ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



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The Royal Oak Foundation seeks to raise awareness of and advance the work of the National Trust of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland by inspiring support from the United States for the Trust's efforts to preserve and protect historic places and spaces—forever, for everyone.

Cover illustration: Artist's rendering of Trelissick/ Helen Thomas Cookson & Tickner

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear Royal Oak Community:

As the membership affiliate of the National Trust of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, our mission is to raise awareness and advance the work of the Trust by inspiring support from the United States. We are pleased to present our annual report reflecting our work to fulfill that mission.

We finished our two-year appeal for the Assembly Rooms in Bath and thanks to your benevolence we exceeded our goal of $1 million and contributed more than $1.75 million. These funds are part of the larger full restoration of the Assembly Rooms and will be used to restore the grandeur and elegance of the main entrance to the grand ballroom, as well as restore the five original Georgian chandeliers.

We also began our appeal for a new Glasshouse in the walled garden at Trelissick in Cornwall, known as the "fruit garden of Cornwall, where peaches and nectarines, plums and pears are brought to the acme of perfection". Sadly, the original glasshouse was lost due to age and decay. A new glasshouse will allow the gardeners to once again cultivate exquisite peaches and nectarines for which Trelissick was once famed. It will not only be the heritage centerpiece but will also have an important role in extending the growing season to cultivate a variety of exotic fruits.

This year we sponsored a fellow at the Royal Oak Conservation Studio thanks to funds provided by the Nigel Seeley Fellowship Fund. Our fellow, Caroline Shaver, worked under National Trust curators on two major projects: a 17th-century Bureau Mazarin from Castle Drogo and the 18th-century Cornices from a State Bed at Erddig. The Seeley Fellowship provides funding for a conservation fellowship at the National Trust every other year.

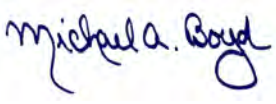
Membership continues to be a cornerstone of Royal Oak. Over one-half of our membership have been members for more than five years and half of those for more than ten years. Royal Oak members had over 15,400 visits to National Trust sites in the last year, emphasizing the importance of travel to the U.K. Heritage Circle membership continues to grow, thanks to our travel programs. Heritage Circle members had the opportunity to explore the art and architecture of Bohemia in the fall 2024 and visited the houses and gardens of Norfolk in spring 2025.

Our programs and lectures continue to reach a national audience both in-person and online, due to the generous support of Sir Mark Pigott, our primary underwriter for the lecture series. We returned to Dallas for the first time in many years and plan to continue to expand our lectures to new cities and engage an ever-wider audience of Royal Oak members. We also hosted Lady Burlington at our annual benefit dinner where she discussed her two homes, Lismore Castle in Ireland and Chatsworth House in England.

Our financial position remains strong with investments increasing $400,000. Our expense ratio for administrative and overhead costs fell from 25% to 20%, which is a great indicator of financial and charitable health for our organization. Legacy giving continues to be an important component of our ability to provide meaningful support to the National Trust. In fiscal year 2024-25, we received a single gift of $500,000 that will be designated toward a future substantial gift to the Trust.

None of this is possible without our loyal members, and we thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,



Michael A. Boyd
Chairman



Ian Murray
Executive Director

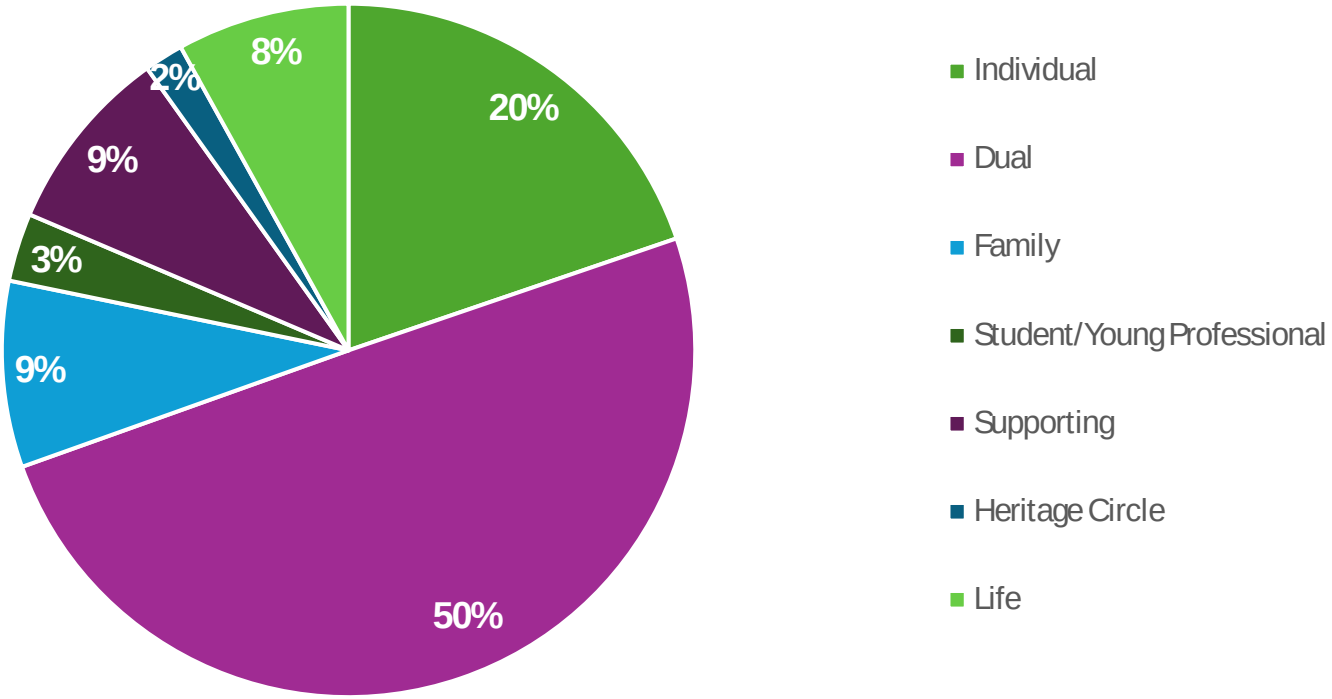
MEMBERSHIP

Royal Oak's mission is to raise awareness and advance the work of the National Trust of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland by inspiring support from the United States for the Trust's efforts to preserve and protect historic places and spaces—forever, for everyone.

2025 brought another year of travel, education, and preservation. This fiscal year saw an overall 8.4% increase in new memberships compared to last year. Our family membership saw the most of this growth at a 21.9% increase— showing us how we can share the joys and wonders of the United Kingdom with the next generation.

Our members regularly share with us stories of their wonderful experiences while visiting these historic sites. We hope you look forward to returning to Great Britain and all of the treasures of the National Trust. Thank you so much for your support.

MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY BY END OF JUNE 2025



FUN FACTS & FIGURES & SOME NEWS

How many Royal Oak Members are there? 9,178

Where do they live?
In all 50 states, Canada, Europe, and the UK; plus 60 families in the Armed Forces residing overseas.
Top 5 cities: New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Seattle, and San Francisco

How long have they been members?
- 0-5 years: 46%
- 6-10 years: 25%
- 11-20 years: 15%
- 20+ years: 14%

How many visits to National Trust properties did Royal Oak members make? 15,406

Top 10 most visited sites?
- Hidcote Manor Garden
- Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden
- Sissinghurst Castle Garden
- Stourhead Landscape Garden
- Snowshill Manor and Garden
- Lacock Abbey
- Chartwell
- Hill Top and Hawkshead
- Scotney Castle
- Lanhydrock

How many Americans joined Royal Oak while visiting a National Trust property?
177 visitors joined at 45 National Trust sites

Which properties recruited the greatest number of new members?
- Hidcote Manor Garden: 22
- Sissinghurst Castle Garden: 20
- Chartwell: 20
- Giant's Causeway: 19
- Chirk: 10

JANET LIZZA, MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATE RETIRES

At the close of 2024, we bid farewell to Janet Lizza who retired after 35 years with Royal Oak.



Jan began her career at Royal Oak in July 1989 and saw tremendous growth during her tenure. Total giving in 1989 was less than $1.5M but today has grown to over $21M. Jan was responsible for membership and came to know many members through her telephone and email interactions, always providing top level service with grace and kindness.

We will all miss her and wish her well in her next life chapter.

HERITAGE CIRCLE

A VITAL SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST AND ROYAL OAK

The Heritage Circle was created for individuals who wish to show their leadership and support of Royal Oak at the highest level of membership. Heritage Circle members enjoy special behind-the-scenes access to heritage sites, private events, and curated tours.

In the fall of 2024, our annual study day was hosted at Audley End House in Essex & Wimpole Estate in Cambridgeshire.

Later that season, our Art & Architecture tour took us to Prague and the surrounding Bohemian countryside. Exploring the city, we experienced the building boom financed by increasing wealth in the late 19th century and burst of artistic activity in the early 20th century. We ventured into the Bohemian countryside to visit important country houses as well as a behind-the-ropes visit to the Strahov Library, an exclusive visit to the Lobkowicz collection, and a dinner at a Baroque palace.

In the spring of 2025, we visited houses and gardens of Norfolk for our annual garden tour. Relatively remote and unspoiled, the region of East Anglia is a joy to discover. A recently restored stately home was our exclusive base for visiting the splendid aristocratic and royal estates of the county of Norfolk, with their fine collections of art, furniture and books, many acquired on the Grand Tour. One of the highlights was visiting the National Trust's Textile Conservation Studio.

Heritage Circle members also participated in a collector's trip to Cleveland at the invitation of a board member, a tour of a Long Island Gold Coast mansion, and a tour of private homes of Tuxedo Park.

Heritage Circle Membership remains popular as members upgrade or join at the Benefactor level, taking advantage of travel opportunities exclusively for HC members. Total revenue since the inception of this premium member category in 2006 is more than $2.6 million. We are deeply grateful for the philanthropic leadership you continue to demonstrate.

HERITAGE CIRCLE MEMBERS

PATRONS

Ms. Sallie B. Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Benthall
Mr. Michael A. Boyd
Mr. and Mrs. James Brice
Ms. Lauren J. Brisky
Mr. Michael J. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. David Caldwell
Ms. Constance M. Cincotta
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Daum
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Eames
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel M. Ervin
Ms. Suzanne Kayne
Eric Nilson, S. Jeffrey Mostade and Varun Shetty
Mr. and Mrs. Mark V. Rickabaugh
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Samuelson
Madeleine Schachter
Ms. Lorraine E. Schmidt
Mrs. Lesley J. D. Sorkowitz
Mr. John G. Turner and Mr. Jerry G. Fischer
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen K. Tyler

GUARDIANS

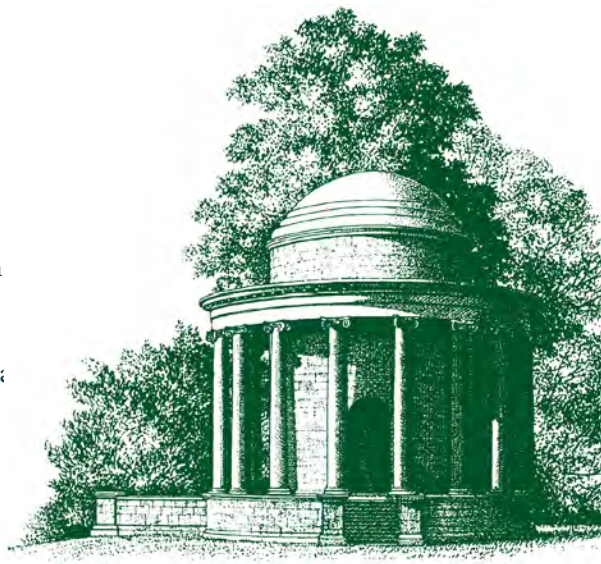
Mrs. Betsy S. Barbanell
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Bartlett, Jr.
Mr. Thomas M. Kelly
Mr. and Mrs. George B. Kelly
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin McCarthy
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Royce
Ms. Sandra C. Steele
Anonymous (1)

STEWARDS

Ms. Susan E. Chapman
LTC Jeffrey S. Farnquist (Ret) and Mrs. Farnquist
Ms. Madeleine Glick
Emory and Hellie Hamilton
Ms. Constance C. McPhee
Ms. Susan Ollila
Ms. Porsche Pierson
Ms. Deborah E. Wiley
Anonymous (1)

BENEFACTORS

Ms. Barbara A. Abeles and Mr. Gareth D. H. Wells
Mr. John A. Addison, Jr.
Mr. Edward C. Anderson and Ms. Beatrice R. Cromwell
The Honorable and Mrs. Victor H. Ashe
Mrs. Lois Ayre
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Bain
Mrs. Carla Balakgie
Mrs. Phyllis E. Ballantine
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Barclay
Ms. Mildred Barrett
Dr. Ruth Boone and Halston Johnson
Mrs. Vicki Brewster
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brickell
The Honorable Charles N. Brower
Mr. and Mrs. Willard Bunn III
Prof. Sir David N. Cannadine and Prof. Dame Linda Colley
Ms. Sarah D. Coffin and Mr. Thomas E. O'Connor
Ms. Kathleen Coss and Mr. John Barton
Ms. Susan Davis and Mr. Keith Crandell
Ms. Barbara M. Deacon
Ms. Tracey A. Dedrick and Mr. Alastair Merrick
Dr. and Mrs. Gary W. Dorshimer
Mr. and Mrs. Beverly M. DuBose III
Mr. Mark Eisenbraun
Ms. Jane Ferguson
Ms. Cynthia Foster
Mr. James B. Gordy
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Goudie
Teri Groome and Paul Belanger
Ms. Garrett Hardee O'Neal and Mr. Edward O'Neal
Mr. and Mrs. Ian Hooper
Mrs. Sybil Hope Huber
Ms. Lora H. Jenkins
Ms. Rebecca Jessen and Mr. Tuck Forsyth
Dr. Ralph T. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic R. Kellogg
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Krehbiel
Mr. and Mrs. Randall B. Lake
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Lamb
Mr. Winston Layne
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Massamillo
The Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Merrow
Mr. Albert S. Messina and Mr. Ken Jennings
Mr. Ralph Mills and Mrs. Judith Canonico
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy H. Murphy
Ms. Colleen Murphy
Ms. Kerry Olson
Robert Ouimette and Lee Hirsch
Ms. Lynne R. Pickens
Mrs. Jane H. Poole
Mr. Warren A. Reintzel and Ms. Christine Chesher
Mr. Cye E. Ross
Mr. Richard Rudick
Mr. and Mrs. Camillo M. Santomero
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Schaeffer
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen S. Schwartz
Ms. Susan Seymour
Dr. Alan E. Smith CBE and Ms. Leigh A. Dunworth
Mr. and Mrs. Donald St Clair
Mr. James Stambaugh and Ms. Andrea Morrissey
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Streeter
Ruth Streeter and Charles Hirschler
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Tankard, III
Mrs. Amira Thoron and Dr. Will Harcourt-Smith
Ms. JoAnn Tredennick and Mr. Jack L. Meeks
Mr. George Triantaris and Mr. Steve Nigzus
Mr. and Mrs. Alan L. Tucei
Mr. Bronson Van Wyck and Mrs. Mary Lynn Van Wyck
Mr. John Webster
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Weiss
Mr. Thomas H. Wentz and Mr. James J. Whalen
Ms. Lois S. Wolf
Anonymous (1)



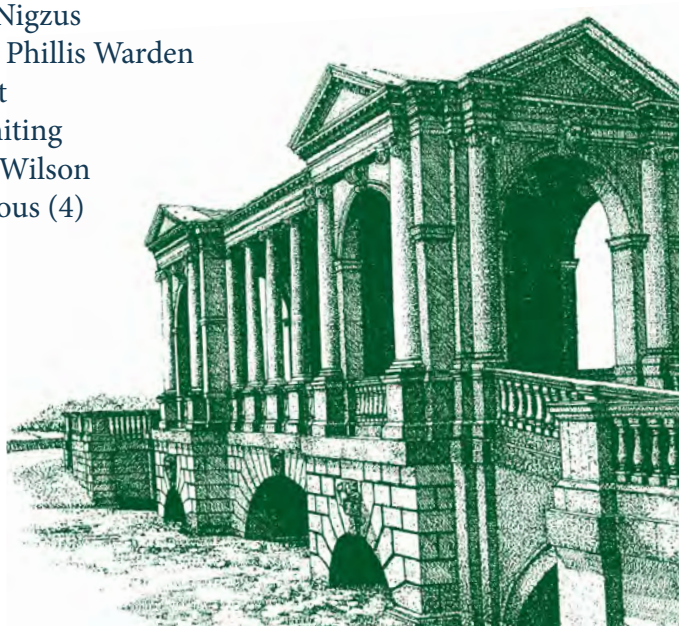
LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS



The Legacy Circle recognizes those who wish to create a legacy by remembering Royal Oak and the National Trust of England, Wales & Northern Ireland in their estate plans.

Benefits of membership to The Royal Oak Legacy Circle include invitations to annual special events in association with our lectures around the U.S. and recognition in our print and digital publications. Legacy Circle members also have access to special Legacy Supporter events organized by the National Trust in the U.K.

Ellen Armitage
Betsy Barbanell
Stein Berre and Britton Smith
Estate of Elizabeth Bierer
Robert Cefaratti
Sandra L. Church
Ian Crawford
Paul Crosby
Daniels Family Charitable Trust
Susan Davis
Tracey A. Dedrick and
Alastair Merrick
Patricia Diness
Sarah Dopp
Mr. and Mrs. David Edwards
Andrew Eiseman and Brian Braa
Richard P. Evans
Pamela Evison
Shelley L. Fleetwood and
James J. Gusek
Ronald Lee Fleming
Pria Graves and
George Koerner
Irene Grigoriadis and
Stephen Casey
Ian and Madeline Hooper
Belinda Knochel
Kieron Lesile
Gail D. Meltzer
Mr. and Mrs. I. Wistar Morris, III
Ilene Murray
Dr. and Mrs. Curtis N. Nelson
Jane Nicol Trust
Linda Pedro
Lynne Pickens
Dr. Marion E. Reid
Christine Rider
Estate of Fred Rosenstiel
Dr. Sean Sawyer and
Mr. Michael V. Susi
Katherine Singley
James Stefan
Janet Sutter
George Triantaris and
Steve Nigzus
John and Phillis Warden
Jane West
Ellen Whiting
Mr. Stan Wilson
Anonymous (4)



ANNUAL BENEFIT

The Royal Oak Foundation held its annual benefit celebrating the friendship and shared cultural heritage of Britain and America in New York City at the Lotos Club.This year's guest of honor was Laura Burlington, Countess of Burlington, the daughter-in-law of the Duke of Devonshire.

In conversation with journalist, James Reginato, she discussed her family's life at Lismore Castle in Ireland and their recent move to Chatsworth, one of Britain's most spectacular and historic houses.

An auction was held of priceless bespoke experiences in Britain including a stay on the Chatsworth Estate, a trip to London on Virgin Atlantic and a stay at the 5-star Kensington Hotel, a stay at the 5-star Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath with a private tour of Dyrham Park by a National Trust curator, among others.








Photo credits: Annie Watt for Royal Oak Foundation

THE BATH ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Our 2023-2024 appeal for the Bath Assembly Rooms concluded in December 2024.

Royal Oak members and friends contributed over $1,750,000 to support the National Trust in restoring the grandeur and elegance of the Bath Assembly Rooms.



Bath is one of the UK's most loved and visited cities. Turn any corner across this UNESCO city of historical importance and you are surrounded by sites of breathtaking beauty and historical significance, from the Royal Crescent to the Roman Baths.

During the Georgian era, the famous and prestigious Assembly Rooms in the city of Bath were at the heart of fashionable society. Designed by John Wood the Younger, when they were completed in 1771, they were described as "the most noble and elegant of any in the kingdom."

Bath Assembly Rooms were built for the delight of the polite society that developed during the 18th century, when the ceremonials of rank were broken down, the nobility mixed with the gentry and people passed their time together in agreeable conversation against a backdrop of strolling, dancing, playing cards and taking tea. The American Declaration of Independence, the First Fleet's departure to Australia, and the French Revolution would all have been discussed and debated within the walls of the Assembly Rooms.

The Grade I listed Assembly Rooms have been owned by the National Trust since 1931 and managed by the local authority since 1937. The council's lease ended in 2023 creating the perfect moment for the National Trust to work with a range of partners to create a new future for this special place and restore the historical integrity of the Assembly Rooms.

Royal Oak funds will be used to build a new Georgian-inspired staircase; re-gilding of the mirrors; marbling of the columns; new front doors; new light wells; re-candling and re-wiring of the five chandeliers; new floorboards; installation of new vapor fireplaces; and new double-glazed windows.

The Assembly Rooms will allow contemporary visitors to immerse themselves in an evocation of a Georgian ball and explore histories of the time.

Photo credits: National Trust Images/James Beck



THE GLASSHOUSE AT TRELISSICK

Our 2024-2025 appeal for the Glasshouse at Trelissick will conclude in December 2025.

The Royal Oak Foundation is raising $300,000 to reinstate the glasshouse to act as the focal point of the garden. Within this beautiful and functional new glasshouse, gardeners will cultivate the exquisite peaches and nectarines for which Trelissick was once famed.

The glasshouse will not only be the heritage centerpiece, but will also have an important forward-looking role.

"The glasshouse is the key historical element that will bring Trelissick's gem of a walled garden back to life in all its former glory."

—John Lanyon, Head Gardener, Trelissick

Key elements of the restoration project include:

- A stunning new glasshouse. A beautiful glasshouse will become the centerpiece of the walled garden. Here gardeners will cultivate the exquisite peaches, nectarines and citrus fruits for which Trelissick was once famed.
- Restoration and repairs to the brickwork of the garden's historic surrounding walls.
- Reinstatement of a productive garden that complements and supports Trelissick in its entirety, as one of the most important historical elements of the property.
- An exciting program of experiences including fruit growing, pruning and greener gardening workshops, and behind the scenes "Potting Shed tours."

Within its walls, the Trust will pay homage to the garden's glorious past while creating new relevance for the future, celebrating people, place and produce.

Photo credits: Artist's rendering of Trelissick/ Helen Thomas Cookson & Tickner

ROYAL OAK CONSERVATION STUDIO



Becca Hellen of the National Trust cleaning Monet's *Pont de Londres* from the collection at Chartwell in Kent.

LETTER FROM HILARY MCGRADY, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

The National Trust has always been the work of many hands and, together with you, we have achieved so much. The Royal Oak Foundation's generosity and philanthropy over the years has meant we can reach new heights of conservation and undertake research and analysis that we simply could not have done before. It has been transformational.

Thanks to you, we have invested in new specialisms, facilities and equipment that mean we can treat a wider variety of objects. At the Royal Oak Foundation Conservation Studio at Knole, we are now using 21st-century techniques (such as new imaging equipment purchased with funds leveraged by your support) to delve deeper into our collections, investigate the techniques of the Old Masters, research rare materials and decipher the best approaches to treating items from ceramics to sculpture.

All of this means that more historic treasures and artefacts can undergo years-long conservation projects. They return to Trust places, conserved and better understood, with new stories to share of their history and craftsmanship. Your gift has also enabled us to improve conservation techniques and outcomes at the Trust's Textile Conservation Studio at Blickling.

The two studios are now working more closely together and combining their expertise, meaning we are producing more thorough research and well-rounded treatment. We have been able to demonstrate this ever-improving conservation work through more loans and exhibitions, research partnerships and specialist collaborations. Our growing team of in-house experts are proud of their work and are sharing it far and wide – with visitors, in the media and through contributing to academia.

The Royal Oak Foundation has been a transformational donor. You have enabled us to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the past and champion and safeguard cultural heritage from across the world. Today, we are increasingly confident in how we tackle the challenging programme of work that comes with protecting globally significant collections.

The legacy of your support will be long-lasting. A collection previously in danger has been safeguarded in the Trust's care. And this 50-year transatlantic collaboration will continue to enable, educate and inspire the next generation of conservators, historians and curators long into the future.

NIGEL SEELEY FELLOWSHIP



Caroline working on the 17th-century Bureau Mazarin from Castle Drogo.

The Nigel Seeley Fellowship provides training and educational opportunities for individuals with a professional interest in the preservation of historic interiors, finishes, and collections. It is named for the National Trust's Head of Conservation, Dr. Nigel Seeley (1989-2002).

The 2024 Nigel Seeley Fellowship was awarded to Caroline Shaver.

Caroline is based in Cincinnati where she owns her own practice, Heartwood Art Conservation. A recent graduate of the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation, she specializes in the conservation of furniture, frames, architectural woodwork, and wooden decorative arts.

Under the mentorship of Nicola Shreeve, Senior Remedial Conservator of Furniture, Caroline was entrusted with two major projects: a 17th-century Bureau Mazarin from Castle Drogo and the 18th century Cornices from a State Bed at Erddig.

Each project presented its own set of challenges, from the complexities of the objects themselves to the varying approaches required for their conservation.

Photo credits: National Trust

With Nicola's expert guidance, Caroline worked to craft and execute appropriate treatments, collaborating closely with the stakeholders to ensure the outcomes aligned with their long-term goals.

While in Britain, Caroline had the opportunity to travel to various National Trust properties, where she observed and contributed to their preservation efforts. One highlight was her involvement in the de-installation, packing, and unpacking of an 18th-century Robert Adam bookcase on loan from the Victoria & Albert Museum to Croome Court—an invaluable experience that gave her an example of how to manage large scale pieces of furniture and the meticulous care required for objects on loan. The following is from Caroline:

"Beyond the technical skills and knowledge, the Fellowship gave me a rare opportunity to see how a large-scale, national organization prioritizes its conservation efforts. I gained invaluable insight into the complexities of managing multiple properties and nationwide professionals, and navigating the delicate balance between preserving cultural heritage and making sure our work is accessible to the public.

Perhaps most inspiring of all was the opportunity to experience the conservation profession from a new perspective, outside of the United States. I'm deeply grateful to my colleagues for sharing their experiences and viewpoints on conservation ethics, education, and professional practice in the UK. These conversations challenged me to think critically about the field and consider how I can contribute to its evolution—both at home in the U.S. and internationally.

Looking back, this experience exceeded all my expectations. It allowed me to grow as a professional, refine my hands-on skills, and build lasting connections with new colleagues. More than that, it provided a fresh perspective on a field I love—one that will continue to shape my career and fuel my passion for preserving our shared cultural heritage."

OTHER GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL TRUST 2024-2025



LAKE DISTRICT
The Grace and Thomas William Thompson Fund
$122,834



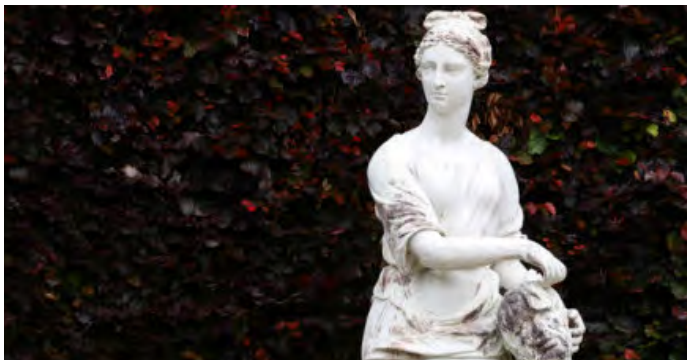
MUNSTEAD WOOD
Donor Designated Grants $83,000



575 WANDSWORTH ROAD
Donor Designated Grants $23,000



GARDEN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
Donor Designated Grants $10,000



NT SCULPTURE PROGRAM
Bennett Lowell Limited $34,103



RIVER WEY AND GODALMING NAVIGATIONS
Donor Designated Grants $20,000



NYMANS KITCHEN GARDEN
Donor Designated Grants $30,000

SPONSORED PROJECTS

The Royal Oak Foundation adopts a limited number of Sponsored Projects (SP) which are not National Trust properties but whose missions are related to the National Trust. The Sponsored Projects Program assists these charities with fundraising in the United States and to enable them to offer a tax-deduction to their U.S. patrons without the expense of establishing their own U.S. subsidiaries.

The Royal Oak Foundation does not fundraise for these charitable organizations, and it does not make its own donors available to SPs for fundraising purposes.

The Charleston Trust: $190,136
The Charleston Trust is home to an extensive collection of paintings, sculptures and ceramics by the original owners of the house and garden, the artists Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell.

The Furniture History: $17,000
The Furniture History Society, founded in 1964 in Britain, is devoted to the study of furniture of all periods, places and kinds, to increase knowledge and appreciation of furniture, and to assist in the preservation of it and its records.

Photo credits: National Trust

HISTORICAL GRANTS TO NATIONAL TRUST

HOUSES & CASTLES

- 1 575 Wandsworth Road
- A1 A la Ronde
- A2 Ashridge Estate
- A3 Avebury
- B1 Barrington Court
- B2 Belton House
- B3 Biddulph Grange
- B4 Blickling Estate
- B5 Buckland Abbey
- C1 Calke Abbey
- C2 Canons Ashby
- C3 Castle Coole
- C4 Castle Drogo
- C5 Castle Ward
- C6 Chartwell
- C7 Chedworth Roman Villa
- C8 Cherryburn
- C9 Chirk Castle
- C10 Clandon
- C11 Clouds Hill
- C12 Cragside
- C13 Crom Estate
- C14 Croome Court
- D1 Damley Mausoleum
- D2 Dorset Gardens
- D3 Dudmaston
- D4 Dyrham Park
- F1 Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal
- G1 Giant's Causeway
- G2 Godolphin
- G3 Great Chalfield Manor
- G4 Greenway
- H1 Hadrian's Wall
- H2 Ham House & Garden
- H3 Hardwick Hall
- H4 Hatchlands Park
- H5 Hidcote Manor Garden
- H6 Hill Top
- I1 Ickworth
- I2 Ightham Mote
- K1 Kedleston Hall
- K2 Kingston Lacy
- K3 Knightshayes Court
- K4 Knole
- L1 Lamb House
- L2 Lanhydrock
- L3 Llyndy Isaf Farm
- L4 Lyme Park
- M1 Monk's House
- M2 Mottisfont Abbey
- M3 Mount Stewart
- N1 Nostell Priory Stables
- N2 Nuffield Court
- N3 Nymans Garden
- O1 Oakhurst Cottage
- P1 Penrhyn Castle
- P2 Plas Newydd
- P3 Powis Castle
- Q1 Quarry Bank Mill
- S1 Sandham Memorial Chapel
- S2 Seaton Delaval Hall
- S3 Sheffield Park Garden
- S4 Shugborough Estate
- S5 Sissinghurst Castle Garden
- S6 Standen
- S7 Stourhead
- S8 Stowe Landscape Gardens
- S9 Studland Beach & Nature Reserve
- T1 Tatton Park
- T2 Textile Conservation Studio
- T3 Ty Mawr Wybrnant
- T4 Tyntesfield
- W1 Waddesdon Manor
- W2 Wallington
- W3 Washington Old Hall
- W4 West Wycombe
- W5 Westbury Court Garden
- W6 Wimpole Estate
- W7 Wimpole Home Farm

COUNTRYSIDE

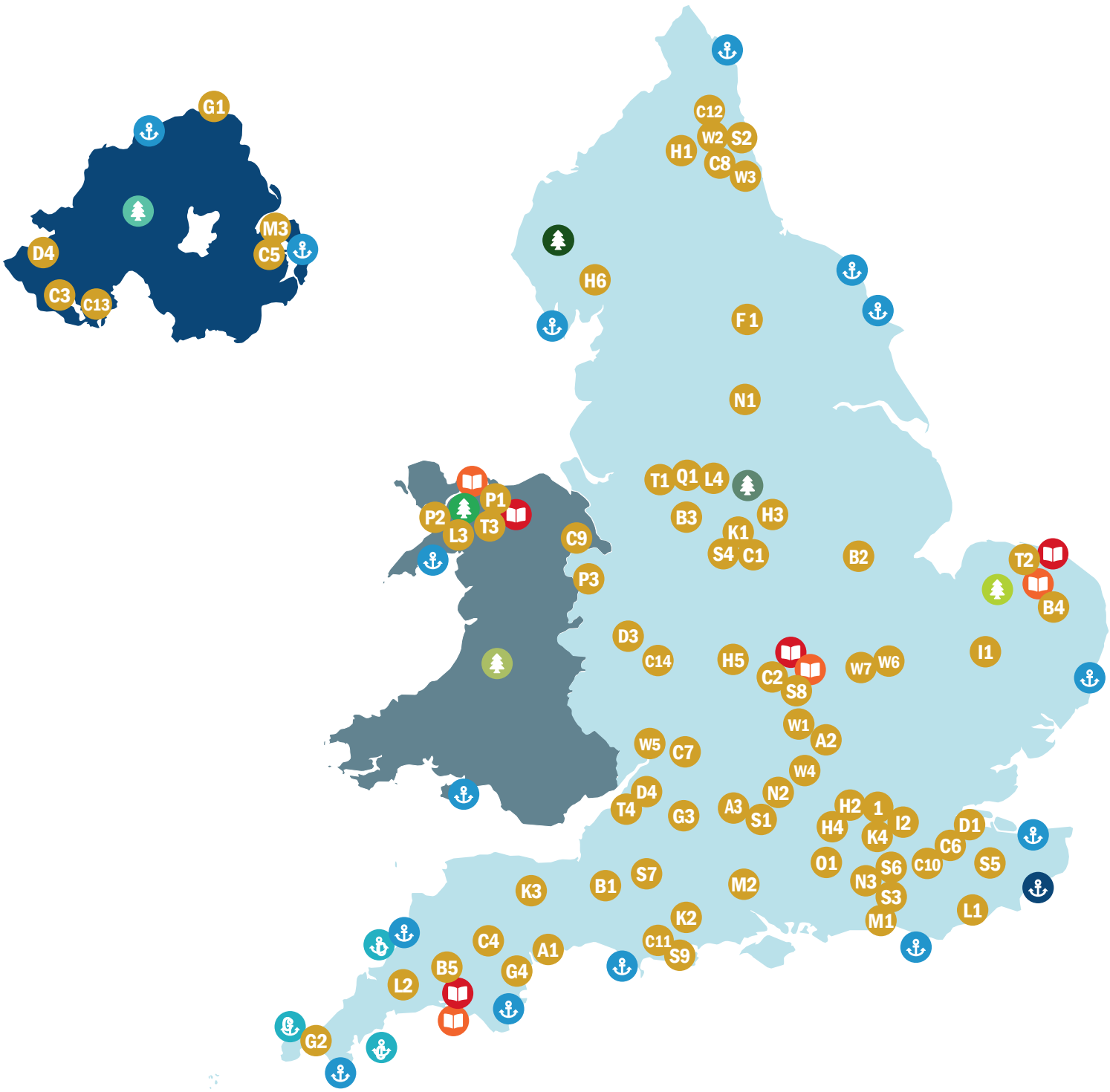
- Lake District
- Peak District
- Wales
- North Ireland
- Snowdonia National Park
- Norfolk Region

COASTLINE

- Neptune Coastline Campaign
- White Cliffs of Dover
- Cornwall Coastal Walk

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

- Country House Libraries
- Minerva Campaign


G1
M3
D4
C5
C3
C13
C12
W2
S2
H1
C8
W3
H6
F 1
N1
T1
Q1
L4
P1
P2
T3
L3
B3
H3
K1
C9
S4
C1
B2
T2
B4
P3
D3
C14
H5
C2
W7
W6
I1
S8
W1
A2
W5
C7
W4
D4
N2
T4
G3
A3
S1
H2
1
H4
K4
I2
D1
C6
O1
C10
S5
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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Royal Oak Foundation's educational programs are central to our mission to foster a deeper appreciation of Anglo-American heritage and to raise funds for the National Trust (NT). By engaging U.S. members, we help build awareness of the NT's remarkable historic portfolio and support its vital preservation work. Since 1974, Royal Oak has hosted public lectures with leading historians, scholars, and authors exploring British art, architecture, design, social history, literature, and garden design.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, the Foundation presented 40 programs that reached approximately 4,440 attendees. This included 13 online lectures, 10 online tours (also available as rental replays), 14 in-person lectures across six cities, and two walking tours or site visits.

Our in-person programs were held in New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, Charleston, Alexandria, VA, and Dallas. Many were recorded for later online viewing. Highlights included bestselling author Sonia Purnell, who shared insights from her latest biography of Pamela Harriman. In Charleston, Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill recounted the history of her family home, Blenheim Palace, and in another lecture, NT Head Gardener Troy Scott Smith discussed the recreation of a historic "garden room" at Sissinghurst. In New York, designer and philanthropist India Hicks spoke about her mother, Lady Pamela Mountbatten Hicks, drawing from her recent Rizzoli publication.

Our online lectures continued to deepen exploration of Britain's history and heritage. Adrian Tinniswood OBE examined the golden age of pre-WWI glamour inside English stately homes; Jeremy Musson discussed the country houses of James Wyatt, architect to King George III; and NT curators showcased the preservation of Polesden Lacey and the collection of its former owner, Margaret Greville.



Rupert Maas of The MAAS Gallery leading a tour for Royal Oak at Shepherd W&K Galleries in NYC during British Drawings Week.

We were delighted to welcome several new speakers, including Dr. Amy Boyington, who revealed the role of women as patrons and architects in 18th-century Britain; Professor Ellen Harris, who highlighted composer George Frideric Handel's life at Brook Street, London; and NT Curator Katherine Carter, who illuminated how key meetings at Chartwell shaped Winston Churchill's leadership during WWII. In support of our Annual Appeal, John Goodall, Architectural Editor of *Country Life*, traced the evolution of Britain's glasshouses and their cultural legacy. His talk highlighted the NT's plans to recreate Trelissick's historic structure, once renowned for its stone fruit trees.

Photo credits: Royal Oak Foundation



Patrick Monahan at SMU Meadows Museum, Dallas. June 2025

As a member benefit, Royal Oak supporter were invited to a complimentary lecture to discover the artistry behind-the scenes at Humphries Weavings, a renowned British fabric manufacturer that recreates historic textiles for royal residences, grand estates, and National Trust properties.

Our digital tours offered "armchair travelers" new ways to experience the UK. Journeys included a Thames River Clipper cruise to discover London's changing shoreline landmarks; an exploration of West Cornwall and the Scilly Isles; and visits to Devon's most captivating NT properties, such as À la Ronde. Royal Oak's in-person walking tours and exhibition visits continue to draw members from other cities to New York City.

Feedback about Royal Oak's programs remains enthusiastic, with members in non-lecture locations appreciating the convenience of digital programs and the opportunity to learn more about NT properties and British history.

In June 2025, we debuted our first Texas program in Dallas at SMU's Meadows Museum of Art. Patrick Monahan talked about the Victorian British painting masterpiece "Flaming June." Royal Oak is excited to continue our return to more lecture cities with Los Angeles on the schedule for Fall 2025, and more locations in Southern and Western U.S. States in 2026.

Primary underwriting for Royal Oak Programs provided by Mark Pigott KBE

We remain grateful for support from other sources for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025:

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STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2024	2025
Cash and cash equivalents	190,989	235,993
Investments	9,713,172	10,117,807
Accounts receivable	31,940	28,962
Unconditional promises to give		
Without donor restrictions	52,817	104,730
With donor restrictions	76,410	657,765
Interest in charitable remainder trusts	259,655	274,485
Prepaid expenses and other assets	119,275	273,452
Cash surrender value of life insurance	47,184	48,384
Operating Right of Use Asset	109,908	454,244
Security deposit	20,276	20,276
Property and equipment, at cost (net of accumulated depreciation)	45,148	44,829
TOTAL ASSETS	**$10,666,774**	**$12,260,927**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	2024	2025
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	56,526	82,945
Grants payable	6,785	69,781
Deferred revenue	386,901	562,501
Operating lease liability	122,201	455,022
Deferred rent	0	0
Total Liabilities	**$572,413**	**$1,170,249**
Commitments		
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Operating	75,592	678,452
Board designated	8,098,089	7,472,510
Total Without Donor Restrictions	**8,173,681**	**8,150,962**
With Donor Restrictions		
Subject to time and purpose restriction	1,806,822	2,825,858
Perpetual in Nature	113,858	113,858
Total With Donor Restrictions	**1,920,680**	**2,939,716**
Total Net Assets	**$10,094,361**	**$11,090,678**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	**$10,666,774**	**$12,260,927**

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

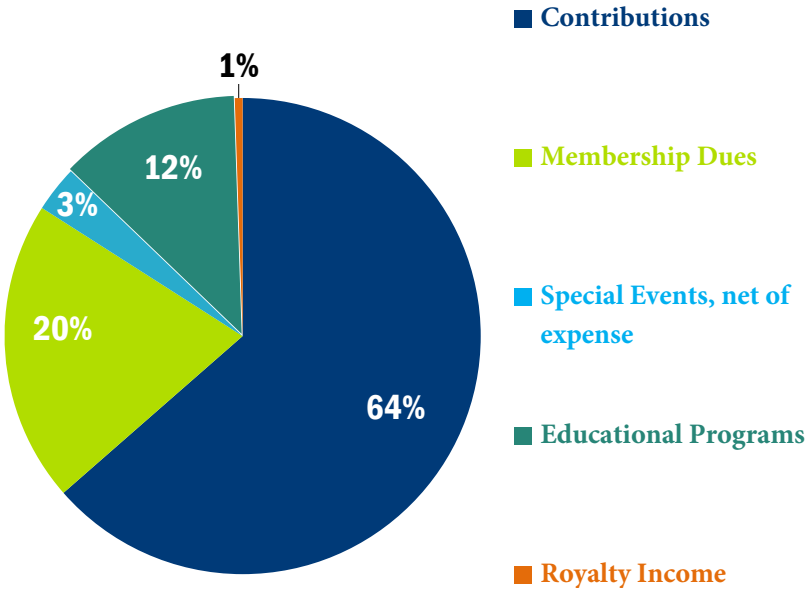
REVENUE, GAINS & SUPPORT	2024	2025
Contributions	1,166,079	2,331,387
In-kind contributions	0	104,294
Membership dues	839,511	794,981
Fundraising benefit	153,730	141,368
Less: direct expenses	(25,242)	(19,854)
Educational programs	536,500	477,183
Royalty income	22,794	20,535
Net investment income	4	1,236
Increase in cash surrender value of life insurance	1,200	1,200
Foreign currency exchange gain	0	18,378
Other income	4,999	12,492
Appropriated from board designated net assets to operations and grants	0	1,765,220
TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS & SUPPORT	**$2,699,575**	**$5,648,420**

EXPENSES	2024	2025
Program services		
Grants and scholarships	882,435	2,331,589
Membership	325,763	317,574
Programs	807,301	785,329
Total Program Services	**$2,015,499**	**$3,434,492**
Supporting Services		
Management and general	344,329	514,436
Fundraising	334,434	349,000
Total Supporting Services	**$678,763**	**$863,436**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$2,694,262**	**$4,297,928**

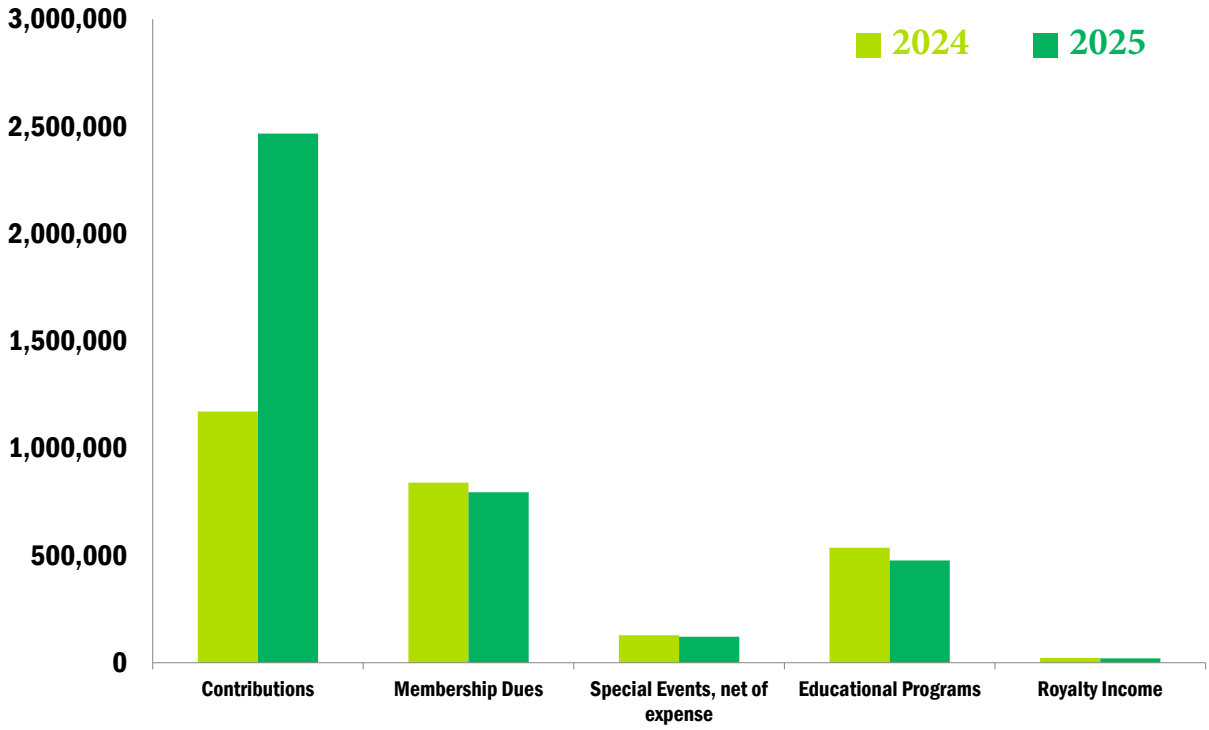
OTHER REVENUE & EXPENSES	2024	2025
Value of interest in charitable remainder trusts	19,837	14,830
Contributions - non-operating	578,249	190,159
Appropriation to operations and grants	0	(1,765,220)
Net investment income	935,529	1,206,056
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE & EXPENSES	**1,533,615**	**(354,175)**
Increase in net assets	1,538,928	996,317
Net Assets, beginning of year	8,555,433	10,094,361
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	**$10,094,361**	**$11,090,678**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

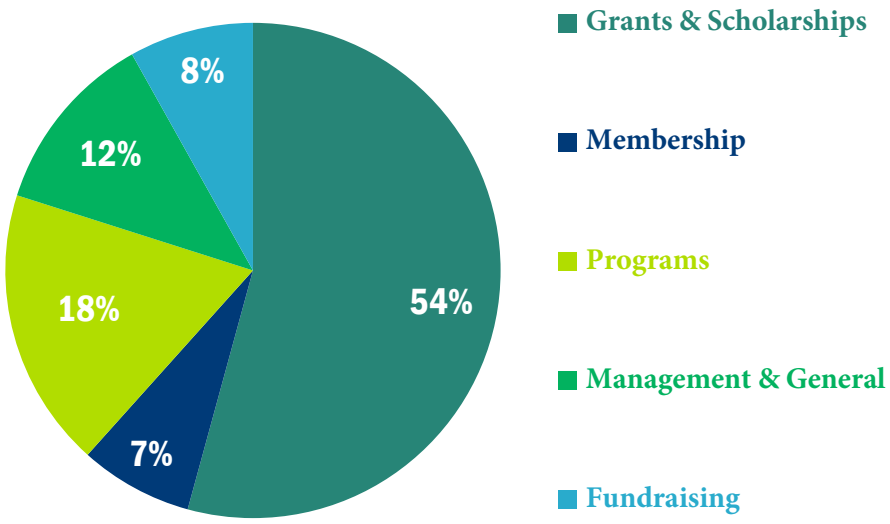
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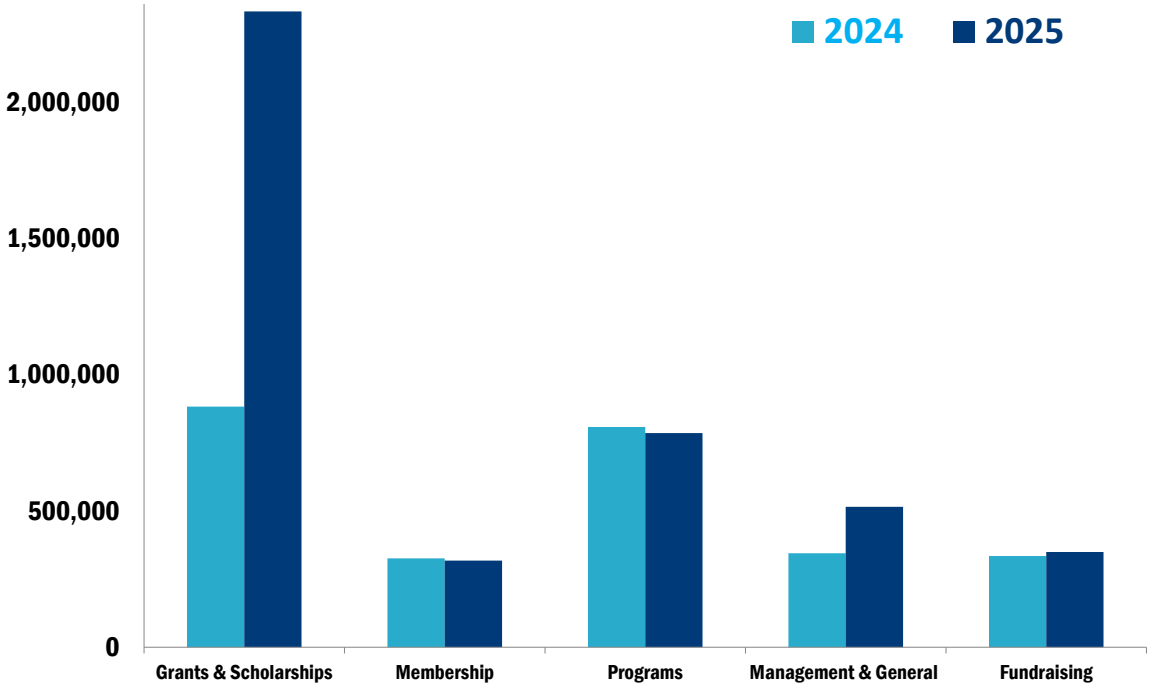
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EXPENSES 2024 & 2025



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imurray@royal-oak.org

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jcairl@royal-oak.org

Alison Dichter
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adichter@royal-oak.org

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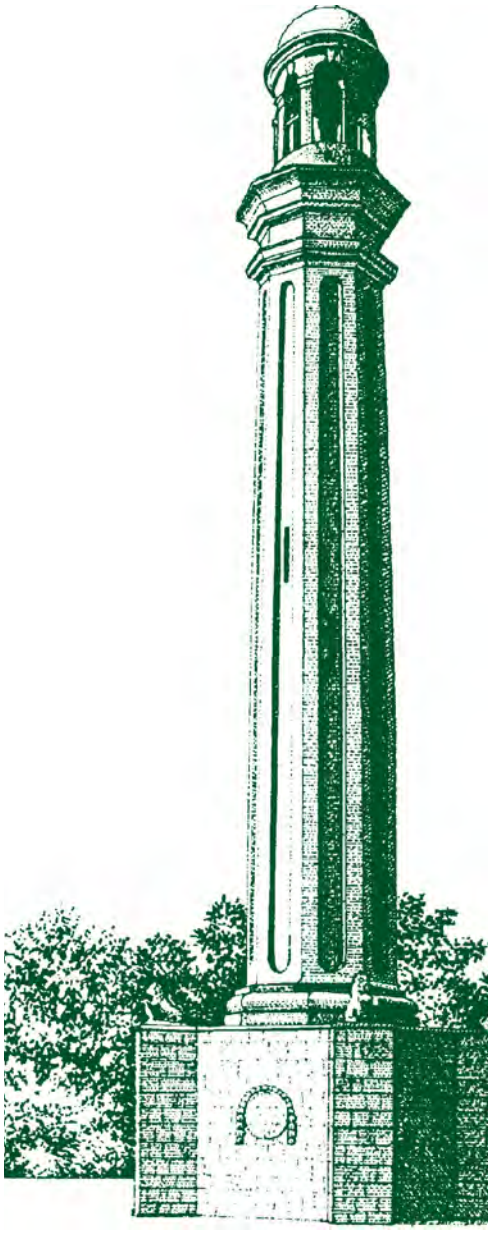
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jlizza@royal-oak.org

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jmccahey@royal-oak.org

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ksmith@royal-oak.org

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jtsang@royal-oak.org

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The Royal Oak Foundation's mission is to inspire Americans to learn about, experience, and support places of great historic and natural significance in the United Kingdom in partnership with the National Trust of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

In the United States, Royal Oak sponsors a national program of lectures on topics in British history, art, architecture, and design as well as fellowships that enable Americans to study these topics in Britain.

An independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Foundation has supported a wide range of conservation and restoration projects in Britain and introduced tens of thousands of Americans to the work of the National Trust since its establishment in 1973.

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