



Dear Members & Friends,

The reopening of Mechanics' Institute as the pandemic wanes has brought an exciting year of developing and executing our new Strategic Plan, expanding and diversifying our high-quality programs and services, and improving our beautiful building in the heart of downtown San Francisco. We could not have done it without your continued engagement and support. Thank you!

This year, we are proud to have finalized and launched a new Strategic Plan to guide our programs, services, and work over the next five years. As part of this plan, the Board of Trustees and staff are committed to honoring the Institute's history while ensuring its future relevancy through exploration of new, innovative ways to engage with members and the community-at-large. Moreover, despite the challenging economy, with support from membership, donors, foundations, and earned income, as well as our endowment, the Institute has been able to increase our chess room and library hours, expand in-person programming, and offer more author, film, and writing programs to complement our active book clubs, library services and classes, and chess instruction and tournaments for all ages.

During 2022, the Institute had many new accomplishments that will ensure our programming and building will continue to serve members for years to come. For example, the Institute partnered with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and secured a large grant to support expanded programming that highlighted diverse authors, filmmakers, and other artists. We also were awarded a Big Read grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the first time in the Institute's history which has enabled us to create new events, including a number of collaborative programs with other local cultural institutions. We have also completed the majority of the exterior building restoration project, supported by the generosity of individual donors and a capital grant from the NEH, ensuring the longevity of Mechanics' Institute's gorgeous building for generations.

Thank you again for your continued membership and support. We are eager to engage with our members through our innovative programs and services and look forward to working together to continue to make Mechanics' Institute a center where people can learn and share ideas with one another in a community that values curiosity and creativity.

Lindsay Tonsager
President, Board of Trustees

Kimberly Scrafano
Chief Executive Officer

San Francisco's Cultural Institute

Mechanics' Institute began as a cultural home for workers and artisans. Almost 170 years later, the Institute still attracts writers, thinkers, and creators with the same mission: to create opportunities for people to enhance their lives by gaining useful knowledge, skills, and experience in sharing ideas with others. The pandemic, the empty rental space, the quieted urban landscape, and the recent tech exodus are forcing San Francisco and the downtown core to re-examine how to bring people back and in. At the Institute, new avenues of engagement were created to build on the virtual and hybrid models we initiated almost three years ago. The Institute became a more powerful place as folks began to rejoin the community they needed now more than ever—a place to unplug, to explore new ideas, to play chess, to foster talents, and to engage with others.

Mechanics' Institute envisions a world in which people from all backgrounds join in mutual curiosity, in striving together to develop collective skills, and to make a better today. The Institute's hope is that members and the public, through study of the humanities, cultural exploration, and strategic gameplay, may use what they learn for good, taking part in shaping a stronger, more connected community that helps make your corner of the world a much better place.

“Lighting the Way” for the Future

As members know, since 1905 Mechanics' Institute has owned the land and, since 1910, the Institute building at 57 Post Street in downtown San Francisco. In order to preserve the historic building, the Institute initiated a “Landmark Restoration” campaign supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant of \$500,000 and nearly \$1,500,000 in donor funds for exterior capital improvements. The Institute is excited to report that this project is nearing completion.

In 2021-2022, the Institute also initiated “Lighting the Way,” a new campaign to upgrade our electrical and interior lighting, starting with the library book stacks. Further grant funding and individual contributions are currently sought for these interior lighting upgrades to replace aged fixtures in the five levels of book stacks, the two larger library reading rooms, the chess room, special events space, and common areas of the building. Our estimated cost of the campaign “Lighting the Way” is approximately \$630,000. The Institute appreciates your support.

Library

During the fiscal year 2021-2022, the library underwent a period of transition as the Institute learned more about the reality of a post-pandemic world and how other libraries were pivoting to meet member needs. Library usage, while consistent, was lower compared to pre-pandemic numbers, although usage grew steadily throughout the year. The Institute increased its open hours, and now the library is open late two evenings per week and on Saturdays. In addition, the Institute began offering the popular weekly Wednesday tours in person and continued to work hard on reviewing and ordering new books, e-resources, and services for members.

The Library's rich collection of more than 160,000 volumes is augmented by increased access to electronic films, audio, databases, and ebooks. Members are turning more to online resources, including platforms such as Ancestry for personal searches, Kanopy for film screening, Morningstar and Value Line for stocks and financial trade information, and Duolingo for language learning. Just as former members Jack London and Pulitzer Prize winners Adam Johnson and T. J. Stiles made the library a writing home, the Institute welcomes all current and incoming writers to make the Institute their home of creative inspiration.

Our Library By the Numbers

Average visits per month	865
Items circulated	14,292
Books purchased	1,856
eBook Titles	6,590
eAudiobook Titles	1,511
eMagazine Titles	4,514



Chess

Mechanics' Institute houses the oldest continuously-operating chess club in the United States. Host to World Chess champions over the years, the chess club served players through the pandemic and continues to offer both in-person and online activities suited to players of all levels, including tournaments, lessons, and casual play.

Moreover, the Institute is supporting the champions of tomorrow through the Mechanics' Institute Scholastic Chess Program. During the last school year (September 2021-August 2022), the Institute held classes in 11 schools and experienced an overall resurgence in school day and after-school chess activity. The 2022 San Francisco Scholastic Championship was held online in August with more than 100 young players participating.

Chess programming continues to have strong engagement as individuals find their niche at Mechanics' Institute. More than 1,000 individuals participated in 254 class offerings during the year, including Beginner Chess, Tactics for Developing Players/Strategies for Developing Players, Chess Cafe, Women's and Girl's Chess Class, Art of Attack, Modern Chess Openings, and more, as well as camps for youth onsite.

Over the board and online chess tournaments have seen steady regrowth, with more than 100 scholastic and regular adult tournaments, including five Tuesday Night Marathons.

Chess By the Numbers

Scholastic Chess	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 schools• 321 participants• 454 class sessions
Chess Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2,590 members• 1,932 non-members• 254 class sessions



Events By the Numbers

Member Attendees	5,798
Non-Member Attendees	5,982
Total Attendees	11,780



Events & Programs

In 2021-2022, author events, conversations, and film salons were hosted both virtually and in-person throughout the year. Popular events included the National Endowment for the Humanities grant program, "Civil Rights, Artistic Diversity, Historical Reckoning," from September 2021 through June 2022 and included the CinemaLit series' Black Lives on Film, Hidden Histories, and Black Lives: Past and Present.

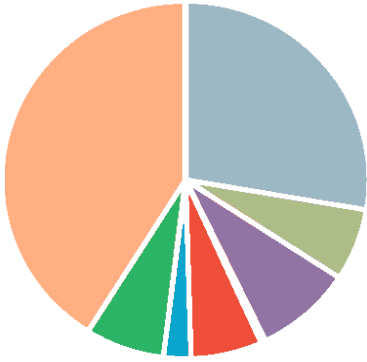
The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning collaborated to bring "A Director's View: Collaborating with Pinter & Stoppard in the Rehearsal Room," presented by Carey Perloff and author J.R. Thorp discussing *Learwife: A Novel*. The Consulate General of Ireland of San Francisco cosponsored "Ulysses 100: A City-Wide Celebration" for the 100th Anniversary of James Joyce's novel with performances by local actors, live music, and libations. Author Christopher Pollock shared his book, *San Francisco's Golden Gate Park: A Thousand and Seventeen Acres of Stories*.

CinemaLit screened more than 40 films on a wide range of themes and conversations. Of note was the screening of "A Single Man," followed by the discussion with Ruth Stein of "Sitting Down With the Stars: 100 Interviews with Hollywood Legends," which garnered the largest viewership of the season.

The Institute appreciates the dedication of all of its volunteers who play such a key role in the success of the Institute's author and literary events. In 2022, there were almost 2300 participants for the author and film programs. The Institute's programs and events are informed by member and community interests, and the author readings, writers' workshops, technology classes, civic discussions, book groups, film screenings, and community gatherings are continuing to grow and expand as more community members return to the Institute.



Financials

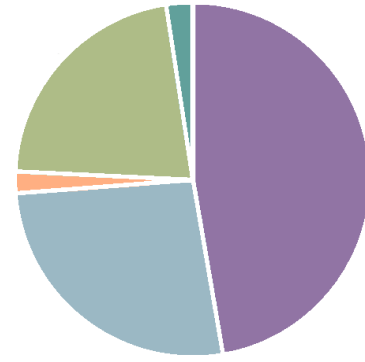


Income

Rental Income	871,160
Bequests, Donations, Grants	204,984
Chess Room Income	271,503
Event Income	9,633
Library Services Income	3,376
Membership Dues	197,673
In-Kind & Other Donations	75,860
Grants Awarded for FYE 2022*	220,000
Restricted Funds Released	1,292,232

Total Income: 3,146,421

*Grants awarded in FY 21-22, but received FY 22-23.



Expenses

Library, Chess & Events	1,484,445
Building	831,293
Fundraising	62,118
Management & General	684,833
Special Projects & Professional Fees	75,860

Total Expenses : 3,138,549

**This financial report does not reflect the changes in the endowment returns. For more information, please see our financial audit.

Institute Donors

Mechanics' Institute thanks the generous individual, foundation, and corporate donors who make our continued growth possible. These listings reflect gifts made between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022.

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Membership & Your Support

As of August 31, 2022, Mechanics' Institute supported 2,950 members who enjoyed a live and virtual community of writers, readers, cinephiles, and chess players. This was a slight decrease in overall numbers, attributed to the difficulties of the pandemic. However, as reported by new members, more than 60% joined on a friend's recommendation. Thank you to those passionate individuals for referring new members to the Mechanics' Institute community and thus supporting our community and programs.

Your contributions to the Institute's outstanding events, activities, and library, are also appreciated and have a direct impact on its ability to continue to deliver high quality programs. Donations may be made online, by mail, via your company's matching gifts program, or directly from your retirement or other investment account.

For members and other individuals who would like to include Mechanics' Institute in their trusts or wills, joining the James Lick Legacy Society signals your commitment to the Mechanics' Institute's ongoing mission so that future generations also will benefit from your generosity.

Please contact membership@milibrary.org to purchase a gift membership, to request donation information, and to discuss giving opportunities.

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