



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Hi Friends,

Wow—can you believe it's that time of year already? Here goes.

For the seventh straight year, it's been my privilege to lead STEM Library Lab alongside a team of dynamic, thoughtful, and motivated changemakers. We're united by our commitment to making a lasting impact on teachers, students, and schools across the region.

Through our five core programs, we've supported educators from New Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, St. John, and 7 other parishes. This year alone, we've served 1,404 teachers from 292 public, charter, private, and parochial schools—as well as colleges, homeschool groups, early childhood centers, nonprofits and, as we like to say, “anyone who self-identifies as a teacher.”

Behind each of these 1,404 stories is a reminder of why we do this work. We're driven by a vision of equity—knowing that not all students, or teachers, have the same access to the tools that foster success. That's why we've focused on building more than just a resource hub; we're cultivating an inclusive, welcoming community that recognizes and supports teachers' needs and shows them they are valued.

So what's next?

In 2025–2026, you'll see exciting changes to our Teacher Free-Store, as we work to ensure our space is not only well-stocked but also physically comfortable and inviting. We're deepening our support for rigorous, inquiry-based learning through enhancements to our Service Learning Program, Equipment Lending Co-op, and Professional Development offerings. And with the continued development of the EdOpportunities Database and Youth Programs Directory, we're reshaping how educators, youth, and families connect with local resources—opening doors to thousands of community-sourced events, programs, and partnerships.

I'm excited to have you on board for this journey and warmly invite you to stop by soon and see the impact for yourself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Wackerman'.

Todd Wackerman
Executive Director

Contact

 504-517-3584

 twackerman@stemlibrarylab.org

 www.stemlibrarylab.org

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. Through our work with teachers, STEM Library Lab is working toward a future in which neither race nor economic status dictates a student's future potential.

SLL UPDATES

The Booth-Bricker Fund Innovators' Lab renovation is COMPLETE!

Our newly renovated Innovators' Lab is a bold investment in the future of collaboration, creativity, and professional growth. This flexible, multi-use space is now open, purpose-built for nonprofits, educators, and community partners to host workshops, training sessions, retreats, and strategy meetings that drive educational innovation forward.

Thanks to the



BEFORE



AFTER



NEW SELLEY FOUNDATION ELEVATOR INSTALLED!

Thanks to the
**The Selley
Foundation Fund**

of the GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION



JOE W. AND DOROTHY DORSETT BROWN
STEM CENTER

SLL UPDATES

NEW TEAM MEMBERS!



ELIZABETH HARTSELLE
Development Manager

Elizabeth “Liz” Hartselle brings over 12 years of experience in education, leadership, and renewable energy. She has served diverse student populations in New Orleans charter schools and holds an MBA. Her recent work in EV charging and residential solar sales adds business insight to her strong educational foundation. Liz is passionate about driving innovation and supporting organizational growth to advance educational outcomes.



PEYTON JUNEAU
EdOpportunities Database Manager

Peyton is a Louisiana native with a deep-rooted desire to help preserve all that makes living here so special. He has served at various local agencies such as HandsOn New Orleans and Rebuilding Together New Orleans. He considers himself lucky to work with STEM Library Lab as EdOpportunities Database Manager. He enjoys listening to his collection of vinyl records, reading comics & graphic novels, & going on long walks with his wife & 9-year old pitbull named Big Booty Judy.



TAMMY MARTIN
Service Learning Manager

Tammy is a passionate STEM educator with over 13 years of experience. She holds a BA in Sociology from the University of New Orleans and an M.Ed. from Grand Canyon University. A strong advocate for service learning, she supports teachers in connecting academics with real-world impact. Outside of work, she enjoys the outdoors, family time, and her lively Border Collie, named Archie.



BLAIR FOSTER
Client Services Coordinator

Blair (they/she), a Lafayette native and Elon University graduate, spent a decade in New Orleans and Atlanta building a casting career focused on equity and authentic representation. They co-founded the CSA's Trans/Nonbinary Affinity Group and ran a casting office/art collective supporting marginalized artists. Now as Client Services Coordinator at STEM Library Lab, Blair brings their passion for accessibility, community, and connection to the role.



PROGRAMS





EQUIPMENT LENDING CO-OP

Bridging the gap between underfunded schools and high-quality science and STEM resources, the Equipment Lending Co-op puts cutting-edge tools directly into the hands of teachers—and by extension, their students. From microscopes and robotics kits to data sensors and engineering tools, the Co-op provides access to materials that transform STEM concepts from esoteric to unforgettable.

Through Communities of Practice workshops, educators get targeted support and peer collaboration opportunities to seamlessly integrate STEM equipment into grade-level and subject-specific curricula. Our pedagogy resource library and expert consultations ensure that teachers aren't just borrowing tools—they're gaining confidence, knowledge, and a community that helps them thrive.

For educators, it's a game-changer: no more reinventing the wheel or making do with outdated supplies. For administrators, it's a strategic solution to stretch limited budgets while strengthening instruction quality. And for donors, it's an investment in systemic change—leveling the playing field for thousands of students who might otherwise be left behind.

2024-2025 School Year:

- Number of Teachers Registered - 693
- Individual Items Borrowed - Over 6,100
- Total Value of Borrows - \$331,384.11



TEACHER FREE-STORE

A cornerstone of STEM Library Lab's commitment to educational equity, the Teacher Free-Store supports Greater New Orleans educators with essential classroom supplies, tools, and resources—completely free of charge. By easing the financial and emotional burden on teachers, we're not just helping classrooms run more smoothly—we're helping ensure teachers stay teaching for the long term.

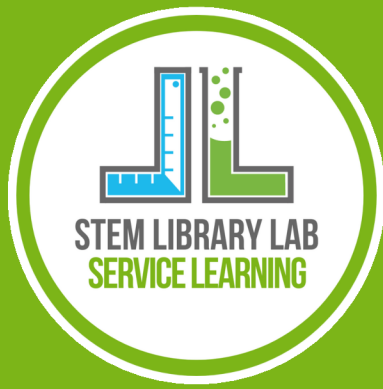
Whether they need notebooks and pencils, lab materials or art supplies, educators can browse our ever-growing inventory of repurposed and donated materials, giving quality resources a second life where they're needed most.

Through our Copy/Print Center, teachers gain access to high-volume printers, laminators, and design tools—without the usual costs or hurdles. And when they need a moment to catch their breath, our cozy Teachers' Lounge offers a rare space to recharge, plan lessons, and connect with peers.

The Free-Store is a community resource hub, a cost-saving engine, and a lifeline for educators who pour their hearts into their work every day. For teachers, it means real support that makes their jobs more sustainable. For administrators, it means lower out-of-pocket burdens for staff and stronger morale. And for donors, it's a direct and deeply impactful way to invest in the people shaping our students' futures.

2024-2025 School Year:

- 95% of teachers were able to find items they needed.
- Over 50% of teachers who visited our Teacher's Lounge spent their time designing lessons.
- 99% of teachers would recommend the Free-Store to a fellow teacher.



SERVICE LEARNING

The Service Learning Program transforms traditional education into a dynamic force for community change by connecting classroom instruction with real-world problem-solving. Service Learning happens in partnership with the Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation, provide funding for the projects and implementation.

Through this program, students become more than learners—they become leaders. Working alongside their teachers, they design and lead hands-on, community-centered projects that address real issues in their neighborhoods, from environmental sustainability to public health and beyond. Each project is fully funded, removing financial barriers and encouraging innovation, creativity, and ownership.

The Service Learning Program is where academic rigor meets social responsibility—and where young people discover their power to shape a better world. For educators, it's a turnkey way to energize their teaching and inspire students. For school leaders, it's a catalyst for building stronger school-community ties and deeper student engagement. And for donors, it's an opportunity to directly fuel projects that spark both academic growth and meaningful change.

2024-2025 School Year:

- Awarded \$366,186 in Project Grants
- Funded a Total of 112 Unique Projects
- Increased from 15 to 75 Ready-to-Go Projects



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Professional Development program is designed to support teachers and school leaders in mastering the shift to Phenomena-Based Learning as outlined in the Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS). With the 2023 alignment requirements now in full effect, this transition isn't optional—it's essential. SLL is here to make it both manageable and meaningful.

Through a dynamic 9-session series, our PD program breaks down the core principles of three-dimensional learning into practical strategies that teachers can implement right away. Each session models real instructional shifts—moving from rote content delivery to engaging, inquiry-driven exploration of natural phenomena. Teachers leave with not only new tools and techniques, but also the confidence to use them effectively in their own classrooms.

Beyond the structured PD series, we also host Communities of Practice workshops throughout the year. These collaborative gatherings bring together educators from across the region to share challenges, swap strategies, and dive deeper into effective use of STEM equipment, classroom innovation, and student-centered pedagogy. It's professional development that extends beyond the workshop—becoming a sustained, supportive network.

2024-2025 School Year:

- **9 Teachers from 7 Schools Participated in Our *Engaging Students* Regional Cohort**
- **15 Communities of Practice Workshops, Engaging 200 Teachers**
- **8 Nonprofit Partners Hosted CoP Workshops**



EDOPPORTUNITIES DATABASE

Created by STEM Library Lab, the EdOpportunities Database is a centralized, continuously updated online platform that connects teachers, students and their families to a wide array of opportunities available in the local community. From field trips to scholarships, from youth programs to summer camps, from teacher stipends to classroom grants, this tool makes it easy to discover and tap into much-needed resources.

We've compiled hundreds of offerings from trusted partners across the region—nonprofits, museums, universities, and local businesses—all in one searchable, easy-to-navigate platform. Whether you're a teacher looking for a guest speaker to bring your lesson to life, an administrator sourcing grant opportunities, or a family seeking after-school programs, the EdOpportunities Database meets you where you are.

In under-resourced schools, access to these kinds of connections is often the missing link to student success. The EdOpportunities Database helps close that gap, making sure that equitable access to opportunity is not the exception, but the norm.

2024-2025 School Year:

- **425 Opportunities Available in 29 Parishes**
- **266 Providers Offering Resources**
- **6,000 Opportunity Seekers Utilizing the Platform**

SCHOOL PARTNERS



NEW HARMONY
HIGH SCHOOL



Livingston
Collegiate



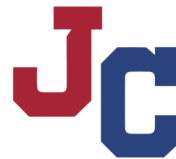
G.W. CARVER
PREPARATORY ACADEMY



Collegiate Baton Rouge



RENEW
SCHAUMBURG
ELEMENTARY



ECOLE BILINGUE
DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

rootedschool



Teachers from over 260 schools visited STEM Library Lab this year.

Our Premium School Partners receive an additional level of support for their teachers in the Equipment Lending Co-op.

Connect with Jestin@stemlibrarylab.org to learn how your school can become a member!



DONORS



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**Eugenie & Joseph Jones
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Foundation**

Recurring Donors

Thank you to our Monthly Recurring Donors:

David Gibbons * Hannah Paulding * Barbara MacPhee * Yo and Wayne
Wackerman * Sarah Sievert

In-Kind Donations

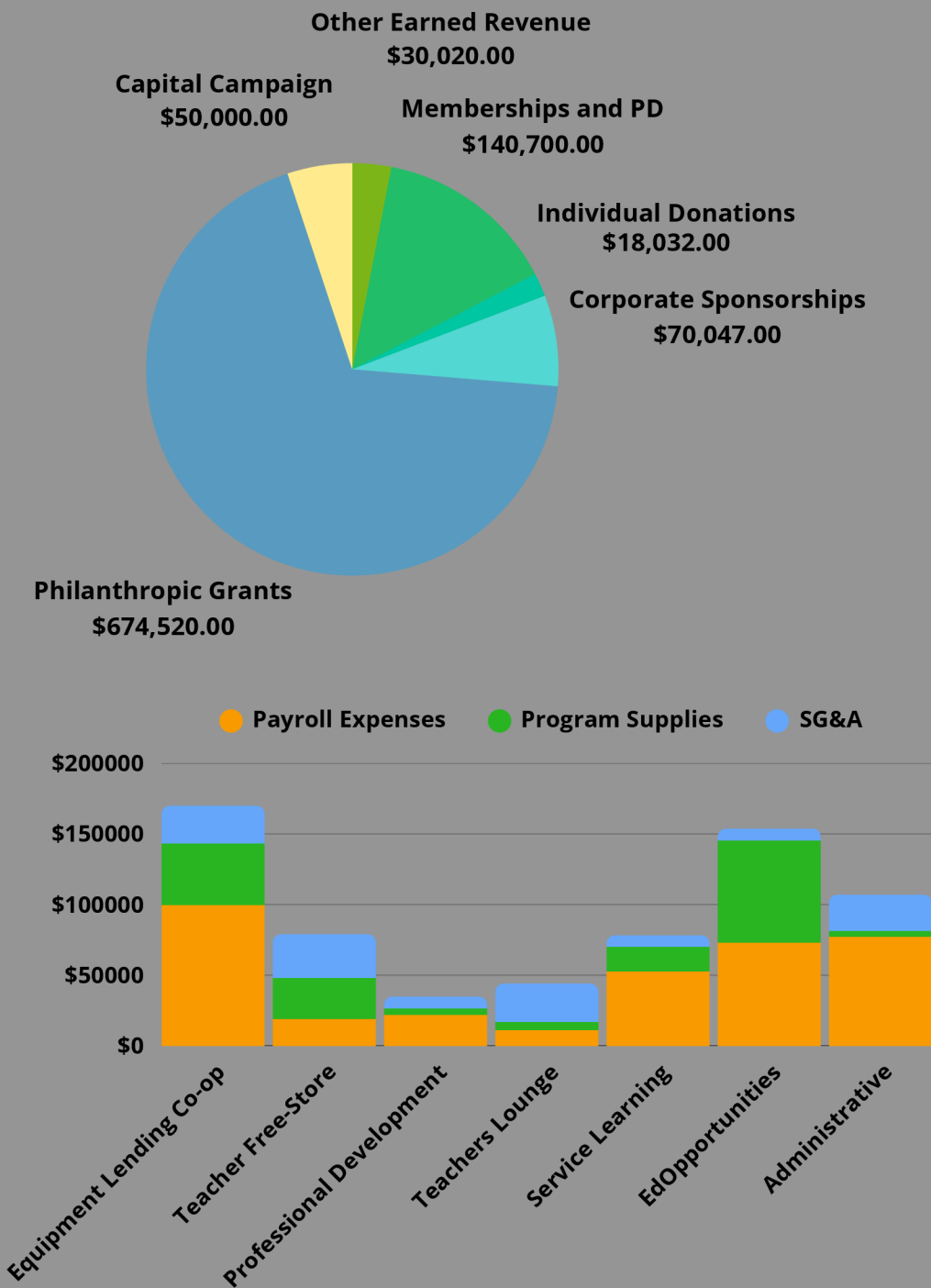
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the 150+ generous in-kind donors whose contributions made a lasting impact on our work throughout the year.



FINANCIALS

This school year, our revenue was driven by philanthropic support from local family foundations, and local corporate sponsors. Earned revenue contributed approximately 25% of our total funds, from our Equipment Lending Co-op, Professional Development, and EdOpportunities Database.

We aim to increase these sources in 2025-2026.



The majority of our expenses go toward our phenomenal team—the people behind our impactful work and daily operations.

But it's word of mouth that truly keeps the lights on.

Support our mission by telling a friend about us or becoming a monthly donor to help cover utilities, like our electric bill:

👉 stemlibrarylab.org/support-us/#donate

MEET THE TEAM



Todd Wackerman
Executive Director



Monique Pilié
Director of Operations



Robin Martin
Marketing Manager



Szabolcs Varga
STEM Librarian



Jestin Moorehead
Director of Programming



Elizabeth Hartselle
Development Manager



Peyton Juneau
EdOpportunities Database
Manager




Tammy Martin
Service Learning Manager




Blair Foster
Client Services Coordinator



EQUIPPING TEACHERS TO INSPIRE STUDENTS

 3011 N. I-10 Service Rd E

 504-517-3584

 info@stemlibrarylab.org

 www.stemlibrarylab.org

 @stemlibrarylab