

ANNUAL APPEAL



Dear members of the Vesper Community,

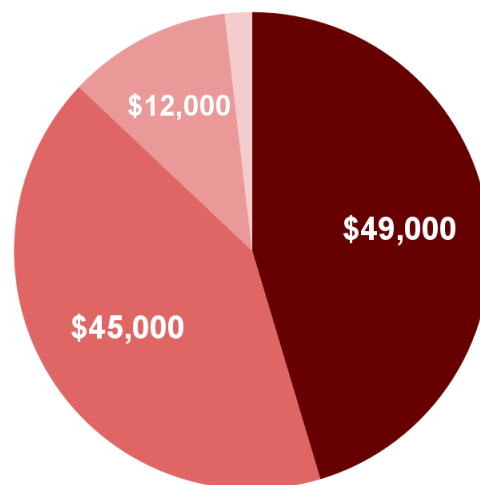
As we approach our 158th year, we find ourselves reflecting on the rich history and enduring legacy that defines Vesper. There was much to celebrate this year, including Mary Wilson's success on the international stage at the Pan-American Games, the rebuilding of our racing team with a focus on big boats, and the completion of much-needed upgrades to our historic boathouse.

Since 1865, Vesper has been a beacon of excellence in the world of rowing, fostering a community of dedicated champions who share a passion for rowing and a commitment to pushing the boundaries of achievement. As we approach 2024, we must acknowledge that, now more than ever, we need your support to ensure the continued success of our beloved club.

One focus of our racing team rebuild (that began in 2023) is on 'big boats' - 8s, 4s, and Quads. In a return to our roots, this initiative will keep more young athletes in the sport and give them the opportunity to develop their speed. We can foster an environment in which post-collegiate athletes can train and race with a goal of putting Vesper boats on the podium again at major international regattas, as we help our best athletes prepare to make the national team. The reality of maintaining a larger roster of athletes means that we anticipate the costs of travel, equipment, and coaching to increase; in this calendar year, we spent \$108,000 in racing expenses (see below), and we anticipate travel and coaching expenses to grow as we compete in more national and international events.

Racing Expenses 2023

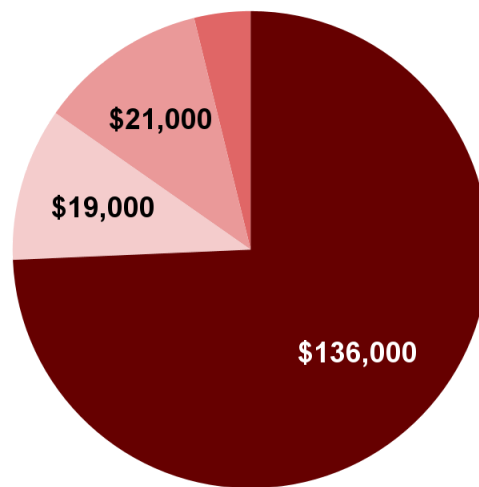
- Personnel
- Athlete Support & Travel
- Racing
- Entry Fees



Another ongoing initiative is the continued preservation of our historic boathouse, a landmark that requires careful maintenance to preserve its beauty and functionality. This year, we totaled \$183,000 in house expenses (see below), including major improvements to HVAC and lighting, the addition of new docks, and preservation of the riverside facade. In 2024, we plan to repaint the Kelly Drive and yard side of the house, fix the Mary Colgan Clock, re-shingle the turret roof, and replace the women's toilet partitions. Though we anticipate these projects will require an increase in the house budget by at least \$150,000, we maintain that they are critical to the functionality of the structure.

House Expenses 2023

- Capital Projects
- Utilities
- Repairs & Cleaning
- Supplies



Our membership already contributes to these costs through their dues. However, to accomplish our goals for the racing team and boathouse, we need to reach beyond the dues paying membership. As members of our broader community, your generosity has always been a driving force behind our success! We invite you to stand with us once again, ensuring that Vesper continues to be a place where passion, tradition, and excellence converge. Your contributions, both big and small, make a difference in the future of our club.

Please consider making a donation to support Vesper Boat Club's annual appeal! You can use the link in this email or visit <https://vesperboatclub.org/v/vesper-2023-annual-appeal/> to contribute. On behalf of the Vesper Board, I extend my deepest gratitude for your continued support.

– ALL TOGETHER –

Melissa Hilton, President
Vesper Boat Club