



**California Association for Research in Astronomy**  
**dba W. M. Keck Observatory**  
(A Nonprofit California Public Benefit Corporation)

Financial Statements  
(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

September 30, 2025 and 2024

## Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Directors  
California Association for Research in Astronomy:

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of the California Association for Research in Astronomy (CARA), which comprise the statements of financial position as of September 30, 2025 and 2024, and the related statements of activities, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of CARA as of September 30, 2025 and 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of CARA and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about CARA's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

### ***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of CARA's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about CARA's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 21, 2026 on our consideration of CARA's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of CARA's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering CARA's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*KKDL Y LLC*

Honolulu, Hawaii  
April 21, 2026

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY**  
**DBA W. M. KECK OBSERVATORY**  
(A Nonprofit California Public Benefit Corporation)

Statements of Financial Position

September 30, 2025 and 2024

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,198,078	\$ 552,025
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,440,000	402,285
Grants and contracts receivable	412,621	538,835
Contributions receivable	-	8,010
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,478,639	1,361,488
Total current assets	5,529,338	2,862,643
Noncurrent assets:		
Long-term investments	20,082,507	24,137,232
Property and equipment, net	33,832,709	35,041,598
Total assets	\$ 59,444,554	\$ 62,041,473
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 5,363,324	\$ 4,724,711
Note payable	-	2,500,000
	5,363,324	7,224,711
Non-current liability - note payable	2,500,000	-
Total liabilities	7,863,324	7,224,711
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	49,183,977	51,554,753
Board-designated	1,601,463	1,306,362
Total net assets without donor restrictions	50,785,440	52,861,115
With donor restrictions	795,790	1,955,647
Total net assets	51,581,230	54,816,762
Commitments	-	-
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 59,444,554	\$ 62,041,473

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY**  
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Statements of Activities

Years Ended September 30, 2025 and 2024

	<b>2025</b>			<b>2024</b>		
	<b>Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>With Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>With Donor Restrictions</b>	<b>Total</b>
Revenues, support, and gains:						
Operating revenues	\$ 25,827,737	\$ -	\$ 25,827,737	\$ 24,966,529	\$ -	\$ 24,966,529
Net investment return	2,573,110	-	2,573,110	4,341,994	-	4,341,994
Grants and contributions	1,592,858	555,282	2,148,140	1,304,474	574,243	1,878,717
Other income	177,442	-	177,442	258,270	-	258,270
Net assets released from restrictions	1,715,139	(1,715,139)	-	1,978,170	(1,978,170)	-
Total revenues, support, and gains	<u>31,886,286</u>	<u>(1,159,857)</u>	<u>30,726,429</u>	<u>32,849,437</u>	<u>(1,403,927)</u>	<u>31,445,510</u>
Expenses:						
Program services:						
Operations	26,232,415	-	26,232,415	24,704,050	-	24,704,050
Related party asset projects	2,178,304	-	2,178,304	2,672,358	-	2,672,358
Research	256,389	-	256,389	326,628	-	326,628
Supporting services:						
Administration and general	4,643,442	-	4,643,442	4,584,209	-	4,584,209
Fund-raising	651,411	-	651,411	658,024	-	658,024
Total expenses	<u>33,961,961</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,961,961</u>	<u>32,945,269</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,945,269</u>
Change in net assets	(2,075,675)	(1,159,857)	(3,235,532)	(95,832)	(1,403,927)	(1,499,759)
Net assets at beginning of year	52,861,115	1,955,647	54,816,762	52,956,947	3,359,574	56,316,521
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 50,785,440</u>	<u>\$ 795,790</u>	<u>\$ 51,581,230</u>	<u>\$ 52,861,115</u>	<u>\$ 1,955,647</u>	<u>\$ 54,816,762</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN ASTRONOMY**  
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Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2025 and 2024

**(1) Organization and Operations**

California Association for Research in Astronomy (CARA) is a nonprofit corporation formed by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and the University of California (UC) in January 1985 to build and operate the W. M. Keck Observatory (the Observatory) near the summit of Mauna Kea in Hawaii. Tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, CARA is a nonprofit California public benefit corporation and, as such, is qualified as a nonprofit corporation in the state of Hawaii.

The principal purpose of CARA is to foster astronomical research and to provide technical direction for the development and operation of astronomical facilities on the island of Hawaii, principally on land owned by the state of Hawaii, leased to the University of Hawaii, and subleased to Caltech. The Observatory is owned by Caltech and is leased to CARA for \$1 per year. In consideration for subleasing the land to Caltech for \$1 per year through 2033, the University of Hawaii receives an opportunity to use the Observatory and related facilities and improvements. The astronomical facilities include two 10-meter telescopes (Keck I and Keck II), related instrumentation, adaptive optics technology, support facilities, and required infrastructure improvements.

Caltech and UC were equal participants in the design, construction, and pre-operating phase of the Observatory and made financial contributions to those endeavors that differed in both amount and type, with Caltech contributing the majority of the funds, largely through grants from the W. M. Keck Foundation (the Foundation). Caltech owns the telescopes, domes, and physical plant. When Keck I and Keck II telescopes began operations, UC and Caltech continued their equal participation; however, the funding by each institution changed, with UC contributing substantial cash for operating expenses from fiscal year 1992 for Keck I and fiscal year 1996 for Keck II. UC contributed set amounts for each telescope, adjusted annually by a specified factor, through March 31, 2018.

On April 1, 2018, Caltech and UC entered into the Second Amended and Restated Agreement (the Agreement) to continue their financial contributions to the operation of the Observatory. Under the Agreement, UC and Caltech are to provide equal financial support beginning on April 1, 2018; the Agreement will continue until terminated under the terms of the Agreement.

Under the Agreement, during each of the fiscal years 2025 and 2024, CARA recognized operating revenues for observatory operations of \$9,364,000 and \$9,093,500, respectively from both UC and Caltech (see Note 6).

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September 30, 2025 and 2024

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***Basis of Presentation***

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

***Net Assets***

The financial statements report net assets and changes in net assets based upon the existence or absence of restrictions on use that are placed by its donors or grantors, as follows:

*Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions* – net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations and that may be expended for any purpose in performing the objectives of CARA. CARA’s governing board has designated, from net assets without donor restrictions, net assets for a Director’s Fund as further described in Note 12.

*Net Assets With Donor Restrictions* – net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that may or will be met either by actions and/or the passage of time. Donor-imposed restrictions are released when a restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated purpose which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, when the stipulated time has elapsed, or both.

***Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash***

CARA considers all highly liquid instruments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. As of September 30, 2025 and 2024, cash equivalents of \$3,278,334 and \$655,713, respectively, were invested in the University of California Short-term Investment Pool (UC STIP), and reported at fair value in the accompanying financial statements. See Note 4 for further discussion and disclosures related to fair value measurements. Cash equivalents held to satisfy the purpose of a note payable (see Note 8) are reported separately as restricted cash and cash equivalents in the accompanying statements of financial position.

The following table reconciles cash and cash equivalents reported within the statements of financial position to the sum of the corresponding amounts within the statements of cash flows as of September 30, 2025 and 2024:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,198,078	\$ 552,025
Cash equivalents restricted for instrumentation development	2,440,000	402,285
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,638,078	\$ 954,310

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September 30, 2025 and 2024

***Grants and Contracts Receivable***

Grants and contracts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amounts and do not accrue interest. Receivables are charged off as uncollectible when management determines the likelihood of collection to be no longer probable and collection efforts have been exhausted.

CARA records an allowance for credit losses (ACL) under Topic 326 for the current expected credit losses (CECL) inherent in its financial assets measured at amortized cost and contract assets. The ACL is a valuation account deducted from amortized cost basis to present the amount expected to be collected. The estimate of expected credit losses include expected recoveries of amounts written off as well as amounts currently expected to be written off.

The estimate of expected credit losses is based on CARA's historical loss experience, adjusted for current and reasonable and supportable forecasts of economic conditions and other pertinent factors affecting CARA's customers such as known credit risk or industry trends. The allowance is estimated over the contractual term of the financial asset. CARA does not have any off-balance sheet credit exposures. CARA incorporates forward-looking information through the use of a macroeconomic scenario applied over the entire contractual term of the financial asset. Subsequent changes (favorable and unfavorable) in expected credit losses each period are recognized immediately in total support, revenue, and gains (losses) as a credit loss expense or a reversal of credit loss expense.

***Long-Term Investments***

CARA's investments in the University of California Total Return Investment Pool (UC TRIP) and General Endowment Pool (UC GEP) are stated at fair value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). See Note 4 for further discussion and disclosures related to fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments are based on the difference between the fair value of assets at the beginning of the fiscal year, or at the time of purchase for assets purchased during the fiscal year, and the related fair value on the day investments are sold with respect to realized gains (losses), or on the last day of the fiscal year for unrealized gains (losses).

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***Property and Equipment***

Expenditures incurred by CARA for observatory instrumentation and facilities, operating equipment, and vehicles are capitalized at cost, except for donated property that is valued at fair market value at the date of the gift, and depreciated when placed in service. Depreciation is provided over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

<u>Class of assets</u>	<u>Estimated useful lives</u>
Observatory instrumentation	5-20 years
Observatory facility	3-15 years
Vehicles and equipment	3-20 years

CARA reports contributions designated by donors to acquire long-lived assets as restricted support. Absent explicit donor stipulations about how long those long-lived assets must be maintained, CARA reports expirations of donor restrictions for construction in progress when costs are incurred.

***Revenue and Revenue Recognition***

CARA recognizes revenue from UC and Caltech under the Agreement in the fiscal year in which the amounts are intended under the Agreement.

Recognition of revenue from contracts with customers occurs as CARA satisfies one or more performance obligations, which are promises in a contract to transfer a distinct good or service to a customer. CARA's performance obligations under its cooperative agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are, in general, the use of the Observatory by NASA, as well as other support and development activities. CARA satisfies its performance obligations under the cooperative agreement on an over-time basis, as it incurs allowable direct costs and therefore recognizes revenue from such agreements as exchange transactions. All services provided under the cooperative agreement, which are measured by allowable costs incurred, immediately accrue to the benefit of NASA. The current NASA cooperative agreement began March 8, 2023 and has a 5-year term. Based upon the cooperative agreement's terms, the maximum remaining obligation to potentially be authorized under the cooperative agreement was approximately \$12,407,000 at September 30, 2025.

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Other operating revenues recognized by CARA include direct revenues from various subawards in which CARA provides personnel, equipment, and facilities in support of instrumentation and adaptive optics development by UC and Caltech. Title to such instrumentation and adaptive optics is held by the prime contractor. Accordingly, CARA recognizes revenue from such contracts as exchange transactions. Performance obligations under such contracts are distinct tasks, and revenue is recognized as costs are billed for tasks performed.

Contributions are recognized when cash, securities, or other assets, an unconditional promise to give, or a notice of beneficial interest is received. Conditional promises to give (those with a measurable performance or other barrier, and a right of return) are not recognized until the conditions on which they depend have been substantially met. Contributed goods and services received from subrecipients are recorded at fair value at the date of donation.

A portion of CARA's revenue is derived from cost-reimbursable federal grants, which are conditioned upon certain performance requirements and/or the incurrence of allowable qualifying expenses. Amounts received are recognized as revenue when such expenditures have been incurred in compliance with specific grant provisions. CARA has elected to report such contributions whose restrictions are met in the same period as the revenue is recognized as contributions without restrictions. Amounts received prior to incurring qualifying expenditures are reported as refundable advances in the statements of financial position. No amounts have been received in advance under CARA's federal grants as of September 30, 2025 and 2024.

When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

As described in Note 1, CARA leases the Observatory and related facilities and improvements from Caltech for \$1 per year. As the use of the Observatory is so specific that there is no assignable value, it is impractical to determine a fair rental value to be reported as contribution revenue in the accompanying statements of activities.

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September 30, 2025 and 2024

***Functional Allocation of Expenses***

The costs of program and supporting services activities are summarized on a functional basis in the statements of activities. The following table presents the natural classification detail of expenses by function for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024:

	September 30, 2025					
	Program Services			Supporting Services		
	Operations	Related Party Asset Projects	Research	Administration and General	Fund-raising	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$15,457,073	\$1,133,862	\$188,612	\$3,134,251	\$499,997	\$ 20,413,795
Services, supplies, and other	3,229,107	690,309	64,320	1,181,341	139,701	5,304,778
Depreciation	4,345,266	-	1,604	26,648	4,929	4,378,447
Occupancy	1,878,465	-	439	209,221	1,164	2,089,289
Equipment	1,195,713	354,133	1,414	67,515	5,620	1,624,395
Grants to others	90,900	-	-	-	-	90,900
Interest	35,891	-	-	24,466	-	60,357
Total expenses	<u>\$ 26,232,415</u>	<u>\$ 2,178,304</u>	<u>\$ 256,389</u>	<u>\$ 4,643,442</u>	<u>\$ 651,411</u>	<u>\$ 33,961,961</u>

  

	September 30, 2024					
	Program Services			Supporting Services		
	Operations	Related Party Asset Projects	Research	Administration and General	Fund-raising	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$ 15,698,716	\$ 697,975	\$ 237,065	\$ 3,483,464	\$ 491,695	\$ 20,608,915
Services, supplies, and other	1,874,615	1,861,662	79,450	960,023	153,911	4,929,661
Depreciation	4,305,426	-	1,981	29,107	4,786	4,341,300
Occupancy	1,887,212	-	2,106	72,994	4,369	1,966,681
Equipment	712,944	112,721	6,026	38,621	3,263	873,575
Grants to others	175,000	-	-	-	-	175,000
Interest	50,137	-	-	-	-	50,137
Total expenses	<u>\$ 24,704,050</u>	<u>\$ 2,672,358</u>	<u>\$ 326,628</u>	<u>\$ 4,584,209</u>	<u>\$ 658,024</u>	<u>\$ 32,945,269</u>

The financial statements report certain categories of expenses which are attributable to more than one program or supporting function. Therefore, such expenses require allocation on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. The allocated expenses include salaries and benefits, as well as certain information technology and occupancy expenses, which are allocated on the basis of time and effort.

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***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management of CARA to make a number of estimates and assumptions relating to the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include the carrying amount of property and equipment and the valuation of grants and contracts receivables and long-term investments. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

***Long-Lived Assets***

Long-lived assets, such as property and equipment, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. If circumstances require a long-lived asset be tested for possible impairment, CARA first compares undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by an asset to the carrying value of the asset. If the carrying value of the long-lived asset is not recoverable on an undiscounted cash flow basis, an impairment is recognized to the extent that the carrying value exceeds its fair value. Fair value is determined through various valuation techniques, including discounted cash flow models, quoted market values, and third-party independent appraisals, as necessary.

***Sponsored Programs, Grants, and Contracts***

Governmental and private grants and contracts normally provide for the recovery of direct and indirect costs, subject to audit. CARA recognizes revenues associated with direct costs as incurred. Indirect costs recovered on federally sponsored programs are based on cost reimbursement rates negotiated with NASA, CARA's cognizant agency. Indirect costs recovered on all other grants and contracts are based on rates negotiated with the respective parties.

***Recently Adopted Accounting Standard***

On July 30, 2025, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2025-05, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses of Accounts Receivable and Contract Assets (ASU 2025-05). ASU 2025-05 is designed to reduce the cost and complexity of applying Topic 326 to current contracts receivable and current contract assets arising from revenue transactions from contracts with customers. It does this by introducing a practical expedient that permits an entity to assume current conditions as of the statement of financial position date do not change for the remaining lives of the current accounts receivable and current contract assets. It also provides for an accounting policy election for an entity to consider cash collection activity after the statement of financial position date when estimating expected credit losses. This accounting policy election may only be made if the practical expedient is also elected.

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September 30, 2025 and 2024

ASU 2025-05 is effective for the CARA beginning October 1, 2026. Early adoption is permitted. CARA is currently evaluating the potential impact ASU 2025-05 will have on its financial statements.

***Reclassifications***

Certain 2024 amounts have been reclassified to conform with the 2025 presentation. Such reclassifications had no effect on previously reported change in net assets.

***Subsequent Events***

CARA has evaluated subsequent events from the statement of financial position date through April 21, 2026, the date at which the financial statements were available to be issued. There are no other matters to disclose.

**(3) Liquidity and Availability**

CARA manages its financial assets and the availability of reserves required to meet its operating needs and other contractual commitments, while also striving to maximize the investment of its available funds. Financial assets classified below as available for general expenditures within one year are those that are considered both convertible to cash and free of donor-imposed and/or contractual restrictions that would limit or prevent the use of such cash to fund general expenditures.

At September 30, 2025 and 2024, CARA's financial assets available for general expenditures within one year were as follows:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Financial assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,198,078	\$ 552,025
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,440,000	402,285
Grants and contracts receivable	412,621	538,835
Contributions receivable	-	8,010
Long-term investments	<u>20,082,507</u>	<u>24,137,232</u>
Total financial assets	24,133,206	25,638,387
Less amounts not available to be used within one year:		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	(1,000,000)	-
Long-term investments in excess of redemptions limits	<u>(17,921,118)</u>	<u>(17,227,530)</u>
Financial assets available to meet general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 5,212,088</u>	<u>\$ 8,410,857</u>

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As part of its liquidity management plan, CARA monitors and then invests cash in excess of daily requirements in the UC STIP to maintain financial flexibility. To generate investment returns, cash in excess of annual requirements is invested in the UC TRIP and UC GEP funds. However, financial assets contain certain investments with limitations on liquidity that would reduce the total investments that could be made available but could not be accessed if warranted. See Note 4 for further disclosure about CARA’s investments.

CARA has a board-designated Director’s Fund (see Note 12) separate from its undesignated net assets without donor restrictions in the amount of \$1,601,463 and \$1,306,362 at September 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively. Although CARA does not intend to spend from the Director’s Fund other than amounts appropriated for general expenditures as part of its annual budget approval process, amounts from the Director’s Fund could be made available if necessary.

**(4) Fair Value Measurements**

The fair value of CARA’s investments have been estimated using the net asset value per share as a practical expedient, and in accordance with the FASB’s Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Subtopic 820-10, *Fair Value Measurement and Disclosures*, are not required to be presented in a fair value hierarchy. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at September 30, 2025 and 2024.

The following table summarizes CARA’s investments for which fair value is measured using the net asset value per share practical expedient as of September 30, 2025 and 2024:

	<u>Fair Value as of September:</u>		<u>Redemption Frequency</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents:				
University of California				
Short-Term Investment Pool	\$ 3,278,334	\$ 655,713	Daily	Trade date
Long-term investments:				
University of California				
Total Return Investment Pool	1,218,172	6,002,990	Monthly	30 days
General Endowment Pool	18,864,335	18,134,242	Monthly	30 days
	<u>\$ 23,360,841</u>	<u>\$ 24,792,945</u>		

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Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2025 and 2024

The following is a description of CARA’s investments:

**UC STIP** – is a highly liquid investment fund held by UC. Shares of the UC STIP are purchased and redeemed at a constant value of \$1 per share.

**UC TRIP** – is a unitized fund whereby CARA participates in investment returns and income on an equivalent pro-rated basis with all participants in the pool. The UC TRIP consists of the following investments at September 30, 2025: 65.0% public equity, 34.1% fixed income securities, and 0.9% cash. Under CARA’s investment agreements with UC, investments in the UC TRIP are redeemable at net asset value. As of September 30, 2025, the UC TRIP amounted to approximately \$9.9 billion, unfunded commitments amounting to approximately \$123.0 million.

**UC GEP** – is a unitized fund whereby CARA participates in investment returns and income on an equivalent pro-rated basis with all participants in the pool. The UC GEP consists of the following investments at September 30, 2025: 51.2% public equity funds, 25.2% private equity funds, 12.3% U.S. real estate funds, 3.0% fixed income, 1.1% cash, 3.5% private credit, 1.4% absolute return funds, and 2.3% real asset funds. Under CARA’s investment agreements with UC, investments in the UC GEP are redeemable at net asset value. The funds held in the UC GEP are not subject to an initial lockup period, however, fund redemptions are limited to 5% per year unless additional redemptions are approved by UC. As of September 30, 2025, the UC GEP amounted to approximately \$24.7 billion, with unfunded commitments amounting to approximately \$1.6 billion.

Due to the nature of the investments held by the funds, changes in market conditions and the economic environment may significantly impact the net asset value of the fund and, consequently, the fair value of CARA’s interests in the UC TRIP and UC GEP.

Net investment return for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024 are net of investment expenses and are comprised of the following:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Dividend and interest income	\$ 381,082	\$ 495,700
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	2,192,028	3,846,294
Net investment return	\$ 2,573,110	\$ 4,341,994

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**(5) Contributions Receivable**

In May 2022, CARA received a \$1,000,000 contribution from a foundation to be used for instrumentation and an internship program. Contributions receivable amounted to \$0 and \$8,010, respectively, as of September 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

**(6) Operating Revenues**

A summary of operating revenues for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024 follows:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Observatory operations (see Note 1):		
University of California	\$ 9,364,000	\$ 9,093,500
California Institute of Technology	9,364,000	9,093,500
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	4,899,000	4,775,000
Other	<u>2,200,737</u>	<u>2,004,529</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>\$ 25,827,737</u>	<u>\$ 24,966,529</u>

**(7) Property and Equipment**

A summary of property and equipment at September 30, 2025 and 2024 follows:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Observatory instrumentation and adaptive optics:		
Property and equipment	\$ 129,618,374	\$ 126,153,511
Construction in progress	<u>13,169,605</u>	<u>13,687,198</u>
	142,787,979	139,840,709
Observatory infrastructure:		
Property and equipment	5,265,156	5,265,156
Vehicles and equipment	<u>6,969,417</u>	<u>6,747,129</u>
	155,022,552	151,852,994
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(121,189,843)</u>	<u>(116,811,396)</u>
Total property and equipment, net	<u>\$ 33,832,709</u>	<u>\$ 35,041,598</u>

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Depreciation expense amounted to \$4,378,447 and \$4,341,300 for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

**(8) Note Payable**

In May 2021, CARA entered into an agreement with the Heising-Simons Foundation for a program related investment (PRI) loan in support of its strategic mission for the development and building of the Santa Cruz Array of Lenslets for Exoplanet Spectroscopy (SCALES) instrument. The loan was for \$2,500,000, unsecured, with 2% accumulated interest and principal due June 1, 2025, without prepayment penalties. Unused loan proceeds amounting to \$402,285 as of September 30, 2025 was reported as restricted cash and cash equivalents in the accompanying statements of financial position. This loan was paid in full April, 2025.

In July 2025, CARA entered into an agreement with the Heising-Simons Foundation for a program related investment (PRI) loan in support of its strategic mission for the development and building of the Keck Adaptive Secondary Mirror (KASM). The loan is for \$2,500,000, unsecured, with 2% accumulated interest and principal due June 30, 2029, without prepayment penalties. Unused loan proceeds amounting to \$2,440,000 as of September 30, 2025 is reported as restricted cash and cash equivalents in the accompanying statements of financial position.

**(9) Income Taxes**

CARA has received a determination from taxing authorities that it is an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code and is generally not subject to federal or state income taxes. However, CARA is subject to income taxes on any net income derived from a trade or business, regularly carried on, and not in furtherance of the purposes for which it was granted exemption. No income tax provision has been recorded as the net income, if any from any unrelated trade or business, in the opinion of management, is not material to the financial statements taken as a whole.

CARA applies the provisions of ASC Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, which prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return, and provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest, and penalties, disclosure, and transition. Management believes that no such uncertain tax position exists for CARA requiring accrual or disclosure at September 30, 2025 and 2024. CARA is no longer subject to U.S. federal income tax examinations by tax authorities for years before 2022.

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**(10) Related-Party Transactions**

Caltech and UC provide various instrument and adaptive optics development services to CARA. During the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024, total expenditures for these services charged to CARA were \$590,165 and \$677,598, respectively, by Caltech, and \$961,514 and \$2,143,236, respectively, by UC.

CARA provided services for projects on Caltech's observatory assets located in Hawaii, including the upgrade of HISPEC, ongoing upgrades of the telescope mirrors, telescope control system upgrades, instrument development, and various facilities improvements. During the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024, total expenditures for these projects were \$620,849 and \$1,065,613, respectively.

Additionally, CARA provided services for UC's observatory assets located in Hawaii, including development of the SCALES and the Keck Planet Finder (KPF) instrumentation projects. During the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024, total expenditures for the SCALES instrument project were \$1,488,546 and \$1,497,846, respectively.

CARA provided services for projects as a subaward to UC for instrument development. During the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024, total expenditures for these projects were \$68,909 and \$108,899, respectively.

CARA entered into a revolving loan and security agreement with the Regents of the University of California on December 14, 2022, for a maximum loan amount of \$5,000,000. The loan agreement expires on December 14, 2027. The interest rate on the revolving loan includes a Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) base rate per annum (equal to the SOFR which is published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System) plus forty-two and one-half basis points (0.425%) per annum. The loan is collateralized by CARA's investment funds held in the UC GEP. As of September 30, 2025 and 2024, there were no outstanding balances on the loan.

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**(11) Commitments**

CARA entered into various contractual agreements for operations, instrument and adaptive optics development, and facilities improvements. A summary of commitments at September 30, 2025 follows:

Operations	\$	2,457,515
Instrumentation		1,176,530
Adaptive optics systems		<u>1,699,157</u>
Total commitments	\$	<u><u>5,333,202</u></u>

**(12) Board-Designated Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions**

CARA established a board-designated Director’s Fund separate from its undesignated net assets without donor restrictions to be spent at the Observatory Director’s discretion, except that there is a ceiling of \$300,000 for each activity unless Board approval is obtained. The Director will report annually to the Board on the use of this fund. In 2025 and 2024, CARA received contributions of \$426,293 and \$363,144, respectively, which were board-designated for the Director’s Fund. At September 30, 2025 and 2024, the board-designated net assets amounted to \$1,601,463 and \$1,306,362, respectively.

**(13) Net Assets With Donor Restrictions**

Net assets with donor restrictions at September 30, 2025 and 2024 are restricted for the following purposes:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Instrument and AO development	\$ 216,396	\$ 1,093,390
Education and outreach	<u>579,394</u>	<u>862,257</u>
Total net assets with donor restrictions	<u><u>\$ 795,790</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,955,647</u></u>

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Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purpose or other events specified by the donor as follows for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Instrument and AO development	\$ 1,082,494	\$ 1,358,464
Education and outreach	632,645	619,706
Total net assets released from restrictions	\$ 1,715,139	\$ 1,978,170

**(14) Deferred Compensation**

***403(b) Plan***

CARA sponsors a defined contribution retirement plan (the Plan), which was established under Section 403(b) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. The Plan provides for CARA to make contributions at various percentages of base salary depending on the participant’s age and grade. Eligible employees, as defined in the Plan, may make contributions not to exceed amounts allowable under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Plan amounted to \$1,210,172 and \$1,276,456 for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

***457(b) Plan***

In 2014, CARA established a voluntary deferred compensation plan for a specific group of management designed in accordance with the provisions of Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code. The plan allows participants to defer a portion of their compensation until after employment termination. Assets in the plan are held by CARA on a non-trust basis and are subject to the claims of its creditors. The plan is funded entirely from the compensation of the participants and vests with the employee immediately. CARA makes no contributions to the plan. The 457(b) plan assets and related liability obligation to participants of \$955,848 and \$857,798 as of September 30, 2025 and September 30, 2024, respectively, are included within other assets and accounts payable and accrued expenses in the accompanying statements of financial position.