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.

MARCH • VOL. 24 • ISSUE 1 • 2024

LAKE SHORE MUSEUM CENTER
MUSEUMS MAKE YOU CONNECT.

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The Magic of Spring

As a person who loves nature, the arrival of spring is one of my favorite things. I find joy in witnessing the revival of vibrant green grass, the unfolding of leaves, and the emergence of colorful flowers. These elements resonate deeply with my passion for our museum’s natural history collection. From fascinating rocks to intricate fossils, our exhibits are invaluable resources for local schools, and they have been an integral part of my journey within the museum field. Today, visitors seek immersive experiences, wanting to witness the wonders of nature up close and in their natural habitats. This evolving trend mirrors the dynamic changes in natural history exhibits over the years.

Furthermore, spring at the museum brings a different kind of magic – the excited chatter of children exploring our halls during field trips and programs. These moments, filled with curiosity and wonder, are among my favorite things. It is heartening to see the next generation discovering their fascination with our natural world within the museum’s walls.

As we welcome spring, I invite you to explore the beauty of the season and join us at the museum. Our exhibits await, promising an immersive journey into the wonders of nature and Muskegon’s history. Come be part of the magic!

Ensuring the Museum Is Here Forever

The Lakeshore Museum Center is excited to announce the creation of a legacy society called The 1937 Legacy Society of the Lakeshore Museum Center. This name acknowledges the year we were formed and honors the individuals who had the vision to create a museum for the benefit of all who live in or visit the Muskegon area.

What does this mean for you? You can leave a gift to the Lakeshore Museum Center in your estate plan or will or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy. It can be in the form of cash, stock, or another asset.

Your gifts will help support our mission “to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment” for generations to come.

In the coming weeks, we will be working to identify donors who already have the museum in their estate plans. If this is you, please reach out to us to let us know. More information will be coming your way soon.

Melissa Horton
Executive Director
2023 Acquisitions in Review

The Lakeshore Museum Center actively collects objects and archival material relevant to Muskegon County’s natural and cultural history. In 2023, 1,606 objects were offered to the museum as a donation. These items are reviewed by the Acquisitions Committee and the Board of Trustees for their relevance to Muskegon County, condition, and the ability for the museum to care for the objects. Through that process, 741 objects were selected for the collection in 2023.

Once an object becomes part of the collection, it does not always stay in storage. Objects and archival material are used in exhibits and programs, researched by community members, and available digitally on the public portal.

More objects are added to the public portal each month. Visit lakeshoremuseum.org for the link.

93 Research Requests
8,848 Objects Exhibited in 7 Museums
11,757 Objects Viewable on the Public Portal

Brenda Nemetz, Collections Manager and Registrar

Collections Internship

Hello, I'm Emma Elliott, a junior at Grand Valley State University, where I'm majoring in anthropology with a minor in writing. My academic journey is driven by a deep passion for uncovering the mysteries of the human past, particularly through archaeological anthropology. During the summer of 2023, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in an archaeological dig along the Grand River, gaining hands-on experience, particularly with Native American and 19th-century lumbering artifacts.

My fascination with anthropology extends beyond cultural exploration; I'm also pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree, delving into the biological aspects of this multifaceted field. Looking ahead, my aspirations lie in the museum field. I am eager to contribute to preserving and showcasing cultural heritage, and I envision a fulfilling career in a museum setting. In my post-undergraduate studies, I plan to further my education in museum studies, combining academic knowledge with practical expertise to make meaningful contributions to the preservation and presentation of our shared human history.

In the fall of 2023, I started a position at the Lakeshore Museum Center as a general museum intern, where I got to learn and understand the different facets of the museum field from archives, exhibits, collections, and historic sites to programming and education. This allowed me to understand the inner workings of the museum and the culture. As a byproduct, I found my interest and passions flourished in Collections.

Upon the completion of the fall semester, I sought out and was welcomed back for a follow-up internship in the Collections Department, where I continue my work predominantly with Native American artifacts and exhibits, helping with photographing, cataloging, condition reports, and so much more for new and current exhibits and the museum’s collections that are not on display. I have learned so much through my time at the Lakeshore Museum Center and cannot wait to continue expanding my knowledge and experience!
Exhibits Team’s Favorite Things

Looking back at the past year and looking forward to our upcoming schedule

My favorite thing about both the past and upcoming year has been directing more focus toward refreshing permanent exhibits. The STEM Center was renovated and rearranged in January to open up the gallery space and improve traffic flow. An upgraded racetrack, magnetic wall, and robotic surgery activity, along with some other minor enhancements, will be introduced in April. Designing the racetrack and the robotic surgery have been among John's, our Exhibit Technician, favorite projects as well.

Earlier this year, we removed the mannequins from Coming to the Lakes. After years on display, the mannequins were in poor condition and in need of retirement. The entrance to the gallery now has more space to accommodate large groups and is prepared for future updates. In the coming year, we plan to open the entrance/exit even more, improve the security and visibility of the vehicles on display, and add a new visitor interaction.

The Rain Cycle activity in the Discovery Center has been an ongoing issue with balls getting jammed in the system for various reasons. After trying multiple ways to resolve the issue, one of John’s favorite accomplishments from the past year has been minimizing the jamming issues.

We are both thrilled to welcome a new member to our team, Patrick Holmes. Patrick is already part of the Lakeshore Museum Center family and has transferred to the Exhibits and Collections department from the Guest Relations department.
Winter Activities

While from the outside the Historic Sites may seem quiet this time of year, inside there is a flurry of activity. Sometimes it feels like our closed season is even busier with all the planning and projects that happen before we open to our visitors once again.

Our team began the year with the process of undecorating the Houses. This includes working with our decorating groups as well as taking down and packing away our own decorations. We are also completing a Site inventory of the 5,500 artifacts in our five buildings. This not only involves physically checking each item but also updating its information in our collection database. Deep cleaning also happens in our closed season, and great care is taken to carefully clean the walls, ceilings, floors, furniture, and smaller artifacts in every single room.

Winter is also a time when a great deal of planning happens. This winter our team is working on our recurring programs like the Hackely Day Community Celebration, as well as a new classic card game program and revamping our school tours.

In no time at all, we’ll be open once again for the 2024 season!

Aaron Mace, Historic Sites Manager

A Stained Glass Window in the Chimney

One of my favorite things to point out to visitors who take a Hackley & Hume tour is the stained glass window that is in the middle of a chimney—which is an unusual place to see a window. This stained glass window above the fireplace in the 2nd parlor of the Hackley House creates a unique circumstance for the fireplace’s flue. The fireplace’s flue is essentially split in two. The fireplace in the second parlor utilizes one side of the flue, allowing the smoke from the fireplace to go up that side. You may be asking what happens with the other side of the flue. Well, on the second floor of the house, there is another fireplace directly above the one in the second parlor. This second floor fireplace uses that other side of the flue.

This unique feature allows for the beautiful stained glass window to be present in a place that would not be normally seen. David Hopkins, the architect of the Hackley & Hume Houses, used this feature in some of his other house plans as well. There are many unique and interesting things about the Muskegon Historic Sites, but this is one of my favorites.

Hannah Erdman, Historic Sites Program Assistant
One of the great things about ending the year is that we get to look back at our numbers and all the various programs we led or were a part of in the community. In the past few years, we have been trying to grow the museum’s presence outside of our walls and outside of school programs.

In 2023, that really came to fruition. The programming staff at the Museum of History & Science interacted with over 8,000 participants this last year in a wide variety of programs. The past year saw staff traveling to Country Dairy in New Era, the Baby Food Festival in Fremont, and Grand Valley State University in Allendale to name a few.

We attended many festivals in Muskegon County including Sportsmen for Youth, Michigan Irish Music Festival, where we led the children's area, and Pumpkinfest in Montague, where we chucked some pumpkins with our trebuchet for attendees. We took visitors out and about with tours throughout the year. Our two summer tours brought locals and out of county guests throughout downtown Muskegon focusing on its past, and our Urban Renewal tour brought back many memories of the downtown Muskegon Mall and its history. Other specialty tours included a bike tour around the south and east side of Muskegon Lake and a cemetery tour at Oakhurst Cemetery in Whitehall. In addition, we led a bus tour for a group of television educators from around the United States who were attending a conference in Grand Rapids. Our beach was a huge highlight for them.

Overall, we had a great time getting outside of the museum and bringing history and science into the community. We made lots of new connections and partnerships throughout the area, and we hope to continue this in 2024. We feel that these outings have been a great way to see museum regulars and to engage those who have not yet visited our sites to see all of the great things we offer.

Patrick Horn, Program Manager
The West Michigan Pike Association

As the weather turns toward spring, thoughts of the upcoming travel and tourism season kick into gear. Tucked away in a corner near the Board of Trade exhibit at the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry (MHMB&I), guests will find a concrete post that anchors an exhibit on a little known travel promotion scheme from the early 20th century. This reproduction represents more than a century of economic effort.

The West Michigan Pike Association was founded in 1908 to promote travel and auto tourism along the shore of Lake Michigan. They identified, marked, and mapped a route from Chicago to Mackinaw City. It became the first continuous paved road built in West Michigan and was constructed between 1911 and 1922. Every mile along the route was meant to be marked with a concrete post labeled “West Michigan Pike.” The Association never quite marked the whole route because it changed almost every year until it became U.S. 31.

The concept worked better than the association founders could have ever imagined. Hundreds of new businesses sprang up to cater to the new class of tourists and their Tin Lizzies, Buick Sixes, and Willys Overlands. Tourist camps, motor courts, motels, service stations, and restaurants quickly dotted the countryside. Some of those small businesses continue to thrive to this day.

Two original Pike markers are still standing along the route in Ottawa County. A marker from the 1916 route is located along 152nd Avenue near Luce Street in Grand Haven Township. There is another on Seventh and Fulton in the City of Grand Haven. This one is not in its original location but was moved from farther down Sheldon Road to replace a missing post. The Ottawa County Road Commission has two posts in its collection.

Our reproduction was fabricated with the assistance of the Ottawa County Road Commission and form makers at Bush Concrete. Two were produced at the time. One is on display at the MHMB&I on the second floor. The other is along the historic route on Western Avenue in Muskegon, near the intersection with Third Street.

There are copies of modern turn-by-turn instructions for the 1915 West Michigan Pike route from Holland to Ludington available near the exhibit at the MHMB&I. Grab one on your next visit and take a trip back in time!

MHMB&I reopens for the 2024 season on Wednesday, May 1. We will once again be able to offer six Community Days thanks to generous corporate sponsors this season. Each Community Day will be held on the first Saturday of the month, beginning May 4. Look for the complete list of themes and sponsors in a future newsletter.

Kirk Bunke, Site Manager
These Are a Few of My Favorite Things!

It's virtually impossible to single out a favorite "thing" in our museums. Is it the captivating melodies of the Player Piano or the futuristic allure of the Bowden Spacelander bicycles at the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry? Perhaps it's the ancient intrigue of the Eryops in Depths of Time at Muskegon Museum of History and Science, or the tranquil ambience of the library within the Hume House. While some individuals easily identify a favorite object or artifact, others gravitate towards entire exhibits. And that is my favorite part—there is something for everyone!

For many, the highlight of their museum experience isn't a tangible item at all but rather a program. Yet again, selecting a favorite proves daunting. Whether it's MHMB&I Community Days, Tiny Tots Trick or Treat, Smashing Pumpkins, our 1920s Tea, Hackley Day, or the Lumber Baron's Ball, our calendar is brimming with diverse offerings throughout the year. We cater to our youngest visitors with Play and Learn sessions, providing engaging activities tailored just for them. For our adult audience, we organize guest speaker events and offer enriching experiences. We also have Friday Family Fun Nights, a family-friendly activity suitable for all ages, ensuring there's something enjoyable for everyone in our community to partake in.

However, if pressed to pinpoint one ultimate favorite aspect of the museum, it would undoubtedly be our community impact. We welcome students from every district in the county, extend outreach programs to schools and local community centers, provide meeting spaces for fellow nonprofits, host Time Well Served initiatives and blood drives, and actively participate in community events. Our impact stands as a testament to our enduring commitment to our community. We have seen former Big Lesson students returning to be Big Lesson teachers, former Big Lesson teachers returning as Volunteers, and former Volunteers leaving behind legacy gifts to allow us to continue to further our mission. We are honored to be part of this vibrant and growing community, and we hope to continue to impact it for years to come.

Marci Dalm, Volunteer & Event Coordinator

Marci attends LBB 2023

Volunteer Lynn teaches Log Marks at MHMB&I

Eryops in Depths of Time

Staff and volunteers manned the WeeOnes tent at MIMF

Guest Relations’ Patrick Holmes leads an impromptu lesson on one of his favorite exhibits, “Passenger Pigeons in Flight”
MEMBERSHIP & GIFT STORES
Benefits of Being a Member

♪♪ These Are a Lot of My Favorite Things ♪♪

It was so much fun sourcing tie-in merchandise for the MMH&S gift store to support Bloodsuckers (remember the ticks, mosquitos and bedbugs stuffed animals?), and all the Muskegon and 80s pop culture items to support Urban Renewal and to promote Lumber Baron’s Ball. The Back to the Future fundraiser was such a successful blast, getting to play dress up while fulfilling many of our organization’s needs.

Another highlight was having my daughter join the work we do as a museum through the Junior Museum Professionals program. This allowed us to engage with our community together at several events last summer, not only furthering the museum’s mission but also making wonderful memories.

The membership exchange opportunities we have are very dear to my heart; imagine the joy it gave me to find out that over 400 of our members (that means most of you!) enjoyed free admission at the John Ball Zoo through our membership exchange benefits in September. This year, we have two new partner organizations: the Sandcastles Children’s Museum in Ludington and the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo. Please see our 2024 calendar above and start planning your adventures.

We had an opportunity to engage with our staff and board members to choose our 2023 holiday ornament, and this inspired us to leave it up our entire membership base to vote for what they would like the 2024 ornament to be. The winner, after many ties along the way, was the World’s Largest Weathervane in Montague. I am very excited to bring this image to life and share it with all of you this coming fall.
### Spring Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Homeschool Days: Astronomy 10:00am-11:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Play and Learn: Spring 2024 10:00am-11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Sign-up Saturday: Food Bridges 1:00pm-3:00pm</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Evening Speaker Series: Holton Brick 6:00pm-7:00pm</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Friday Family Fun Night: Shipwrecks 5:30pm-7:30pm</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Play and Learn: Spring 2024 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>Spring Break Open House-STEM Center Revamp 11:00am-2:00pm</td>
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<td>April 2 - 4</td>
<td>STEM Camp 9:00am-12:00pm</td>
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<td>April 6</td>
<td>Sign-up Saturday: Paper &amp; Ink Making 1:00pm-3:00pm</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
<td>Homeschool Days: Gardening 10:00am-11:30am</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>Play and Learn: Spring 2024 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Muskegon Museum of History and Science Closed until 11:30am for training</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>Evening Speaker Series: Local Industrialization 6:00pm-7:00 pm</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
<td>Saturday Play and Learn 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>Play and Learn: Spring 2024 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Friday Family Fun Night: Horses 5:30pm-7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>MHMB&amp;I Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Historic Sites Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>After Dark Tours - $ 9:00pm-10:00pm</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>STEAM Along the Lakeshore 10:00am-3:00pm</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>FREE Community Day</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>Homeschool Days: Pioneers 10:00am-11:30am</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Play and Learn: Spring 2024 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td>Sign-up Saturday: Tin Punching 12:00pm-2:00pm</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>Mother’s Day - Free Tours to Muskegon County Moms 1:00pm-4:00pm</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>Saturday Play and Learn 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Play and Learn: Spring 2024 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Hackley Day - Free Tours for Muskegon County Residents 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>May 27</td>
<td>Memorial Day All Sites Closed</td>
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<td>May 31</td>
<td>Hackley Attic Escape Room - $ 5:00pm-6:30pm</td>
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<td>June 1</td>
<td>FREE Community Day</td>
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<td>June 7</td>
<td>After Dark Tour - 9:00pm-10:00pm</td>
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<td>June 8</td>
<td>Taste of Muskegon Historic Games in the Park 12:00pm-4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>After Dark Tour - 9:00pm-10:00pm</td>
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**Come let our museums make you smile!**
WHAT DRIVES US: 2023 Annual Report

COLLECTING for the Community

1,606 Donations Offered
741 Donations Accepted

Historic Diorama Restoration

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

PRESERVING for the Future

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. Collections Center Roof Resealed

Some of the newly accepted donations:

Barrel-making tools from Muskegon Barrel Company, donated by John K. Noor
Golf Bag Caddy manufactured by Noren Products Company in 1955, donated by Andrew Noren
Materials from Achterhoff Mortuary & Ambulance Service and Rolland Achterhoff, donated by Daniel Achterhoff

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.
INTERPRETING for the Fun

2023 By the Numbers

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<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<td>Number of Visitors</td>
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<td>Argus Online Portal</td>
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<td>15,463 Site Visits</td>
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<td>Argus Online Portal</td>
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<td>44,268 Records Viewed</td>
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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
REFLECTING Exhibits in 2023

**Attack of the Bloodsuckers**

**Urban Renewal**

Looking Ahead

One of the things we 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 Museum of History & Science building is not very accessible. Something we have been exploring for the past 6 years is could we expand? We don't know, 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 collection and archives storage into the current museum and build a new museum with accessible exhibits next door.

NEW Coming in 2024

**Repairs**

- The Turret of the Depression Era House. Thanks to our 2023 annual appeal donors, we will be able to explore the extent of the damage and begin repairs to the turret.
- Our new Fire Barn doors have been installed this spring. The wood was rotting and the doors were unable to be opened. Thanks to a private donor, the doors will be replaced.
- The biggest project we are undertaking in 2023 is the Hackley House roof. This will be funded through a grant, our savings, and private donors.

**Exhibits**

- Thanks to our Howmet grant, the STEM Center is currently under renovation. New interactives will be installed and others updated.
- At the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry we are looking forward to new RENK and Fisher Steel exhibits.
- In June, we will welcome Paleo Joe and his Dinosaur Bones into the temporary gallery at Muskegon Museum of History & Science. Dinosaur Bones will be on display through December 30.

For a more detailed annual report visit our website at https://lakeshoremuseum.org/for-funders
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

MARCH 14 - MAY 26, 2024

Discover imaginative

May 2–5, 2024
Frauenthal Theater

Book by Terrence McNally
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Based on the novel "RAGTIME" by E.L. Doctorow

muskegoncivictheatre.org

Rhapsody in Blue
May 10
Frauenthal Theater

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MARCH 14 - MAY 26, 2024
MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART