

Year in Review
2019



Our Message



↑
Jessica Bram
Director & CEO



↑
Barry Fradkin OAM
President

As this report is being finalised, we're once again reminded of the fragility of our world. With the global health pandemic impacting communities and connections, our place as a museum feels ever more important—inspiring hope and resilience through the illumination of Jewish life.

It's my privilege, alongside President Barry Fradkin OAM and the entire Jewish Museum of Australia: Gandel Centre of Judaica team, to reflect on the year past as we look towards the future. 2019 was a great year for our Museum, with new exhibitions staged and audiences engaged through our events and education programs.

And the year to come will be even more exciting as we usher in the Museum's third wave, paying tribute to the legacy of our founders while revitalising the ways in which we fulfil our mission and connect with community.

For your stories are our stories, and it's our intention to tell them—to explore and underscore what it means to be Australian and Jewish, and support social cohesion—for many years to come.

Our Team

Our Governors

John Gandel AO
Chair

Jeanne Pratt AC
Zelda Rosenbaum OAM



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Children's Picture Finder
21st Century, Palestine

Our Board

Barry Fradkin OAM
President

Gideon Kline
Vice-President

Adam Krongold
Jodi Lee
Ben Margow
Oliver Moore
James Ostroburski
Marcia Pinski
Carmella Prideaux
Zelda Rosenbaum OAM
Frank Tisher OAM

Our Team

Jessica Bram
Director & CEO

Rebecca Forgasz
Director & CEO (outgoing)

Jenny Thompson
Deputy Director/Finance & Operations Manager

Cayleigh Abel
Education Project Officer (outgoing)

Annette Bagle
Development Assistant

Jenny Better
Senior Education Coordinator

Our Team, cont.

Katherine Bruce
Visitor Services & Volunteer Coordinator

Emma Eldridge
Marketing & Communications Manager

Natalie Even-Bar
Program & Events Coordinator

Enza Farfalla
Accounts Assistant

Abby Finn
Development Director (outgoing)

Adriana Gomberg
Assistant Director/Education & Programs Manager (outgoing)

Leah Justin
Community Education Coordinator

Loran McNamara
Collection & Curatorial Officer

Eleni Papavasileiou
Senior Curator & Collection Manager

Naomi Raymond
Development Director

Alexandra Rubin
Education Project Officer

Tamar Simons
Education & Programs Manager

Susan Slode
Development Coordinator

Our Exhibitions & Collections



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1001 Lights



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*A Life of Opportunity
& Success: Sir Zelman
Cowen Centenary
Exhibition*

In 2019, our team:

- Staged seven temporary exhibitions—including *1001 Lights*, *A Life of Opportunity & Success: Sir Zelman Cowen Centenary Exhibition* and *Wild: Stories of a Community Pushing Boundaries*—that featured 128 objects from the collection;
- Welcomed 3484 visitors to our permanent and temporary exhibitions;
- Accepted 660 items into the collection;
- Improved 1230 collection records;
- Digitised 160 objects;
- Answered over 110 enquiries and 100 image requests;
- Hosted 15 researchers;
- Presented seven collection activation sessions for 90 attendees; and
- Introduced a new monthly visitor drop-in session for behind-the-scenes collection activities such as digitisation, handling and rehousing of artworks.

Enormous thanks to our collection volunteers—Debbie Max, Shauntel Ortega and Kay Ronec—for supporting our team in caring for our collection throughout 2019, specifically across:

- Location auditing over 400 items;
- Improved rehousing of over 270 items;
- Transcribing 61 items of correspondence and other historic documents; and
- Inventorying 12 out of 140 boxes of uncatalogued collections.



‘The exhibition was extremely informative as it has explained thoroughly this special event of Judaism—Shabbat. I have to say, I didn’t have much knowledge around Judaism and Jewish culture. But after visiting the Museum, I’ve learned a lot.’

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1001 Lights testimonial

Our Events & Education Programs



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Purim



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Wild Open Day

In 2019, our team hosted:

- 160 school visits for 6970 students and teachers;
- 96 short courses for 1586 adult learners;
- 32 events for 1496 participants;
- 27 adult groups for 513 participants;
- 11 professional development sessions for 360 teachers;
- Nine Jewish Care staff orientation workshops for 152 participants; and
- Four cultural awareness workshops for 55 participants.

Highlights include:

- 2019 saw our Walks return courtesy of volunteer guide Terry Ashton. The series was incredibly received, with the majority of events fully booked and collection objects integrated to attract visitors back to the Museum.
- A number of dynamic events were staged for *1001 Lights* and *Wild: Stories of a Community Pushing Boundaries*, including late night openings, panel discussions and open days with community partners such as the Festival of Jewish Arts and Music, Melbourne Jewish Book Week and She'ela Festival.
- Myriad family programs were put on to coincide with school and Jewish holidays; our Purim spiel with Habayit, with over 300 participants, was particularly memorable.

Our Events & Education Programs, cont.

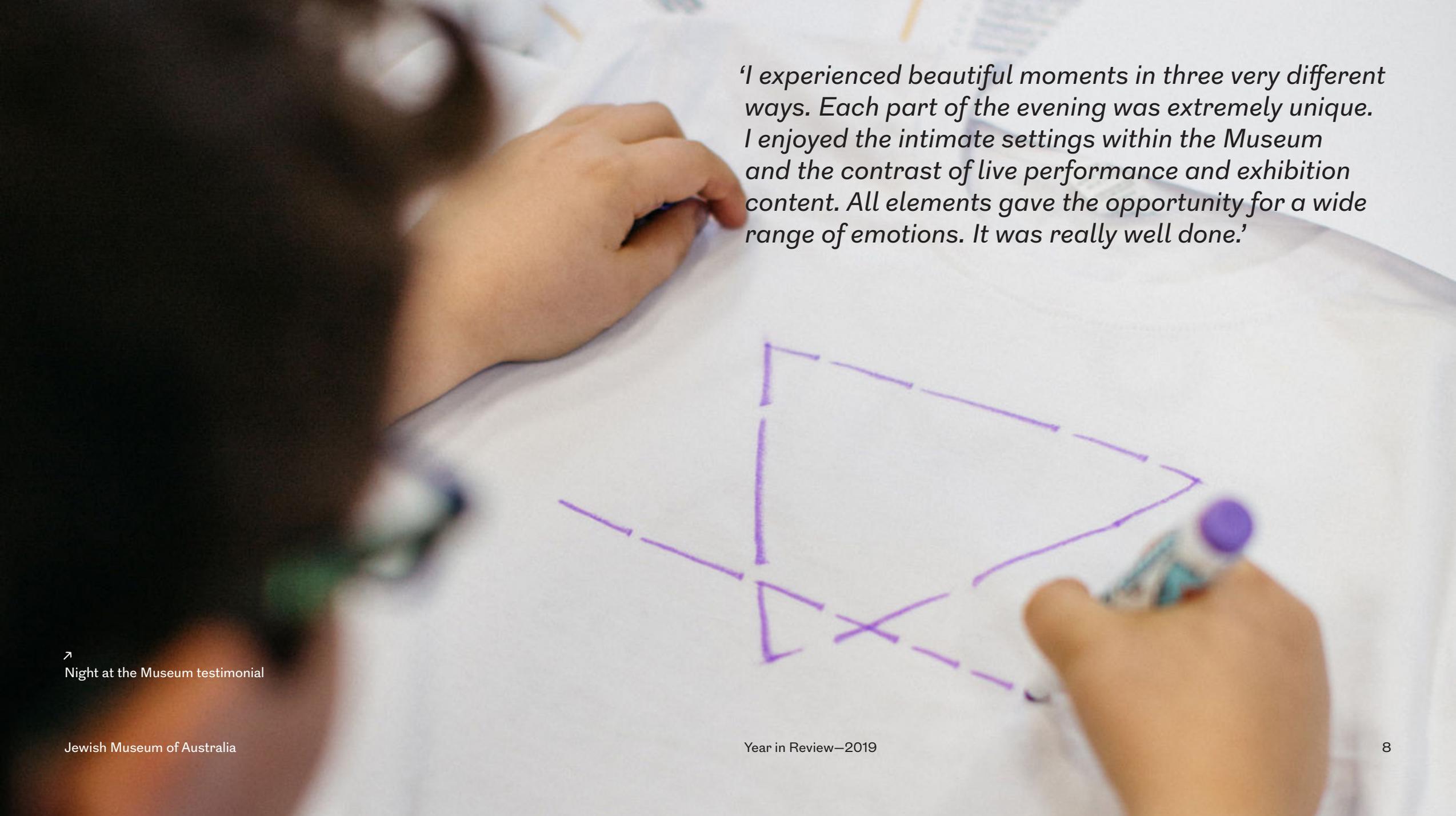
- We launched Museums Together, our acclaimed bridge building program in partnership with the Islamic Museum of Australia. Supported by the Sidney Myer Fund, this ground-breaking program brought together students from The King David School and Sirius College to get to know each other, train as guides at their respective museums, then act as hosts—cultivating a deeper understanding of their own culture while encountering another not as close to home. Museums Together was featured on ABC Radio National Life Matters and in The Australian.
- The Museum joined our Multicultural Museums Victoria counterparts in celebrating the centenary of Primo Levi’s birth, staging the short courses Reading Primo Levi in 2019 and Italian Jewish History and supporting feasts, film screenings and lectures hosted by CO.AS.IT Museo Italiano, the Italian Cultural Institute and Jewish Holocaust Centre.



↑
Yad Vashem Scholars



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Museums Together

A close-up photograph of a person's hands drawing a purple geometric shape on a white sheet of paper. The person is using a purple marker. The shape is a complex polygon with several vertices and edges, some of which are dashed. The background is slightly blurred, showing other papers and a pen.

'I experienced beautiful moments in three very different ways. Each part of the evening was extremely unique. I enjoyed the intimate settings within the Museum and the contrast of live performance and exhibition content. All elements gave the opportunity for a wide range of emotions. It was really well done.'

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Night at the Museum testimonial

Our Volunteers



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The Children's Haggadah
1954, United Kingdom



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Wild Open Day

In 2019, our 100-strong band of volunteers:

- Contributed more than 4500 hours to the Museum; and
- Devoted 2000 hours to education school groups.

13 volunteers came to the Museum every month of 2019, with our oldest active volunteer—aged 96—working every fortnight.



'I greatly appreciate being treated as an important part of the team at the Jewish Museum—everyone is warm and friendly.'

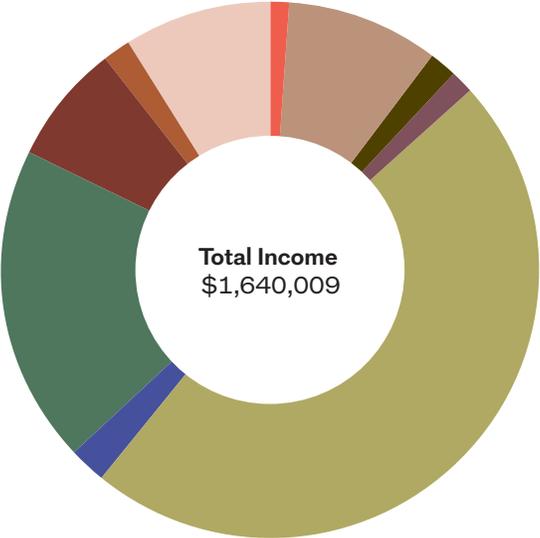
➤
Volunteer testimonial

Jewish Museum of Australia

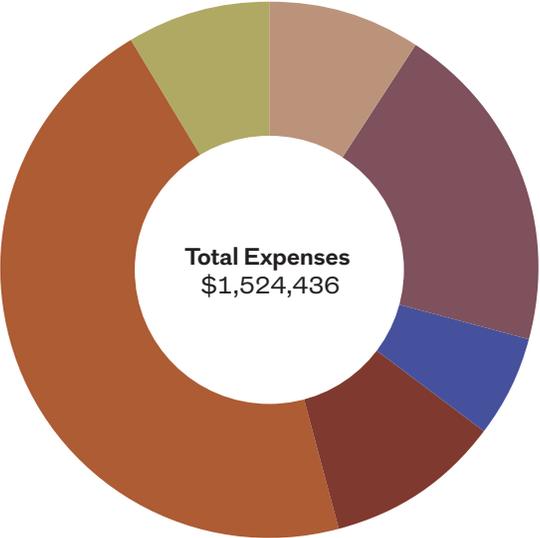
Year in Review—2019

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Our Performance: Income & Expenditure



- INCOME**
- Admissions \$22,149
 - Fees \$146,824
 - Sale of Goods \$29,016
 - Memberships \$24,294
 - Donations \$777,834
 - Sponsorship \$35,000
 - Grants (Philanthropic & Government) \$315,489
 - Foundation Distribution & Interest \$119,426
 - Other income \$27,171
 - Auspices Grant: Multicultural Museums Victoria \$142,806

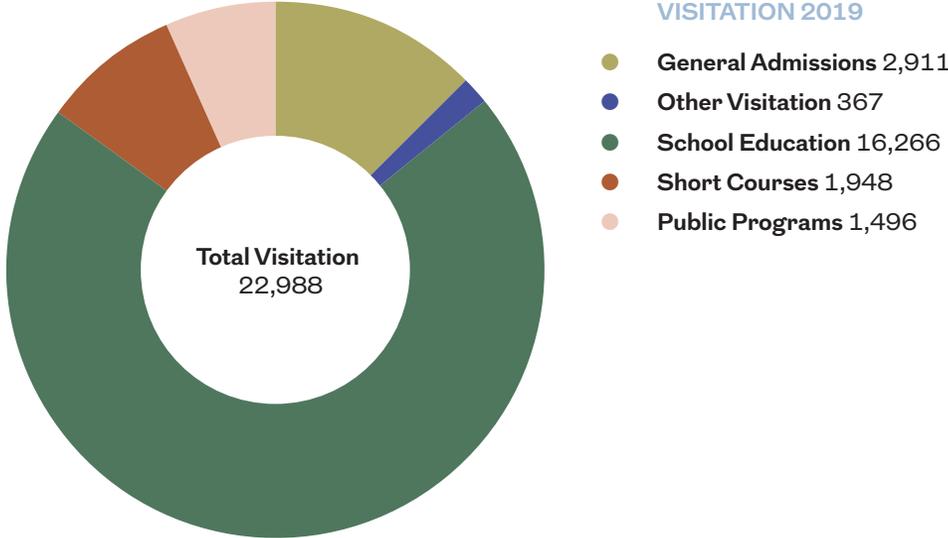


- EXPENSES**
- Curatorial \$140,764
 - Education & Programs \$304,971
 - Marketing & Communications \$93,537
 - Development \$162,492
 - Finance & Operations \$692,532
 - Auspices Grant: Multicultural Museums Victoria \$130,140

Net Income \$115,573

Our Performance: Visitation

VISITATION	2019	2018
General Admissions	2,911	8,410
Other Visitation	367	595
School Education	16,266	15,441
Short Courses	1,948	2,357
Public Programs	1,496	1,330
TOTAL	22,988	28,133*



* 2018 visitation was boosted by our blockbuster exhibition, *Amy*, on loan from the Jewish Museum London.

Our Supporters



Sefer Torah scroll with mantle and binder
c. 1939, Poland

We are grateful to the individual donors, philanthropic trusts and foundations, corporate and government partners who share our passion for illuminating Jewish life, and whose financial support assists with our program of exhibitions, events and education programs.

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Major benefactors

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2019 Exhibition Supporters

Bori & Helen Liberman Family
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Thank You

