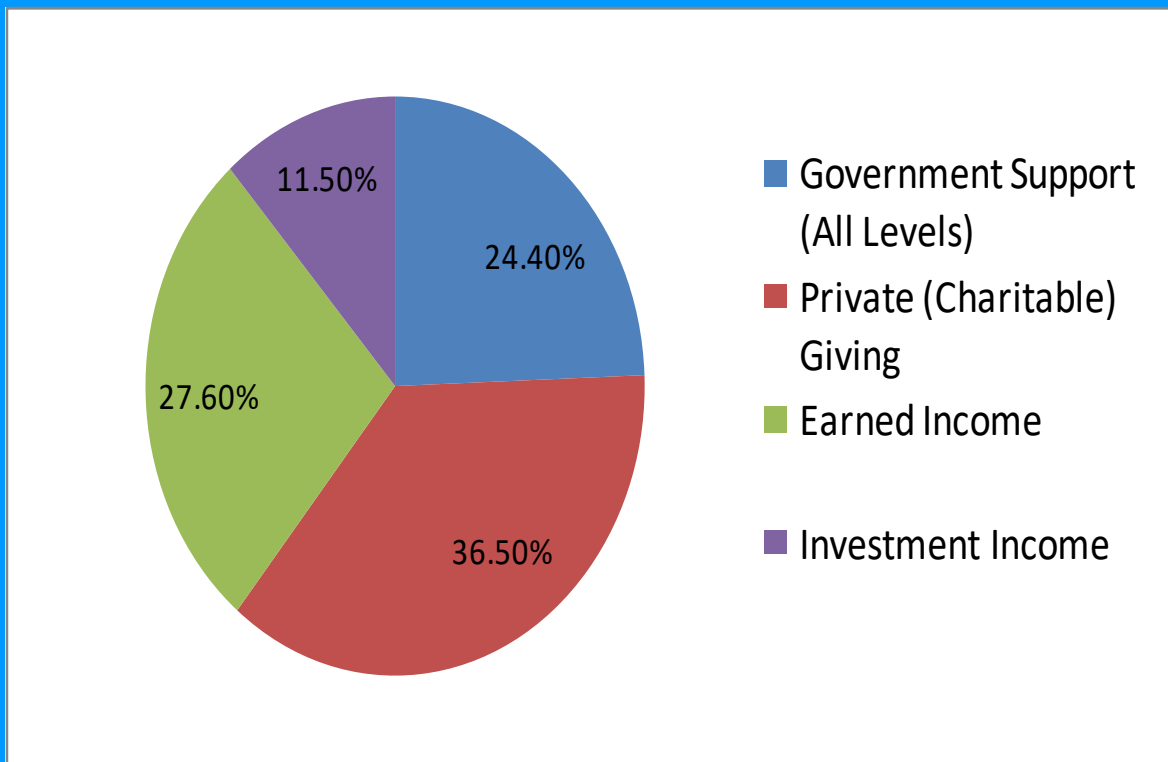


Funding Concerns



Typical American Museum Funding Sources 2009
(Source: American Association of Museums)

Provided initial support, museums can be prides of communities. However, as many institutions have seen, “Newness” wears off and without continued public support a museum can face extinction.

Steady funding sources are essential for non-profit organizations to carry on their missions. 501c3 institutions can apply for grants, however once more, a grant is generally not in perpetuity. Government levels of support should also be considered wearily, as economics and politics can shift these levels from year to year.

Steady funding sources that should be considered include museum memberships, corporate sponsorship and investment income.

Grants: These often require “in-kind” matching funds for specific projects. Generally, grants for general operating costs are more difficult to find. However, due to the many missions of a Nebraska Museum of Aviation, more grant sources are available



Example: The “Save America’s Treasures” grant could be applied to repair/restore historic structures provided proper 501c3 documentation and a winning grant proposal.

Earned Income: This includes museum admission prices, memberships and rental of location by interested parties. This funding source should initially be viewed with caution and later provided adequate support by exhibit investments, rotation/traveling exhibits to bring in repeat visitors. Extra funding here should be considered for investments.



Example: The museum could host a Christmas party for a local business. A nominal fee could be accepted plus donations



Corporate Giving/Donation Campaigns:

Establishment of a 501c3 non-profit organization allows for tax-deductable gifts by individuals and corporations. This does entail election of a board of directors (minimum of 3 in the State of Nebraska), Regular meetings (at least once a year) and strict accounting procedures. This would likely require assistance from an accountant and lawyer.

Other fundraising ideas include “gofundme” and other internet campaigns.