

### Mission

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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.



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#### Union Station.

Milestone on the road to progress, A starting place to other lands, A haven for those who travel Our new Union station stands.

Good example of achievement Product of those who build and do.

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The compass, and the rod and chain,

The trains, the pick and shovel, 100.

Within its high and spacious walls The parting guest will gently sigh

And many will be welcomed here With outstretched hand and sparkling eye.

Oh, Omaha, be justly proud Of this newer Union station And may it ever mean to you Progress built on transportation. TOM KATT.

Boursey One work had black of the state of t The Shortage of Gold. maha, Feb. 12-To the Edite and economic structu to collapse. The ctured produ

# From the Executive Director

On January 15, 1931, Omaha's new Union Station was officially unveiled. Soon after, visitors streamed through the doors, greeted by rosy rays of light from stained-glass windows and modern Art Deco details galore. Omaha residents responded enthusiastically to "their" new Union Station, the building The Durham Museum now calls home. The optimism and excitement of the city was reflected in some 50,000 citizens who came to see the building on its opening day.

In a tribute that ran in the *Omaha-World Herald's* Public Pulse, author Tom Katt wrote of Union Station as a "Milestone on the road to progress." In many ways, 2021 was a milestone year for The Durham Museum—an exciting opportunity to rekindle our city's connection to this iconic building.

We celebrated Union Station's 90th anniversary by welcoming our community back to "their" building. After a tumultuous year in 2020, we saw museum attendance and membership flourish, as did engagement in our nationally recognized virtual education programs. Exciting exhibitions and time-honored traditions like Christmas at Union Station brought new and existing audiences back to 10th Street. Expanded access for both students and families, combined with steps to tell more compelling and inclusive stories, widened our lens of service within the region. And, even as we reintroduced programs and experiences that were temporarily on hold during the pandemic, new plans were set in motion to create an even richer and more impactful museum experience in the years to come.

Ninety years on, Union Station remains—as Mr. Katt put it—"a starting place to other lands" due largely to our community's passion for seeing this celebrated community space serve and speak to all of us. Cheers to you for your vision and generosity. We hope to welcome you back to your building soon, too.

Sincerely,

Christi Janssen Executive Director

Historic photo, top left: On January 15, 1931, this giant padlock was unlocked by Mayor Richard Lee Metcalfe to officially open Omaha Union Station's doors to 50,000 visitors on the station's first day. Image courtesy of *Omaha World-Herald*.

## Year in Review



GUITAR: The Instrument That Rocked the World exhibition After such a challenging year in 2020, The Durham Museum was determined to welcome the community back to Union Station in 2021 as we celebrated our National Historic Landmark's 90th anniversary. Visitors responded by joining in on the celebration—both online and onsite—all year long.

The museum commemorated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 18 with free admission and community activities that drew nearly 900 visitors onsite and over 2,500 students for a virtual presentation. Also in January, we debuted two programs aimed at increasing access to the museum for more Omaha families. The museum partnered with 16 library branches in Omaha and our surrounding communities to provide free day passes for families to check out. Additionally, the museum launched the rejuvenated Good Neighbor Museum Fund, which provides heavily discounted memberships to families facing financial difficulties. These programs allowed thousands more to join in on the fun all year long.

In February, we debuted the first major exhibition of the year, *GUITAR: The Instrument That Rocked the World*, which had been postponed from its original slot in the summer of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A local partnership resulted in the companion exhibition *Instrumental: Making Music with the Omaha Conservatory of Music*, focusing on homemade and recycled musical items. The exhibitions were a rockin' success, as attendance far exceeded our expectations, and two virtual lectures brought music and history together in creative new ways. The museum was even honored to play a role in our first-ever marriage proposal in a traveling exhibition (she said yes!).

In March, the museum opened *Beyond the Vote*, another exhibition project put on hold during the pandemic year. The exhibition explored the history and legacy of the 19th Amendment that granted Women's Suffrage in the United States and included modern reinterpretations of historic propaganda pieces created by local Nebraska artists. The exhibition resonated with countless visitors throughout the year and was a focal point of several virtual education programs as well. Throughout the spring, teachers and students connected with The Durham mostly through our virtual programs, which enabled the museum to continue innovating and reaching audiences far beyond our community. By the end of the year, The Durham received awards and recognition from the American Alliance of Museums and the Center for Interactive Learning for our digital learning programs including our popular *Museum Live!* program. The museum also presented (virtually, of course) at the national conferences for the American Alliance of Museums and for the affiliates of the Smithsonian Institution.

« Museum Live! fan favorite Professor Durham



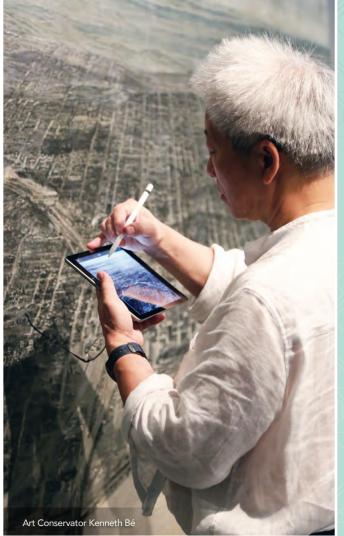
The shifting landscape of the pandemic brought an exciting opportunity for The Durham's summer season as James *Cameron: CHALLENGING THE DEEP* made its North American debut in Omaha. The blockbuster exhibition, which focused on deep sea exploration and drew upon Cameron's box office hits *The Abyss* and *Titanic*, was a huge hit with museum guests. Adding to the fun was a complementary display exploring the history of the ocean liner era of passenger travel, boisterous summer camps, and a Deep Sea Fridays series featuring family-friendly, STEM-based activities. A mix of virtual and in-person lectures connected museum members and the public with Dr. Robert Ballard, the famous researcher credited with discovering the *Titanic* and *Bismarck* shipwrecks featured in the display, as well as a history of the *Titanic's* fateful voyage and a conversation with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The summer also saw the return of popular public programs including our River City History Tours and Museum Insider Tours, which give guests a chance to explore museum collections not currently on display.













As the summer wound down, The Durham debuted another unique exhibition that highlighted the museum's historical preservation mission. Omaha Uncovered: Revealing History Through Art and Story featured Kenneth Bé of the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center actively conserving a painted mural from 1905 entitled An Aerial View of Omaha from within the gallery space. The now-restored painting, which is part of the museum's permanent collection, looks west from the Missouri River towards the horizon and elegantly captures an Omaha of the past that can be compared to the growth of the present. To complement the painting, the exhibition featured historic images of landmarks and neighborhoods from the museum's Photo Archive, many of which were also visible in the mural. Exhibit labels were written in both English and Spanish, as were personal stories of reflection provided by long-time Omaha resident and retired museum employee and former volunteer, Bill Gonzalez. Finally, the exhibition featured a temporary Photo Archive lab—complete with interns and staff digitizing photographs—and examples of the archival storage techniques that included video segments showing how visitors could care for their own family treasures at home. The exhibition's debut on August 7 coincided with another Durham tradition, the family favorite Root Beer Float Day celebrating Union Station's historic soda fountain.





#### George Smit a.k.a. Joe Co

Omaha, Nebraska October 10, 1891 rom the primal jungle – and we have been iven to see clearly what that have a set is the law! It is the might of the low work dministered. It is respect for the obelience of the law on the part of members of society tay the lesson sink deep!



As students returned to the classrooms in the fall, the museum added new enhancements to our educational approach. A second season of the *Museum Live!* virtual program featured recurring partnerships with Smithsonian Institution curators as well as other museums from across Nebraska and throughout the country. With many schools able to return to on-site field trips, generous museum donors provided underwritten admission and transportation for dozens of schools in the final months of the year. Our team continued to tell inclusive stories, including that of the "Exodusters," a group of pioneering African Americans who headed west to the Great Plains following the Civil War. The museum also completed a **new installation** in our permanent galleries that features soil jars commemorating George Smith and Will Brown, two black lynching victims of our region's past, to honor their memories and share this important history.

A second major exhibition debuted in October and offered both local and global perspectives. *40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World* concluded its national tour at The Durham Museum. The exhibition, featuring photographs from Howard G. Buffett, documented incredible challenges such as food insecurity and violence impacting humanity across



 Creat HALL-oween Haunt: haunted train

40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World exhibition

the globe, while offering hope and inspiration to visitors to harvest a better world.

In November, the museum celebrated its annual Sentimental Journey fundraiser in a unique way by foregoing the in-person event for a week of free admission and programming enjoyed by more than 7,000 guests. Longstanding museum traditions like Great HALL-oween Haunt and Christmas at Union Station returned with a greater in-person presence. During the holidays, the museum's On Track Guild hosted its inaugural Coming Home for the Holidays Luncheon and Market, creating a new tradition that helped put a celebratory bow on a tremendous year of programming and experiences. December also welcomed *Billie Holiday at Sugar Hill: Photographs* by Jerry Dantzic, an exhibition organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in cooperation with the Jerry Dantzic Archives.





Coming Home for the Holidays Luncheon and Market



## 230,877

Annual Attendance

7,130 Household Memberships

+1,400 members in the final 6 months of 2021

Beyond the Vote exhibition









## So many ways to say "Welcome Back"

Throughout 2021, The Durham reintroduced visitors to the exhibits, events and experiences that have kept Union Station bustling year after year:

#### Major Exhibitions

- GUITAR: The Instrument That Rocked the World From the National GUITAR Museum, New York
- Beyond the Vote

From The Durham Museum in partnership with six local artists from Omaha and Lincoln

- James Cameron: CHALLENGING THE DEEP From the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney; toured internationally by Flying Fish
- **Omaha Uncovered: Revealing History Through Art & Story** From The Durham Museum in partnership with Kenneth Bé of the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center
- **40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World** From the Newseum, Washington, D.C. and presented exclusively by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation
- *Billie Holiday at Sugar Hill: Photographs by Jerry Dantzic* From the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in cooperation with the Jerry Dantzic Archives

#### Local Focus Exhibitions

- Instrumental: Making Music with the Omaha Conservatory of Music
- *Style and Speed: Passenger Liner Travel of the 20th Century*
- A Territory of Sound: African American Jazz Orchestras in Early 20th Century Omaha
- Season's Greetings, Omaha

From the Byron Reed Collection:

*It's All in the Family: Positioning Power in the Napoleonic Age* 

Beyond the Mysticism: Alchemy's Descent into Modern Medicine and Science

#### Community Events

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Day Museum Insider Tours • River City History Tours Root Beer Float Day • Teachers' Week The Great HALL-oween Haunt • Halloweekend Sentimental Journey Free Admission Week Virtual Tree Lighting Ceremony Virtual Holiday Cultural Festival Family Nights with Santa Noon Year's Eve Celebration

#### **Guest Lectures**

- 500 Years of the Guitar with Kenneth Bé
- Harriet Tubman, historical reenactment featuring Dr. Daisy Century
- From Frying Pans to Fenders: The Birth of the Electric Guitar with H.P. Newquist
- Behind the Scenes of CHALLENGING THE DEEP with Kim Butts and Richard Wood
- A Conversation with Dr. Robert Ballard
- An Aerial View of Omaha with Kenneth Bé
- Exploring the Ocean with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- Titanic Artifacts: Where Are They Now? with Sheryl Rinkol
- A Conservation Conversation with the Ford Conservation Center
- Origins of Songs and Dances of the Lakota with Jerome Kills Small
- Holidays Cultural Conversations with The Tri-Faith Initiative

#### Social Media

24,254 Facebook Followers

6,751

J

4,798 Twitter Followers



## Learning & Engagement

#### The Impact of Digital Learning & Virtual Programs

102,946	students, student family members and teachers served	
110,353	total participants across all education programs	
84	of Nebraska's 93 counties	
70+	local and national collaborating organizations	
628	unique schools	
10	interns	

- 74% % of Omaha area Title 1 schools served
- 75% % of all Omaha area elementary schools served

#### Participants in Public Programs

- 3,909 Summer/Winter Camp 1,653 Lectures
- 449 Scouting Programs
- 1,396 Other tours/programs



#### Participants in School-Based Programs

- 78,377 *Museum Live!* and Virtual Field Trips
- 3,684 Onsite Field Trips (fall only)
- 192 Inclusive Museum Initiative
- 18,496 Scholars in Residence (virtual & onsite)
- Teachers' Week & Workshops
- 1,834 Student Workshops

- <sup>66</sup>My students rarely get to experience field trips because we have to find funding for that. Sometimes. even if the trip is free. funding the transportation makes going somewhere impossible. These were topics my students did not have much background knowledge in. but had high interest. I'm excited that as we learn more in Social Studies this year, they'll have this experience to remember and make connections to."
- From a Teacher Class visit & transportation costs underwritten





18th Annual Teachers' Niaht

NITS. Giman's Class @Room110SMM - Jan 11, 2021 Thank you to @TheDurhamMuseum for a fantastic Museum Live! thus moning We stee level earlier our dama cast and

### Program Spotlight

#### Museum Live!

The museum kicked off its second season of Museum Live! with a very special program celebrating Constitution Day. The program featured historical reenactor Kim Hanley of the American Historical Theatre, who portrayed the creator of the Star-Spangled Banner, Mary Young Pickersgill. Presenting alongside Hanley was Smithsonian curator Jennifer Jones, who was able to show students the original tattered flag that waved over Fort McHenry and served as the inspiration of our National Anthem, which is on display at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Throughout the year, museum educators connected tens of thousands of students with presenters from The Durham as well as partners at the Smithsonian Institution. Heinz History Center, Greensboro History Museum, Morrill Hall, El Museo Latino, Tri-Faith Initiative and more.

<sup>66</sup> Thank you to The Durham Museum for a fantastic Museum Live! this morning. We also loved seeing our friend Matt Serwe. Tweet from Mrs. Gilman's Class, St. Margaret Mary School

#### Scholars in Residence

The Scholars in Residence program connected students across our region with important programs centered on cultural heritage and American history. In February, The Durham hosted Dr. Daisy Century for a series of three Scholars in Residence programs exploring the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the programs were conducted virtually. Century's gripping presentation of Harriet Tubman and struggles endured by African Americans escaping slavery via the Underground Railroad was tremendously popular, reaching more than 10,000 students. teachers and adults in 51 Nebraska counties. 14 states and Canada.

<sup>ff</sup>Enioved the The Durham Museum Scholars in Residence program on the life of the "conductor" of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman. Tweet from Stephanie Toelle, **Bellevue Public Schools** 

inMuseum Scholars in Residence program

rnoyed the winebuttismentacism souvers in resumer p te of the "conductor" of the Underground Railroad, Harriet

Enjoyed the @TheDurhan

## **Collection Highlights**

The Mahammitt School of Cookery cookbook, 1939. Donated by Amanda Sheridan, care of New Life Thrift Store



The Mahammitt School of Cookery was founded by Sarah Helen Toliver Mahammitt (1869-1956), a leading figure in Omaha's African American community educating women on best practices of cooking at home, or social functions, with style and substance. Along with her husband, she operated a catering business that reached throughout Omaha, bringing her Le Cordon Bleu training to the festivities of Aksarben coronations and the wedding of Violet Joslyn (daughter of George and Sarah Joslyn of Joslyn Castle). She was also a trusted celebrity spokeswoman for the excellence of locally produced Omar Cake Mixes.

654

objects added to Permanent Collection

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Aksarben Princess gown worn by Miriam Wiley, 1922. Donated by Catherine Mead

Aksarben Princess gown worn by Nancy Engdahl, designed by "Mr. Blackwell Custom," 1976. Donated by Nancy Engdahl Robson in honor of Donald W. Engdahl

▲ Indian Congress mirror from the Trans Mississippi International Exposition, 1898. The image on this mirror is a reproduction of one by Karl Bodmer. It is very like Bodmer's painting of Chief Matu-tope of the Mandan Tribe. Donated by William K. Bales

▲ Mother of pearl coin purse from the Trans Mississippi International Exposition, 1898. Donated by William K. Bales





 Official announcement regarding the creation of Juneteenth as a National Holiday.
 Donated by the Office of U.S. Representative Don Bacon Updated collection storage

Collection Storage

#### Storage Project Complete



In September, The Durham completed a three-year grant project with the Institute of Museum and Library Services to update the museum's collection storage and processes. As part of this work, the museum catalogued and created digital records for more than 34,000 historic objects ranging from bloomers and blueprints, to postcards, periodicals and more.

The endeavor has had a major impact on our programs, too! From supporting the education department's *Museum Live!* webcast to expanding opportunities for Museum Insider Tours and presenting new objects for display, this partnership has brought history closer to many museum guests.

▲ Ladies' writing desk used by Angeline Smith Pickering and purchased in Fairbury, Nebraska, 1887. Donated by History Nebraska

#### IZ,Z30 Historic Photos Digitized



## Board of Directors

Stephen J. Abels, Chairman John K. Boyer, Secretary Stephanie Daubert, Treasurer Avner Applbaum Danny Begley, Ex-Officio Timothy R. Crockett Ken Keegan Bradley L. Knuth Beverly Kracher, Ph.D. Joseph R. Lempka Rodrigo Lopez Scott Moore John P. Nelson Mary Ann O'Brien Lisa A. Olson Mary C. Reckmeyer, Ph.D. Thomas Warren

*Emeritus Members* Richard R. Bell John K. Wilson

#### In Memoriam

The Durham Museum expresses its heartfelt gratitude as we remember former board members Dr. Stanley M. Truhlsen and Tommie Thompson and Omaha philanthropic icon Walter Scott for their indelible impact on this institution. We are forever grateful.

## Planning for the Future

The Durham's latest Institutional Plan, formally adopted in 2021, will guide the museum's future work to elevate our care of Union Station, enhance our exhibitions and experiences, ensure the long-term stability of our operations and continue infusing diversity and inclusivity into the stories we tell and programs we present to our community.

#### Key Goals for 2022

- Keep building attendance and membership by presenting engaging exhibits and memorable events
- Continue innovating through education by giving students, teachers and families multiple ways to interact with the museum throughout the year, both online and in-person
- Complete restoration of art deco ceiling in the Swanson Gallery and renovation of the historic Soda Fountain
- Partner with Washington, D.C.-based Gallagher & Associates to complete a master plan for Union Station and our permanent exhibitions
- Partner with University of Nebraska-Lincoln to complete an economic impact study for the museum

#### Temporary Exhibitions for 2022

- Billie Holiday at Sugar Hill: Photographs by Jerry Dantzic
- A Territory of Sound: African American Jazz Orchestras in Early 20th Century Omaha
- Theater Row: Stage and Screen in Early 20th Century Omaha
- Nelson Mandela: The Official Exhibition
- Dinosaur Revolution
- Dressing the Abbey
- Holiday Memories at Brandeis Department Store

### The Durham Society

The Durham Society was established to provide designated support to The Durham Museum and its cultural and educational programming. This philanthropically-minded 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

Anonymous Sally G. Bekins Patricia K. and Richard R. Bell Lynne D. and John K. Boyer Elizabeth and Michael S. Cassling Trish and Richard K. Davidson Karen A. and F. Weslev Dixon Debby Durham Barbara S. and Steven H. Durham Margaret and Griffith Evans Michael G. Fahev Diane and Harlan O. Falk Carmen and John F. Gottschalk Susan and George F. Haddix Joan Squires and Daniel A. Hamann The late Ramona and Deryl F. Hamann Rhonda A. and Howard L. Hawks The late Mary C. Heider Kirsten and Steve Hosman Vernie and Carter Jones Karen and Ken Keegan Amy J. and Bradley L. Knuth Kacey and Joe Lempka Mary and Rodrigo Lopez Mary H. Lundgren Marilyn and Carl Mammel Amy M. Haddad and Steven S. Martin

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Museum Live! Digital Learning Program





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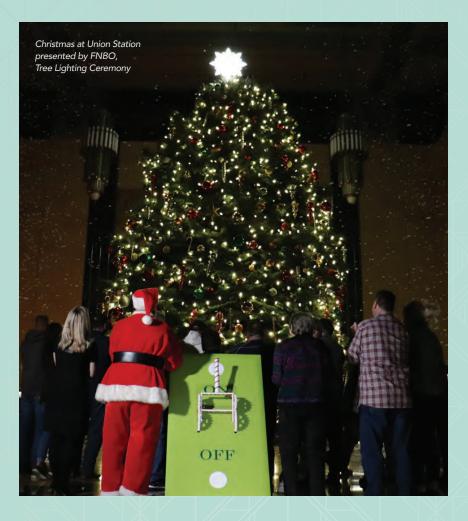
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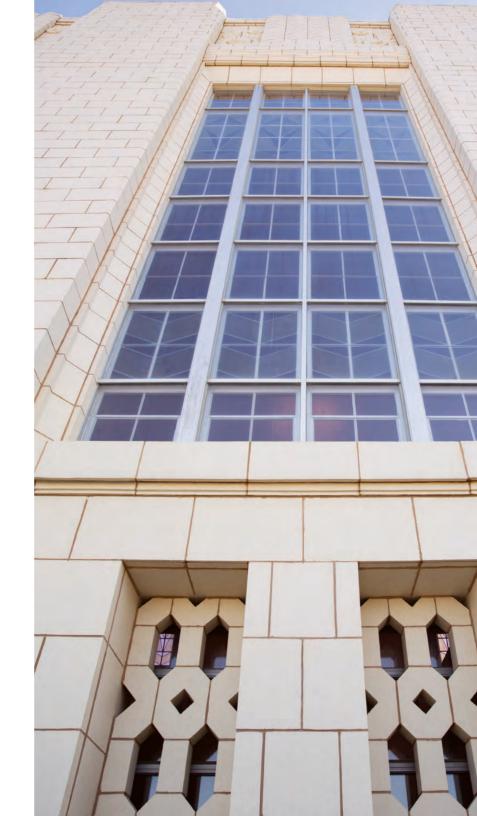
The Durham Museum and The Durham Museum Foundation Combined Statements of Financial Position

#### **Financial Position**

	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents <sup>A</sup>	\$5,268,272	\$4,822,202
Investments <sup>B</sup>	19,791,587	19,254,892
Receivables	19,465 932,392 298,049 140,411 48,907	17,580 633,153 - 151,202 53,797
Contributions receivable <sup>c</sup>		
Other Receivable - Employee Retention Tax Credit		
Accrued interest		
Inventory		
Prepaid expenses	250,560	245,526
Property and equipment, net	7,257,358	7,885,405
Total Assets	\$34,007,001	\$33,063,757
Liabilities & Net Assets Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$770,328	\$1,144,160
Total Liabilities	\$770,328	\$1,144,160
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$14,139,693	\$14,471,923
Temporarily restricted	3,751,097	2,101,791
Permanently restricted	15,345,883	15,345,883
Total Net Assets	\$33,236,673	\$31,919,597
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$34,007,001	\$33,063,757

(A) Cash and cash equivalents include \$1,947,705 and \$1,503,585 in 2021 and 2020, respectively, which is restricted with donor stipulations that limit the use of the funds.

- (B) Investments include \$15,345,883 in 2021 and 2020, 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 \$1,803,392 and \$598,206 in 2021 and 2020, 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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