

COMING TOGETHER

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





COMING TOGETHER

MISSION

Provide relevant educational and entertaining opportunities within the region that exceed customer expectations, while preserving our community's vibrant cultural history.

VISION

The Durham Museum will serve as a recognized, premier resource for education, entertainment and historical preservation in our region. We will be the venue of choice in our market by providing a unique, engaging and memorable experience professionally presented to every customer.



Photo courtesy of
Big Ten Network



TABLE OF CONTENTS

5	From the Executive Director	20	Patrons
6	Year in Review	24	Program Supporters
15	Board of Directors	25	Gifts
16	The Year in Stories	30	Financial Statement
18	The Durham Society	31	Ways to Give

TYRANNOSAURS

An exhibition developed by the Australian Museum
and toured internationally by Flying Fish

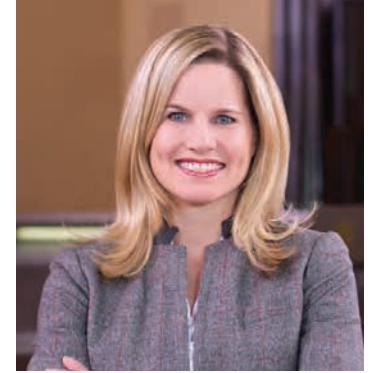
AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM FLYING FISH

MEET THE FAMILY



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Throughout 2019, The Durham Museum and our many members, supporters and friends came together to create one of the most remarkable years in our organization's history. In the months since this tremendous year came to an end, our world has changed. However, this annual report stands as a testament to the amazing things accomplished in 2019, the historic mission of the museum that continues despite the ongoing pandemic, and the promise of an even better museum experience just on the horizon.



The museum's story starts and ends with the generous people who invest in our efforts to bring history to life. With your help, The Durham Museum hosted exciting and engaging exhibitions and programs that drew record crowds to Union Station. Together, we experienced prehistoric thrills, toe-tapping music and time-honored traditions, while we also wrestled with difficult questions from the past and modern challenges that continue to resonate and impact us today.

We also saw extraordinary projects take shape that will strengthen the museum's ability to bring our community together in the years ahead. In 2019, we asked visitors to "pardon our mess" as we made major progress on the restoration of Union Station's terra cotta exterior and we renovated the entrance to our popular traveling exhibition space with a modern, environmentally-controlled and visitor-friendly layout. These enhancements will serve families for generations to come, as will the list of other exciting preservation projects that took place in full view and behind the scenes.

As we endure this global challenge together, we hope you will reflect on the great progress The Durham Museum is making with your help. Your support and passion sustain the great exhibits, projects and programs that bring our community together year after year. We are grateful for your investment in our mission and proud to share the successes of 2019. We offer our sincere thanks for all you have done and continue to do to support Omaha's home to history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christi Janssen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C".

Christi Janssen
Executive Director



YEAR IN REVIEW

Throughout 2019, museum exhibits, programs and projects highlighted the history of our region and the world around us, offering opportunities to educate, inspire and challenge assumptions along the way.

Our first major exhibition of 2019, *American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith* from the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition Service, set the tone for the beginning of the year. Inspired by the new permanent exhibition of the same name at the National Museum of American History, *American Democracy* explored our country's bold experiment in a government "of, by, and for the people." Featuring objects from the Smithsonian Institution, as well as, The Durham's collection and other peer institutions from our region, the exhibition served as a catalyst for numerous museum programs. The Durham partnered with Civic Nebraska to provide resource materials to more than 100 schools across the state, conducted virtual tours of the exhibit and welcomed record numbers of students to the museum. The museum also served as a regional host for the Smithsonian Institution's National Youth Summit, which engages middle school and high school students in diving deeper into American history.

A second spring exhibition celebrated a historic milestone in America's railroad history. *After Promontory: 150 Years of Transcontinental Railroad* from the Center for Railroad Photography & Art offered a visual history of the impact of railroading on our country's landscape from some of America's most accomplished photographers. The exhibition served as inspiration for the On Track Guild's Dining by Rail fundraising luncheon in support of The Durham later in the year, while the milestone anniversary inspired the museum's first crowdfunding effort. Museum supporters, members, volunteers and fans joined Union Pacific in supporting the revitalization of our National Command sleeper car. The car was unveiled on May 10, 2019—150 years to the day of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.



Throughout the year, The Durham sought to engage history fans in new ways. The museum hosted its second major event for a 21 and over crowd, Flappers & Fizz, to celebrate Union Station's Art Deco architecture. Later in the spring, we invited visitors behind the scenes as a continuation of our Museum Insider Tour series, which allows guests to view and explore the museum's collection areas. The series was a big hit, with plans to continue it in the new year. The museum also continued to expand its student-focused initiatives. The Scholars in Residence series, a mainstay of The Durham's educational programs, that brings national presenters to local students, continued with historical reenactors portraying George Washington Carver and first ladies Martha Washington and Abigail Adams. Through the Inclusive Museum Initiative, the museum partnered with Castelar Elementary to provide opportunities for programming not only at the museum, but at the school and virtually. This culminated in our first ever Family Night, exclusively for families from Castelar Elementary, many of whom had never visited the museum before. Over the course of the year, more than 49,000 students and adults experienced The Durham Museum through programs at the museum, off-site or virtually.

The summer saw prehistoric thrills come alive as the museum hosted *Tyrannosaurs: Meet the Family* from The Australian Museum. The centerpiece of the exhibition was "Scotty," a cast of the largest *Tyrannosaurus rex* fossil ever unearthed, which was so large that the museum had to display the cast in our transformed exhibit workshop. The Durham complemented the display with a host of education programs, including a visit from Dr. Lindsay Zanno, Head of Paleontology at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and leader of a research team that recently discovered a new species of *Tyrannosaurus* in the Utah mountains. *Tyrannosaurs* also served as the basis for a number of popular summer camp



programs, family activities, another 21 and over event and our first ever Back-to-School Bash, all of which combined to make the exhibition the highest attended summer display in The Durham's history. Other events, including a special visit by crewmembers of the *USS Omaha* on Flag Day, plus annual traditions like Railroad Days, Root Beer Float Day and the River City History Tours connected audiences throughout our region and beyond to our community's history and heritage.

Our third major exhibition of the year, *RACE: Are We So Different?*, explored the subject of race through the lens of history, biology and lived experience. The exhibition supported community-wide efforts to commemorate and reflect on the 100th anniversary of the lynching of Will Brown in Omaha in 1919. In presenting the exhibition, The Durham engaged an external advisory committee of leaders and scholars to advise on programming. The Durham also created an interactive exhibition within our permanent galleries called *Lest We Forget*, which explores the story of Will Brown through oral histories and reflections from advocacy leaders and experts from the Omaha community. The exhibition offers an important opportunity to facilitate dialogue, challenge assumptions and has served a range of visitors including students, teachers, families and adults – many of whom had never previously visited The Durham Museum.

In October, the museum debuted its final exhibition of the year, *Louder Than Words: Rock, Power & Politics* from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Thematically organized by presidential administrations from Eisenhower to Trump, the exhibition featured a range of artifacts and stories to shed insight into how politics and music are bound together and served as a fantastic complement to *RACE*. Highlights of the exhibition included original handwritten lyrics from Bob Dylan, Chuck Berry, Neil Young and Bruce Springsteen, as well as numerous stage





costumes, clothes and musical instruments from every genre and political era. Late in the month, the museum welcomed over 5,000 visitors for a greatly expanded slate of Halloween activities, including the perennially popular Great Hall-oween Haunt as well as new events exploring the spooky side of Union Station, such as History Mystery, an event for adults.

The year came to an end with the highly popular Christmas at Union Station season, which again saw nearly 50,000 visitors between Thanksgiving and the New Year. A week before festivities began, the museum hosted its annual Sentimental Journey gala with Honorary Chairs Diane and Harlan Falk. The event celebrated the many ways our community came together to solve problems and make Omaha a better place to live. We said goodbye to the 2010s and welcomed the 2020s with another wildly successful Noon Year's Eve celebration with over 2,400 revelers filling Union Station to see our signature balloon drop.



In addition to the wide range of exhibits and events that led to a record 220,000 visitors in 2019, The Durham also made progress behind the scenes. The first phase of the significant renovation of Union Station's exterior was completed in late spring. The collections team reached the half-way point in a three-year effort to enhance the museum's collection storage area and cataloged over 40,000 of our objects. Numerous new artifacts were accessioned into the museum collection, including a historic compilation of Aksarben racing memorabilia given by the estate of Kenny Rosen. Digitization of the Photo Archive continued, with more than 316,000 photographs now available to the public through our online portal at DurhamMuseum.org. Additionally, the museum worked with the Durham family to revitalize the entrance to our permanent exhibition space and launched a renovation effort for the Stanley and Dorothy Truhlsen Lecture Hall. The museum also began developing an institutional plan to guide its business operations, building preservation and visitor experience plans over the next decade, a process that will be finalized in 2021. Finally, we said thank you to four board members that completed their service to the museum, and welcomed four new members whose leadership – combined with the interest and support of the Omaha community – will help craft the next phase of The Durham Museum.





EXHIBIT & EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

MAJOR EXHIBITIONS

American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith

From the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

After Promontory:

150 Years on Transcontinental Railroad

From the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, Madison, WI

Tyrannosaurs: Meet the Family

From The Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia

Race: Are We So Different?

From the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

Louder Than Words: Rock, Power & Politics

From the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland, OH; and Newseum, Washington, D.C.

LOCAL FOCUS EXHIBITIONS

Jobber's Canyon: Omaha's Lost History

Our Favorites: Photo Archive Selections by The Durham Museum Interns

A Regency of Style: Cultural Changes in 18th and 19th Century Europe

For the People of Omaha:

Byron Reed and the Original Omaha Public Library

Public Opinion is More Than Law: The First Murder Brought to Court in the Nebraska Territory

Sound the Alarm:

The Making of the Omaha Fire Department

Taking it to the Streets: Grading Downtown Omaha

Clarkson Regional Health Services:

150 Years of Innovation in Patient Care

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Flappers & Fizz

Museum Insider Tours

Dinos & Daiquiris

Railroad Days

Root Beer Float Day

Back-to-School Bash

River City History Tours

Teachers' Night

History Mystery

Great Hall-oween Haunt

Durham After Dark

Tree Lighting Ceremony

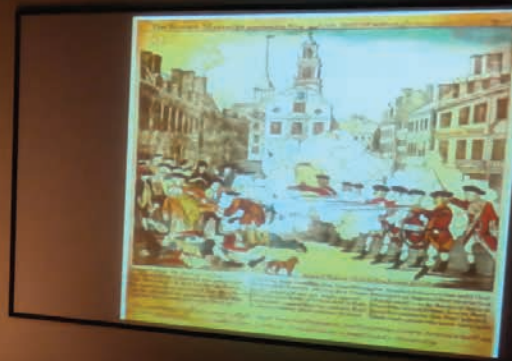
Holiday Cultural Festival

Family Nights with Santa

Noon Year's Eve

GUEST LECTURE HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Barbara Clark Smith



Kim Hanley and Carol Spacht
as First Ladies Abigail Adams and Martha Washington

Allied Soldiers and Nazi Camps: Witnesses to the Holocaust

Presented by Dr. Mark Celinscak, Louis and Frances Blumkin Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Executive Director of the Sam and Frances Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy at the University of Nebraska at Omaha

Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Arsenal of Democracy

Presented by Neill Hartley

The Making of American Democracy

Presented by Dr. Barbara Clark Smith, Smithsonian Curator and co-creator of the *American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith* exhibition

*First Ladies First!**

Presented by Carol Spacht and Kim Hanley from the American Historical Theatre

Unique Eats and Eateries of Omaha

Presented by Tim and Lisa Trudell

Rise of the Tyrants

Presented by Dr. Lindsay Zanno,
North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

Fearsome Continent: New Discoveries Reveal the Lost Cretaceous Worlds of North America

Presented by Dr. Lindsay Zanno,
North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences

Following the Golden Spike: Time, Place and Change along the First Transcontinental Railroad

Presented by Drake Hokanson

*Thomas Jefferson and John Adams:** *We Differ as Rational Friends*

Presented by Steve Edenbo and Peyton Dixon
from the American Historical Theatre

Race, Really: The Myths and Realities of Racial Differences

Presented in partnership with Inclusive Communities
as a part of the Omaha Table Talk Series

**Also performed with the Scholars in Residence program*



Dr. Lindsay Zanno

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



220,815
Annual Attendance

Highest Annual Attendance in Museum History

46.9% increase since 2009

50.05% from Douglas County

7.28% from Southwest Iowa

Visitors from:

All 50 states, Washington, D.C.,
two U.S. Territories,
and 34 countries

57,391

Paid Attendance

Highest in Museum History

85,296

Visitors during *Tryannosaurs: Meet the Family*

New Exhibit Record!

8,521

Household Members

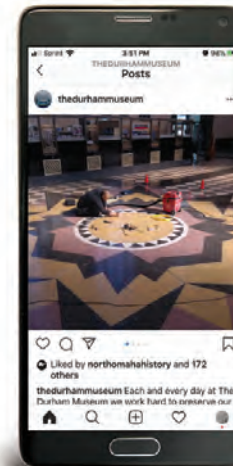
Highest Membership Count in Museum History

56.9% increase since 2009



19,734

Volunteer hours contributed
by over 120 volunteers and
members of the On Track Guild



Social Media



20,875

Facebook Followers



4,426

Twitter Followers



3,982

Instagram Followers



73 Byron Reed
Objects Digitized



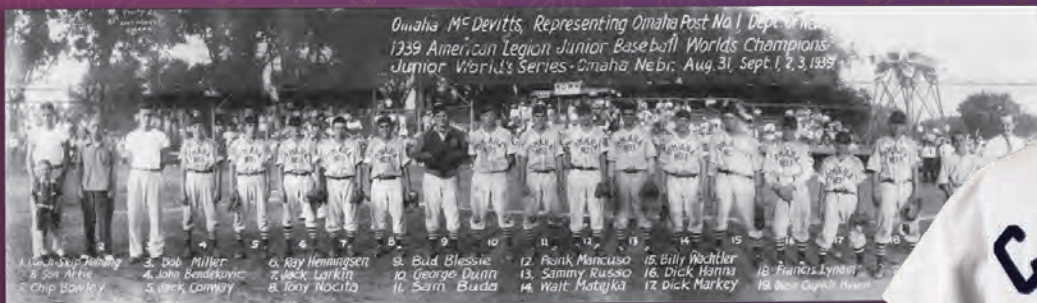
10,830

Historic Photos Digitized

Eclipsed **316,000** images online
at DurhamMuseum.org

54 Objects added to Permanent Collection

1 historic collection accessioned, 1,204 new objects catalogued in the permanent collection



▲ **Photographic negative featuring the 1939 Omaha McDewitt's American Legion baseball team**
Donated by the children of Richard Markey

▶ **1971 College World Series batboy uniform**
Donated by Linda and William J. Hughes

▶ **Black velveteen dress with bolero, circa 1930**
Donated in memory of Emilie "Lou" Halda"

▼ **Dishes used in the Mandarin Cafe and King Fong Cafe**
Donated by the family of Carl and Jeanette Chin





EDUCATION, IMPACT & OUTREACH

- 49,122 People served by the Education Services Department
- 947 Combined programs for students, educators and adults
- 65 Community Programming Partners
- 11 Museum interns

STUDENT PROGRAMS

- Scholars in Residence ▶ 10,448
- Digital Learning ▶ 4,368
- Field Trips ▶ 15,815
- Summer Programming ▶ 10,833
- Scouting Programs ▶ 1,186
- History Day ▶ 568
- Family Night ▶ 297 (with Castelar Elementary)

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- Lectures ▶ 1,364
- River City History Tours ▶ 967
- Other Tours/Programs ▶ 2,607

EDUCATOR PROGRAMS

- Teachers' Night ▶ 633
- Workshops ▶ 36 (Exhibit-Specific)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mary Reckmeyer, Ph.D.

Harlan O. Falk

Ken Keegan

Stephen J. Abels

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Christi Janssen, *Executive Director*

Rex Fisher

John P. Nelson

Stephanie Daubert

John K. Boyer, *Secretary*

Thomas Warren

Tommie Thompson, *Treasurer*

Not available for the photo: Richard R. Bell, *Member Emeritus*; Art N. Burtscher; Scott Moore; Lisa Olson; Stanley M. Truhlsen, M.D., *Member Emeritus*; John K. Wilson, *Member Emeritus*

THE YEAR IN STORIES



On the Move!

In conjunction with the renovation of the Durham Family Foyer, The Durham moved its historic Benson streetcar from its position on the west end of the Trish and Dick Davidson Gallery to a new location just outside the Buffett Grocery store. To accomplish this, crews from Kiewit Corporation and the Waldinger Corporation placed the streetcar on air skates, and gently eased the several ton artifact to its new home.



The Durham Family Foyer

In October, the museum completed the Durham Family Foyer, which serves as the entrance to the museum's featured exhibition galleries. The renovations to the space were made possible by the family foundations of John K. and Lynne Durham Boyer, Sunny Durham Lundgren, Steve and Barbara Durham and Debby Durham. Doors and walls were removed to create a brighter, more open environment, and new automatic sliding glass doors were installed at the gallery entrances to provide easy access for visitors while maintaining necessary climate controls within the exhibit space. The space also features a 16' x 9' video wall display with interactive capabilities.





Bob Fahey, 1948
The Durham
Museum Photo
Archive, BF31-2147

Red Cap Return

Bob Fahey, a long-time museum volunteer has been part of Union Station's history for 75 years. The Red Cap statue in the Suzanne & Walter Scott Great Hall was created by Omaha sculptor John Lajba and modeled after Bob and his work as a Union Station Red Cap. In 2018, the statue was taken off display for restoration. On July 17, we welcomed both "Bobs" back to the museum to celebrate the man who has given so much to the museum and Union Station during his lifetime.



Composer
Zhou Tian

◀ Durham Volunteer
Raleigh Sheffield

DONE!

In January, composer Zhou Tian visited The Durham while conducting research for his new work, *Transcend*. The piece, co-commissioned by the Omaha Symphony and 12 other orchestras across the country, commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad's completion. Tian met with museum docent Raleigh Sheffield, who shared the story of the monumental engineering feat, including how a telegraph transmitted "DONE" in Morse Code to anxious audiences across the world when the final spike was driven. Raleigh's story served as the inspiration for the final movement of *Transcend*.



Helping Hands

In the spring, many communities along the Missouri River were dealing with extreme flooding. To help, The Durham Museum teamed up with the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative to host free workshops providing information on how to preserve damaged personal heirlooms after natural disasters. As schools returned in August for the 2019-2020 school year, many of these communities were still dealing with the extreme flooding. In response, The Durham reached out to schools and adult care centers across the region, offering field trips and excursions to Union Station as the communities continued to rebuild.



THE DURHAM SOCIETY

The Durham Society was established to provide designated support to The Durham Museum and its cultural and educational programming. This diverse group is committed to raising the awareness of history's impact on our community and region. The Durham Society's Heritage Circle ensures long-term financial sustainability for The Durham Museum and recognizes the vested interest of our generous contributors.

HERITAGE CIRCLE • \$25,000

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Lynne D. and John K. Boyer
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Debby Durham
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Special thanks is given to Union
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Big Mama's Kitchen
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Omaha Police Department

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2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Durham Museum and The Durham Museum Foundation Combined Statements of Financial Position

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents ^A	\$5,141,860	\$4,720,167
Investments ^B	19,337,182	18,004,137
Receivables	29,079	37,824
Contributions receivable ^C	602,638	649,216
Accrued interest	165,794	214,302
Inventory	68,740	69,964
Prepaid expenses	262,285	261,005
Property and equipment, net	7,215,897	5,799,090
TOTAL ASSETS	\$32,823,475	\$29,755,705
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$875,338	\$556,552
Total Liabilities	\$875,338	\$556,552
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$13,006,600	\$10,212,383
Temporarily restricted	3,595,654	3,640,887
Permanently restricted	15,345,883	15,345,883
Total Net Assets	\$31,948,137	\$29,199,153
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$32,823,475	\$29,755,705

(A) Cash and cash equivalents include \$1,818,816 and \$1,451,164 in 2019 and 2018, respectively, which is restricted with donor stipulations that limit the use of the funds.

(B) Investments include \$15,345,883 in 2019 and 2018, which have donor restrictions that require the funds to be maintained permanently but permit use of income earned from the investments.

(C) Contributions receivable include \$1,776,838 and \$2,189,723 in 2019 and 2018, respectively, which is restricted with donor stipulations that limit the use of the funds.

WAYS TO GIVE

Each year, gifts from supporters and friends help us sustain the key activities of the museum, from maintaining historic Union Station to presenting first-class exhibits and education programs. You can help us bring history closer to thousands in our community by supporting our efforts in any of the following ways:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Members enjoy free general admission and other benefits, while their support provides year-round operating funds for the museum. Many tiers are available, including Individual, Family and Patron, to fit the interest of every member.

THE DURHAM SOCIETY

Our highest level of membership, the members of The Durham Society share a philanthropic vision for the museum and its services to the community. Contribution levels include the Heritage Circle (\$25,000), Founder (\$5,000) and Member (\$1,000) and are fully tax-deductible. The funds are distributed as directed by the Board of Directors and are used to secure present and enhance future exhibitions and educational opportunities.

SPONSORSHIP/UNDERWRITING

Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities enable our corporate, foundation and individual supporters to demonstrate their interest and passion in the museum's many world-class exhibits, education programs, preservation initiatives and event opportunities made available to the community.

ANNUAL FUND

Separate from memberships, the annual fund strengthens departments, programs and projects within the museum by bridging the gap between our membership and admission revenue and the costs involved in operating this remarkable institution.

Gifts can be made online, over the phone, in person, in conjunction with a membership renewal or by mail. You may also choose to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one with a direct gift to the museum, or by commissioning an engraved brick in our permanent exhibit galleries.

PLANNED GIFTS

The museum offers many planned giving opportunities including bequests, life income plans, charitable lead trusts and gifts of life insurance policies. By including The Durham Museum in your estate plans, you will help to sustain Union Station, The Durham Museum and its collections and programs for generations to come.

For more information on these giving options, please contact the museum at 402-444-5071.



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