



Annual Report 2011

MoCP

Museum of
Contemporary Photography

Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

Letter from the Director

In September 2011, just after the Museum of Contemporary Photography’s fiscal year came to a close, I became the Museum’s new director. I was fortunate to step into the position after a particularly strong year in the Museum’s 35-year history. In addition to continuing to build our impressive permanent collection, presenting innovative exhibitions, and offering leading educational programs, in May of 2011 we received reaccreditation from the American Association of Museums in recognition of our professional standards and standing in the field.

Over the course of the year we presented a total of eight exhibitions, including four monographic and four group shows. The season began with a John Baldessari print retrospective from the collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer and then moved boldly to the tensions along the Mexican-American border with *La Frontera*, recognized as one of the top five exhibitions in Chicago of 2010 by *Newcity*. The works of Paula McCartney, as well as works by four finalists for The Grange Prize—Joshua Brand, Moyra Davey, Leslie Hewitt, and Kristan Horton—were also on view in the fall. In January 2011 we opened *Guy Tillim: Avenue Patrice Lumumba*, organized by the museum and travelling to five other institutions in North America. We were also proud to present an exhibition of whimsical photographs and sculptures by Kahn + Selesnick. In the spring we partnered with Columbia College’s Glass Curtain Gallery to mount *u-n-f-o-l-d*, presenting the work of 25 artists who participated in Cape Farewell expeditions to the High Arctic and the Andes with a focus on climate change. The season came to a close with *Public Works*, a thematic exhibition that examined the built environment through images by over 60 artists, many of which were drawn from our permanent collection and Midwest Photographers Project.

The MoCP’s ambitious exhibition programming includes an emphasis on acquiring select works by exhibiting artists for the permanent collection so that our future can include further exploration and exhibition of the work we show. This past year we added nearly 540 objects through purchases and gifts to the collection, which now numbers over 11,000 objects. As a college art museum, the MoCP takes pride in the accessibility of our rich and extensive collection and opens its archives to students, teachers, and researchers so that they may have the opportunity to study original objects. Because each collection image can be viewed and researched through our online database, we have also extended our reach internationally and have experienced a significant increase in loans of objects to institutions across the globe.

In addition to presenting high-quality exhibitions and strategically building our collection, the museum has significantly increased its publication efforts. This past year the MoCP co-published *Paula McCartney: Bird Watching* with

Princeton Architectural Press and supported *Colleen Plumb: Animals are Outside Today*, published by Radius Books. Our curators also contributed to numerous international publications and periodicals including *Watershed: The French Broad River Basin* by Jeff Rich, *Suburbia Mexicana* by Alejandro Cartagena, and *The Idea of North* by Birthe Piontek.

An important component of the MoCP’s programming is our educational outreach to the general public, students, educators, and school groups. In addition to programs including lectures, film screenings, curators’ tours, and the approximately 300 docent-facilitated tours and print viewings we host throughout the year, our Picture Me outreach program mentors and trains young photographers at three public high schools in Chicago: Juarez, Curie, and Senn. The program has three primary areas of community engagement: after-school photography programs, professional development for Chicago Public School teachers and teaching artists, and an annual exhibition of student work that explores the role of photography in literacy.

These programs and the many others we presented over the year reflected the generosity of our supporters, who every day help us to accomplish our mission of *promoting a greater understanding and appreciation of the artistic, cultural, and political implications of the image in our world today*. Whether you purchase a membership, participate in our annual gala, donate works to the collection, or award a grant to the museum, you are a part of our community. Your support is vital not only to our groundbreaking exhibitions and programs, but also to the promotion of contemporary photography as a pathway to better understanding ourselves, and the world in which we live.

Of course our accomplishments were also made possible by the work, passion, and commitment of former director Rod Slemmons and all that he brought to our institution since he joined the MoCP in 2002. During his tenure as director, Rod extended the parameters of our permanent collection and strengthened the scholarship of both our exhibitions and publications program. We thank Rod for his dedication and ingenuity over the past nine years. In looking forward, I am excited to build upon our strong history by continuing to engage our community in the power of imagery, through new initiatives and programs. Please visit us online and in the galleries throughout 2012 to see images and ideas come together in unexpected, gratifying ways.

Natasha Egan

Natasha Egan
Director, Museum of Contemporary Photography
at Columbia College Chicago



Top: **Sally Mann**, *Untitled*, from the *America: Now and Here* portfolio, 1995, Museum purchase
Bottom: **Carrie Schneider**, *Recession*, 2009, Gift of Andreas Waldburg-Wolfegg
Cover: **Penelope Umbrico** *7,626,056 Suns From Flickr (Partial)* 9/10/10, 2010, Museum purchase

EXHIBITIONS



John Baldessari: A Print Retrospective from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation

July 2 – September 26, 2010

A retrospective of renowned artist John Baldessari's prints, spanning the four decades of his "post-painting" period, 1970s to the present.



Paula McCartney: Birdwatching

July 2 - September 26, 2010

Paula McCartney's exhibition investigated our idealized vision of nature by enlivening photographs of wooded landscapes with brightly colored, faux songbirds.



La Frontera

October 8 - December 22, 2010

Artists: **Michael Hyatt, Andy Kropa, Yoshua Okón, Heriberto Quiroz, Juan Pacheco, Antonio Perez, David Rochkind, Marcela Taboada, David Taylor**

The exhibition *La Frontera* explored Mexican immigration beginning at the border and examining the ripple effects it has throughout Mexico and the United States.

Image by David Taylor



Image by Kristan Horton

The Grange Prize: Exhibition of Works by 2010 Finalists

October 8 - December 22, 2010

Artists: **Joshua Brand, Moyra Davey, Leslie Hewitt, Kristan Horton**

This exhibition featured work by the finalists in the Grange Prize competition, a major prize awarded to contemporary photographers by the Art Gallery of Ontario and Aeroplan.



Guy Tillim: Avenue Patrice Lumumba

January 10 - March 6, 2011

For the exhibition *Avenue Patrice Lumumba*, South African artist Guy Tillim recorded the architecture and infrastructure of colonial and postcolonial Africa.



Kahn & Selesnick: The Apollo Prophecies and Mars Adrift on the Hourglass Sea

January 14 - April 3, 2011

Known for creating whimsical and elaborately constructed photographs, drawings, and sculptures, Nicholas Kahn and Richard Selesnick's exhibition consisted of complex fictional narratives based on real historical events.

EXHIBITIONS CONTINUED



u-n-f-o-l-d March 17 — April 23, 2011

Artists: **Heather Ackroyd + Dan Harvey, Amy Balkin, David Buckland, Adriane Colburn, Sam Collins, Nick Edwards, Leslie Feist, Francesca Galeazzi, Nathan Gallagher, Marije de Haas, Robyn Hitchcock + KT Tunstall, Ian McEwan, Brenndan McGuire, Daro Montag, Michèle Noach, Lucy + Jorge Orta, Sunand Prasad, Tracey Rowledge, Lemn Sissay, Shiro Takatani, Clare Twomey, Chris Wainwright**

u-n-f-o-l-d presented the work of 25 artists who participated in the Cape Farewell expeditions in 2007 and 2008 to the High Arctic, and in 2009 to the Andes. Each artist witnessed firsthand the dramatic and fragile environmental tipping points of climate change.



Image by Hubert Blanz

Public Works April 29 - July 17, 2011

Artists: **Berenice Abbott, Harold Allen, Stephen Alvarez, David Avison, Tom Bamberger, Hubert Blanz, Andrew Borowiec, Frank Breuer, Mary Ellen Carroll, Alejandro Cartagena, Center for Land Use Interpretation, Chen Qiulin, Barbara Ciurej and Lindsay Lochman, Bruce Davidson, Tim Davis, Mitch Epstein, Terry Evans, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, Lee Friedlander, Ron Gordon, Eirik Johnson, Kenneth Josephson, Jay King, Viktor Kolář, Dorothea Lange, Russell Lee, Gina LeVay, O. Winston Link, Armin Linke, Vera Lutter, Danny Lyon, David Maisel, Rhondal McKinney, Tyagan Miller, Richard Misrach, Carl Mydans, Martin Parr, John Pfahl, David Plowden, Merle Porter, James Rotz, Victoria Sambubaris, Daniel Shea, Toshiro Shibata, Mark Slankard, Michael A. Smith, Jamey Stillings, Stan Strembicki, Bob Thall, Sze Tsung Leong, Catherine Wagner, Andy Warhol, Jay Wolke, Thomas Weinberger, Xu Xixian and Xu Jianrong**

Public Works examined geographically and chronologically diverse examples of built infrastructure captured through the lenses of mid-20th century to contemporary artists.



Moyra Davey, *Copperhead* #81. 1990, Museum purchase

EXHIBITION PRESS

John Baldessari: A Print Retrospective From The Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation

Ritchie, Abraham. “Generosity of Meaning: A Print Retrospective From The Collections Of Jordan D. Schnitzer And His Family Foundation,” *Art Slant*, July 2, 2010.

Nichols, Thea Liberty. “Review: John Baldessari/Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *New City Art*, July 12, 2010.

“MoCP: John Baldessari and Paula McCartney,” *Chicago Art Machine*, June 29, 2010.

Waxman, Lori. “The wacky world of John Baldessari,” *Chicago Tribune*, Aug. 13, 2010.

Nelson, Nicole. “Baldessari’s Prints at the MoCP: The Unfamiliar Familiar,” *Fear No Art*, Sept. 23, 2010.

Paula McCartney: Bird Watching

“MoCP: John Baldessari and Paula McCartney,” *Chicago Art Machine*, June 29, 2010.

Weinstein, Michael. “Review: Paula McCartney/Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *New City*, Aug. 9, 2010.

Viera, Lauren. “Paula McCartney at Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *Chicago Tribune*, Sept. 10, 2010.

La Frontera: The Cultural Impact of Mexican Migration

Weinstein, David. “Review: La Frontera: The Cultural Impact of Mexican Migration/Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *New City Art*, Oct. 18, 2010.

Weinberg, Lauren. “La Frontera,” *Time Out Chicago*, Oct. 27, 2010.

Monserrat, Alejandra. “Border Zones: ‘La Frontera’ at the Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *F News Magazine*, Nov. 1, 2010.

Hunt, Andrew. “A broader look at the border,” *The Columbia Chronicle*, Oct. 11, 2010.

“Indepth Art News: ‘La Frontera: the Cultural Impact of Mexican Migration’,” *Absolute Arts*, Oct. 8, 2010.

Benavides, Jose Louis. “Critique: ‘La Frontera’ at MoCP,” *Gozamos*, Oct. 27, 2010.

McCullough, Lynndel Noriega. “Going beyond physical borders: La Frontera photography exhibit at Chicago museum paints provocative portrait of undocumented immigration,” *Borderzine*, Dec. 3, 2010.

Weinstein, David. “Top Five Curated Exhibitions,” *New City Art*, Dec. 21, 2010.

Weinberg, Lauren. “10 Best Art & Design shows in 2010 in particular order,” *Time Out Chicago*, Dec. 15, 2010.

Guy Tillim: Avenue Patrice Lumumba

Weinberg, Lauren. “‘Guy Tillim: Avenue Patrice Lumumba’ at the Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *Time Out Chicago*, Feb. 2, 2011.

Nelson, Nicole. “Brave New World: Guy Tillim, Kahn & Selesnick at the Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *F News Magazine*, Feb. 28, 2011.

Waxman, Lori. “African avenue of broken dreams,” *Chicago Tribune*, Feb. 18, 2011.

Taylor, Kate. “Critic’s Pick: Ten Contact Shows to See,” *The Globe and Mail*, May 6, 2011.

Kahn & Selesnick: The Apollo Prophecies and Mars Adrift on the Hourglass Sea

Bronson, Ellie. “Unitard Fabulists Adrift: Kahn & Selesnick on the Hourglass Sea,” *Art Critical*, Feb. 18, 2011.

Nelson, Nicole. “Brave New World: Guy Tillim, Kahn & Selesnick at the Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *F News Magazine*, Feb. 28, 2011.

u-n-f-o-l-d

Straughan, Elizabeth. “U-n-f-o-l-d: A Cultural Response to Climate Change,” *Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences*, May 8, 2011.

Berlatsky, Noel. “Hot Air at Columbia College,” *The Chicago Reader*, April 4, 2011.

Adams, Bonnie Jean. “Columbia College Hosts u-n-f-o-l-d: A Cultural Response to Climate Change,” *Examiner*, March 14, 2011.

Cummings-Yeates, Rosalind. “Columbia College Chicago’s Cape Farewell Exhibit,” *Uptake*, April 3, 2011.

Mercurio, Franck. “Cape Farewell artists respond to climate change in u-n-f-o-l-d at Columbia College,” *Time Out Chicago*, March 30, 2011.

Reid, Kerry. “The cultural response to climate change,” *Culture Lab*, March 18, 2011.

Public Works

Cavanaugh, Amy. “Last Chance: See ‘Public Works’ at MoCP,” *CBS Chicago*, July 4, 2011.

“Recommended: Review ‘Public Works’/Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *New City Art*, May 20, 2011.

Lucking, Maura. “From the Utopian to the Sinister: Pictures of Buildings and Infrastructure at the Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *f News Magazine*, July 6, 2011.

Smith, Lisa. “Review: Hardworking Beauty,” *The Architect’s Newspaper*, June 7, 2011.

Mercurio, Franck. “Public Works at the Museum of Contemporary Photography,” *Time Out Chicago*, May 18, 2011.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS



Image credits (l to r): **Linda Montano**, *Mitchell's Death*, 1978; **Robyn Hitchcock** at the MoCP; **Jillian Mayer**, *Scenic Jogging*, 2010

Print Making Workshop with Chicago's Anchor Graphics Studio

August 11, 2010

Curator Talk: Rod Slemmons on John Baldessari

September 15, 2010

Lecture: Susan Tallman on John Baldessari

September 22, 2010

Artist Talk: Paula McCartney

September 22, 2010

Artist Talk: Michael Hyatt, Andy Kropa, and David Taylor

October 7, 2010

Video Playlist: Mixtapes and Mashups Natalie Bookchin, Jesse Mclean, Nicolas Provost, Jon Routson, and Sterling Ruby Curated by Kate Bowen and David Oresick

October 21, 2010

International Contemporary Ensemble Concert: Edgar Guzmán, Ivan Naranjo, and Samuel Cedillo

October 26, 2010

Artist Talk: Joshua Brand and Moyra Davey

October 28, 2010

Reading and Panel Discussion: Luis Alberto Urrea, David Taylor, and Paul Wells

November 11, 2010

Panel Discussion: Between Peace and War: Afghanistan Anna Badkhen, Jared Moossy, and Sadiqa Basiri Saleem In conjunction with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs

November 17, 2010

Conversation: Guy Tillim and Krista Thompson, PhD

January 13, 2011

Video Playlist: Do-Overs and New Beginnings Dani Leventhal, Miranda July, Meredith Monk, George Kuchar, and Walid Raad Curated by Kate Bowen and David Oresick

January 26, 2011

Curator Tour: Karen Irvine on Guy Tillim and Kahn & Selesnick

February 10, 2011

Film Screening and Discussion: *Lumumba* by Raoul Peck and discussion with Columbia College Chicago professors Jeff Spitz and Stephanie Shonekan, Ph.D.

February 21, 2011

Artist Talk: Kahn & Selesnick

March 10, 2011

Film Screening: *Burning Ice* by Peter Gilbert

March 14, 2011

Artist Talk: David Buckland and Chris Wainwright

March 14, 2011

Panel Discussion: The Artist as Catalyst: An Introduction to Cape Farewell

David Buckland, Carla Delfos, Steve Kapelke, and Chris Wainwright

March 15, 2011

International Contemporary Ensemble Concert: Claire Chase, flute; Michael Nicolas, cello; and Joshua Rubin, clarinet

March 25, 2011

Video Playlist: Heartaches and Holy Rites Linda Montano, Emily Vey Duke and Cooper Battersby, Paul Kos, Oliver Laric, and Kate Gilmore

April 6, 2011

Curator Tour: Natasha Egan on *Public Works*

May 4, 2011

Lecture: Matthew Coolidge, Center for Land Use Interpretation

May 26, 2011

Conversation: Bruce Mau and Armin Linke in conjunction with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs

June 7, 2011

Video Playlist: Intimate Civics and Everyday Explorers: Paul Chan, Olivia Ciummo, Coco Fusco, Jillian Mayer, and Chi Jang Yin Curated by Kate Bowen and David Oresick

June 17, 2011

ACQUISITIONS

Marina Abramović / Brian Arnold / Lyle Ashton-Harris / John Baldessari / Paul Berger / Ross Bleckner / Harry Callahan / Alejandro Cartagena / Melissa Cantanese / Chuck Close / Moyra Davey / Michael Disfarmer / Larry Fink / Eric Fischl / Ralph Gibson / Jonathan Gitelson / Daniel Gordon / April Gornik / Ken Heyman / Bettina Hoffmann / Kristan Horton / Doug Ischar / Kahn and Selesnick / Andre Kertesz / Carolyn Krieg / Jeannette Klute / Nate Larson / An-My Lê / Gilles Lorin / Silvia Malagrino / Sally Mann / Paula McCartney / Joel Meyerowitz / Duane Michals / Vik Muniz / Bea Nettles / Juan Pacheco / Lydia Panas / Toni Parks / Antonio Perez / Birthe Piontek / Eli Reed / Lou Reed / David Salle / August Sander / Jan Saudek / Ross Sawyers / Carrie Schneider / Andres Serrano / Cindy Sherman / Toshio Shibata / Matt Siber / Laurie Simmons / Alec Soth / Frank Stewart / Louis Stettner / Amber Hawk Swanson / Brian Ulrich / Penelope Umbrico / Bill Viola / Karen Yama

1. **Ross Sawyers**, *Untitled*, 2011, Museum purchase

2. **John Baldessari**, *Untitled #11*, from the portfolio *Throwing Three Balls in the Air to Get a Straight Line (Best of Thirty-Six Attempts)*, 1973, Museum purchase

3. **An-My Lê**, *29 Palms: Night Operations IV*, 2003-2004, Gift of the Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe, NM

4. **Vik Muniz**, *American Flag*, from the *America: Now and Here* portfolio, 2009, Museum purchase

5. **Cindy Sherman**, *Untitled*, 1983, Gift of Susanne Ghez

6. **Andres Serrano**, *America (Jewel-Joy Stevens, America's little Yankee Miss)*, from the *America: Now and Here* portfolio, 2003, Museum purchase

7. **Aspen Mays**, *Map of the World (after Buckminster Fuller)*, 2008, Museum purchase through the 2011 Fine Print Program

8. **Bill Viola**, *Ocean Without a Shore*, from the *America: Now and Here* portfolio, 2007, Museum purchase



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8

EDUCATION

The MoCP has a strong reputation in the education and cultural communities for the unprecedented access it provides the public to its exhibitions and collections. The MoCP is further recognized for creating innovative programs that help its diverse audiences contextualize and connect the photographs in its exhibitions and collections to a wide range of topics and disciplines.



Outreach

Now in its tenth year, the MoCP's Picture Me outreach program serves 90 teens in three Chicago Public Schools. This intensive after-school photography program cultivates students as independent artists in programs led by teaching teams of working artists, enhanced by museum field trips and contact with MoCP staff and guest artists. Several graduates of our program have gained admission to college and scholarships based on portfolios developed in our program.

Talkin' Back: Chicago Youth Respond

In the spring, the MoCP hosted its annual exhibition *Talkin' Back: Chicago Youth Respond*, an exhibition of works created by over 200 youths from schools across Chicago who combine words and images to express their creative voices in workshops led by photographers and writers drawn from Columbia College's faculty and alumni.



Tours & Print Viewings

Last year, free of charge, the museum provided docent-facilitated tours and viewings of select works from its collection to over 3,000 students from numerous area colleges, universities, and K-12 schools. Planned in conjunction with each group's leader, every session catered to the curriculum and interests of that group. Online curriculum guides were created for each exhibition to enrich the experience of visitors who self-guide through the exhibitions or use the guides in the classroom.

Teacher Training & Curriculum Development

Last year MoCP education staff significantly increased the professional development it provided to teachers across the city by presenting workshops and writing multidisciplinary curriculum that promotes the use of contemporary photography to inspire learning in fine art and academic content areas. This past year the museum staff directly worked with over 120 CPS teachers and 400 teachers from Columbia and other colleges, potentially reaching 3,600 students.



DONOR RECOGNITION

(Reflects gifts made between September 1, 2010 and August 31, 2011)

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\$5,000 +

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Larry Fink, *Russian Ball, NYC, 1978*,
Gift of Dr. Terry and Lee Anne Box

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Natasha Egan, Director
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Karen Irvine, Curator and Associate Director
Audrey Mast, Marketing/PR/Web Associate
Corinne Rose, Manager of Education
Rod Slemmons, Curator at Large
Kristin Taylor, Manager of Collections



FY2011 Graduate Students

Kate Bowen
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Ashleigh Moyer
David Oresick
Josh Poehlein

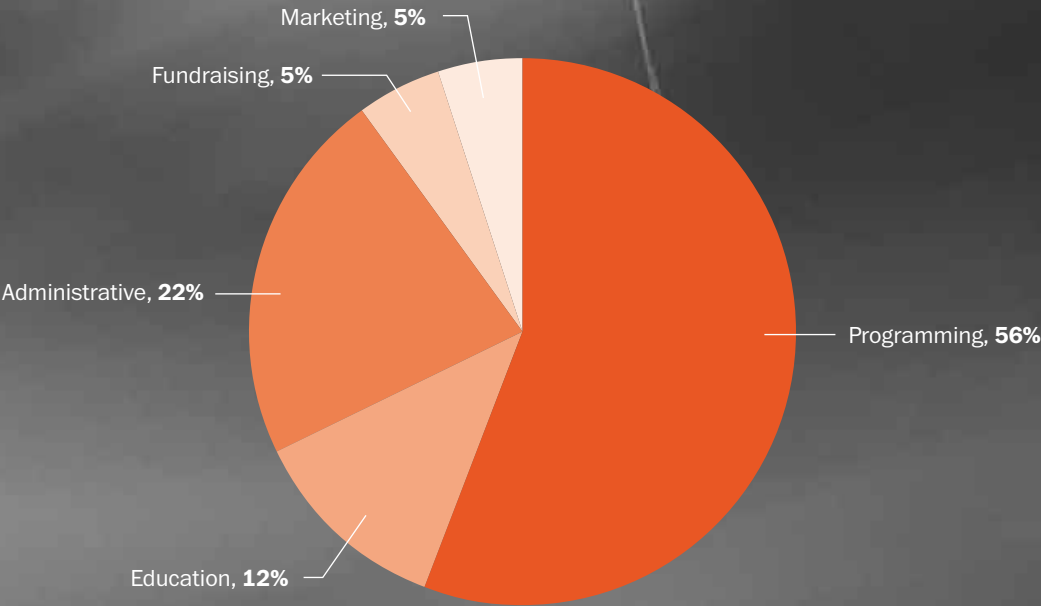
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Alice Feldt
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Dan Hojnacki
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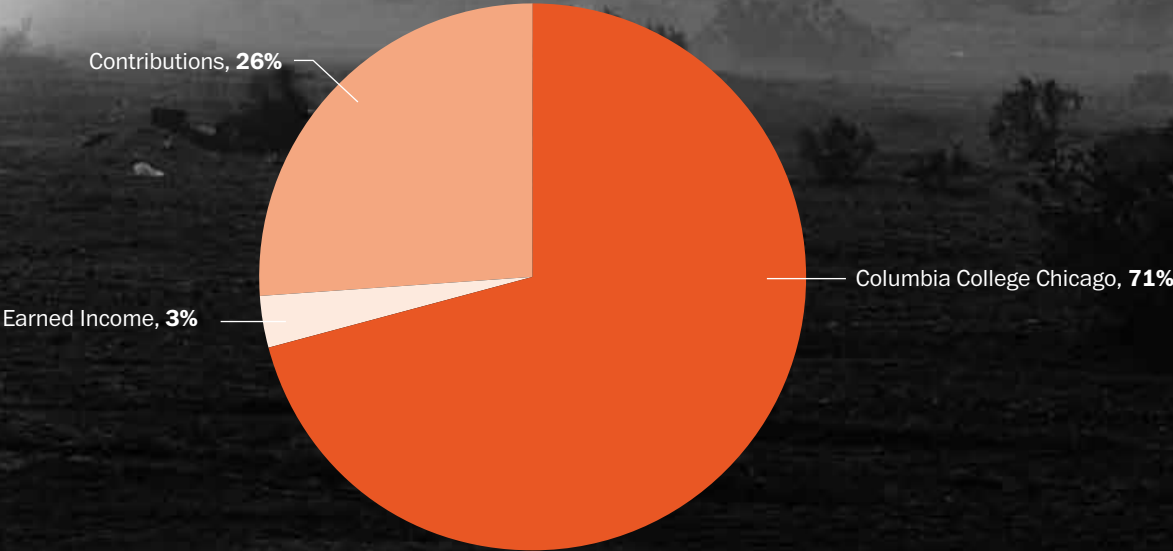
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Expenses



Revenues



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C O L L E G E C H I C A G O

