THE FUTURE OF HISTORY

Our mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.
The Lakeshore Museum Center is fortunate to have sponsorship relationships with the business community in Muskegon. When businesses choose to underwrite our programs and exhibits, it allows the museum the opportunity to create something brighter and bigger than what we could have done on our own.

This summer, we would like to recognize three amazing partnerships. Cofessco Fire Protection and Shoreline Insurance Agency were natural partners for the Dangerous Things exhibit. As we look at the everyday things that were common in the past and see them through our 21st century lens, we realize that it’s amazing that people survived long enough to have children!

We can’t wait to give our partners a unique look at the exhibit in a sponsors-only behind the scenes tour. Trinity Health has joined the museum in a collaboration to make our Friday Family Fun Nights free to all visitors. During three special evenings, visitors can come from anywhere in the state to enjoy the activities and programs. These three businesses are helping the museum to fulfill its mission to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.

Thank You!
Over the summer months, a flurry of activity is happening in the Muskegon County Archives & Collections. Our team of two staff members plus many dedicated volunteers will help process new acquisitions, rehouse objects to assist in preservation, and research various topics for members of the public.

Behind the scenes, Archives & Collections staff work on researching for future exhibits. This multi-faceted work helps to bring the collections out of storage for visitors to see.

In the Muskegon Museum of History and Science, the Archives Case will feature the history of the Hackley Union National Bank building.

Today, this has been re-purposed to the HighPoint Flats apartment complex in downtown Muskegon. A recent donation of remarkable photographs and images from the collection will be highlighted to fill out the details. The exhibit will explore the timeline of Urban Renewal in Muskegon through the archival material and objects.

Jenn Bessinger, Collections & Exhibits Director & Archivist

Recent Acquisitions

- Christmas stocking owned by Helen Sherman
- Sons of Norway Sognefjord 523 archival collection
- Campbell, Wyatt and Cannon reference material
- Keys and keychain from Fitzpatrick Electric
- No-Sweat Animal Repellant manufactured by Dymo-Tech, Muskegon, Michigan
- Commodore 64 light bulbs from Fitzpatrick Electric 1930-1980
- Super Stick protective wax for boats manufactured by Wilbur Products, Muskegon, Michigan
- Silver metal pocket knife with two blades - knife and multi-tool, clip on back. Inscribed Fitzpatrick Electric, 50 years 1930-1980
- Spools of bismuth wire and raw bismuth used by Fitzpatrick Electric
- Map of Muskegon Harbor, MI, US Corps of Engineers, 1945
- Map of Muskegon Harbor, Lake Michigan, including Muskegon Lake, US Corps of Engineers 1911
- Black and white photograph of the construction of the Terminal Building by Dastk Construction, 1930
- Postcard: Residence of Dr. William Foster, Twin Lake, Michigan, Blackhouse on Sunnyside Bend in Muskegon State Park; Union Station, Muskegon, Michigan; Lake Michigan; Bathing Beach, Muskegon, Mich.; Bridge over White River near Rochdale Inn; Bruce Hotel, Muskegon Heights, Michigan, circa 1880
- Admission tickets for a two Lincoln Day Dinner with Congressman Guy Vander Jagt, Doo Drop Inn, February 19, 1973
- Two Footprint, Michigan, Village Tax Notices, 1946 and 1948 for Hansen’s Dairy Bar
- Frisbee Land Development Company, Muskegon, Michigan, sales pamphlet, 1911
- The Frisbee Company, Rivendale Inn, Frisbees, Montague, Michigan, newspaper advertisement.
- Muskegon Senior High School Commencement program and announcement. Held at L.C. Walker Arena, June 7, 1967
- Kieft’s Drug Store menu, circa 1938. Terrace Street and Irwin Avenue, Muskegon, Michigan.
- Photographs: Bunker Junior High Graduation Class, 1939, Portrait of Peter Hansen, circa 1950s
- Embroidered patch for Hansen’s ice Cream
- Embroidered merit badge for the Klondike Derby
- Two Fruitport, Michigan, Village Tax Notices, 1946 and April 30, 1977
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Three years of research have been behind an upcoming exhibit about Urban Renewal in downtown Muskegon. Slated to open in the summer of 2023, this particular exhibit has been aided by an incredible volunteer, Linda Potter. She has worked to research and write text on this much-requested topic.

The recently acquired Muskegon Chronicle collection has helped to fill out the details. The exhibit will explore the timeline of Urban Renewal in Muskegon through the archival material and objects.

Jeff Bessinger, Collections & Exhibits Director & Archivist

More to Explore

Muskegon Street Names explores some streets in Muskegon County, and how they got their names. The exhibit is on display in the Archives Case at the Muskegon Museum of History & Science, and includes an online map activity, where you can explore more streets that are not included in the exhibit.

WHAT’S ON VIEW?
Celebrating Through Time

The Lakeshore Museum Center is celebrating 85 years with an exhibit highlighting the Museum’s first leaders, donors, and objects collected. From the Ledger looks back at the inception of the Muskegon County Museum and its roots in the Muskegon Centennial Festival.

Learn about the earliest items that were added to the Museum’s collection and how our collecting practices have changed over 85 years. From the Ledger is on display in the front hallway of the Museum of History & Science.

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Visit us this summer to view Dangerous Things, the new temporary exhibit at the Museum of History & Science. Dangerous Things features a selection of items from the Museum’s permanent collection that are dangerous in some way.

Think about how danger surrounds us, even in our homes, and explore how these objects have gone from everyday items to learning tools.

Meet Safety Gwen and learn how to protect yourself if you encounter these items outside of the museum. Dangerous Things will be open May 14 - December 29, 2022.

Chant Collins, Exhibit Designer

New & Improved

The City Barn has a few new things to see this summer as well! The Hackley and Hume Family Trees exhibit has received a complete update. If you found the old one to be a little confusing, be sure to check out the new version! You will also see a large-scale photo mural depicting the Hackley and Hume Lumber Mill.

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Inspiring New Staff

This year we are excited to introduce five new Interpretive Staff Members at the Historic Sites. Each of them brings their own special skills and experience from a wide range of backgrounds.

Faye Skinner is new to the area but has strong family ties to Western Michigan. A recent graduate of Earlham College in Richmond Indiana, Faye brings three years of expertise in interpretation, exhibits, events, and collections working from the Joseph Moore Museum.

Kaylen Wheeler-Gooden loves history, the arts, and learning new things through experiences with people from all walks of life. She is looking forward to her first season as a Historic Sites interpreter where she can learn and share with others.

Sarah Johnston is a newer resident of Muskegon and has a passion for historical preservation and public education. She's excited to be joining the Lakeshore Museum Center team for the summer.

As a downtown Muskegon resident, Susan Stine-Johnson has walked by and toured the Historic Sites often. She looks forward to sharing the history of these museums with our visitors.

Zanee Davis is a mother to two daughters, and while they keep her on her toes, she loves to watch them learn and grow. Zanee has been a teacher for almost 12 years now and her love for education inspired a passion for museums. She is excited about what the LMC brings to our community.

Help us welcome them to our LMC family as we head into our 2022 touring season! Aaron Mace, Historic Sites Manager

Beyond the Swinging Door: Servant’s Tour

This summer’s buzz about the Dressing the Abbey exhibit at the Muskegon Museum of Art is so exciting for the community, and we’re just as excited to be partnering with them for programming that aligns with the Downton Abbey theme this summer.

On June 25, July 30, and August 27 join the Hackley and Hume Historic Site for Beyond the Swinging Door: Servant’s Tour.

Scan the QR code to learn more.

Erin Schmidt, Historic Sites Director

Time to Shine

After a long winter inside, the Historic Sites Maintenance team finally gets to shift their focus to outside projects this spring and summer. The Scholnik House of the Depression Era will be getting a much-needed facelift.

Areas of wood rot will be repaired and the whole building will receive a fresh coat of paint!

The team will also finish painting the southwest side of the Fire Barn Museum and make any necessary repairs to the exterior. Hackley, Hume, and City barn spot painting will continue, as well.

Another main area of concern will be the Hackley and Hume exterior porches. Numerous areas of rot will be patched, sanded, and repainted in a continual effort to maintain the original structures.

Bryan Strodtman, Historic Sites Buildings & Grounds Supervisor

Explore for the Summer

It is hard to believe that summer is upon us! I am excited to introduce two new summer programs to engage our youngest visitors and their families inside our museum galleries this summer; Museum Explorers and Mini Museum Explorers.

Once a month, our Mini Museum Explorers program will encourage West Michigan’s youngest museum visitors, ages 1-6, to explore one of our galleries in depth.

On the third Thursday of each month, we will be in a gallery for 2 hours sharing books, an activity, and a craft.

This drop-in style program is in addition to our regular Play and Learn groups on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.

Next, for our Museum Explorers program, we have developed some hands-on interactions for our 7-12 year-old visitors (and adults).

This program will meet on Tuesdays twice a month and focus on one topic. The activities will be things like cross-mending pottery like an archaeologist, learning Morse Code and trying to decode messages, thinking about what common household items might look like in the future, and many more.

We can’t wait to see you and your Museum Explorers and Mini Museum Explorers this summer!

Wendy VanWierkom, Program Assistant

A Walk Back In Time

With the warmer weather of summer, it is time for the museum staff to get outside and enjoy what Michigan has to offer.

To do this, we will be bringing back our summer walking tours for the third year. These tours occur on select Tuesdays and Fridays, June through August.

Returning from last year is our standard Downtown Muskegon History tour, which covers some of the most important buildings, people, and places from our community’s past, many of which are still around today.

This year we will be offering a new specialty tour called the Turn of the Century Tour. This tour will examine downtown Muskegon from 1900 to 1920 and focuses on the rebirth of Muskegon after the decline of lumbering.

Included will be the history of many of the new industries familiar to us today such as Continental Motors, Shaw-Walker, and Lakey Foundry among others and it will paint a picture of what life was like living in that time period.

This tour pairs perfectly with the Dressing the Abbey exhibit at the Muskegon Museum of Art and members of MMA or LMC will receive a discount on tickets.

Scan the QR code to learn more.

Patrick Horn, Program Manager

Wendy VanWierkom, Program Assistant

MUSEUM EXPLORERS
JUNE 7 & 21
JULY 5 & 19
AUGUST 2 & 16

MINI MUSEUM EXPLORERS
JUNE 16
JULY 21
AUGUST 18
Why do YOU Volunteer?

Volunteering is one of the more generous things a person can do. Those who do it are donating their skills, knowledge, expertise, and most importantly their time to a cause where they expect next to nothing in return.

We could not operate the same high-quality programming or maintain our collection of Muskegon County’s history without these dedicated individuals.

Volunteering isn’t only good for our community, but it’s also been found to be good for your health! Helpguide.org says that one of the ways volunteering helps our body and mind is by counteracting the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety while also improving our self-confidence. In general, volunteering creates a sense of purpose and makes you happy!

The Lakeshore Museum Center is a unique place to volunteer because we have so many different opportunities!

We have volunteers who help manage our extensive collections and archives by cataloging, photographing, and caring for 3D objects and documents. These volunteers are motivated by the delicate process it takes to handle and preserve these items.

Our Programming and education volunteers love interacting with guests. They work with visitors of all ages with things like scavenger hunts, Friday Family Fun Nights, school visits, and much more.

Some of these volunteers also work as Interpreters, taking guests on tours through the Muskegon Historic sites and the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry.

Do you volunteer or are you interested in volunteering?

Maybe you have a skill or expertise that the Museum could use.

You can reach out to Gwen at gwen@lakeshoremuseum.org to apply. We would love you to join our team!

Gwen Adams, HR Specialist & Volunteer Manager

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Ready for Summer

Summer is finally here after a long, wet spring. The first cruise ships are due in port this month. We’ll have extra open hours on Tuesday, June 7th and 21st to accommodate Pearl Mist passengers.

Muskegon has a long history of water transportation. Regular passenger service began about the time the city was incorporated. Ships like Goodrich Transit Company’s SS Alabama and Crosby Line’s SS City of Muskegon provided daily trips to Milwaukee and Chicago in the first decades of the Twentieth Century.

On June 3, 1941, the Milwaukee Clipper made its maiden voyage from Muskegon to Milwaukee, & offered year round service until 1963, switching to summer only trips for her last seven seasons.

In 2004, the Lake Express picked up the mantle and resumed passenger and automobile ferry service to Milwaukee.

Other notable car ferries operating out of Muskegon included the SS City of Milwaukee (1933-1978) and the LST-393 / Highway 16 (1948-1973).

Accidents, competition from rail lines and the Great Depression saw a lull in passenger service during the late 1930’s.

Overnight pleasure excursions on the Great Lakes ran from 1914 until the SS South American ceased operations in 1967.

It would take 47 years for a cruise ship to return to Lake Michigan. Starting on June 7th, that tradition returns to port. Join us in welcoming visitors from across the country and around the world!

Kirk Banke-Site Manager, Muskegon Heritage Museum

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Get Your Tickets

Step right up and try your hand at one of our many Muskegon Industry activities!

On June 22, from 5:30-7:30 explore the museum in a way you never have before.

Purchase tickets to take part in hands-on experiences throughout the museum including running our Brunswick Pinsetter, pouring your own cast metal item, trying your luck in our flight simulator, and many more!

Funds raised during the event will help support programs and exhibits at the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry. Advanced ticket sales are now available in the Museum Stores.

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Thank you Volunteers

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Telecommunication in the Days Before the Digital Revolution

Samuel Morse and Alexander Graham-Bell are two of the most famous inventors of the 19th Century. Their ideas ignited industries and allowed individuals to communicate across continents. Learn about the history of telecommunications companies in West Michigan and how analog telephone and telegraph systems work.

Friday, July 22, 2022

Foundry in a Box

Ever looked at a car part or cast-iron widget and wondered how it’s made? Many of the complex metal objects in our everyday lives were once molten metal cast in a foundry. The Muskegon area has been home to dozens of foundries over the years, large and small. Learn about these companies and the basic process used to produce countless creations.
What will you find?

After updating the inventories in the winter, spring came along and with it, the opportunity to re-stock our museum stores with new selections.

This is one of my favorite times of the year, as I get to do a lot of research to try to find new items that are relevant to our sites and exhibits.

I hope you enjoy stopping by our three museum stores when you visit the sites of the Lakeshore Museum Center this summer.

Giacelia Alberino-Stidham,
Guest Relations Manager

Can you match these photos with the sites they belong to? Your choices are The City Barn of the Hackley & Hume Historic Site; The Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business and Industry; and the Muskegon Museum of History & Science.

Lakeshore Museum Center members get 10% off gift store purchases.

Summer Events

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>Museum Explorers: Properties of Copper - FREE</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>June 9</td>
<td>Play &amp; Learn: Summer Session - FREE</td>
<td>10:00am - 11:00am</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>All Access Tours</td>
<td>7:30pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>June 11</td>
<td>Taste of Muskegon &amp; Historic Games in the Park - FREE</td>
<td>12:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>June 15</td>
<td>STEAM Workshop: Pioneer Science</td>
<td>9:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>June 16</td>
<td>Mrs Museum Explorers: Who’s in the Forest - FREE</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>June 16</td>
<td>Community Day: Telecommunication - FREE</td>
<td>11:00am - 4:00pm</td>
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<td>June 17</td>
<td>Walking Tours: Session 1: 10:00am - 12:00pm Session 2: 2:00pm</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
<td>Roaring 20s Tea Event</td>
<td>1:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
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<td>June 19</td>
<td>Father’s Day Free Tours to Muskegon County Dads</td>
<td>1:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
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<td>June 24</td>
<td>Hackley Attic Escape Room</td>
<td>5:00pm - 6:30pm</td>
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<td>June 25</td>
<td>Beyond the Swinging Door: Servant's Tour</td>
<td>6:00pm - 7:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>June 21</td>
<td>Walking Tours: Session 1: 10:00am - 12:00pm Session 2: 2:00pm</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>STEAM Workshop: Fluid Dynamics of Water &amp; Air</td>
<td>9:00am - 12:00pm</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>Carnival of Business &amp; Industry: Fundraising Event</td>
<td>5:30pm - 7:30pm</td>
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<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>STEAM Workshop: Archaeology</td>
<td>9:00am - 12:00pm</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
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<td>9:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>All Sites - Closed</td>
<td>9:00am - 10:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Museum Explorers: Morse Code - FREE</td>
<td>9:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td>Super Saturday: Dressing the Abbey Exhibit - FREE</td>
<td>11:00am - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>July 12</td>
<td>Walking Tours: Session 1: 10:00am - 12:00pm Session 2: 2:00pm</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>July 14</td>
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<td>10:00am - 11:00am</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>July 22</td>
<td>Community Day: Foundry in a Box - FREE</td>
<td>10:00am - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>July 25-29</td>
<td>Envirorocks - Camp</td>
<td>9:15am - 11:45am</td>
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<td>July 30</td>
<td>Beyond the Swinging Door: Servant’s Tour</td>
<td>6:00pm - 7:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>August 2</td>
<td>Museum Explorers: Past, Present, &amp; Future Objects - FREE</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>August 5</td>
<td>Walking Tours: Session 1: 10:00am - 12:00pm Session 2: 2:00pm</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 5</td>
<td>After Dark Tour</td>
<td>9:00pm - 10:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>Walking Tours: Session 1: 10:00am - 12:00pm Session 2: 2:00pm</td>
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<td>August 13</td>
<td>Sensory Saturday - FREE</td>
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<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
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<td>August 16</td>
<td>Museum Explorers: Immigrant Experience - FREE</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
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<td>August 18</td>
<td>Mini Museum Explorers: Historic Food - FREE</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
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<td>Beyond the Swinging Door: Servant’s Tour</td>
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<td>August 27</td>
<td>Community Day - FREE</td>
<td>11:00am - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History &amp; Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*We offer an open house style family programs each Saturday from 1PM*
Muskegon Museum of History & Science  
430 W. Clay Ave. Muskegon  
231.722.0278

Hackley & Hume Historic Site  
484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon  
231.722.7578

Fire Barn Museum  
484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon  
231.722.7578

Scolnik House of the Depression Era  
484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon  
231.722.7578

Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry  
561 W. Western Ave. Muskegon  
231.722.7578

www.lakeshoremuseum.org

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