

EAST EUROPEAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

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Brad Emmett

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Singing under the towering redwoods at Mendocino. Photo credit: Amita Vempati

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General Manager

Amita Vempati

Marketing & Outreach Manager

Have Questions or Feedback for Us?

We're always listening. Please email the **[Board of Directors Liaison](#)** with your thoughts and ideas.

No one knows us better than our community, and your thoughts are invaluable as we plan for the future.

A Note from Anna Goldberg

What an exciting year we've had! In 2023 we brought back our in-person workshops, which were grand successes. I would like to start by thanking the Board, staff, volunteers, and contributors for all the hard work that everyone put in to get us back together—and thank you to all the community members for coming together again. I am happy to announce that we are already planning our 2024 West and East Coast camps.

As we look back at 2023, here are some highlights:

- ❖ The reinstatement of **our two in-person workshops** at Mendocino and Iroquois Springs, with a total of 479 campers, with many first-timers. We're pleased to report that there were no COVID outbreaks at either camp.
- ❖ **Online classes**, which have been well attended and which we are continuing to offer. This year we produced 12 music and dance courses, a live performance from Bulgarka in Bulgaria, and, most recently, a two-

Ways to Help

- ❖ **Help us build our audience** by subscribing to and participating in our social media outlets, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and our [Listserv Discussion Group](#).
- ❖ **Donate**, whether it be financially or by sharing your skills, time, or goods with us. Talk to us about what you can offer.
- ❖ **Have other ideas?** Contact the [EEFC Office](#). We'd love to hear from you.

Online Classes & Events

We're constantly adding new dance, singing, and instrumental classes to our online offerings. [Watch this page](#) to see the latest class updates and to register.

Balkan Music & Dance Workshops 2024: Mark Your Calendars!

West Coast

Mendocino Woodlands, CA
June 15-22, 2024

East Coast

Iroquois Springs, NY
August 10-17, 2024

part culture series from Alex Markovic.

- ❖ We welcomed two **new board members, Brad Emmett, and Paul Brown**, and we are so grateful for their willingness to serve our community.
- ❖ We received a **grant** from the **Trust for Mutual Understanding (TMU)**, that will allow us to bring Romani musicians from North Macedonia to Iroquois Springs in 2024. Be on the lookout for more information soon.

In 2024, you can look forward to:

- ❖ **West and East Coast Balkan Camps!** Save the dates if you haven't already: Mendocino, June 15-22; Iroquois Springs, August 10-17. Keep your eye on our website for teaching staff, registration, and scholarship information early in the new year.
- ❖ **Virtual classes and events**, which we continue to offer to widen our audience and make our programming accessible to all.
- ❖ Regular **EEFC Office Hours with Board and Staff** to provide transparency and opportunities for community dialog in the new year.

Finally, we were relieved to complete both summer camps with no reported COVID cases, and we're grateful to everyone in our community for pitching in to help keep all of us healthy and safe. Good news for 2024: given the evolving public health landscape in the U.S., the Board has decided to no longer require proof of COVID vaccination for camp attendees this next summer. We will still require proof of a negative antigen test before you arrive at camp, and strongly encourage common-sense precautions before camp week, as well as testing midweek on site. And naturally we'll keep track of and adjust to any changing public health conditions.

Thank you for your faithful and continued support of EEFC. We can't wait to see you at camp in 2024!

Reflecting on 2023

Program Committee Notes from Hannah Blair

The most notable EEFC programming event of 2023 was our joyous and long-awaited return to camp! We were thrilled and relieved to be able to gather at our weeklong workshops for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We had a combined 479 campers and 49 teachers, including a record-breaking number of first-timers. Along with music, dance, and cultural programming, Mendocino camp offered a heartfelt and much-needed opportunity to mourn together for the friends who passed during our years apart, and at Iroquois Springs we commemorated 40 years of gathering on the east coast to sing, dance, and play together.

The Program Committee is fully absorbed in planning for in-person camps in 2024. We're delighted to feature a special Macedonian focus for East

Thank You to Our 2023 Volunteers!

Our workshops and online offerings may be magical, but they don't run themselves. We extend our deep gratitude to the community members who stepped in to moderate, translate, offer technical expertise, serve meals, tally auction bids, run Kafana orders, help a confused new camper find their way around and feel welcome . . . and perform the myriad other unsung tasks that make our classes and camps work. We also wish to thank the non-board volunteers serving selflessly on many of our organizational committees, remembering that EEFC Board members are volunteers themselves. **We love you!**



Dancing the night away at Iroquois Springs. Photo credit: Ira Gessel

Coast camp, centering around North Macedonian Romani multi-instrumentalist Bajsa Arifovska and members of her band, direct from Skopje, pending good visa luck, of course. Their visit is funded in part by a \$10,000 grant from the Trust for Mutual Understanding, which supports cultural exchange between the U.S. and a group of 29 Eastern European and West-Central Asian countries. It is an extraordinary opportunity for us! We are also working hard to make the West Coast camp experience equally special. A number of teachers have already accepted our invitations to teach—and we're looking forward to exciting new classes and beloved perennial favorites—some teachers returning after years away—plus the fun and serendipity that make gathering in person so magical.

Our online programming continues to be popular, and we're so glad to continue it in parallel with our in-person camps. Online classes allow us to learn all year 'round, to include people who may not be able to come to camp, and to hire teachers whose schedules may not permit them a week in the woods or out in the countryside. In 2023 we offered twelve classes, from Greek Violin with Aya Safiya, to Makam Practice: Taksim & Soloing with Mavrothi Kontanis, to Carol Silverman's multidisciplinary Balkan Romani Music, Dance & Culture class, just to name a few. We look forward to more exciting classes in the new year!

An enormous thank you to all the members of the Program Committee: **Belle Birchfield, Paul Brown, Anna Goldberg, Camille Holmes, Rachel MacFarlane, Demetri Tashie**, and especially outgoing chair **Maclovia Quintana**. Many thanks as well to EEFC Marketing & Outreach Manager **Amita Vempati**, whose grant-writing expertise and hard work secured us the TMU grant, which is making the Macedonian musicians' visit possible. And thanks to you, our dear community—you're the reason we do all this stuff! The Program Committee is always happy to hear from you—email us anytime at program@eefc.org to suggest new teachers or tell us what you'd like to learn next.

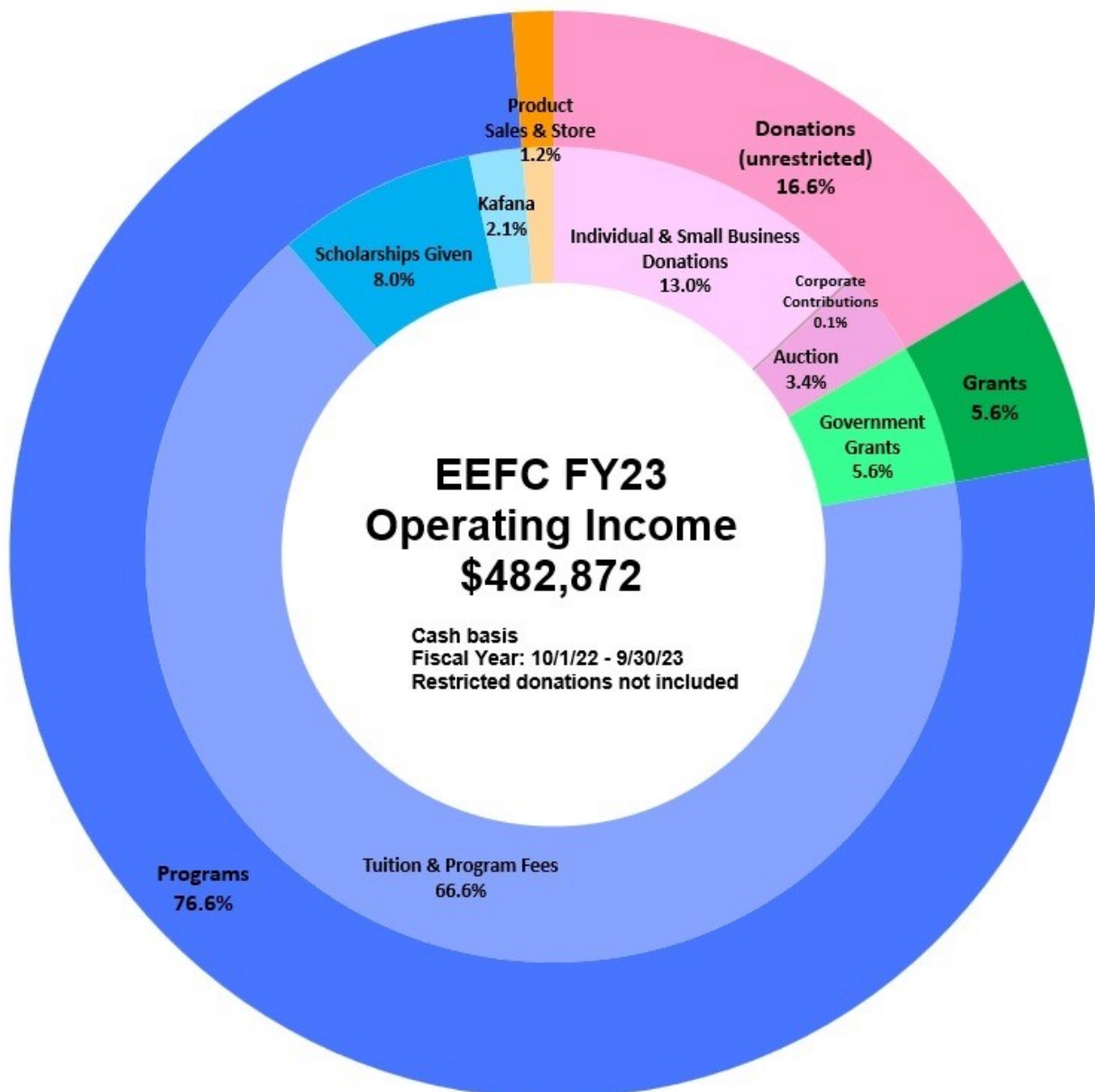
Fiscal Year 2023

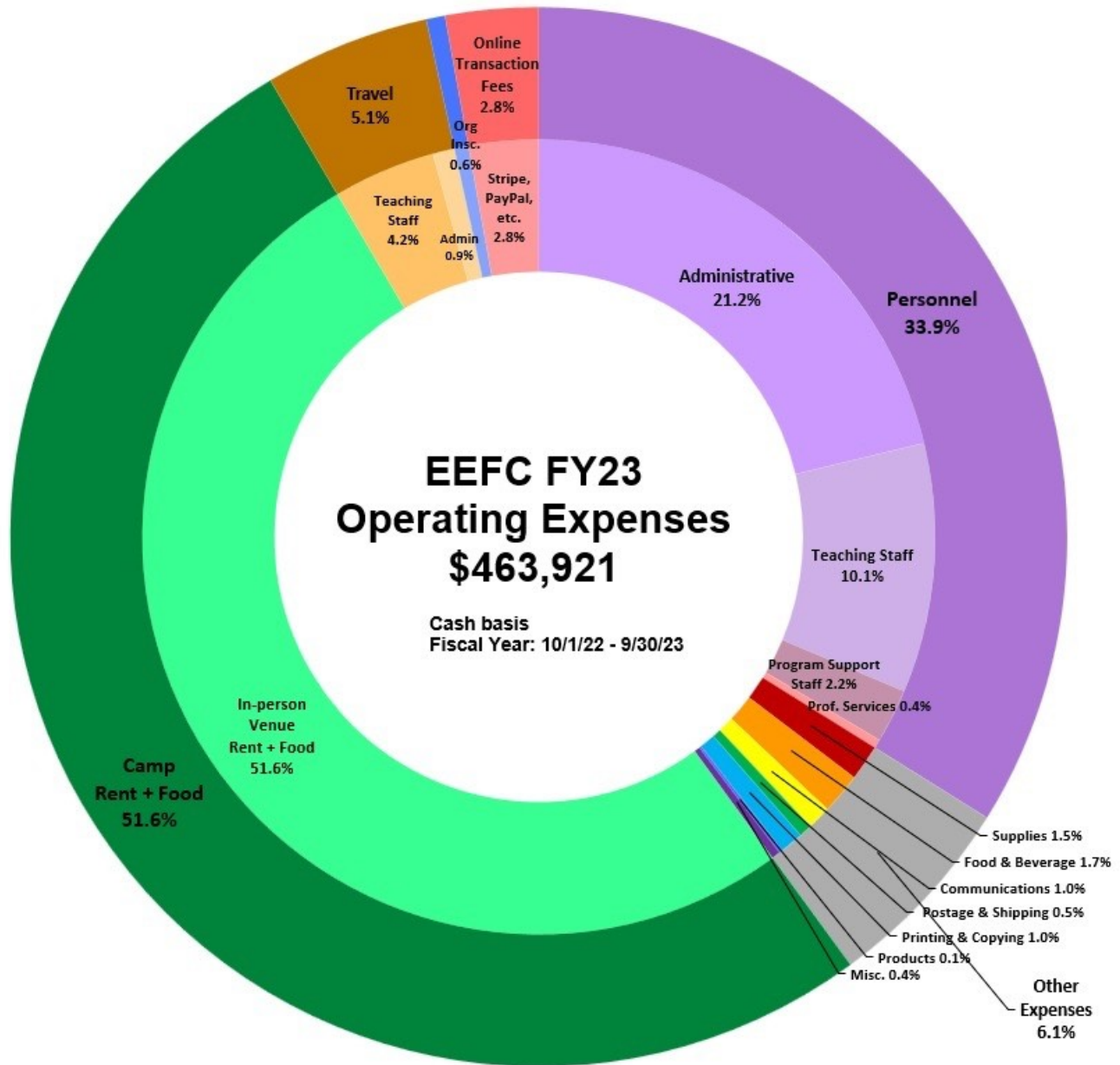
Treasurer’s Notes from Lea Anne Kangas

As of September 30, 2023, the EEFC had an operating surplus of roughly \$2000, which includes adjustment for a grant received just past the previous fiscal year cutoff, as well as budgeted support toward program expenses. We ended the fiscal year with assets of roughly \$346,000.

- ❖ We received general donations and non-restricted camp auction income totaling \$79,842.
- ❖ We received Endowment (Nest Egg) and Crum/Kef Scholarship donations of \$1,785 and \$17,722 respectively. Other scholarship donations include a total of \$9090 towards a new youth scholarship fund in memory of Mathew Good, and \$315 to assist a young family with getting to camp. This results in a combined total of \$28,912 in restricted income for FY23. This is not included in the chart for annual operating income.
- ❖ On the income chart, scholarships are reflected for the year in which they are awarded, not the year in which gifts were donated.
- ❖ The endowment is invested in no-load, no-fee market index funds.

*Outer rings are summary categories; inner rings show more detail.
 FY 2022 charts are [here](#), FY2021 charts are [here](#), and FY2020 financial charts are [here](#).*





This year—and all the others that precede and follow it—are the result of our dedicated and enthusiastic community. Our international membership continues to flourish, and we are proud to mark all of those who are interested in and participate in our events as part of that growing membership. Similarly, we would like to extend our gratitude to the contributors who help our community through financial, time, and other non-monetary contributions. If you would like to make an end-of-year contribution, visit our donation page [here](#).

We thank all of you for sharing your experience and passion for Balkan culture and arts, for your participation and contributions of all sorts, and—above all—for the love that has made our community a place of safe exploration and edification for well over forty years. With all of these gifts, we look forward to 2024 with you.

Thank you for being a part of our circle.