L'est
- Einstein Charter Middle School

GNO Science & Engineering Fair

International High School of New Orleans

International School of Louisiana:

- Camp St
- Dixon
- Westbank

Jewish Community Day School

John Curtis Christian School

KIPP

- Booker T. Washington
- John F. Kennedy

Living School

Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans:

- McNair
- Patton
- Priestley

Mid-City Ministries

New Harmony High School

ReNEW Schools:

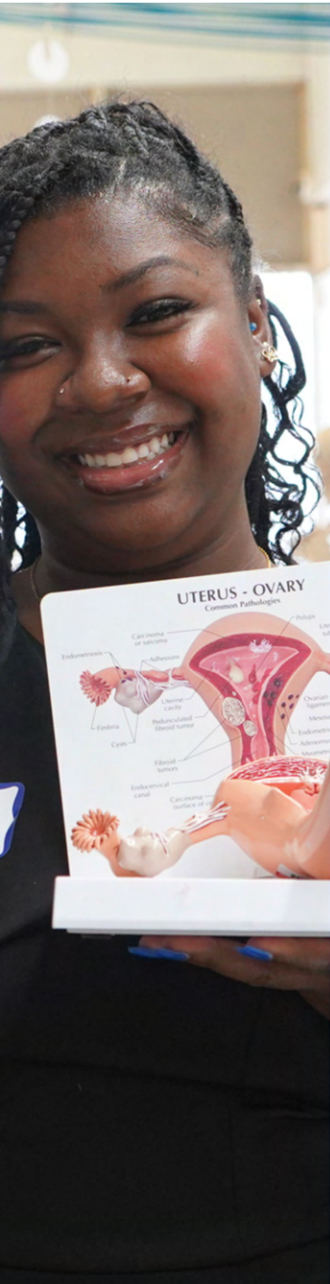
- Delores T. Aaron
- Laurel Elementary
- Schaumberg

Rooted School

St. Augustine High School

S. Angela Merici

Tom Benson School



The Co-op is accepting new School Members for 2024-2025 and invites local businesses to sponsor neighborhood schools through our Community Business Initiative. For those interested in getting involved, connect with Jestin Moorehead (jestin@stemlibrarylab.org).

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



TESSON
FOUNDATION



PATRICK F. TAYLOR
FOUNDATION



The
RosaMary
Foundation



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of the GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION



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The Olive Tupper
Foundation



Eugenie & Joseph Jones
Family Foundation

We extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support. Your donation is the propellant behind our work, enabling us to provide vital resources that empower teachers and inspire students. For those who want to learn more about how to support our work, reach out to Liz Hartselle (liz@stemlibrarylab.org).

EQUIPPING TEACHERS
TO INSPIRE STUDENTS



STEM

CONNECT WITH US:



504-517-3584



info@stemlibrarylab.org



www.stemlibrarylab.org



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

GROW WITH US:



Support our Renovation for Innovation:
stemlibrarylab.org/campaign



Support our programs, contact:
Executive Director Todd Wackerman
twackerman@stemlibrarylab.org