

IMPACT REPORT FY24-2025



LEACH
BOTANICAL
— GARDEN —





HELLO FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every time I walk through the Garden, my experience is different, discovering something new and exploring the unique ways in which I

personally connect to this magical place. I am deeply inspired by the passion, love and dedication so many of you have for our work, and the unique connections you share with the Garden. Although its physical location makes it feel tucked away and somewhat “hidden”, the impacts of our work and the power of the garden itself, are quite the opposite, and remarkably visible.

It is a place where one can find respite, connect to nature and each other, be inquisitive and learn, experience a sense of wonder and be inspired by something bigger than themselves. Its magic lies within the stories, history and legacy that John and Lilla selflessly gifted us. Their undeniable love for each other and their shared love of the natural world have had a profound and lasting impact that can be seen in the pages ahead.

The Garden is at a pivotal moment in its history; one I think John and Lilla would be proud of, excited for and would handle with great care and intention. Our communities need the Garden and the services and programs we offer more than ever before.

Together, we can address and meet these increasing needs, lift up our community, and redefine how we can better serve the next generation of Garden stewards and visitors.

Together, we can broaden our reach and positive impact, providing more people with the opportunity to feel the sense of belonging, community and hope that so many of us need and the Garden naturally offers. As you read through this report, I encourage you to think about your own connection to the garden, and the impact you have made by helping us ensure its legacy continues.

Thank you! We are proud of the accomplishments in the 2025 Impact Report and I hope you are too, because your continued support and dedication made it all possible!

RENEE MYERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
LEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN





HORTICULTURE

Nurturing & Growing

This year brought many changes to the horticulture department. With the departure of Head Gardener Scott Hoelscher after 20 years of dedicated service, a major restructuring of the department was set into action. The role of Head Gardener was dissolved to refocus efforts in areas that have been sitting on the back burner due to lack of capacity. We now have a team of 3 year-round gardeners, each with a dedicated maintenance zone.

Additionally, one of these positions works as the Propagator for the garden, a position that was put on hold after the previous Propagator retired. After years of deferred maintenance in the nursery and greenhouse, the team is now working in earnest to make the necessary repairs and improvements to get production levels at or above where they were prior to 2021. In 2026, we hope to be growing large quantities of native plants for the garden's collections, the Back 5 restoration site, as well as the gift shop. Of course, we will still offer many of the ornamental plants that people have come to associate with Leach, such as jack-in-the-pulpits and trilliums.

While navigating these changes, the team continued to work diligently to make improvements throughout the garden. **Over 800 plants encompassing approximately 90 different species were added, many of those species being new introductions to the Garden's plant collections.** The garden also hosted a Plant Records intern, who took on the monumental task of inventorying the entirety of the Pollinator Garden's plant species. In the end, over 140 different species were catalogued, with a grand total of 4,815 plants growing in the Pollinator Garden alone. The hope is to continue these efforts throughout the garden, with the goal of hosting the plant database on the garden's website upon completion of the work.

There is much on the horizon for the horticulture team. Open areas around the Garden entrance were seeded this fall with native pollinator seed mixes. An area of the large lawn just south of the garden entrance has also been fenced off and seeded with a native meadow mix. This is a test patch to attempt to reclaim lawn areas around the garden to native meadows that will better support our local pollinators by providing necessary food and habitat while also enhancing the beauty of the space. Lastly, the team has begun cleaning up the garden on the south side of Johnson Creek in anticipation of the new pedestrian bridge to be installed in spring of 2026. We are excited to once again welcome our visitors to this beautiful, secluded part of the property at long last!

Through hands-on workshops, seasonal celebrations, guided walks, and creative collaborations, we invited our community to explore the natural beauty of the Garden while deepening their sense of stewardship and belonging.

Programming offered activities and community-building events designed to engage people of all ages and income levels in meaningful connections with nature, one another, the arts, and environmental education and stewardship.

Each program was crafted to inspire curiosity, creativity, and care for the environment, helping people build lasting relationships with the Garden and with each other.

By The Numbers:

- Two Back 5 Bioblitzes with 88 native species identified by 38 participants
- 148 events with 53 different types of events in the main Garden (not including education visits)
- 80 field trips with 1,948 participants with a nearly even split between Back 5 and main Garden
- 12 Garden for All Community Group visits with 164 guests
- Hosted 4 Lents Youth Initiative Interns, 6 PSU Capstone Students, 1 Tivnu intern, 1 AmeriCorps Member

EDUCATION + PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Engaging Communities



MORE FROM PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Major community events by the numbers:

- Spring Equinox Fair (635 guests)
- Juneteenth Community Free Day (1,002 guests)
- Summer Nature Fair (534 guests)
- Winter Solstice (391 guests)
- Sip & Picnic (191 guests)
- Moment (277 guests)
- Oregon Adventure Theatre's *"The Winter's Tale"* (650 guests at multiple performances)
- Renegade Opera's Bird Songs of Opera (200 guests)
- 105 attended an art class (drawing, watercolor, printmaking)



- Summer Yoga Series had 230 visits in 16 sessions
- Honeybee Hikes had 656 guests in 21 visits
- 5 Multicultural story times with Multnomah County Library in varied languages
- 345 guests attended a tour or horticulture workshop, and 254 guests did a self-guided tour

The programs team began work on the Far Meadow with the first berm planting of sunflowers and other colorful pollinators, restored the play cottage with a beautiful new mural, added seating made by Portland Youth Builders, and selected local artist Rose Covert to create a moongate sculptural installation.

The team also hired Katharine Grace J. Flores as our new Back 5 Education & Ecology Manager, thanks to grant funding support from M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust .

971 participants in 39 Back 5 education events

BACK 5 PROJECT





VOLUNTEERS

Service and Stewardship

We currently have over 75 volunteers whose contributions are essential to having a thriving, welcoming, well maintained garden. Volunteers assist with numerous tasks, including garden maintenance, habitat restoration, event and fundraising support, gift shop sales, garden tours, serving on the Leach Garden Friend's Board, and more. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated, positive, and hard-working crew of volunteers!

The Garden Gift Shop is staffed year-round by a capable volunteer team who handled \$128,718 in sales during the 24-25 fiscal year (up from \$94,864 for the 23-24 fiscal year). The shop is an essential and welcoming hub of information for visitors to the historic lower garden, as well as providing carefully selected nature-themed merchandise with a focus on locally produced items.

Volunteers provided assistance for several very successful fundraising events, including the 2024 Winterfest and Wreath Sale, and the 2025 Spring Garden Fair, Feast in the Garden, Boo Bash, and more. Our knowledgeable Volunteer Docents led visitors on a variety of unique tours, including the Social Life of Trees, The Romantic Tour, and The Garden Highlights Tour.

Although there is no way to accurately capture the value of volunteers in terms of a monetary number, it is still an impressive way to comprehend their contribution. Multiply the 7,108 volunteer hours provided during the 24-25 fiscal year by \$36.44* and the total monetary value to LBG Friends is \$259,015. Add that to our volunteers' dedication, love for the garden, and sense of community, and the benefits are incalculable!

**The value of a volunteer hour in Oregon is taken from the Value of Volunteer Time report issued by the Independent Sector in conjunction with the University of Maryland's Do Good Institute on April 23, 2025.*

This year, we started off with a Special Events open house in May showcasing the beauty of Leach. Followed by 50 in person venue tours, 22 wedding celebrations, 7 elopement celebrations, 5 community rentals, 5 proposals, 5 business retreats, and 2 celebrations of life.

In between all of that we highlighted all Leach has to offer with the annual Sip and Picnic and Moment collaboration. Moving into the autumn we will celebrate the seasons with Creekside Coffee with Coava on weekend mornings

November through March, stop by and say hi! The Rental & Special Event team grew to five permanent staff members over the course of 2025. Much planning, labor, and event coordination goes on behind the scenes of every private event, which the team executes seamlessly and joyfully all year long.

We may seem to be hibernating November through March, but we are busy planning the full season of events to come in the warmer months.

SPECIAL EVENTS + RENTALS

Welcoming 1,755 Celebrant Guests





VISITOR SERVICES

Connecting People and Place

As the garden's front door, Visitor Services creates the first and often most memorable connection between guests and Leach Botanical Garden. Our team welcomes visitors from all walks of life, ensuring that everyone feels at home and that cost is never a barrier to enjoying nature, beauty and community.

Now in its third year, *Garden for All* remains a cornerstone of Leach's mission to ensure equitable access. In FY24/25 alone, 1,485 guests enjoyed complimentary admission. When combined with other free entry days, a total of around 3,600 visitors received free entry. Of all Garden for All visitors to date, 75% are Oregon residents, and 36% live in our neighboring Southeast Portland zip codes (97206, 97266, 97236).

Behind these numbers are stories of relief, belonging, and healing. Guests often share how meaningful it is to be welcomed without hesitation:

***“Welcome, please come in and enjoy the garden today.”
That small gesture turns uncertainty into belonging.***

Visitors use the garden for daily walks, moments of reflection, creative inspiration, and healing after life changes. Students, caregivers, and newcomers to Portland find peace and community among the trees and trails.



33,471
TOTAL
GARDEN
GUESTS

\$96,572 IN
ADMISSIONS
REVENUE





MEMBERS

29% increase

DONORS

14% increase

Your Opportunity to Make a Lasting Impact

When you make protecting nature and environmental stewardship your legacy, you ensure that future generations will enjoy educational experiences, and joyful community programs in a lush landscape of over 2,000 varieties of plants.

You have several meaningful ways to support:

- Put Leach Botanical Garden in your will
- Give a gift of appreciated stock
- Make Leach Botanical Garden a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy
- Give a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from your individual retirement account (IRA)
- Make a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) gift via Oregon Community Foundation (OCF)



Thanks to the support of our sponsors, guests, auction donors, and partners Nostrana and Cana's Feast Winery, our annual Feast in the Garden fundraiser event raised \$30,637 to support our Garden for All free admission program, and \$10,163 to support horticulture and programs at Leach.

We are so grateful to the close to 150 guests for making the event a fun and festive celebration, and for our generous Feast 2025 event sponsors - Olson Kundig, Pogo Pass, Friends of the Oregon Association for Talented and Gifted, Sauvie Island Natives, and Winterbrook Planning.

The lovely photos above are courtesy of Human Centric Media, AV support for the event courtesy of Soundguy Productions, donated beverages from Breakside Brewing and Monte Ferro Winery, and special guest speech from Cathy Whims whose new cookbook *The Italian Summer Kitchen* is available now.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

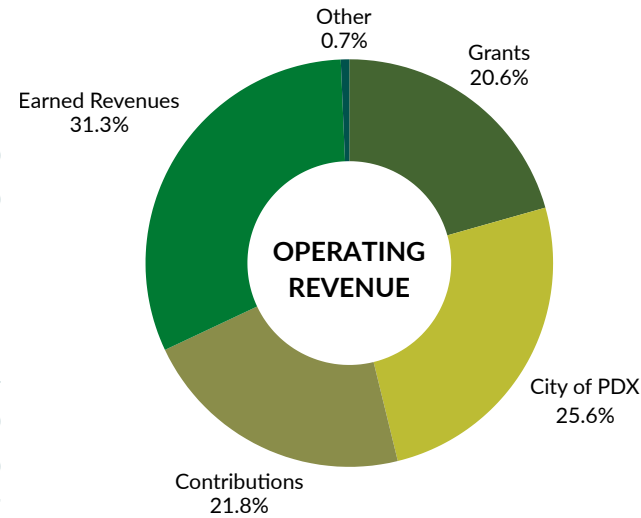
LEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN

2025

2024-2025 Fiscal Year

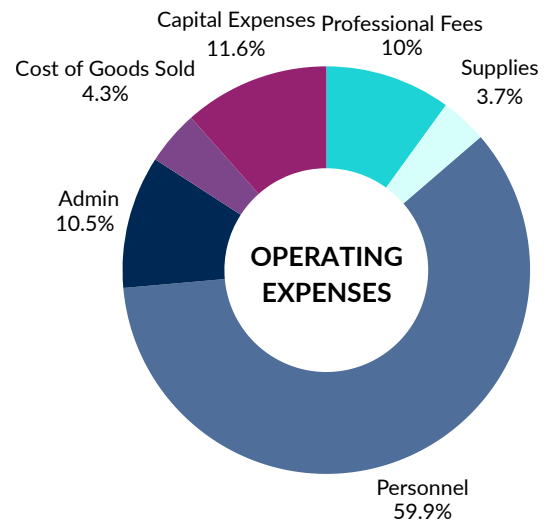
Functional Revenue

Grants	\$ 283,356
Government Support (City of Portland)	350,000
Contributions	312,770
<i>Individual & Corporate Contributions, Fundraising Events</i>	
Earned Revenues	428,987
<i>Admission, Programs, Rentals, Sales, Investment Income</i>	
Revenue Other	9,204
Carry-in from previous fiscal year*	71,800
Carry-out to 2024-25 fiscal year**	-45,500
Total Functional Revenues	1,410,617



Functional Expenses

Personnel	\$ 919,000
<i>Salaries, Benefits, & Payroll Taxes</i>	
Professional Fees	148,083
<i>Finance, IT, Honoraria, & Other Consultants</i>	
General and Administrative Expenses	161,403
<i>Marketing, Maintenance, Utilities, and Admin. Costs</i>	
Horticultural & Educational Supplies	57,203
Cost of Goods Sold	65,966
Capital Expenses	
<i>Renovations & New Construction</i>	176,885
Total Functional Expenses	1,528,540



In FY24-25 we experienced a deficit where expenses exceeded revenue in a few key areas. This was mainly due to lower than projected grant revenues, reduced rentals and admissions income, and unforeseen administrative expenses in capital projects.

Note: Major capital expenditures and revenues not depicted in graphs

GRANTORS

- Autzen Foundation
- Oregon Science Teachers Association Diack Ecology Education Program
- The Garden Conservancy
- The Summer Lea Hillman Foundation
- H.W. Irwin and D.C.H. Irwin Foundation
- The Jackson Foundation
- The Kinsman Foundation
- Metro Nature in Neighborhoods
- M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
- Ronald W. Naito Foundation
- Northwest Horticultural Society
- Oregon Cultural Trust
- Prosper Portland
- The Reser Family Foundation
- Schwemm Family Foundation
- Travel Portland

SPONSORS

- Bartlett Tree Experts
- BMO Harris Bank
- Bremik Construction
- Coava Coffee
- Hennebery Eddy Architects
- KMO Real Estate
- Metro
- Moda Health
- NW Natural
- Pacific NW Federal Credit Union
- Portland Nursery
- Winterbrook Planning

Operating in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation



BUSINESS MEMBERS

- Bartlett Tree Experts
- Coava Coffee
- Sauvie Island Natives
- Senior Haven

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Staff

- Adam Hart, Horticulture Director
- Alina Mello, Visitor Services Specialist
- Anastasiya Brant, Rental Sales + Special Events Coordinator
- Annie Winn, Volunteer Manager
- Carrie Boatwright, Visitor Services Specialist
- Cheyenne Swartz, Rental Sales + Special Events Asst. Manager
- Hilliary Montero, Gardener
- Jami LeBaron, Program Director
- Jennifer Tilson, Visitor Services Specialist
- Jennifer Woodward, Development Director
- Katharine Grace Flores, Back 5 Education + Ecology Manager
- Katherine Takata, Rental Sales + Special Events Admin Coord.
- Kit Cummins, Rental Sales + Special Events Manager
- Kyle Macdonald, Facilities + Event Support Specialist
- Lindsey Gohd, Propogator/Gardener
- Lisa Santo, Operations Director
- Max Meyers, Program Coordinator
- Renee Myers, Executive Director
- Sam Mularz, Gardener
- Jose Benitez, Seasonal Event Attendant
- Sarah Benitez-Silvas, Rental Sales + Special Events Specialist
- Tamra Tiemeyer, Visitor Services Manager
- Wenndi Friyder, Visitor Services Specialist

Board of Directors

- Lewis Barr
- Sam Bennett
- Tom Bland, Treasurer
- Michael Crosbie, Secretary
- Gay Greger
- Richard Hartlage
- Bob Hyland, President
- Michael McKeel
- Sue O'Halloran
- Cici Polson
- Jim Rondone
- Francheska Snyder, Vice President
- Carol Wilson



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