

# THE FUTURE OF HISTORY



DECEMBER



VOL. 24



ISSUE 4



2024

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



**LAKESHORE  
MUSEUM CENTER**



An ornate museum interior with a Christmas tree in the foreground. The room features high ceilings with decorative patterns, arched doorways, and stained glass windows. The lighting is warm and golden.

# MUSEUMS MAKE YOU SMILE.

03 **DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT**

08 **BREAKING  
RECORDS**

04 **COLLECTIONS  
& ARCHIVES**

09 **MORE SPACE,  
MORE EVENTS**

05 **WHAT'S  
ON VIEW?**

10 **MEMBERSHIP  
& GIFT STORE**

06 **HELPING  
PRESERVE  
HISTORY**

11 **PLAN  
YOUR VISIT**

07 **MUSEUM  
PROGRAMMING**

## **A Vision for the Future of Lakeshore Museum Center: The Impact of Passing the Millage in May 2025**

### **Dear Museum Members,**

At the Lakeshore Museum Center, our mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment. We're excited to share a vision for the future that depends on one crucial step—passing our millage proposal in May 2025. Achieving this will enable us to better serve our community and make our Muskegon Museum of History & Science a more accessible, engaging, and innovative place for everyone.

### **Here's what this means for the Museum and all those who love and benefit from it:**

#### ***Universal Accessibility and a New, Dynamic Experience***

With the support of this millage, we will launch an expansion that prioritizes accessibility for all. Imagine a museum that welcomes every member of our community, from young children to those with mobility needs, providing spaces and experiences designed to be inclusive and inviting. This new expansion will not only remove physical barriers but will also add state-of-the-art interactive exhibits that will immerse visitors in unique, hands-on experiences.

## ***A Dedicated Collections Center for Preservation and Future Growth***

Additionally, the transformation of our current museum into a collections center will allow us to carefully preserve and expand our collection of artifacts and historical objects. This shift gives us the space to care for our precious collections under ideal environmental conditions, ensuring they remain intact for generations to come. It will also create opportunities to grow our collection, capturing new stories and expanding the scope of our historical archives to reflect our evolving community.

### ***Looking Forward to a Legacy of Inspiration***

Passing this millage not only sustains our museum but enhances it as a place where history and curiosity converge and where all members of the community can engage with the past, present, and future. We're thrilled at the potential to create a museum that reflects the values of inclusivity, accessibility, and community pride.

We're grateful for your support and are excited to partner with you to make this vision a reality. Thank you for your commitment to the Lakeshore Museum Center and for believing in a future where everyone can experience the magic of learning and discovery.



**Melissa Horton**  
Executive Director

## 2024 Acquisitions in Review

As I sit here and ponder about the benefits the expansion will have on the Lakeshore Museum Center's collections, a single thought enters my mind: How can I justly describe how vital this expansion is to the collections in such a small space? Well, here it goes.

Our collection, which includes 3D objects, archives, and photographs, is stored in three different buildings because different materials require different types of environments for preservation. Our current buildings do not have proper HVAC systems or climate control. A new collections storage space will provide a stable heating, cooling, and humidity controlled environment which is essential to preserve the collections for future generations.

A new storage space will be designed to be accessible. The 3D collection is housed in two buildings, and the Archives is housed in three different buildings, including in staff offices and hallways. The collection will be consolidated to a single location allowing researchers, school groups, and visitors access to view and research the collection.

Finally, the museum is out of room. This has resulted in the museum having to turn down donations. New designs in museum storage depend on high-density movable shelves that can use space more efficiently. These pieces increase storage with a reduced footprint, allowing more objects to be stored safely. There is history to be made in Muskegon County, and history that we do not have. More storage space will allow us to collect, preserve, and represent all of Muskegon County.

A new single collections space will allow us to expand our current collections and add new history—past and future—that shows who, what, and why Muskegon County is what it is through the eyes of the people of Muskegon.

Jeff Bessinger, Exhibits & Collections Director

The Lakeshore Museum Center actively collects objects and archival material relevant to Muskegon County's natural and cultural history. 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 LMC to care for the objects. We are grateful to our donors for their ongoing contributions to the Muskegon County Archive & Collection.

Between August and December, the LMC was offered 232 objects. The following objects were accepted into the collection:

### Photographs:

- Photographs taken of St. Jean de Baptiste by Shane Arkels, circa 2014
- Photograph of 3171 Lakeshore Drive, circa 1918
- Black and white photograph of Class Navy C.P.T., 1947

- A black and white photograph of Buster Keaton at the Elks in Muskegon, 1954

### Archives:

- Book, *Silvia's Story: One Woman's Life Journey to Interfaith Understanding* by Charles Honey
- Reproduction printing of the 1874 Muskegon City Directory
- Program of the 8th Annual LGPA Charity Pro-Am, dated August 28, 1984
- Sheet Music, "My Mother's Vision" by Emer L. Wilder, 1935
- Folder of materials about Charles Hackley Middle School given out at the ribbon cutting
- Archival collection from Moline & Associates and Studio 5

### Objects:

- Time capsule, removed from St. Jean de Baptiste
- Muskegon Fire Department Technical Rescue badge

- Stained glass window from the Joseph Morin family removed from St. Jean de Baptiste

- A silver tea service owned by Florence Hume

- A Muskegon Fire Department Technical Rescue helmet owned by Ken Chudy

- Name badges from Pairs 'n Squares in Muskegon, Michigan

- Four Royal Copenhagen rose pattern plates, circa 1880; gifted to Lydia Scholle from Virginia Hume Perry

- Insignia patch for Muskegon High School



# WHAT'S ON VIEW?

## What Would an Expansion Mean for Exhibitions?

05

### Muskegon Museum of History & Science

Through an expansion, we seek to improve the overall visitor experience.

This includes a better-organized layout, improved accessibility, an increased footprint for exhibition spaces, and enhanced in-house capabilities for producing, updating, and maintaining exhibitions.

#### Organized Layout

Many museums like this one reside in buildings originally built for a different purpose. A downside is that they are not necessarily set up with the visitor experience in mind. Currently, the MMH&S building has administrative spaces, storage, workshops, exhibitions, and programming spaces jumbled up and spread throughout the building. This can make way finding difficult, particularly for new visitors.

One goal of an expansion would be to create zones, with exhibitions centralized in one area of the building. This would also present an opportunity to develop a better flow from one exhibition to another. Visitors could focus on enjoying their experience rather than navigating from one isolated room to another.

#### Increased Exhibition Footprint

The current rotating gallery greatly restricts what traveling exhibitions are available to us. We are limited in what large-scale objects from the museum's Collection we can display because of the size of the entrances, elevators, and the lack of a loading area. A larger rotating gallery with appropriate access would address many of these issues.



Current exhibit spaces at the Muskegon Museum of History & Science

Increased space for core exhibitions would allow us to tell stories of Muskegon County in new ways, better accommodate larger groups of visitors, safely and securely

display more objects from the Collections, and address multiple learning levels and styles within each exhibition.

We could create more immersive and interactive opportunities throughout all the exhibitions.



Current exhibit spaces at the Muskegon Museum of History & Science

accessibility of both the building and exhibitions. In planning exhibitions, we also seek to address motor, audio-visual, and cognitive accessibility.

#### In-House Capabilities

The transportation of objects from off-site storage to a display site places a lot of stress on historical objects. It is also difficult to plan, design, and test custom mounts and appropriate display methods from afar. If everything were in the same place, Collections staff and Exhibitions staff could work side by side to ensure that objects would be secure and well-preserved while on display.

Another issue we have at MMH&S is the limited workshop space. This, in turn, limits the capabilities of the staff. Expanded and improved

workshop spaces would create a safer work environment for

museum staff and enable us to build more custom exhibition elements like the Lakeshore Raceway exhibit in the STEM Center or the Geological Timescale interactive that appeared in the *Dinosaur Bones* exhibition. The thought of all of these changes are very exciting and the promise is a bright future for the Lakeshore Museum Center.

Chani Collins, Exhibit Designer

#### Accessibility

Another challenge of residing in an older building is retrofitting it to improve physical accessibility. Through the expansion, we aim to improve the physical



Current exhibit spaces at the Muskegon Museum of History & Science

### Hackley House Shingle Signing Party Success

The proposed expansion at the Muskegon Museum of History & Science comes at an ideal time to elevate Muskegon as a premier cultural and historical destination. With rising interest in our city's rich heritage, this project will benefit not only the museum but the entire community. As the saying goes, "When one succeeds, we all succeed." This expansion will attract more group and leisure travelers, inviting them to explore an immersive, interconnected story across all of our museum locations.

At the Muskegon Historic Sites, we've already seen this growing demand firsthand. Visitor numbers have increased significantly in recent years, particularly in the group and leisure travel markets. In response, we launched Tours by Appointment, a flexible program that invites guests to immerse themselves in Muskegon's history through customized guided tours. Visitors may choose to explore the beautifully preserved Hackley & Hume Houses and City Barn, the Fire Barn Museum, and the Scolnik House of the Depression Era. Tours by Appointment includes classic tour packages as well as themed and specialty experiences, such as:



Guests enjoying their visit at the Hackley & Hume Historic Site this summer.

**Grounds Tour:** An in-depth look at the exteriors of the Hackley & Hume Houses.

**After Dark Tour:** A unique evening version of the classic tour.

**All Access Tour:** A behind-the-scenes exploration.

**Hackley Attic Escape Room:** A hands-on challenge to brush up on Muskegon history and escape the attic in time.

**Flashlight Tour:** Exploration of the Hackley and Hume Houses by flashlight.

**Beyond the Swinging Doors, "The Servants Tour":** An in-depth look at the daily lives of maids, cooks, and coachmen.

**Obituary Tour (seasonal):** Insight into Victorian death practices and traditions.

**Holiday Tours (seasonal):** Experience the Hackley & Hume Houses adorned for the holidays.



Guests enjoying their visit at the Hackley & Hume Historic Site this summer.

Additionally, we enhanced our offerings with onsite and destination lectures on topics like Victorian America, Muskegon in the 1920s, Victorian Christmas Traditions, and more. These efforts proved successful when we received a personal invitation to present "The Last Lumber Baron: Thomas Hume's Legacy in Muskegon" to passengers aboard the Pearl Mist cruise ship! As we grow together, such opportunities will only continue to arise.

The proposed expansion opens even more possibilities for unique, immersive programming like this that connects all of our locations. Cross-pollinating these experiences will allow us to offer a fuller, more compelling narrative of Muskegon's past and present. It is our desire that each guest will leave inspired and eager to return, an impact which benefits our entire community.

# MUSEUM PROGRAMMING

Muskegon Museum of History & Science



## We Could Not Do It Without You

A future expansion of the Muskegon Museum of History & Science excites the programming department.

The first benefit is having the museum’s collection housed in an attached building. Currently, some students can access the museum’s archives for special tours, but there is no space to teach or host lessons.



Students visiting the Museum’s Archives

The museum’s collections center is currently inaccessible to school groups because it is 1.5 miles from the museum. A new collections space in a combined facility would solve these issues and let us connect more learners directly to the museum collections and resources.



Students visiting the Museum’s Archives

Another benefit would be increased space for both school and public programming. In the current museum, staff and storage share spaces and it can be quite crowded during busy days and weeks.

A new space would also give us a larger classroom. In our current building, the museum classroom can only fit about 23 students at tables and chairs comfortably.

However, many class sizes are closer to 27 students, making it crowded, cramped, and hot. Not a great learning setting for anyone. We look forward to working with the exhibits department to design spaces in each gallery with built-in storage to better facilitate learning.

The challenges and benefits of a museum expansion and new building are even greater. To begin with, an expansion would mean lots of construction and parts of the current building being shut down.



Students in the current classroom space

Thankfully, we have already planned how we can maintain as much of a normal experience as possible while in the transition phase. Although an expansion and move of collections would cause disruptions, the benefits would far outweigh these once we settled into a new building and the possibilities already have the programming staff planning for the future.



Students in the current classroom space

Patrick Horn, Program Manager

# BREAKING RECORDS

Best Ever Visitation Streak

08

## Excited for the Future

We just wrapped up the 2024 drop-in tour season. Our amazing volunteers gave 1556.5 hours from May 1st to October 31st, and our program participation was higher than previous years. We had our best ever visitation streak. There were guests every open day until our final day on Halloween. Help us start strong as we try to break that record by visiting when we reopen on Thursday, May 1st, 2025!



Guests enjoying the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry in 2024.



**Our theme for 2025 is commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII.**

**Our Free Community Days will take place on the first Saturday of each month and will include themes such as Brunswick's contributions to the music industry in the 1940s, Rosie the Riveter, the GI Bill and Civil Defense efforts. Watch our website and social media for event dates and details.**

Speaking of the future...the Lakeshore Museum Center is looking to the future with its plans to better serve our community. Re-envisioning the Muskegon Museum of History & Science has benefits for our guests, our mission and our bottom line. A new, more accessible facility will allow visitors of all abilities to discover the things that make Muskegon County so special. Part of the change may include shifting some of the industrial history objects currently in the Coming to the Lakes exhibit to MHMB&I, allowing us to share new and expanded stories with our guests.

It will also provide easier access to our collection, both for staff conducting research for new exhibits and as well as the public, which is a good thing for everyone wishing to learn more about Muskegon County's unique history.



# MORE SPACE, MORE EVENTS

Exciting Expansion Ideas

09

## Expansion and Increased Capacity

The idea of expanding the Muskegon Museum of History & Science is certainly exciting to staff and visitors who recognize the limitations of our current space. An expansion goes far beyond just new walls and exhibits; it brings the potential for a future of enhanced events and increased community engagement.

Our auditorium currently functions as a versatile multi-purpose room. It serves as a classroom for our Big Lesson students, an introduction space or lunchroom for many field trips, and a venue for board meetings, committee gatherings, parties, blood drives, special events, and rentals.

While we use the auditorium almost daily, it does have limitations that an expansion would improve upon:

### Size:

Over the past year, we have hosted a variety of weekend events, including birthday parties, graduation open houses, retirement parties, bridal and baby showers, and celebrations of life. All of these have been limited in size due to our auditorium capacity, and we have had to turn down events that our facility could not accommodate. Expanding our facilities will make the museum a more desirable venue for special events with an increased capacity for hosting larger events.

### Technology:

Technology changes are difficult to keep up with, and our projection and sound equipment is no exception. An expanded facility would necessitate updated technology, making it easier to host multimedia presentations, interactive workshops, and guest speakers.

### Kitchen Amenities:

Currently, our kitchen facilities are limited, lacking the necessary amenities for catering staff. An expansion would increase kitchen space and equipment, making larger events more feasible for outside caterers.

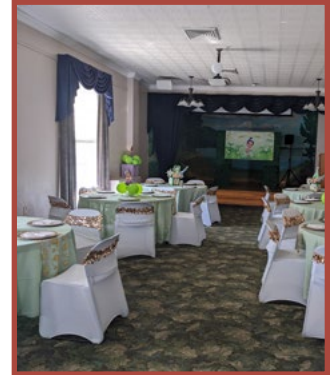
### Diversity and Inclusivity:

This expansion would enable us to diversify our programming, exploring new themes and celebrating the cultural heritage in our community.

Improving accessibility is a key aspect of the expansion. Improved facilities will ensure that everyone feels welcome to attend our programs and events. By improving accessibility and creating more inclusive programs, we strive to make all community members feel represented and valued.

An update from our current auditorium to a new multi-purpose space would open possibilities and provide a unique backdrop for celebrations and community events.

Marci Dalm, Volunteer & Event Coordinator



Events and programs in our current auditorium space.

# MEMBERSHIP & GIFT STORE

World's Largest Weathervane

10

## 29 Years and Counting!

The Lakeshore Museum Center has celebrated the holidays with a different ornament since 1995. Last winter, we asked our members and guests to vote for what they would like the 2024 ornament to be, and the winner was the World's Largest Weathervane.

This weathervane is located in Montague, Michigan. It has held the record of being the world's largest since its creation in 1984. The weathervane stands 48 feet high with a 26-foot-long arrow and a replica of the schooner Ella Ellenwood, which frequented White Lake transporting lumber from Montague to Milwaukee in the late 1800s.

The 2024 limited edition World's Largest Weathervane ornament was inspired by an image in the Lakeshore Museum Center's Archive (object ID x95.102.001), and it is available for sale at the City Barn during the Holiday Tour dates and at the Muskegon Museum of History & Science during regular open hours, while supplies last.



2024 Holiday Ornament based on World's Largest Weathervane in Montague



World's Largest Weathervane in Montague

Did you know? All proceeds from your purchases at our gift stores support the Lakeshore Museum Center's sites and mission. Lakeshore Museum Center members receive a **10% off discount** in all merchandise sales at our gift stores.



I am diligently working on the 2025 reciprocal membership lineup; stay tuned for the reveal on our next newsletter. In the meantime, if you still have the roaming bug, don't forget that we participate year-round in ROAM, a reciprocal membership program made up of a network of museums in North America and beyond who extend the benefit of free admission to one another's members (as determined by each museum individually). You can contact me at [graciela@lakeshoremuseum.org](mailto:graciela@lakeshoremuseum.org) for a list of participating museums.

Graciela, Guest Relations Manager

# PLAN YOUR VISIT

## Calendar/Upcoming Events

### Winter Events

**KEY:** Muskegon Museum of History & Science Hackley & Hume Historic Site  
Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry

**December 7**  
Holiday Tours at the Hackley & Hume Historic Site  
3:00pm - 7:00pm

**December 12**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

**December 13**  
MHMB&I OPEN  
11:00am - 4:00pm

**December 14**  
Holiday Tours at the Hackley & Hume Historic Site  
3:00pm - 7:00pm

**December 14**  
MHMB&I OPEN  
12:00pm - 4:00pm

**December 17**  
Homeschool Day: Innovation  
10:00am

**December 18**  
All Sites Closed

**December 21**  
Paleo Joe at the Museum  
12:00pm - 2:00pm  
FREE with Admission

**December 21**  
Holiday Tours at the Hackley & Hume Historic Site  
3:00pm - 7:00pm

**December 23-25**  
All Sites Closed

**December 26**  
Versiti Blood Drive  
2:00pm - 6:00pm

**December 27**  
Holiday Tours at the Hackley & Hume Historic Site  
3:00pm - 7:00pm

**December 28**  
Holiday Tours at the Hackley & Hume Historic Site  
3:00pm - 7:00pm

**December 30**  
*Dinosaur Bones!*  
Exhibit Last Day

**December 31**  
All Sites Closed

**January 1**  
All Sites Closed

**January 3**  
Winter Open House  
11:00am - 2:00pm

**January 9**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

**January 18**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

**January 20**  
All Sites Closed

**January 21**  
Homeschool Day:  
Microscopic World  
10:00am

**January 23**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

**February 11**  
*Home Front Heroes* Exhibit  
Opening

**February 13**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

**February 15**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

**February 17**  
All Sites Closed

**February 18**  
Homeschool Day:  
Food Preservation  
10:00am

**February 27**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

**March 11**  
Homeschool Day: Art  
10:00am

**March 13**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

**March 15**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

**March 27**  
Play & Learn:  
Winter Session - FREE  
10:00am - 11:00am

Visit our website calendar at [www.lakeshoremuseum.org](http://www.lakeshoremuseum.org) for more details.

# HOLIDAY TOURS

NOV. 30  
DEC. 7, 14, 21, 27 & 28

[lakeshoremuseum.org](http://lakeshoremuseum.org)



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



**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](http://www.lakeshoremuseum.org)



**LAKESHORE  
MUSEUM CENTER**



**WEST MICHIGAN SYMPHONY**

# Home for the Holidays

Dec 20  
Frauenthal Center

*Joyful, heartwarming,  
pure family fun.*

CONCERT SPONSORS  
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**WESTMICHIGANSYMPHONY.ORG**

CHICAGO COLLECTS  
**JEWELRY IN PERSPECTIVE**

OCTOBER 17 - JANUARY 5

**MUSKEGON**  
MUSEUM OF ART

MUSKEGON CIVIC Theatre  
2024-2025 SEASON 40  
presents

**otix**  
FRAUENTHAL CENTER  
Box Office  
Tuesday-Friday 11am-5pm  
231-727-8001  
[www.frauenthal.org](http://www.frauenthal.org)

PARTners  
PRO AUDIO  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**SILENT SKY**  
by Lauren Gunderson  
Original Music by Jenny Giering  
Jan. 10-18, 2025  
Frauenthal Stage  
Black Box

**GODSPELL**  
Cast and Original Director by  
John-Michael Tebelak  
Music and New Lyrics by  
Stephen Schwartz  
Originally Produced on Broadway by  
Edgar Lansbury, Stuart Duncan, Joseph Berub  
Feb. 7-22, 2025  
Frauenthal Stage  
Black Box

muskegoncivictheatre.org

Lounge and relax at  
Hackley Public Library!

**hackleylibrary.org**

**HACKLEY**  
Public Library

Fiction Area

Teen Room

Play & Learn Room