Our mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.
FROM THE TEAM
The staff here at the Lakeshore Museum Center (LMC) is driven by our mission, which is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment. When looking at our impact, we compare everything that we do back to three words from our mission: collecting, preserving, and interpreting.

COLLECTING PRESERVING INTERPRETING

Collecting for the Community and Preserving for the Future
LMC is offered a variety of items from various donors each year. Our Acquisitions Committee meets to determine what items will be added to the permanent collection. There are many factors that determine if an item will be accepted, including the items history, if it fills a need in our collection, and our ability to care for the item properly. In 2023, 1,606 items were offered for donation. After review, 741 of those items were accepted into our collection.

At times, items need to be removed from the collection, due to deterioration or the object becomes unstable, duplication, etc. In 2023, 339 items were deaccessioned and removed from our collection.

Once an item is accepted into the collection, it needs to be cared for. We are legally obligated to care for the objects in the collections for the rest of their lifetime. In 2023, we did extensive restoration on our WPA Lumbering Dioramas. Thanks to our generous 2022 annual appeal donors, we were able to send our dioramas to Detroit for conservation. I hope everyone reading this will make a point to stop in and see them. They look amazing.

1,606
Donations Offered

741
Donations Accepted

Some of the newly accepted donations:

Barrel-making tools from Muskegon Barrel Company, donated by John K. Noor

Materials from Achterhoff Mortuary & Ambulance Service and Rolland Achterhoff, donated by Daniel Achterhoff

Golf Bag Caddy manufactured by Noren Products Company in 1955, donated by Andrew Noren
RESTORING for the Future

Another part of caring for our collection includes caring for the buildings they are in. The LMC owns and operates nine buildings, seven of which we run as museums plus the Collections Center and Archives building.

Historic Diorama Restoration

Thanks to our generous donors we raised funds to restore six lumbering dioramas that were funded through the Works Progress Administration in 1941.

Here is a list of Restoration and Maintenance projects we completed in 2023:

1. Hume Dining Room Window – in progress
2. Heritage Museum of Business & Industry Windows on Second Floor
3. Hackley Porch Work – ongoing
4. Depression Era House Roof Replaced
5. New Furnaces at Heritage Museum of Business & Industry
6. New Water Shut-Off Valve at Muskegon Museum of History & Science
7. Mold Remediation at Muskegon Museum of History & Science
8. New A/C unit for Archives Building
10. Backflow Preventers Installed at Fire Barn Museum and Depression Era House Museum
11. Collection Center Roof Resealed
12. Hackley Grandfather Clock cleaned and restored
INTERPRETING for Fun

Interpreting the history of Muskegon County takes on many different forms. While our exhibits are a big part of that, we also have many programs that help us connect with the community. Once a quarter we offer our Sensory Saturday program which caters to kids with sensory disorders in our community. Quarterly, we also offer Time Well Served, which gives female inmates from Muskegon County a chance to visit with their children at the museum as opposed to subjecting small children to a jail visit. Twice a month, we have Play and Learn for birth to age three, and we recently received funding to take our Play and Learn on outreaches, including to the Muskegon Rescue Mission and Every Women’s Place. At the History and Science Museum, we have Friday Family Fun Nights once per month in Fall and Spring, and our Heritage Museum of Business and Industry offers free Community Days once a month May-October. We also offer our auditorium space to local nonprofits, including Dads on Deck and QPro+.

Our School Programs are a large part of what we offer at the Lakeshore Museum Center and a significant part of our community engagement. We work with the MAISD transition program, doing job training with the students ages 18-26. We visit schools on outreaches, reaching 124 classrooms in 2023! Our Homeschool program invites students from throughout the county to engage in learning with other homeschooled students. Our dinosaur program is part of Muskegon County preschool curriculum, and keeps us busy in March; last year we saw 450 kids. One of the school programs we are most proud of here is our Big Lesson, which turned 20 this year! During the Big Lesson, students spend an entire week using all the museum sites as their classroom, doing various activities both with staff and their teachers.

BUT—we are NOT just a museum for children! The Lakeshore Museum Center has something for everyone of any age! Our adult programs include summer walking tours, the amazing race program, Library History topic presentations, True Crime, Clue Live, Escape Rooms, and Scandal. This year we also hosted Mall Madness in conjunction with our Urban Renewal exhibit.

In the summer, we run a teen program (Junior Museum Professionals) that provides an opportunity to learn more about working at the museum, connecting with our mission, and contributing to their communities. Our students range from 11-15 years old and come from various school districts throughout the county. When they are with us, they are learning skills such as public speaking and creating and presenting programs.
MUSKEGON MUSEUM of History & Science

School Programs: 9,101 participants
Outreach Programs: 124 classrooms; 3,165 participants
Community Programs Youth: 5,700 participants
Community Programs Adult: 748 participants
Big Lesson: 447 participants
Family Fun Night: 406 participants
Play and Learn: 471 participants
Saturday Programs: 1,145 participants
ASD Saturday: 47 participants
School Loan Kits: 2,252 participants

HERITAGE MUSEUM of Business & Industry

School Tours: 793 participants
Big Lesson: 257 participants
Community days: 341 participants
Tiny Tots Trick or Treat: 119 participants
Homeschool Days: 29 participants
Corporate Events/Tours: 262 participants
40th Anniversary Event: 55 participants
## Programs by the Numbers

**Hackley & Hume Historic Site**

- School tours: 810 participants
- Big Lesson: 452 participants
- Cruise Ship Excursions: 219 participants
- After Dark Tours: 87 participants
- Mother’s Day: 41 participants
- Father’s Day: 7 participants
- Hackley Day: 74 participants
- Hackley Day Community Celebration: 166 participants
- CLUE Live: 66 participants
- Scandal Tour: 36 participants
- Flashlight Tours: 35 participants
- Obituary Tours: 117 participants
- Holiday Tours: 951 participants
- Free Weekends in October: 285 participants

## 2023 By the Numbers

### Grants:

- **MI Nonprofit Relief Fund**
  - $25,000 for general operations
- **Howmet**
  - $30,000 for STEM programs and exhibit upgrades
- **MI Arts & Culture Council**
  - $26,000 for general operations
- **MAISD Great Start Collaborative**
  - $2,500 for Play and Learn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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### Website Statistics

- **Website Page Views**: 143,566
- **Users (Visits)**: 54,367
- **New Users**: 54,032

### School Program Participants

- **Historic Sites**: 1,408 participants
- **Heritage Museum of Business & Industry**: 981 participants
- **Heritage Museum of History & Science**: 14,965 participants

### Development Income (Donations)

- **Total**: $266,411.28
  - **2023**: $251,919.91
  - **2022**: $7,491.37

### Admissions Income at All Sites

- **2023**: $79,483.00
- **2022**: $81,622.00

### Argus Online Portal

- **2023 Site Visits**: 15,403
- **2022 Site Visits**: 44,203
- **Records Viewed**: 44,203

### Argus Online Portal Revenue

- **2023**: $33,949.26
- **2022**: $30,157.98

### Volunteer Hours

- **Total**: 6,978.74 hours

### Podcast Downloads

- **Total**: 5,617 downloads

### YouTube Views

- **Total**: 19,824 views

### TikTok Views

- **Total**: 71,421 views
FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE
2023 INCOME & EXPENSES

INCOME
Total $2,547,896.83

EXPENSES
Total $2,101,362.53
Attack of the Bloodsuckers  January 2023 - May 2023

Attack of the Bloodsuckers debuted in January and delighted visitors through May of 2023. This exhibit was full of amazing facts on the creatures that feast on human blood. The highlight of the exhibit was the live leeches and mosquitoes (and yes, over the six months, we did have a few Houdinis who made their escape). This was a rental exhibit and very well received by the public.

Urban Renewal  June 2023 - May 2024

Urban Renewal opened in June of 2023 and was designed and built in-house. This exhibit examined the changes that downtown Muskegon has gone through, beginning in the 1940s and ending with current plans. A few of the favorite parts of this exhibit were the recreated Kris Moose and mall fountain along with the historic walk down Western Avenue.

Looking Ahead  Future Planning

One of the things the board and staff are working on is future planning. We are currently out of space at both of our storage facilities, and neither building is a good home for collections (they both are attached to restaurants which bring fire, pest, and insect dangers). We also need to address the fact that our current History & Science building is not very accessible. One of the things we have been exploring for the past six years is could we expand? We don’t know, and so we are working with a consulting firm to do a feasibility study to find out. We are hoping to have results in the spring. The idea is to consolidate our collections and archives storage into the current museum and build new accessible exhibits and space next door.
NEW
Upcoming in 2024

REPAIRS Historic Preservation

**FIRE BARN MUSEUM**
of the Lakeshore Museum Center

One of the first projects we are undertaking in 2024 is the replacement of the Fire Barn Museum doors. The wood is original to the 1970s construction and is rotting and sagging to the point where we can no longer open the doors. Thanks to a private donor, we have been working with Grand River Builders to build new ones that were installed in late February.

**SCOLNIK HOUSE OF THE DEPRESSION ERA**
of the Lakeshore Museum Center

Another spring project is the turret on the Scolnik House of the Depression Era museum. Thanks to our 2023 annual appeal donors, we will be able to explore the extent of the damage and begin repairs. This work will also be done by Grand River Builders.

**HACKLEY & HUME HISTORIC SITE**
of the Lakeshore Museum Center

Finally, the biggest project we are undertaking in 2024 is the Hackley Roof. This is a costly project that will be funded through a grant from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council, our savings, private donors, and possibly a state appropriation.
Thanks to our Howmet grant, the STEM center is currently under construction. New interactives will be installed and others updated, along with a new STEM challenge and award.

At the MHMB&I, we are looking forward to new RENK and Fisher Steel exhibits.

In June, we will welcome Paleo Joe and his Dino Bones into the temporary gallery at MMH&S. Dino Bones will be on display through December 30.
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
231.722.1363

www.lakeshoremuseum.org