MUSEUMS MAKE A COMMUNITY.

A 2019 Annual Update from your friends at the Lakeshore Museum Center.
WHAT IS THE LAKESHORE MUSEUM CENTER?

More Than Just a Mastodon!

The Lakeshore Museum Center houses our natural and cultural history exhibits. It is comprised of multiple sites and buildings including the Hackley & Hume Historic Site, the Fire Barn Museum, the Scolnik House of the Depression Era, the Archives, the Collection Center and our Museum Store.

Mission

Our Mission is to inspire curiosity and wonder about Muskegon County’s natural and cultural history through our interactive exhibits and experiential programs.

Over the many years, the exhibits and programs have changed, but one thing stays the same – It’s a fun, FREE, great place to visit!

History

The Lakeshore Museum Center began in 1937 as the Muskegon County Museum. Over its 83 years it has had many homes, but the most permanent has been the old YWCA building which opened as the museum in 1983 and still houses the museum today.

The museum has been supported by a county-wide millage since 1981, and in 1986 the museum added the Hackley and Hume Houses to its operations. The restoration of the houses began and as new historic evidence is discovered we continue to update them as well as maintain and preserve their historic integrity.

Letter from the President and Board Chair

It is an exciting time to lead the Lakeshore Museum Center. 2019 was the year of planning our expansion; 2020 became the year of adapting. Despite closure during COVID-19, our talented and enthusiastic team never missed a beat in bringing museum fun out to the community. They created activities and videos available on our social media and website; they developed virtual field trips for students and teachers to attend from home; and they created online opportunities for anyone to search our existing artifact collection, and even add to it.

We are very proud of the team here at YOUR Muskegon museum. We have reached more people than ever with our programming and exhibits. It confirms the desire of our community for cultural resources and experiences. It is because of the county-wide millage you support that we are able to do these things. The museum has been a cornerstone institution for Muskegon County since 1937, and we continue to evolve based on the needs of the community.

We thank you for your ongoing trust and support of our work. After reading this report, we hope you will be as proud as we are of YOUR museum, the Lakeshore Museum Center.

Annoesjka Soler   Rob Johnson
President   Board Chair

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9 Buildings
53,644 Annual Visitors
808 People at Family Fun Nights
101 Volunteers
600 Annual Programs

Annoesjka Soler   Rob Johnson
President   Board Chair

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Part of being a community resource is making sure we have something for everyone. We strive to create programs and events that appeal to any age and invite our neighbors to come back time and time again.

MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME.

I still remember the first ASD Saturday we attended. My oldest son was so excited that his two siblings would enjoy the Lakeshore Museum for the first time with him! I applaud the Lakeshore Museum for beginning the inclusion movement in Muskegon! I pray that other local places follow the Lakeshore Museum’s lead and begin to have inclusion days/events. Autism awareness and inclusion leads to autism acceptance!” - Stephany Yack-Saavedra

Escape Hackley’s Attic:
“Keep doing it, it is a fun time to spend with friends. Something different like this that Muskegon needs. Loved it!!!” - Survey Comment

What people say:

100% stress free and kid friendly!! I always bring our friends from out of town too. Now that my kids are in school they really miss going as regularly as we used to.” - LeeAnn Lawie

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446
Parents and Children at Little Learners
(A Free Literacy Based Program)
WHERE SCIENCE AND HISTORY CONNECT US.

Education is the heart of what we do at the museum. We are proud to work closely with the MAISD and teachers to make sure we offer programs that support the needs of the schools.

"My third grade class LOVED this museum! It has so much Michigan history. The STEM activities are fascinating!" - Mary Burden

In 2019, we had 199 individual classrooms from 32 schools within Muskegon County visit the museum. Students came to learn about the Fur Trade Era in Michigan. The Furs to Fire Program hosted 34 classrooms interested in exploring life as a Fur Trader. Students used one of our educational Loan Kits. In 2019, 64 kits were checked out. These kits contain many useful and fun tools including books, specimens, and activities to enhance almost any lesson.

For the 2019/2020 school year we gave out bus grants to 15 schools which allowed 49 classrooms to visit the museum. The money given out in bus grants comes from private donations to the museum specifically for this cause.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY:

“BIG Lesson is always the highlight of our year. The students are immersed in the learning and are able to make meaning of and connections to history. Education has become student-driven and this week is truly all about the kids!” - Dee Lakos, 3rd Grade Lakeside Elem.

“BIG Lesson makes an impact. The museum’s amazing staff has teamed with me to create engaging, meaningful lessons that will stay with students for a lifetime.” - Tracy Lemkie, 4th grade, Beechnau Elem.

4,182
Students Served with Outreach

The museum went to 172 classrooms with topics such as STEM Magnets, Food Webs, and Michigan’s First People.

1,112
Student Visits Through Bus Grants

The money given out in bus grants comes from private donations to the museum specifically for this cause.

906
students came to learn about the Fur Trade Era in Michigan.

7,446
students came to the museum for programs. In 2019, we had 199 individual classrooms from 32 schools within Muskegon County visit the museum.

559
students took part in The BIG Lesson program. The museum had 22 individual classrooms participate and provided an additional 102 programs specifically to these students.

1,887
students used one of our educational Loan Kits. In 2019, 64 kits were checked out. These kits contain many useful and fun tools including books, specimens, and activities to enhance almost any lesson.
The main Lakeshore Museum Center has two full floors of exhibits to explore and make you wonder! From discovering prehistoric plants and animals of Michigan, to uncovering the way things work in our Science Center, there is always something new and exciting to experience here with popular permanent exhibits and must-see temporary ones you won’t want to miss!

1 Temporary Gallery
- 35th Anniversary of the Muskegon Civic Theatre
- Cheers! A History of Brewing in Muskegon

2 Mega Additions
- MoXie The Mastodon
- STEM Center

3 Hands-on Galleries
- Science Center
- STEM Center
- Body Works
The Lakeshore Museum Center collection contains over 55,000 items that are important to the natural and cultural history of Muskegon County. Statistically, only 10% of a museum’s collection is actually on exhibit with 90% being cared for in storage! This is a big job and the museum staff take pride in the quality of care they provide to protect and maintain the artifacts for future generations.

2019 STATISTICS

119 Research Requests
228 Research Hours by Staff
7,126 Archival Records Added
46 Donors
290 Donated Artifacts
9,079 Records Digitized and Made Available Through the Portal

ARGUS Public Portal went live in 2019. Accessible through our website, it allows the museum collection and archives to be searched by anyone in the world. 3,200 records were viewed through ARGUS within the first 3 months it went live.

ARGUS is partially funded with a MCACA Grant.

Crazy quilt created by Julia Hackley was conserved in 2019.

Button
Given out by Muskegon High School circa 1967.

Jewelry Box
Gold-plated jewelry box manufactured in 1902.

SAVING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

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Jewelry Box
Gold-plated jewelry box manufactured in 1902.
Built in the 1890s, the homes of lumber barons Charles Hackley and Thomas Hume are a treasured part of downtown Muskegon. The museum has been doing ongoing restoration since the 1980s. Also part of the historic sites is the Fire Barn Museum and the Scolnik House of the Depression Era.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY:

Houses Tour:
"Very cool experience the houses were very well preserved and it’s awesome that the city residents continue to support the restoration effort.”
- Cheryl Bolf

"Beautiful place and people are very friendly. We went to a door swag class and it was a lot of fun.”
- Naomi Johnson

A LASTING LEGACY – THE HISTORIC SITES.

7,145
Hackley & Hume Visitors

3,214
Scolnik House Visitors

3,351
Fire Barn Visitors

1,251
Visitors on FREE days

366
Escape Room Participants

“I have gone to the houses throughout the years but periods of time between visits. So this year I had a friend visiting from Louisville Kentucky. She loved it as well as I did. Was very impressed with restoration work and our curator was so knowledgeable.”
- Denise Perez

7,145

3,214

3,351

1,251

366

366
WHERE FUN & FINANCES COME TOGETHER.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2019, the museum consistently ran its operations under budget
- Program income was up 144% of the budget amount
- Exhibit costs were lower due to the fact we built both temporary exhibits in-house
- Program expenses were down because of generous underwriters and grants
- Admissions were up from 2018

2019 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
... SPEAKEASY

$23,948 Raised
108 Participants

“I had a great time at the Speakeasy! It was the bees knees for sure! I definitely plan on attending this again in the future.”
- Marie Cisneros
YOU are the future of history and we want you to be part of the museum. We have many different ways for you to become involved. History, natural history and science are the backbone of our community and the Lakeshore Museum Center wants to share that with you through our programs, exhibits, volunteer opportunities, and membership benefits. Be part of a growing community resource and a cornerstone of downtown.

NEW EXHIBITS COMING IN 2020/21

- HATS OFF TO MUSKEGON at the Museum Center
- CHASE-HACKLEY PIANO CO. & HOUSES AFTER THE FAMILIES at the City Barn
- TURTLE TRAVELS at the Museum Center
- L’DOR V’DOR at the Museum Center (Partnership Exhibit with the B’Nai Israel Temple and GVSU)

Would you like to donate something? The museum collects objects that are connected to Muskegon County and its history. To inquire about donating to the collection, please contact our Collections Manager.

We offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for youth and adults. Volunteers help out in many different departments within the museum ranging from collections to education and maintenance. To find out more contact our Volunteer Manager.

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Membership is a great way to support the museum and stay connected to all of the new and upcoming events and exhibits. Membership at the museum also gets you into sneak peaks, behind the scenes tours and reciprocal museum exchanges throughout West Michigan. To find out more contact our Guest Relations Manager.

Museum Center
231-724-5532
lakeshoremuseum.org
brenda@lakeshoremuseum.org

City Barn
231-724-5544
lakeshoremuseum.org
gwen@lakeshoremuseum.org

MEMBERSHIP
231-724-5523
lakeshoremuseum.org
graciela@lakeshoremuseum.org
County residents are our biggest supporters thanks to the millage. The millage keeps our doors open and admission free to the residents of Muskegon County. We also want to thank our grant providers. Grants help to build new exhibits, care for the collection, and pay for staff to give amazing programs and experiences.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

THANK YOU!
MUSEUMS MAKE YOU.

Free to Muskegon County residents thanks to your 40 years of millage support!

www.lakeshoremuseum.org

Lakeshore Museum Center
430 W. Clay Ave., Muskegon MI, 49440