A 2022 Annual Update from the Board and Staff of the Lakeshore Museum Center.

MUSEUMS MAKE A COMMUNITY.
WHAT IS THE LAKESHORE MUSEUM CENTER?

7 Museums, 1 Great Organization

In 2022, the overall focus for the year was on facilities maintenance. With nine old buildings, you can imagine that it is a never-ending task. At all of our museum sites, we addressed structural preservation and improvements to make our buildings work more efficiently. Some highlights were restoring the stained-glass windows at the Hackley & Hume Historic Houses, pouring a new basement floor at the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry, and new roofs on the Archives building and the Muskegon History & Science Museum.

9 Buildings

229 Annual Programs

53,885 Annual Visitors
(up 22,293 visitors since 2021)

219 Volunteers
(5,920 hours)
Mission

Our Mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.

History

The Lakeshore Museum Center began in 1937 as the Muskegon County Museum. Over its 85 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 History & Science Museum today.

The museum has been supported by a county-wide millage since 1981, and in 1986, we added the Hackley and Hume Historic Site to our operations. The restoration of the houses is a continuous process, and as new historic evidence is discovered, we make updates to maintain and preserve the houses’ historic integrity.

In 2020, the Muskegon Heritage Museum blended with the Lakeshore Museum Center. This new addition complements the mission and collection of the Lakeshore Museum and showcases the businesses that have shaped Muskegon into what it is today.

A Letter from the Board President & Executive Director

In trying to summarize 2022, the phrase “hold on to your hats” accurately speaks to the whirlwind year we had throughout all of our sites of the Lakeshore Museum Center. We began the year with the excitement of getting new roofs, only to have to overcome massive flooding at the History and Science Museum. Thanks to mother nature and freak storms, we had water all the way down into the Coming to the Lakes gallery. Staff pulled up their bootstraps and got everything back in shape fairly quickly. From there, we welcomed back the cruise ships and saw our programs and tours bounce back from previous years. We are so close to being back to pre-pandemic numbers!

The Board of Trustees continued to strategically work on moving the museum forward. They interviewed and hired a feasibility consultant, took development training, and oversaw eight facilities projects. Making sure that our buildings are safe and secure was a priority in 2022 and will continue into 2023.

Some major accomplishments felt throughout the whole organization were restoring the stained-glass windows and chimney at the Hackley and Hume Historic Site, installing the Dangerous Things exhibit at the History & Science Museum and pouring a concrete floor in the basement of the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry. We were also happy to welcome back some of our favorite programs, like the BIG Lesson, which hit a 20-year milestone in 2022.

We are looking forward to a strong 2023!

Melissa Horton
Executive Director

Michael Brower
Board President
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: CONNECTING IN MEANINGFUL WAYS.

The museum believes strongly in partnering with our community. In 2022, we did this in a variety of ways. At the Museum of History & Science, some of our collaborations included serving on the cultural committee for the Michigan Irish Music Festival, partnering with other downtown organizations for the first STEAM Along the Lakeshore event in Hackley Park, and bringing our trebuchet to Montague’s Pumpkin Fest. At the Hackley & Hume Historic Site, we collaborated with the Muskegon Art Museum for the Dressing the Abby exhibit, providing three unique programs to tie in with their show. Another partnership was recreating the feather cake recipe from Julia Hackley for the Taste of Muskegon event with Chef LaKisha Harris of Soul Filled Catering. The Heritage Museum of Business and Industry hosted the United Way Donor celebration and presented a program on the history of the Occidental Hotel with Occidental Eats.
They learned more than I thought they did!!
“Toured the grands to the Fire Barn on Monday, 7/18. Susan was our guide. What a blessing! She had all three kids engaged and interested the whole time… not an easy job! They talked about the Fire Barn over dinner and the campfire that night.
– Jodie Engelhardt
The Lakeshore Museum Center has always had a solid alliance with Muskegon County schools and teachers. In 2022, we served every elementary school in the county. In addition, every district was served with our preschool Dinosaur program and through it, we welcomed 1,112 students into our building. Our BIG Lesson program celebrated its 20-year anniversary, and we were able to bring back our popular Furs to Fire program, which is a 3rd grade Michigan History Week program that served 659 students.

In the fall of 2022, we celebrated 20 years of the BIG Lesson Program. This is a week long, teacher-led science and history immersion program hosted at our museum sites. During that time, we have served over 5,800 students from eight school districts in Muskegon County. Over the 20 years, we have witnessed that their hands-on learning experience has led to many life-long museum lovers.
Students that came to History & Science Museum.

Students served through our Outreach Program.

Students used our Loan Kits.

Students that took place in our BIG Lesson program with 23 classes participating.

WHAT LOCALS SAY:

My boys love this space and all the ways to explore and use their engineering minds!
– Leeza Garza

Always tons of cool things for my siblings to do here.
The staff is always very friendly
– Victoria Mahoney
2022 marked the museum’s 85th anniversary, and to celebrate, we highlighted some of the very first items donated to the museum in the From the Ledger exhibit. We also used our Annual Appeal to raise funds to restore our WPA historic dioramas.
The Lakeshore Museum Center collection contains over 60,000 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 these objects for future generations.
Currently, our Collection and Archives space occupies 14,000 square feet. In 2022, the Lakeshore Museum Center actively collected over 200 objects and 160 archival documents. We also had to decline 462 donations due to size, storage concerns, or because they were outside the scope of our mission. In order to prepare for the future, the museum will need to address our collecting limits and create a solution for more space, better accessibility, and modernization of environmental controls.

An Aerial Photo of the Muskegon Piston Ring Plant and the Corporate Office.

A six-piece Loring Andrews & Company sterling silver tea service owned by Constance Hume Koehler donated by her granddaughter Helen Read.

Advertising card for Achterhoff Mortuary, Muskegon, MI, circa 1950s.
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 Muskegon Historic Sites are the Fire Barn Museum and the Scolnik House of the Depression Era.

- Hackley & Hume Visitors: 4,356 (3,263 in 2021)
- Scolnik House Visitors: 2,627 (1,816 in 2021)
- Fire Barn Visitors: 2,906 (1,958 in 2021)
- Visitors on FREE days: 620 (166 in 2021)
WHAT PEOPLE SAY:

“Had a great time on the After Dark Tour! I highly recommend it as a must do in Muskegon! The staff were the best, very entertaining and kept us laughing.”

– Tina Schafer

Restoration is never-ending at the Hackley & Hume Historic Site. As these structures age, the museum is constantly faced with prioritizing which projects to take on each year. In 2022, we restored the stained-glass windows found in both houses, as well as the Hume North Chimney. Interior projects focused on finishing Peggy’s room in the Hume House. None of these projects would have been possible without generous donors from our community.

809
Visitors Attended the Holiday Tours

546
Cruise Ships participants

705
School Tour participants
The Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry had a fantastic 2022. They welcomed many new visitors through creative programming. Some of the highlights include a partnership program with local restaurant and neighbor Occidental Eats, featuring the history of the hotel and a tasting of the hot fudge sauce they were famous for. The Carnival of Industry was a family event themed to mimic an old-school carnival. Lastly, at the end of the season, the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry hosted trick-or-treating inside the museum, providing a safe, warm place for kids to celebrate. That event brought 300 visitors to the museum, and for most, it was their first time visiting.

3,814
Annual Visitors
(2,127 in 2021)

10
Special Programs and Events
(341 visitors for special programs)

833
Students
(including 295 Reeths Puffer 9th Graders in School Programs)

2,806
Volunteer Hours
Served by MHM
“Going museum hopping in Muskegon is quite fun, but we didn’t even know this one existed! We drove by and saw a sign that said ‘Museum Open’ and had to stop! From the outside, it looked like a quick in and out visit with a couple of rooms, but inside a whole world of history comes alive in an elongated three-story museum devoted to Muskegon’s businesses and industry. There is so much to look at in here, but instead of feeling cluttered, it is very easily accessible. The workers are also very energetic, informative, and quite nice. This hard-working museum was one of the most pleasant surprises we had in our day trip to Muskegon and can’t wait for a return visit!”
- Thomas Moore

“I was surprised by this museum. They have an assorted collection of items made in Muskegon, most which I did not expect. The city has a varied history starting with lumber production to more modern conveniences. I enjoy learning about the history of the places I visit, and this did not disappoint, taking over 1.5 hours to wander around. The staff was friendly and helpful, eager to talk about their collection. Worth a visit if you enjoy local history.”
- Brian Johnson
Our funding comes from a variety of sources that include a county-wide millage, memberships, foundation funds, program income, and corporate and individual donations. One of the biggest highlights of the year: we applied for and received the Employee Retention Credit (ERC). This was a huge help in overcoming the pandemic’s lost revenue and helping to offset the losses we felt in the stock market. Our investments came in at a loss of $71,000 in 2022.
An Evening with the Hackleys was such a fun event in 2021 that we brought it back again in 2022 as the annual fundraiser. The focus of the night was the giving boards, which featured a variety of needs put forth by museum staff. We also had corporate sponsorships for the Dangerous Things exhibit and our Holiday Tours. We received grants from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the Michigan Museums Rescue Grant.

WE PUT THE “FUN” IN FUNDRAISING.

2022 FUNDRAISING

$36,459
Membership Income

$251,387
Development Income
(donations for appeals, fundraisers, grants, and foundation funds)

For more information on making a financial contribution directly to the museum, or to one of our funds at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, contact our Executive Director at melissa@lakeshoremuseum.org or 231-724-5529.
THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!
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. Cultural, industrial, and natural history, as well as 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 2023
- ATTACK OF BLOODSUCKERS
  Open now through May 13
  Muskegon Museum of History & Science

COMING SOON
- URBAN RENEWAL
  Muskegon Museum of History & Science
- MUSKEGON OIL BOOM
  Muskegon Museum of History & Science
- JOSEPH SADONY
  Muskegon Museum of History & Science
- AMAZON KNITTING COMPANY
  Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry

NEW IN 2024
- YOU ARE HERE: MUSKEGON MAPS
  Muskegon Museum of History & Science
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.

**DONATION**
231-724-5532
lakeshoremuseum.org
brenda@lakeshoremuseum.org

We offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for youth and adults. Volunteers help out in many different capacities within the museum, including working with collections, doing programs and tours, and helping with maintenance. To find out more, contact our Volunteer Coordinator.

**VOLUNTEERING**
231-724-5544
lakeshoremuseum.org
marci@lakeshoremuseum.org

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.

**MEMBERSHIP**
231-724-5522
lakeshoremuseum.org
graciela@lakeshoremuseum.org
County residents are our biggest supporters thanks to the millage. The millage keeps our doors open and admission to the Muskegon Museum of History & Science free to the residents of Muskegon County year-round.

The Muskegon Museum of History & Science and the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry are also proud to offer free admission to those who qualify through the Museums for All program. The Hackley & Hume Historic Site offers discounted admission through this program.

Admission to all museum sites is free for active military personnel and their immediate family as part of the Blue Star Program.

Free tours of the Hackley and Hume Historic Site, Fire Barn Museum, and Scolnik House of the Depression Era are offered to Muskegon County residents every weekend in October.

Operational support for October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023 was provided by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and National Endowment of the Arts.

Funding for programming was provided by the Michigan Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP).
THANK YOU!
MUSEUMS MAKE YOU.

The Muskegon Museum of History & Science is free to Muskegon County residents thanks to your 40 years of millage support!

www.lakeshoremuseum.org

Lakeshore Museum Center
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