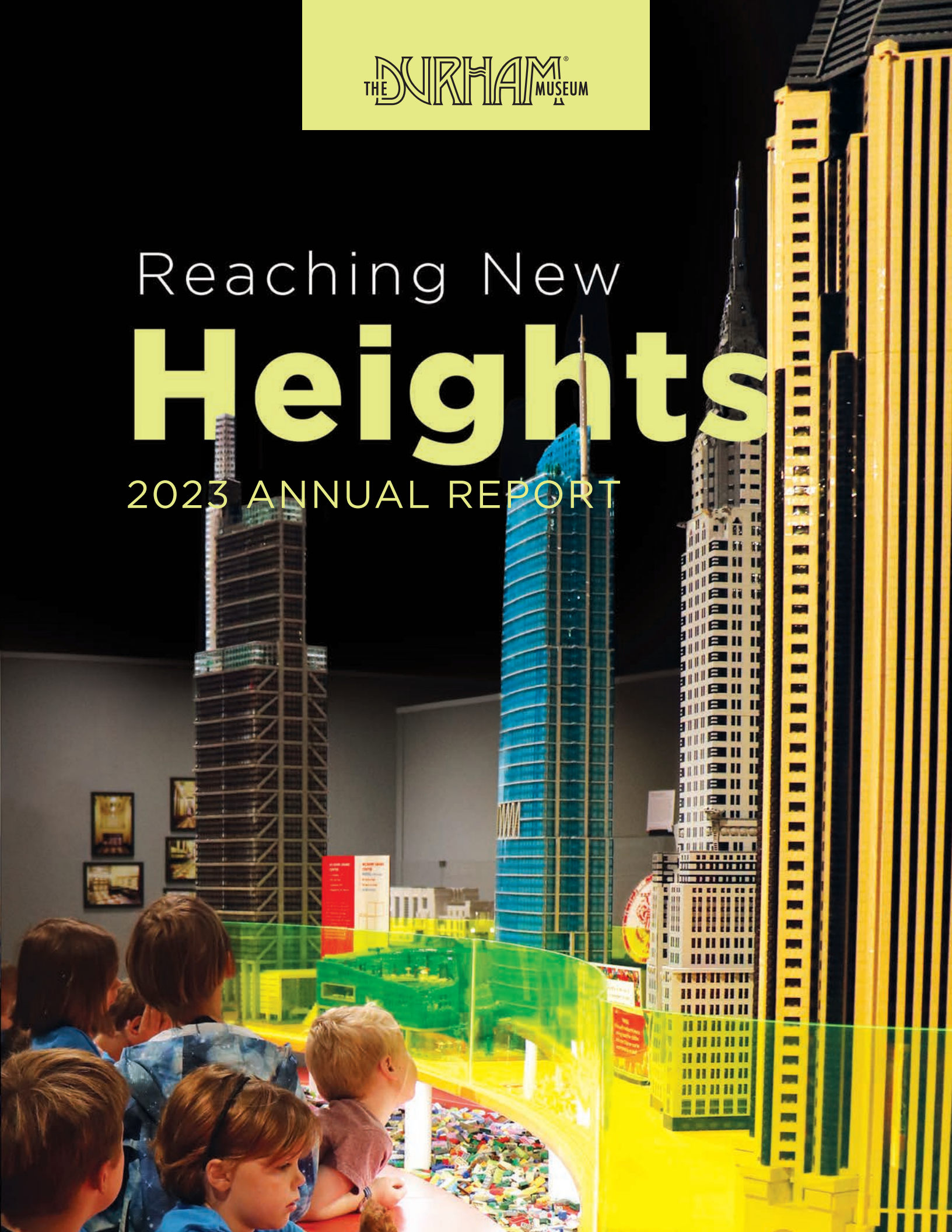


Reaching New
Heights
2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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.

“

I was going to buy a daily pass, but quickly upgraded to a yearly membership...

There is something for everyone at The Durham. Treat yourself, you deserve it.”

Guest review

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“

Every year we come out here because it's our family tradition....

Watching the tree lighting and all the energy is fantastic.”

Tree-Lighting Ceremony attendee

Tree Lighting Cermony



4

Root Beer Float Day



Scale LEGO® model of Union Station by LOLUG



Sweet Inspiration: Chef Gale Gand reflects on Julia Child's lasting legacy

From the **Executive Director**

By just about any measure, 2023 at The Durham Museum saw Omaha's home to history reaching new heights.

From important and highly visible restoration efforts to the vibrant energy that comes with record-setting attendance, Union Station was bustling with activity throughout the year. After 20 years, the museum's temporary exhibitions program is still going strong, but so too are the community events and educational programs that make The Durham a popular destination for locals and visitors, students and families, history and architecture enthusiasts and all points in between. In the following pages, you'll read about some of the milestone accomplishments of the past year, including:

- The preservation of our largest artifact, Union Station, continued with the completion of the Art Deco ceiling restoration in the Suzanne and Walter Scott Great Hall
- Engaging exhibitions exploring local and national topics drove record membership and admissions, while also forging new community connections
- Public programming continued to expand with new opportunities and the return of our in-person Tree Lighting Ceremony for the first time since 2019
- Robust student outreach fostered deep impact, as we served students in a record number of K-12 schools in the metro region

The Durham Museum's ability to continue climbing is only possible with the tireless and generous investment of the many supporters, volunteers, members and community partners that make our success possible. As always, thank you for being the heart of this historic institution.

Sincerely,

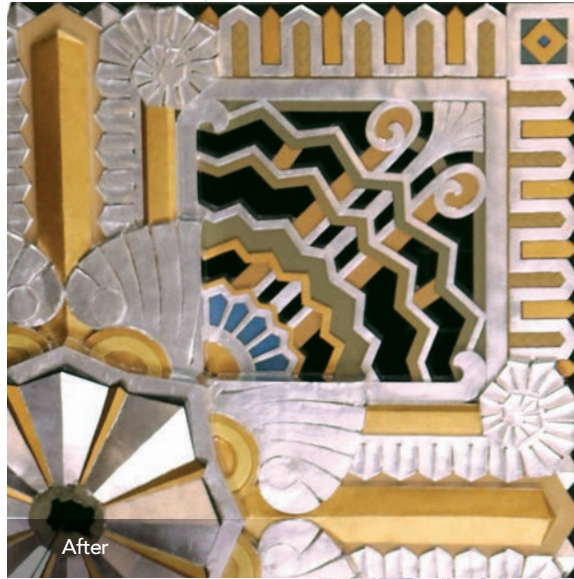


Christi Janssen
Executive Director

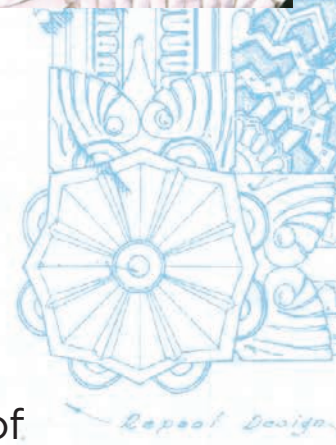




Before



After



Preserving History

The museum continued to elevate the care of Union Station to serve our growing community and preserve a vital piece of Omaha's history.

Art Deco Awe

From January through May, museum visitors were able to see preservation of Union Station in action as experts from EverGreene Architectural Arts worked to restore the grand Art Deco ceiling in the Suzanne and Walter Scott Great Hall. Changes were noticeable immediately. Crews spent five months repairing plaster, painting large fields of color and applying fresh aluminum leaf to grates. The project represented the next phase in restorative efforts to preserve our National Historic Landmark home.

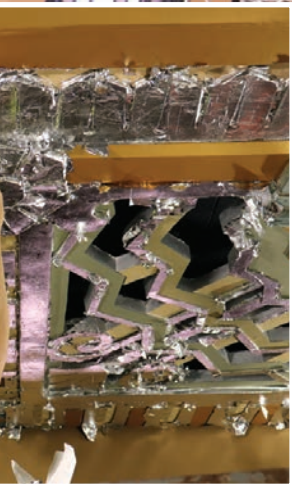
You can support preservation efforts at the museum by donating to the museum's maintenance fund! Please see the Ways to Give section on page 31 or scan the QR code.



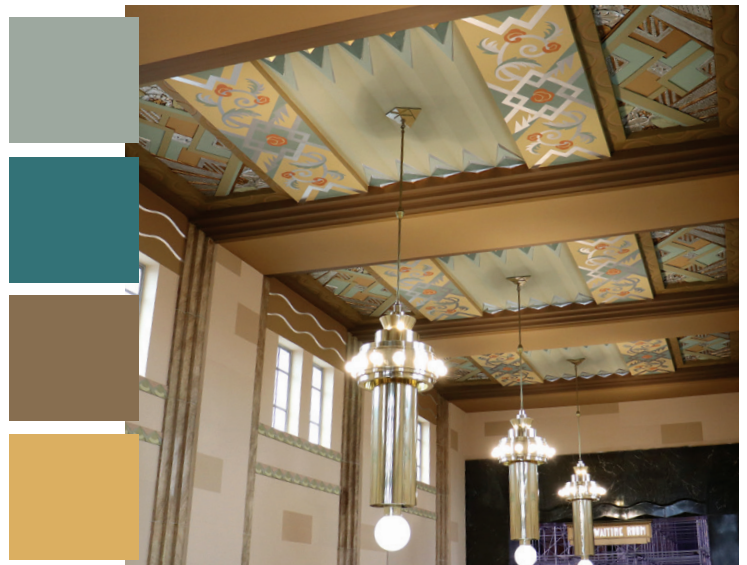
We're one of the most pristine examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation.

... it's our privilege and obligation to make sure we're preserving the building and that history for future generations and our community.

Kim Henze, Director of Museum Operations



Union Station's ceiling is adorned with an array of colors and shapes that pay homage to nature while staying true to the "ultra-modern" aesthetic of Art Deco architecture. Shades of sage green, blue, brown, taupe and yellow blend seamlessly with metallic gold and silver, while sharp lines, zigzags and chevrons contrast with more intricate designs inspired by local agriculture, water and Native American dress.



Collection Highlights

From new acquisitions to new opportunities for the public to view the permanent collection, the museum enjoyed another robust year of preserving and sharing local history.

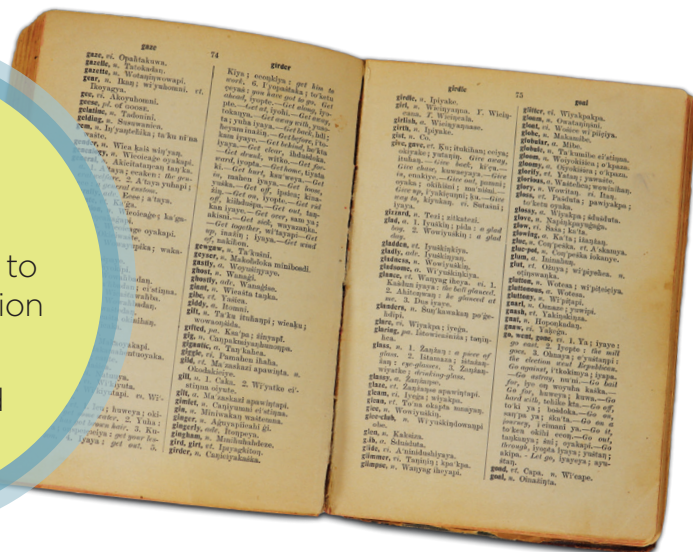


48

accessions added to permanent collection

2,040

fully catalogued objects



◀ Beaded “flapper” dress, circa 1920s
Donated by Sandra Isaacson Olson

▶ Dakota-English dictionary
Donated by Jeanne Prucha,
Paula Rasmuss and Jane Seaton



4,700
 Historic images with
 metadata added to the
 digitized photo archive

343,000
 total images
 available

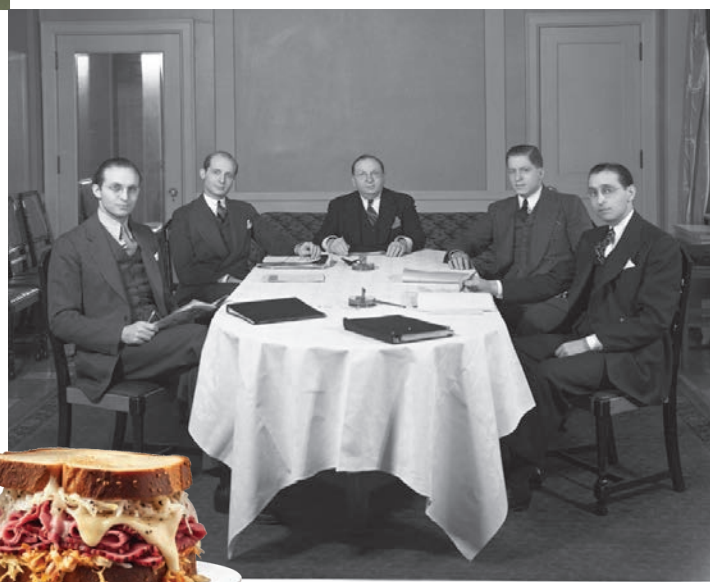
Ticket ledgers from ►
 Omaha's Union Station
 Donated by the family
 of Ken Cotton, Sr.



▲ A portrait of a boy and a dog, 1971
 The Durham Museum Photo Archive,
 Donald Jack Collection, DJ5724-002

Photo Archive image featured ►
 in an episode of streaming
 service Very Local's "Only In"
 episode on the history of the
 Rueben sandwich.

Charles Schimmel, center, with four sons
 at the Blackstone Hotel in 1937.
 The Durham Museum Photo Archive,
 Bostwick-Frohardt/ KM3TV collection,
 BF1798-047



Two 1961 Aksarben coronation gowns designed by Ann Lowe were accessioned into the collection in 2008 and 2010. These dresses were loaned to the Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library in Delaware for their *Ann Lowe: American Couturier* exhibition that opened on September 9, 2023.

Photos: (Lower Left)
 Advertisement on a
 Philadelphia bus shelter
 featuring illustrations of both
 Aksarben gowns on loan.

(Lower right) By Moneta Sleet Jr. for Ebony Magazine, 1966.
 Credit Johnson Publishing Company Archive.
 Courtesy Ford Foundation, J. Paul Getty Trust, John D.
 and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon
 Foundation and Smithsonian Institution.

Coronation gown
 is a gift of Lynn
 Robertson Evert
 Photo courtesy of
 Winterthur Museum,
 Garden and Library



ANN LOWE
 FASHION DESIGNER





POW! BAM! WOW!

With over 59,000 visitors during its run, *Hall of Heroes* became the highest-attended spring exhibition in our 20-year history of the temporary exhibitions program.



Exhibitions

Throughout 2023, exciting exhibitions and experiences offered unique ways for visitors of all ages to explore history and the world around us.

Featured Exhibitions

Hall of Heroes

From Stage Nine Design, distributed by Exhibits Development Group

Towers of Tomorrow with LEGO® Bricks

From Sydney Living Museums and toured internationally by Flying Fish

Julia Child: A Recipe for Life

Exhibit was developed by Flying Fish and Napa Valley Museum, supported by The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts, Schlesinger Library, Harvard Radcliffe Institute and Oceania Cruises

White Christmas - The Exhibition

From the Rosemary Clooney House Museum and Stephen and Heather French Henry



Local Focus Exhibitions

Omaha Workers: Striking a Change in History

Descendants of DeWitty

From the Descendants of DeWitty, Nebraska

Byron Reed Favorites

The Lunchbox: Packed with Pop Culture

Developed by The Durham Museum and Mark Kelehan

Honoring 75 Years: The History of Omaha's World War II Memorial Park

Developed by The Durham Museum and the Omaha Parks Foundation

Cream of the Crop: Omaha Pioneers of the Food Scene





▲ Building a Partnership

The Durham partnered with LOLUG (the Lincoln-Omaha LEGO® Users Group) on several projects throughout the year. Volunteers from the organization built numerous displays for the museum, including Memorial Park, pictured above (in conjunction with the Memorial Park 75th anniversary exhibition), Trans-Mississippi Exposition seal (in honor of the event's 125th anniversary) and a scale model of Union Station itself to celebrate our summer exhibition, *Towers of Tomorrow*.

Summer Blockbuster ▶

Towers of Tomorrow was the highest-attended temporary summer exhibition by museum members in our organization's history.





The Lunchbox: Packed with Pop Culture exhibition



They had me at lunchbox exhibit.

My special needs brother and I have been collecting for decades. ...[He] now has Alzheimer's so it was bittersweet. Excellent exhibit that also includes some history, plus the Holy Grail of lunchboxes — Toppie."

Museum Guest



Julia Child: A Recipe for Life exhibition



White Christmas - The Exhibition

Public Programming & Outreach

Out and About

Museum programming was not limited to Union Station. The education department launched a new Historic Downtown Walking Tour in addition to rotating programming in the newly renovated Gene Leahy Mall.

Spooky Fun

The Durham Museum celebrated its 10th annual Great HALL-oween Haunt with more than 1,300 trick-or-treaters.

Joyful Bites

A full house at the Stanley and Dorothy Truhlsen Lecture Hall gathered for a culinary conversation featuring Lea Anne Dea of Conagra Brands, Jessica and Paul Urban of Block 16, Meya Hill of No More Empty Pots, Wilson Calixte of Le Voltaire, and moderator Brian O'Malley of the Metropolitan Community College Institute for the Culinary Arts.

O Christmas Tree

More than 1,200 visitors joined us for our first in-person Tree Lighting Ceremony since 2019 to kick off Christmas at Union Station presented by FNBO. The program included a performance by Michael Walker and the cast of *White Christmas* from the Bellevue Little Theater.

Celebrate! at The Platform

This new featured program gave families a chance to engage in hands-on activities at the museum's popular Platform interactive area as they learned about important holidays including Día de los Muertos, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Las Posadas.



Special Programming & Community Events

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Free Day
- Superhero Saturdays
- Museum Insider Tours
- Celebrate! at The Platform
- River City History Tours including new historic downtown walking tours
- Scout Merit Badge workshops
- Nebraska SciFest Expo
- \$5 After 5 series
- Build It! Fridays
- Root Beer Float Day
- Smithsonian Channel Film series
- Teachers' Night
- The Great HALL-oween Haunt
- Halloween
- Veterans Day
- Sentimental Journey
- Coming Home for the Holidays Luncheon and Market
- Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Holiday Cultural Festival
- Holiday Lights Family Festival
- Family Nights with Santa
- Noon Year's Eve celebration



Summer Camp



Field Trip

Student Outreach

The 2022-2023 school year featured an impactful mix of virtual and on-site programs, including a record-breaking field trip season and another award-winning year of digital programming. In addition to these core programs, the museum expanded our featured programming and Inclusive Museum Initiative and hosted our 20th annual Teachers' Night.

The Impact of Education Outreach

- 65,703** Students, student family members & teachers served
- 75,153** Total participants across all education programs
- 70** Of Nebraska's 93 counties served
- 90+** Local and national collaborating organizations
- 600+** Unique schools served
- 86%** Omaha area elementary schools served
- 90%** Omaha area Title 1 elementary schools served



Participants in School-Based programs

- 50,378** Museum Live! & virtual field trips
- 14,143** Onsite field trips
- 607** Inclusive Museum Initiative
- 441** Teachers' Night



Participants in Public Programs

- 3,083** Summer/winter camps
- 3,461** Summer youth workshops and tours
- 2,027** Adult guided and specialty tours
- 438** Scouting programs
- 966** Lecture attendees

Guest Presentations

- Lecture with the Institute for Holocaust Education featuring Jim Berk
- The Lost Treasures of Omaha lecture and book signing with Tim and Lisa Trudell
- Joyful Bites: A Culinary Conversation
- Sweet Inspiration: Chef Gale Gand Reflects on Julia Child's Lasting Legacy
- Restoring Indigenous Food Sovereignty, in partnership with Nebraska Public Media and Vision Maker Media



Photo: Renee Sans Souci (Umó'ho") moderates the Restoring Indigenous Food Sovereignty panel

A large crowd of people is gathered in a grand, ornate hall, celebrating with a massive display of colorful balloons (red, blue, orange, purple, yellow, green) hanging from the ceiling. A large Christmas tree is visible on the left side of the hall. The atmosphere is festive, with confetti falling from the ceiling. The crowd is dense, and many people are holding up their phones to take photos or videos. The hall has high ceilings with decorative elements and large windows on the right side. An American flag is visible on the far right.

A Record Year

260,480

Record Annual
Attendance

2023

By The Numbers

9

Months of the year saw new attendance records

9,757

Record household memberships

86,204

Paid admissions



Award Season!



Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Recipient

Celebrates businesses that consistently received great traveler reviews on Tripadvisor



Best Historic Venue award and Best Museum Venue award from Nebraska Wedding Day



Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration Pinnacle Award

Recognizing the most distinguished live virtual field trips by world renowned cultural centers



1st Place Recreation and Entertainment in the "Museums" category from Omaha Choice Awards

Volunteering is good.

It makes you as a person feel good, it makes the public feel good and it helps keep places like this going."

Dennis Hynes



Step Forward Award

Longtime Durham volunteer Dennis Hynes, a U.S. Air Force veteran, received the Veteran Volunteer award from ServeNebraska and Governor Jim Pillen.

Photo courtesy of ServeNebraska

The Durham Museum

Special guest Dr. Thomas Fangman stopped by The Durham Museum. Dr. Fangman worked at Union Station as a Red Cap from 1947-56... See more

1.1K 36 42

16k+ Volunteer Hours

Social Media 30,912 Followers

8,153 Followers



Holiday Cultural Festival



Spooky Tales for Tots



Metropolitan Community College Culinary Arts Students at Joyful Bites: A Culinary Conversation

Mandela Elementary students perform during Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Free Day



Board of Directors

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Stephanie Daubert, *Treasurer*

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Avner M. Applbaum

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Lisa Olson

Mary Reckmeyer, Ph.D.

Emeritus Members

Richard R. Bell

John K. Wilson



The Lost Treasures of Omaha lecture and book signing with authors Tim and Lisa Trudell

Coming Home for the Holidays
Guest Speaker Katie Laughridge





Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition
125th Anniversary Exhibit Feature

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**

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Michael S. Cassling
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Nancy L. and Philip M. Wolf



Coffee with the Curator & Collections Patron Event

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Marilyn Coffin
Arlene and Paul G. Cohen
Amber and Jonathan Cohn
Renaë and Bryan Connolly

Mary M. Cooney
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Laurie L. and John S. Davis
Laurel K. Wheeler and
John W. Davis
Andrea Zimmer and Ross Davis
Randolph K. Davison
Andy Lim and Jeffrey DeLoss
Samantha J. and Andrew Dewey
Kathleen A. and Robert Dewhurst
Anna and Woody Diederich
Brenda L. and J. Ward Doering III
Elizabeth Dostal
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Jeanne Prucha, Paula Rasmuss
and Jane Seaton
The Smith Family
Julie and Dan Stambaugh
Mary Ann Strasheim
Stuhr Museum of the
Prairie Pioneer
Jane Bruning Tonniges
Gene F. Uher
Jacqueline Walker
Kelly Walton and Walton Family
Westchester Township
History Museum
Sarah Bay Yale
The Zeleny Family

2023 Financial Statement

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

Financial Position

	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents ^A	\$3,563,470	\$4,973,321
Investments ^B	19,130,874	17,309,769
Receivables	88,263	60,886
Contributions receivable ^C	821,538	772,419
Other Receivable - Employee Retention Tax Credit	-	-
Accrued interest	163,255	155,653
Inventory	51,138	54,241
Prepaid expenses	202,062	243,516
Property and equipment, net	7,464,934	7,267,193
Total Assets	\$31,485,534	\$30,836,998
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$894,891	\$646,721
Total Liabilities	\$894,891	\$646,721
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	\$11,797,505	\$11,243,777
Temporarily restricted	3,422,255	3,673,545
Permanently restricted	15,370,883	15,272,955
Total Net Assets	\$30,590,643	\$30,190,277
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$31,485,534	\$30,836,998

(A) Cash and cash equivalents include \$1,288,023 and \$1,673,051 in 2023 and 2022, respectively, which is restricted with donor stipulations that limit the use of the funds.

(B) Investments include \$15,370,883 and \$15,272,955 in 2023 and 2022, 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 \$25,000 and \$807,500 in 2023 and 2022, respectively, which is restricted with donor stipulations that limit the use of the funds.



Ways to Give

Each year, gifts from supporters like you help us sustain the key activities of the museum, from maintaining historic Union Station to presenting exhibitions and education programs that bring the world to Omaha. We invite you to invest in these efforts by supporting the museum's mission in 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

Members of the Durham Society share a philanthropic vision for the museum and its service to the community.

Durham Society members make an annual gift of \$1,000 or more that is fully tax-deductible. The funds are used to strengthen museum operations and 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 exciting exhibitions, 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 vital community institution. You may also choose to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one with a direct gift to the museum, commissioning a brick in our permanent exhibition galleries or sponsoring a piece of our model railroad.

Maintenance Fund

Established in 2019, this dedicated fund provides restricted support for the preservation and maintenance of our National Historic Landmark Building, ensuring resources are always available for major repairs, restoration projects and replacement of critical environmental components and systems.

Planned Gifts

You are invited to leave a personal legacy by including The Durham Museum in your planned giving strategy. By including the organization in your estate plans, you will help to sustain Union Station, The Durham Museum and its collections for generations to come.

Interested in learning more? Contact the Development department at 402-444-4775 or development@durhammuseum.org.



THE DURHAM MUSEUM

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