

#### 2025 Annual Report

# Good Morning



WE TELL THE MANY STORIES OF WISCONSIN TO THE GROUP TOUR INDUSTRY TO GENERATE POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR OUR MEMBERS AND THE STATE

#### **CIRCLE WISCONSIN MISSION STATEMENT**

### Circle Wisconsin Leading the way for over 35 Years

Celebrating 100 Years -- 1920-2020

Circle Wisconsin is a non-profit 501c6 membership organization whose primary mission is to promote/market our members and the State of Wisconsin to the group travel/package industry both domestically and internationally. For the past 35 years, Circle Wisconsin has been a leader in the group travel/package industry.





- American Bus Association
- National Tour Association
- Select Travel
- US Travel IPW
- Going on Faith
- International Motorcoach Group
- Ontario Motorcoach Group
- Connect RTO (MKE)

# 2024 Conferences





MUKWONAGO

### Can you pronounce these Wisconsin cities? # NTATREX 2024



#### **Circle Wisconsin Midwest Marketplace** Fond du Lac, WI April 14 - 16, 2024 IS@ONS **4,180 Appointments**

We kicked off our 10th Anniversary with a delightful evening at La **C**lare Farms. Attendees enjoyed the unique experience of baby goat snuggles, paired with a beautiful night of relaxation and a glass of wine at Ziegler Winery. It was a truly memorable celebration, and we were thrilled to see so many familiar faces join US.

In addition, the Midwest Marketplace continues to thrive, thanks to your participation and support. This year, we realized an impressive turnout with registrations from 38 Tour **Operator/Planner Companies and 110 appointment-taking supplier** companies. These connections are invaluable as we continue to grow together in the industry.





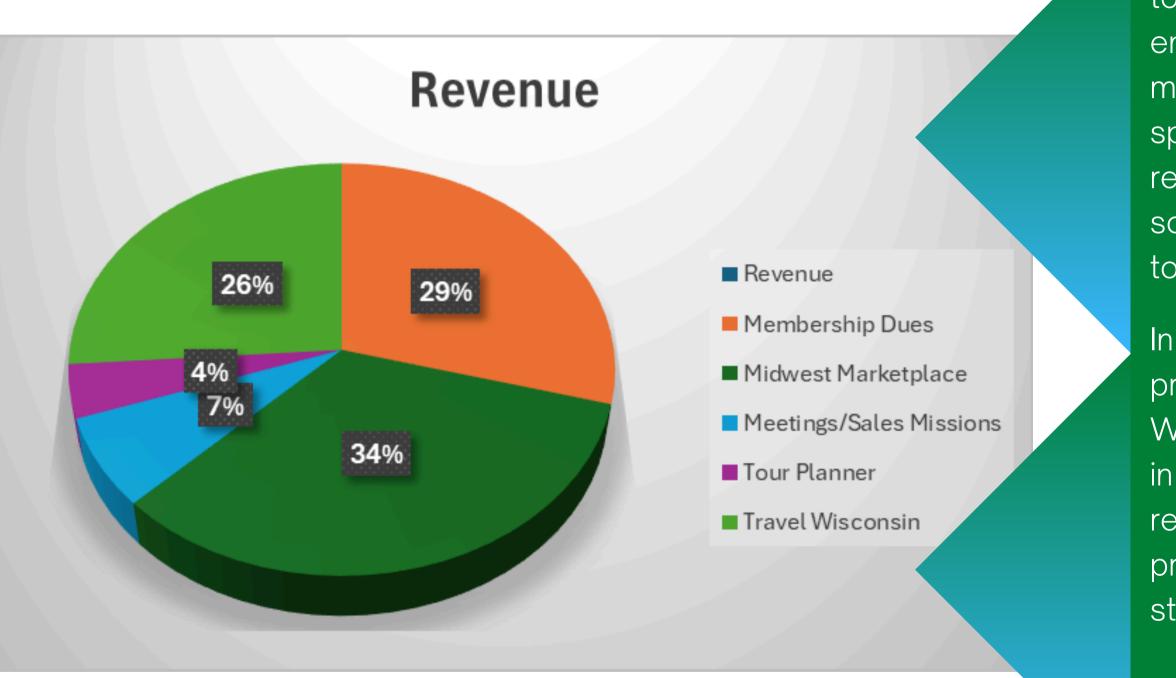
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2025 MIDWEST MARKETPLACE







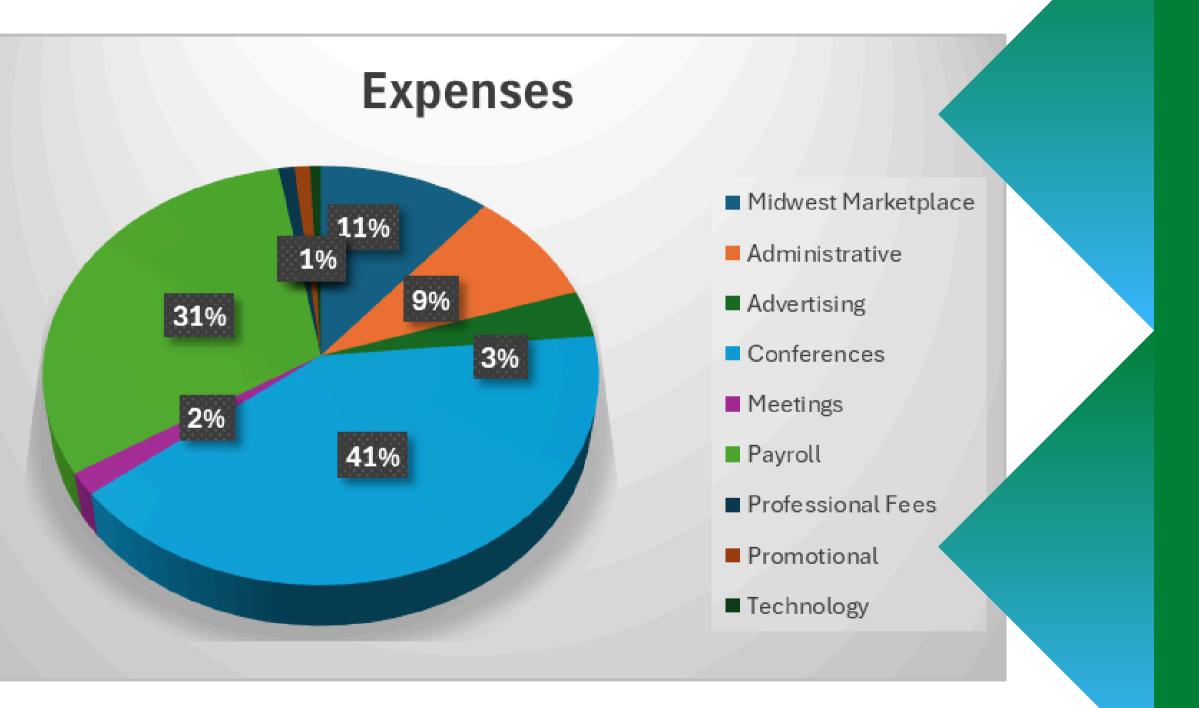


Looking ahead, we are excited about continuing this fruitful partnership with Travel Wisconsin as we strive to grow group tour visitation throughout the state.

#### **Revenue Sources**

Circle Wisconsin relies on various revenue streams to support our mission of promoting tourism and enhancing travel experiences in the Midwest. Our main sources of income include membership dues, sponsorships from the Midwest Marketplace, and registrations for our events and programs. These sources are crucial in enabling us to promote tourism effectively.

In 2024, we have continued our collaborative program with the Office of Group Travel of Travel Wisconsin. This partnership has been instrumental in boosting our marketing efforts and expanding our reach to new audiences. We are thrilled with the progress made and look forward to further strengthening this collaboration in the future.



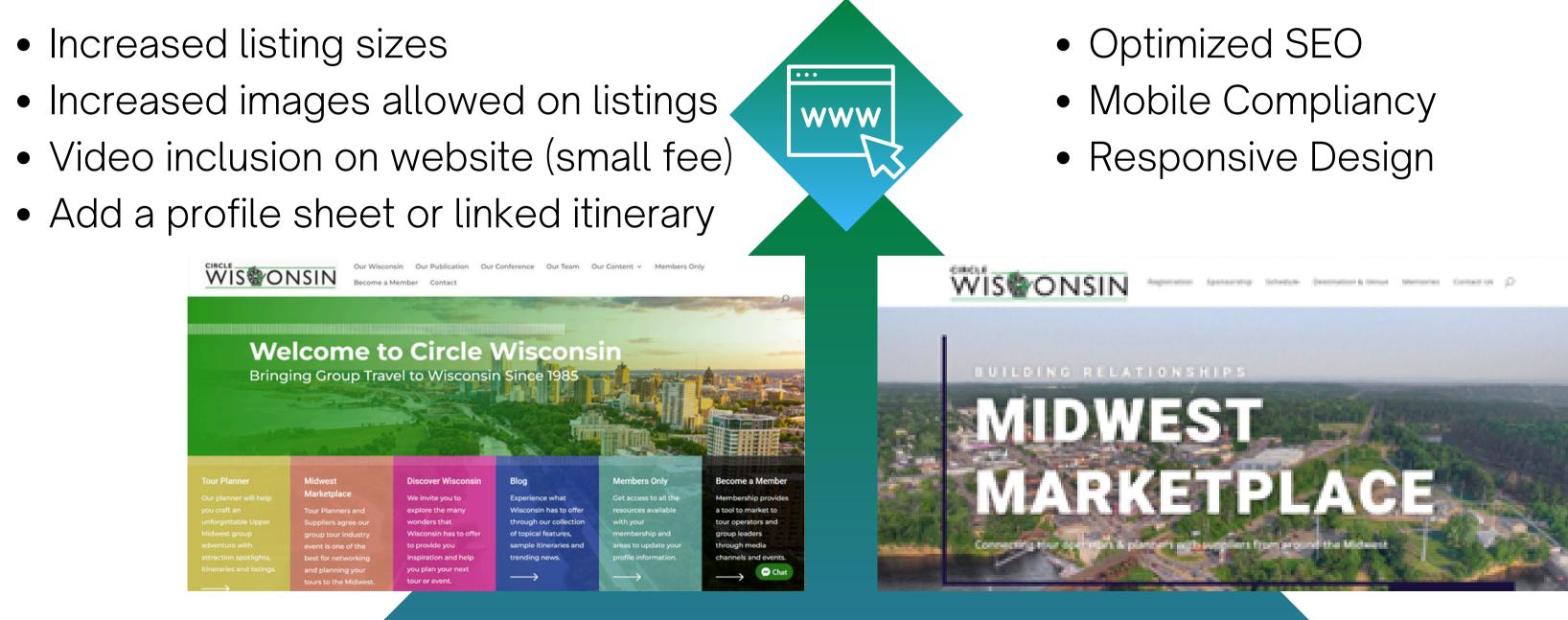
#### Expenses

The 2024 budget has been strategically dedicated to enhancing our sales initiatives and expanding our presence in the group travel industry. This allocation reflects our commitment to driving growth and fostering stronger relationships within this dynamic sector.

By focusing resources on these areas, we aim to seize new opportunities and solidify our position in the evolving group tour landscape. We believe these efforts will not only stimulate growth but also enhance our ability to connect with clients and partners more effectively.

#### Websites

#### circlewisconsin.com 2024 - 60,000 views midwestmarketplace.org 2024 - 27,000 views



### Conferences

As part of our ongoing efforts to stay at the forefront of industry developments, attending key conferences and meetings remains our primary initiative. We believe these events are instrumental in fostering connections, gaining insights, and driving visitations.

# **Social Media**

We have reached a milestone of over 1,800 followers on our social media platforms. This growth reflects our ongoing efforts to enhance our online presence. Recognizing the increasing importance of social media for Tour Operators and Planners, we are committed to further expanding our content and visibility, particularly on Facebook. Our goal is to engage more effectively with our audience and capitalize on the opportunities that these platforms offer.

# 2025 Marketing Intiatives

# **Sales Calls/Missions**

Circle Wisconsin is set to conduct both virtual and in-person meetings with tour operators throughout the year. These sessions will be a great opportunity to educate participants about our members and showcase the unique attractions that our state has to offer.

#### **Partnerships**

Circle Wisconsin will continue its strong partnership with Travel Wisconsin to provide valuable insights into the leisure group travel market. Together, we are dedicated to keeping this segment top of mind and ensuring our strategies align with the evolving needs of travelers and our industry partners alike.



#### PROFILES OF EVER CIRCLE WISCONS

Research our vast network of DMOs. hotels, restaurants and attractions

Attraction spotlights, sample itineraries and extensive listings help planners craft the perfect Upper Midwest group adventure

#### **Annual Circle Wisconsin Tour Planner**

- of Leisure Group Travel
- Culinary Delights
  - Spectator Sports

  - Go with the Pros

- Lodging Map

Group-friendly fun across Wisconsin's 5 regions

 Distributed to over 15,000 tour operators/planners with the February edition Editorial Content featuring: Hotbed of Arts & Culture That's Entertainment Sample Itineriares in each of the five regions Full membership listing by region

# **2025 Board of Directors**

- Shelly Harms Visit Sheboygan
- Amanda La Fave Oneida Hotel & Convention Center
- Cory Mace Badger Bus
- Joseph Metzen Explore Two Rivers
- Megan Husband VISIT Milwaukee
- Susan Schindler Lake Geneva Cruise Line
- Elaine Moulder Brilliant Edventures
- Jacob Servais Green Bay Packers
- Eric Howden Old World Wisconsin

Wendy Dobrzynski - Executive Director

