

#### 2019-2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

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#### **Our Mission**

To share Chicago stories, serving as a hub of scholarship and learning, inspiration, and civic engagement.

#### **A New Look**

In July 2020, the Chicago History Museum (CHM) debuted a new brand platform comprising strategic statements, a master narrative, and visual elements. Our new logo, color palette, and typography will serve as an ongoing touchstone for brand communications and expression as we help people make meaningful and personal connections to history.







#### CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

1601 North Clark Street Chicago, Illinois 60614-6038 312.642.4600

#### CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

The Chicago History Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of the Chicago Park District on behalf of the people of Chicago.



Your Chicago History Museum has never been more relevant or more essential than it is today. During FY 2020, we marked many achievements, confronted the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continued to address the deeply rooted legacy of racial discrimination in our society. The Museum has moved forward on all fronts as a result of its strong foundation and the farsighted leadership that Gary Johnson and Museum staff have shown in their eagerness to tell all of Chicago's many stories.

As we commenced FY 2020 on July 1, 2019, we looked forward to a productive year. We were in the midst of preparing to launch our groundbreaking exhibition American Medina: Stories of Muslim Chicago, which opened to huge acclaim in October 2019. We were in the final stages of our \$50 million Capital Campaign, which was successfully completed in December 2019 as a result of the generosity of so many of you: our members, our trustees, and our friends. We were just starting the process of getting our arms around a massive collection of photographic negatives we acquired-essentially the entire photographic narrative of Chicago from 1940 to 2000 through the lens of the Chicago Sun-Times. We were about to embark with the American Alliance of Museums on convening trustees and leaders from a small group of Chicago's museums on ways to make our staff, leadership, trustees, and audiences more diverse and inclusive, and we hosted the inaugural session of that group at the Museum in October 2019. FY 2020 was off to a strong beginning.

As you know, beginning in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic required immediate and dramatic adjustments. As a result of work the Museum had done in prior years, the Museum was ready. In particular, in 2017, the Museum had adopted the report of its Digital Future Committee and embraced becoming a "digital-first" mindset: one whose "vision is a new attitude, a mindset, a commitment to a digital approach that is experimental, agile, iterative, collaborative, and responsive in order to engage the most people possible in meaningful exchanges with the Museum, the city, and history."

This describes exactly what the Museum was able to do in March when our building closed to the public. The digital museum swung into full gear. On the very first day of the quarantine, "Chicago History at Home" was born as a daily series making use of our digital content. As the quarantine went on, our education team designed daily activities for children, families, and teens to supplement the Museum's educational resources already available online. Our social media hashtag created a digital community that showcased what we love about Chicago and celebrated families and communities across the city. We offered programs on Zoom for members, supporters, and the general public. Staff members put these programs together working from home and crossed departmental lines to help out on back-office, mission-critical projects such as cataloguing and processing images.

As the disparate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the senseless killings of George Floyd and others brought urgent focus on the enduring legacy of discrimination, the Museum presented timely programing, such as our educational program on Juneteenth. Our Fourth of July celebration featured a series of significant reflections on the Declaration of Independence from community voices.

The Museum's can-do spirit was likewise brought to bear on our reopening on July 10. In addition to all the safeguards we added to make the Museum welcoming and safe, we opened our stunning exhibition *Millions of Moments: The Chicago Sun-Times Photo Collection*. We also launched new brand imagery and implemented new back-office systems to better manage visitor, member, and donor information.

As FY 2020 came to a close, the Museum continued to be financially strong. The Capital Campaign provided building and grounds improvements, a stronger endowment, and almost 100 new members of our planned giving society, the Lincoln Honor Roll. The Museum was also able to achieve a balanced operating budget as a result of many factors, including belt-tightening, a much-needed Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, and generous support from so many of you.

We thank our supporters from the bottom of our hearts for your loyal and generous assistance when so many of our usual revenue sources temporarily dried up. We thank the members



who generously renewed, even when it was not possible to visit the Museum. We thank the Guild and Costume Council for their vigor and tenacity–your grit in the face of the pandemic inspires us all. We thank the trustees for their oversight and help in every way, including making early gifts to the FY 2020 Making History Awards, even though the program was rescheduled to October 2020.

As I write this, your Board of Trustees is actively engaged in the search for Gary's successor. We do not yet know who that person will be, but we do know that Gary has done a simply outstanding job since becoming president in 2005. The Museum has been at the forefront of Chicago's civic and cultural firmament as a result of Gary's years of steady and far sighted leadership. And it is well-positioned for the future.

Thank you to Gary and thank you to all of you for your steadfast dedication and support for the Museum and its mission.



**Walter C. Carlson**Chair
Chicago History Museum Board of Trustees

# \* PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I was honored to become its president in 2005, the Chicago History Museum was about to close down for its rebuilding project called the "Reinvention." Now as I prepare to step down, the Museum is cautiously reopening from the COVID-19 guarantine.

The fifteen years in between these two closures have included truly memorable openings and events. Some were once-in-a-generation, including most notably the opening in 2006 of the Exelon Wing with its *Chicago: Crossroads of America* permanent exhibition. Some events were annual, such as our Martin Luther King commemoration—typically our top day for attendance. There have been events that we created ourselves, such as the Chicago Hot Dog Fest, which two years ago attracted 34,000 participants. There also have been dozens of special exhibitions and hundreds and hundreds of programs, each of them memorable in their own way.

Public events, public programs, and public spaces tell a museum's story, but there also are stories behind the story. **Let's look at some numbers that tell these other stories.** 

For the Museum's collection, the most significant legacy during these fifteen years has been the acquisition of photography collections, including **5 million images** produced by the *Chicago Sun-Times*, **20,000** by the architectural photography firm Hedrich-Blessing, and **4,000** by the blues scene photographer Raeburn Flerlage. In 2012, ours was the first museum to offer an exhibition featuring street photographer Vivian Maier, and in 2020, we acquired a major collection of her works. Because of these acquisitions, we are better equipped to share Chicago's stories than ever before.

Consider, too, the growing access to our collections. During these years, **700,000 pages** of the Museum's archives became accessible online 24/7 through **90 libraries**, including the Chicago Public Library, thanks to our partnership with ProQuest. Most of this material falls under the heading of "Civil Rights and the Black Freedom Struggle of the 20th Century," which features our single most-requested archive, the records of Claude A. Barnett's Associated Negro Press. Thanks to our partnership with the Library of Congress, **almost all** of the Studs Terkel's collection has been digitized, and **5,000 hours** of those recordings have become accessible through a free

website hosted by our partner, WFMT radio. **Ten of our online exhibitions** are posted on Google Arts & Culture, and **six of our augmented reality and virtual reality projects** are available on our Chicago 00 website. Our chicagohistory.org website offers **all kinds of rich curricular content** for teachers and students. Our wish to become a "digital first" museum is coming true.

Another story behind the story is that **most of the Museum's special exhibitions** these years have been community exhibitions. At a 2016 White House ceremony, CHM received the nation's highest award for museums, the National Medal of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This award cited the Museum's community outreach in exhibitions such as Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair and My Chinatown, as well as in the ongoing program OUT at CHM, which led to America's **first major-museum exhibition on LGBTQIA+ history**. Our current exhibition American Medina: Stories of Muslim Chicago is the latest in our series on three of Chicago's religious communities. In 2009, we took a community approach to the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. Thanks to an idea from our board chair John Rowe, and with the help of our partner the National Museum of Mexican Art, we startled the world of Lincoln scholars by offering an exhibition about President Benito Juárez alongside an exhibition about Lincoln. We had the privilege of displaying national treasures that never before had left Mexico as our visitors learned about these two contemporary leaders who each dealt with issues of slavery and civil war.

Another story has been our innovative mindset. Ours is the oldest cultural institution in Chicago, but "times will change, and this reinvented museum will keep reinventing." How is that possible? These days, even an old museum can think like a start-up and use the tools of social entrepreneurship. Examples included the "Reinvention" itself, which literally became a textbook case study, and the **first-ever crowdsourcing** by a museum to select the subject of a future exhibition. We reached out through social media and the crowd gave us **over 500 ideas**. The crowd narrowed the field in successive votes to the top choice—*Chicago Authored*. In keeping with this experimental approach, our curators offered the exhibition in a largely digital format and installed it to adjoin our café, where the public could see it without buying a ticket.



Growing engagement with classrooms has been another theme. During the first few months, my visits to Chicago Public School classrooms revealed that many teachers and principals had the mistaken idea that the Chicago Historical Society was a private club, one that required some sort of special invitation to visit. Our staff has turned that around. Our field trip numbers to the Museum have doubled, and we have reached out from the Museum into the schools both through our new Chicago Learning Collaborative and through the 2016 merger of the Chicago Metro History Fair with the Chicago History Museum. (All told, I was lucky enough to visit more than 300 Chicago Public School classrooms with a kit of artifacts and photographs from the Great Chicago Fire. My most indelible personal memories from these fifteen years come from those visits around the city.)

Collaborations have been the key to our success in project after project, but the most important collaboration of them all is with the Chicago Park District, whose precious public land the Museum occupies as a public trust. For ten years, I had the honor of serving as president of Museums in the Park (MIP), the association of the eleven museums located in Chicago's parks. During those years, our executive vice president and chief historian Russell Lewis headed MIP's operations, as he did so warmly and skillfully for our own Museum until his tragic death in 2019.

Truly, the Chicago History Museum been blessed with generous donors, loyal members, and dedicated board leaders and trustees. We are grateful for the Making History Awards and the galas, as well as the benefits of all kinds held by the Guild and the Costume Council. These years saw three strategic plans and two capital campaigns. The second campaign, This Is Chicago, reached its \$50 million financial goal this past December and added ninety members to the Lincoln Honor Roll, the Museum's planned giving society.

I am forever grateful to the staff who have done so much for the cause of history these fifteen years. They took this president under their wing, even though I had landed in their museum world from another profession. I have learned from all of them.

Apart from the closures, there is another way to frame these fifteen years. The job of president opened up when my predecessor, Dr. Lonnie Bunch, was called by the Smithsonian to be the director of the long-overdue National Museum of African American History and Culture. Bunch worked heroically and with determination. On September 24, 2016, the museum opened on the National Mall with a ceremony led by President Barack Obama and with former President George W. Bush and congressional leaders from both parties in attendance. That museum could not have opened without bipartisan cooperation in a bitterly divided America.

Now, in 2020, America is called to make a long overdue examination of the true meaning of what Lincoln in 1863 called a "new birth of freedom." May that singular day of September 24, 2016, inspire us all that history can and must play a part.



**Gary T. Johnson** *Edgar D. and Deborah R. Jannotta President*Chicago History Museum

### \*

### THIS IS CHICAGO CAMPAIGN



In 1856, less than 20 years after our city was founded, the original Chicago Historical Society opened its doors. More than 163 years, one name change, and a spectacular reinvention later, CHM is the only major institution that makes all of Chicago its subject, bringing together the people, events, and identities that make Chicago, Chicago. We are proud to say that after five years and a tremendous outpouring of community support, the Museum has reached its \$50 million goal and the successful completion of our This is Chicago campaign.

CHM trustees, supporters, and staff gathered at the Museum in February 2020 at the fourth annual Chairman's Reception to celebrate the campaign's major milestones.

- Raised \$11 million to strengthen the legacy and ensure the longevity of the Museum for generations to come.
- Renovated our theater with the support of the Robert
  R. McCormick Foundation. The theater is now home to our
  film, The Great Chicago Adventure, as well as many other
  community events and Museum programs.

- Instituted the Lincoln Honor Roll Society, honoring more than 90 individuals who have declared a planned gift to the Museum via a bequest, will, or other estate planning.
- Created 12 exhibitions over the last 5 years, including Lincoln's Undying Words, Modern by Design: Chicago Streamlines America, and Making Mainbocher: The First American Couturier, with the support of the Elizabeth Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trusts.
- Added millions of artifacts, documents, photographs, and oral histories to our collection. Notable collections acquired include the Raeburn Flerlage photography collection of Chicago blues and folk artists, the Hedrich-Blessing architectural photography collection, and more than 5 million images from the Chicago Sun-Times.
- Increased our educational offerings with generous support from Gordon and Carole Segal, including the Chicago Literacies program, which works with close to 500 third and fourth grade students in Latinx communities.









- Conducted capital improvements in the Museum, such as the Crown Family Welcome Center, with the support of Lester and Renée Crown and their family, and renovations to the Konen Children's Gallery with benefactors Joe and Judy Konen.
- Named collections, such as the John R. Halligan Opera Collection, the John and Jeanne Rowe Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln Collection, and the Russell L. Lewis Jr. Nitrate Film Collection.

#### **THANK YOU!**

Great thanks go to CHM trustees and staff for their time and effort to ensure a successful campaign. Special appreciation goes to members of the Campaign Steering Committee cochaired by Bon French, Judy Konen, and Falona Joy, and the Development Committee led by Larry Selander. We are grateful to Jim Alexander, Matt Blakely, Paul Carlisle, Walter Carlson, Paul Dykstra, Greg Goldner, Hill Hammock, David Hiller, Dan Jaffee, and John Rowe for their leadership throughout the campaign. Finally, the greatest acclaim goes to our supporters. Without your generosity and belief in our mission, none of this would be possible.

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

The Museum will continue to step up and serve our community by creating bold exhibitions, enhancing the visitor experience through innovative technology, and expanding our education outreach programs. In the years to come, you will see more campaign projects come to fruition, including the **Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail** and the renovation of the **collections storage facility**, which houses many of the Museum's renowned archives, manuscripts, and images.

Top (from left): CHM senior vice president John Russick, his wife Susan Russick, life trustee Larry Selander, and his wife Mary Selander.

Middle (from left): CHM board of trustees chairman emeritus David D. Hiller and life trustee Gordon L. Segal.

Bottom (from left): CHM board of trustees chair Walter C. Carlson and trustee Warren K. Chapman.

## \* INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

# Chicago Men's Fashion Awards

September 15, 2019

The fourth annual Men's Fashion Awards honored ten of Chicago's best-dressed men at the Louis Vuitton boutique on Michigan Avenue. Co-chaired by Courtney Hopkins and David Mordini and hosted by Zak Stemer, the evening's activities included a fashion show, drinks and hors d'oeuvres, and music by Mark Bundra. The sold-out event raised \$11,000 in support of CHM's renowned costume collection.



Honorees (from left): Tony Stavish, Michael Tedeschi, Duke Alden, Daryl Sneed, Kareem "KWOE" Wells, Christopher Kent, John Weldt, Blake Alexander, and Gary Metzner. Not pictured: Rino Burdi.

# Renovations to the Crown Family Welcome Center

From September 2019 to February 2020, the Crown Family Rooms underwent an extensive renovation. The area, which serves as an entry point and lunchroom for thousands of eager students each year, received new lighting, a new floor, new directional signage, new decor, and a new name-the Crown Family Welcome Center. The orientation space, now known as the Lester and Renée Crown Gallery, features five 98" monitors that will show a welcome video to student groups. During the off-hours, the screens will showcase Cityscapes, a new dynamic display of large-scale panoramic images from the Museum's collection chronicling Chicago's remarkable growth from 1858 to 2019.







### Opening of American Medina: Stories of Muslim Chicago

October 19, 2019

Chicago is sometimes called the American Medina, welcoming Muslims from around the world as Medina, Saudi Arabia, has done for centuries. Beginning with the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, which featured some of the first mosques in the United States, Chicago is now home to a diverse Muslim community: followers from the US and abroad; members of various sects; and converts and those who were raised in the faith. This exhibition draws from more than 100 interviews conducted with Muslim Chicagoans sharing their stories of faith, identity, and personal journeys. Dozens of objects from local individuals and organizations, such as garments, artwork, and photographs, as well as videos and interactive experiences expand on how and why Chicago is known as the American Medina.





Lead Sponsor



Presenting Sponsor







Sponsors



Established in part by the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust and the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust, the Exhibition Innovation Fund has provided additional funding for American Medina.

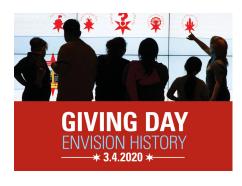




### **Giving Day**

March 4, 2020

The Chicago History Museum's inaugural Giving Day took place on the city's 183rd birthday. Our generous supporters helped us exceed our ambitious goal of raising \$50,000 in 24 hours—more than 250 donors gave nearly \$62,000! Every dollar raised helps us serve our city by creating eye-opening exhibitions, caring for a world-renowned collection, and offering digital learning experiences for students and visitors. As part of Giving Day, the Museum held an epic birthday party for Chicago, welcoming more than 200 people. Festivities included food and drinks from local companies, whimsical creations by Smarty Pants Balloonist, and opportunities to interact with our collection. Local Chicago entertainers KUD Bosna Chicago, Joel Paterson Group, and Son Monarcas had the crowd dancing. Guests also previewed our virtual reality experience, Chicago 00: 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, which takes viewers on a ride on the world's first Ferris wheel.





Sponsored by









# An Evening with Ali Velshi

March 12, 2020

Chaired by Linda Celesia and Karen Zupko, The Guild's annual benefit began with cocktails and a meet-and-greet in the Morse Genius Chicago Room foyer with guest speaker Ali Velshi, Museum trustee and award-winning MSNBC news anchor. Following lively conversations, hors d'oeuvres, and champagne cocktails, guests listened to an informative presentation on a variety of topics in the news, including the then-new COVID-19 outbreak. The evening concluded with an elegant sit-down dinner catered by Limelight. The event successfully raised more than \$20,000 in support of the Guild's pledge toward the Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail.





# In This Together Campaign

May 5, 2020 to June 30, 2020

While the Museum was closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, we had to forego earned revenue from admissions, venue rentals, and event ticket sales. In response to our call for help, over 300 supporters and members raised more than \$125,000 in our *In This Together* campaign. Even filmmaker Ken Burns showed his appreciation and lent his voice in support of the Chicago History Museum. Learn more at chicagohistory. org/together







# **60th Annual Fourth of July Celebration**

July 4, 2019

In 2019, CHM marked 60 years of celebrating our nation's independence with time-honored traditions, family-friendly festivities, and musical performances. Guest speakers included historian and activist Timuel Black, Radio Islam host and producer Imam Tariq El-Amin, and CHM president Gary T. Johnson, who delivered a keynote oration on a special topic selected by our late chief historian emeritus Russell Lewis.



### Red Summer: Chicago Remembers

July 27, 2019

The Chicago History Museum and the DuSable Museum of African American History came together at Margaret T. Burroughs Beach to remember the historic events of the summer of 1919 and honor the life of Eugene Williams and others affected by police brutality and segregation. Featured speakers included CHM assistant curator Julius L. Jones, Lethal Poetry, After School Matters, DuSable Museum, Momma Kemba as Ida B. Wells, and Avery R. Young. The program concluded with FLOAT by Jefferson Pinder and A. J. McClenon, an act of remembrance during which 100 participants peacefully drifted across a historic invisible racial barrier using inflatables, reactivating and reclaiming a site of violence.









### **Chicago Hot Dog Fest**

August 9-11, 2019

Quite frankly, it's just not summer without Hot Dog Fest! We were thrilled to host the seventh annual celebration of the city's most iconic food in beautiful Lincoln Park. Guests enjoyed delectable hot dogs prepared in a variety of ways and lively musical acts with headliners Wedding Banned on Friday, Tributosaurus becomes the Rolling Stones on Saturday, and Boy Band Review on Sunday. Our total attendance for 2019 was 34,099, which was 27% higher than 2018. Thank you to Vienna Beef for providing the delicious dogs.



LEAD SPONSOR



# American Medina Family Day

November 2, 2019

Inspired by American Medina: Stories of Muslim Chicago, CHM hosted a day of activities that invited families to explore together. Interactive storyteller Niambi Muhammad enthralled children of all ages as she told stories accompanied by her guitar. The Al Salam Dabke dance troupe performed traditional Palestinian dances, and artist Amen Sadar demonstrated the art of Arabic calligraphy. The large family photo booth invited everyone to remember their fun visit to CHM.





#### **Members' Holiday Party**

December 7, 2019

At this annual holiday favorite, members and their guests were able to listen to holiday tunes performed by a trumpet and piano duo, take in a cheery display of collection items, and revel in family photo opportunities, balloon twisting, and face painting. Creative art projects and festive foods made this event fun for the whole family. A highlight of this year's holiday party was a photo backdrop of the Museum dusted in snow, which was enjoyed immensely by attendees.



# FashioNext Teen Design Expo

December 8, 2019

This year's FashioNext featured pieces by teens from around Chicago. The teens took part in a series of design challenges that explored fashion, identity, and history as inspired by the Museum's world-renowned costume collection. At the event, they led demos on how to dye fabric, do simple embroidery, and transform a garment through customization. The expo included the opportunity to visit the exhibition Silver Screen to Mainstream: American Fashion in the 1930s and '40s and a chance to connect with industry professionals. Afterward, the teens' creations were displayed in the Museum's first-floor alcove through January. The teens and their families were very excited to see their work on display in the Museum!





#### **Commemorative Days**

CHM's Commemorative Days series invites families to explore history together through hands-on activities, storytellers, and musical performances. On these four days—Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Chicago's Birthday, and July 4–Museum admission is free for all Illinois residents.

#### January 20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

On this day, we commemorated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a family-friendly event. Along with staff, 1,825 guests enjoyed a production of The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights by Writers Theatre and a musical performance by the Chicago Chamber Choir, along with storytelling and crafts for kids that reflect King's messages of peace and justice.

#### February 17 PRESIDENTS' DAY

Along with 1,271 visitors, the Museum we honored the accomplishments of America's presidents on this day. On this day, more than 1,200 visitors discovered the lives behind the legends of the American presidency through live music, family crafts, and storytelling for kids and enjoyed a performance by the Chicago Brass Band and a production of Meeting the Lincolns by With Lincoln Productions.





# Community Conversations

February 25 and March 24 (canceled), 2020

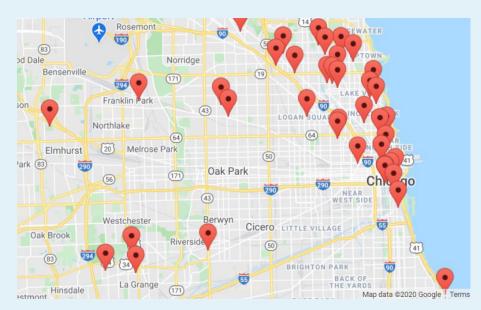
Inspired by American Medina: Stories of Muslim Chicago, this series moderated by Radio Islam host and producer Imam Tariq El-Amin featured local experts discussing topics rooted in history, politics, and civic life of Chicago Muslims. The first one, "Reflections on Activism," explored how perceptions of the Muslim community, from within and outside, have changed since the Civil Rights Movement. The panelists were Dr. Rami Nashashibi, Dr. Dilara Sayeed, Ahmed Rehab, and Gregory Abdullah Mitchell. The second session, "Identity and Expression," was canceled due to COVID-19.



# \* SPRING QUARANTINE

# *In This Together*Collecting Initiative

On March 20, 2020, Illinois governor J. B. Pritzker announced a shelter-inplace order for Illinois residents, instantly and dramatically changing how we live, work, and play. As media outlets began comparing this time to the 1918 influenza epidemic, the Museum realized the enormity of the situation and started a new digital collecting initiative called In This Together. The project asks the public to submit their photographs, journal entries, videos, and artworkthings that reflect life in the Chicago area during the coronavirus pandemic. This effort preserves the collective experience of this historic time for future generations to study. To see a selection of submissions, visit chicagohistory.org/ documentingcovid19



Each red marker indicates the location of a shared story.

# OUT at CHM | Chicago LGBTQ Activism: Back to the Future

April 21, 2020

During Illinois's shelter-in-place order, CHM hosted its first virtual movie and panel discussion on the film *Short Fuse*: A *Story of an AIDS Activist*. Attendees from around the country tuned in to watch this award-winning film on the life of Daniel Sotomayor, the nation's first openly gay political cartoonist and ACT UP/Chicago AIDS activist, and discuss the political issues of today. Panelists included Myah Brown, community engagement and volunteer services manager for Renaissance Social Services; Rick Garcia, political consultant and former policy director of Equality Illinois; Coleman Goode, community organizing manager at AIDS Foundation of Chicago; and Tim Miller, ACT UP/Chicago organizer and participant. The event was moderated by Kim L. Hunt, executive director of the Pride Action Tank, a project of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.





ajor Funding for Out at CHM Programs comes from:

Robert Kohl and

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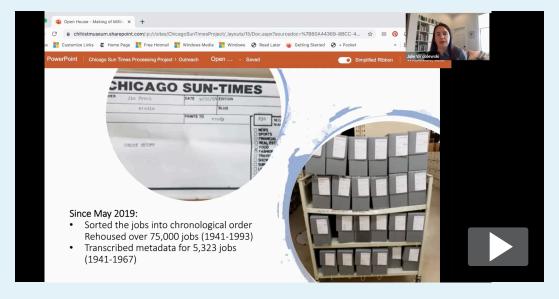


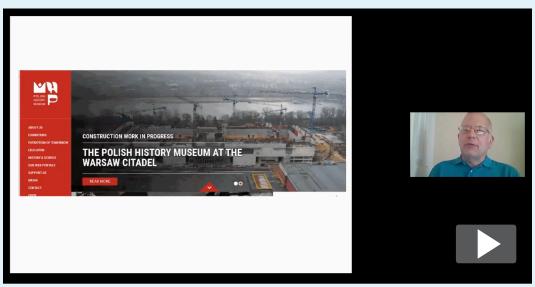


### **Virtual Members' Open House**

June 3, 2020

CHM members and the Historical Alliance unlocked many Chicago stories during our first-ever Virtual Members' Open House. More than 30 Museum staff members took part, including curators, librarians, archivists, historians, and collection managers. Attendees explored topics such as the Great Chicago Fire, the history of the Museum's costume collection, and tested their Chicago trivia knowledge with a quiz featuring our historical photo collection. We had more than 400 participants sign on to view 13 sessions, plus 20 individuals took advantage of one-on-one research consultations with Research Center staff.







#### **Blood Drive**

June 15, 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, blood donation became more crucial than ever, and the Chicago History Museum began its partnership with the American Red Cross for this vital cause. With the Museum still closed to visitors in June, our newly renovated Crown Family Welcome Center was an ideal location to host a blood drive. As staff and donors adhered to city and state safety guidelines, we helped the Red Cross collect 51 units of blood, which they deemed "phenomenal for a first-time drive."





### On American Independence and Freedom: The Juneteenth Story

June 19, 2020

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, is considered the oldest celebration commemorating the ending of chattel enslavement in the United States. It was on June 19, 1865, that news of the Civil War's end and the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued more than two years before, finally reached Galveston, Texas. This year, CHM hosted a virtual event featuring CHM assistant curators Julius L. Jones and Brittany Hutchinson and Field Foundation Fellow Angela Tate discussing the legacy of Juneteenth, the event's connections to Chicago, and the importance of remembering the story today.



## \* EDUCATION INITIATIVES



The Chicago Learning Collaborative is a K-12 museum education initiative that provides students meaningful learning experiences that are centered around Chicago history and incorporate diverse narratives and perspectives. The CLC programs are classroom-based and free to schools that participate. They are designed to be relevant, accessible, and culturally responsive to their audiences, who are provided a choice of stories and workshops that fit their learning goals. Program content highlights the value in local communities and connects history with the present, demonstrating the students' power to shape their future. CLC programs are grounded on the idea that history is complex, diverse, and dynamic, and the future is yet to be written. Participants are active learners who use the inquiry process, collaborate to interpret history, and innovate with different forms of self-expression to connect with the past. Each program culminates in a family event at the Museum where parents, students, and the public have an opportunity to view a temporary exhibition of the students' work and celebrate their achievements.







#### **GRADES 3-5**

Led by Ema Pinto, CLC elementary school programs coordinator, Chicago Literacies has partnered with more than 15 schools with a majority student population of English-language learners and 25 educators across the South and lower West Sides of the city, benefiting more than 700 students since 2017. The program comprises 21 English-Spanish articles with accompanying read-along audios that focus on Chicago stories. All articles come with fully developed lesson plans for educators. The program also offers teacher professional development, Museum visits, classroom visits, and student and parent workshops.



#### GRADES 9-12

CHM teen programs coordinator Ivan Guzman piloted Chicago Artivism in the 2019–20 school year. The program supports educators in teaching Chicago history through artivism (art + activism) as a catalyst for inspiration and discussion. Chicago Artivism has partnered with 8 educators in 8 high schools, reaching a total of 500 students across the city. The program offers educators a fully developed curriculum with accompanying lesson plans. It comprises two teacher professional development workshops, prerecorded artist workshops, and all the materials needed to complete the arts-based history projects of each lesson plan.



### **Chicago Metro History Fair**

The Chicago Metro History Fair is a project-based inquiry program that empowers local students in grades 6–12 to become historians. This year, more than 11,000 participants chose their topics, conducted historical research with primary and secondary sources, and produced projects to present their findings. Their work was evaluated by more than 250 community volunteers at annual competitions in the Chicago area. The CMHF Citywide Regional contest, pictured at right, took place at University of Illinois at Chicago on March 7, and subsequent contests were converted to virtual events due to COVID-19. In June, six Chicagoland projects were recognized as national finalists, with one exhibit, "The Oxnard Strike of 1903: Breaking Barriers of Racial Representation in the Labor Force" by Yashas Mattur, Anthony Noce, and Ankit Rath, winning first in the nation.

The Chicago Metro History Fair is supported by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, HBK Engineering, LLC, and the University of Illinois at Chicago Chancellor's Office.





### **Chicago History at Home**

When Governor Pritzker's shelter-in-place order went into effect mid-March, CHM staff rose to the challenge by creating Chicago History at Home, a daily series that presents "bite-size," interpretive moments for the general public that is shared via email, social media, and on our website. Each segment highlighted an item from our vast digital repository and draws contemporary connections with history. We selected and scheduled content based on its relevance, such as anniversaries of historical note, official and unofficial holidays, current events, and direct representations of how people in the past handled issues similar to what we face today. Visit our website to explore the posts.



### Chicago History at Home – Remote Learning

The Remote Learning edition was a virtual adaptation of CHM's education programming for students in grades 3–12. With a focus on local history, the components helped participants develop skills related to historical and critical thinking and primary source analysis. Students connect history with the present and future and with their own lives. We will run virtual programming until we are able to fully transition back to in-person field trips, student programs, and teacher development. Visit our website to see the content.

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Sharon Gist Gilliam was a force to be reckoned with in city government, a philanthropist helping people in need, and a community leader. She was a finance expert who served under six mayors, including five mayoral administrations in Chicago and Mayor Marion Barry in Washington, DC. In 1989, she was the first woman to receive Washington, DC's Marks of Excellence award. She was also the first African American and first woman to chair the board of trustees at CHM. Ms. Gilliam passed away on February 16, 2020. She will be remembered as a smart. patient, and kind leader dedicated to making Chicago a better place for everyone.

# LINCOLN HONOR ROLL SOCIETY

as of June 30, 2020

The Lincoln Honor Roll Society recognizes individuals and families who have made a lasting impact on the institution by including the Chicago History Museum in their wills, trusts, life insurance policies, retirement assets, or other estate planning, ensuring the Museum advances its mission for generations to come.

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#### **TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MAKING HISTORY AWARDS**

Contributions made to MHA on or before June 30, 2020

The Making History Awards is an annual gala that honors Chicagoans and Chicago companies whose enduring contributions to arts and culture, sports, business, and civic life have made our city a better and more vibrant place to live. This event is a cornerstone of the institution, providing vital financial support to the Museum's operations and programs in supporting its mission to share Chicago stories.

Due to COVID-19, our Making History Award gala was moved from an evening at the Four Seasons Hotel on June 10, 2020, to a virtual gala on October 6, 2020.

#### 2020 MHA Honorees:



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The Historical Alliance is a premier group of individuals dedicated to supporting the Chicago History Museum and its work to share the authentic Chicago. The Historical Alliance supports public programs that inform and inspire, a world-renowned collection that we share in innovative ways, and education initiatives that bring relevant history to Chicago's communities.

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Giving Day is a one-day crowdfunding campaign that grants everyone the opportunity to make a big impact on the future of our shared history by increasing the awareness and reach of the Chicago History Museum's mission to share Chicago stories and raising vital funds to support the Museum's annual fund. The annual fund gives support where it is needed most-enhancing public programming, preserving our collection, and educating the next generation of civic leaders.

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#### A Loving Tribute to Susie Stein

Guild member Susie Stein was honored by other Guild members with a seat named after her in the Robert R. McCormick Theater. She currently serves as programs chair on the Guild's Programs Committee alongside Jill Kirk. Stein took office last year upon Pamela Bardo's resignation and has developed robust and effective programs since her predecessor's departure.

"I have been in the 'volunteer business' so many years and for so many different places, but I really enjoy and especially love our Guild. CHM is very unique. Its warmth, accessibility, and hands-on approach make belonging very enlightening and special—and of course the staff and community friends are wonderful!"

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Carol Moseley Braun wore this two-piece red wool Chanel suit during her historic run for the US Senate in 1992.

#### PROCESSING THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES COLLECTION



CHM archivists Julie Wroblewski and Hannah Zuber organize some of the nearly twenty pallets of Chicago Sun-Times negatives received in March 2019.



Project archivist Donna Edgar enters details about each photograph into our database, which are vital to staff working with them and the public searching for them.



CHM photographer Timothy Paton Jr. works with the original negatives at a rapid-capture station to create digital copies that can be searched and shared.

During the past fiscal year, the CHM Collections staff has been organizing, scanning, and uploading images from the Chicago Sun-Times photography collection, which came to us as prints, digital files, and negatives. With five million images to process, this is a major undertaking with many steps. Project archivists Donna Edgar and Emma Florio sorted and reboxed the unscanned portion in acid-free, archival standard containers (a total of 1,817 boxes) and entered image details for photographs dating from the early 1940s to 1967 into our database. Metadata specialists Lucy Hereford and Bianca Bárcenas worked with the portion that was digitized by previous owners. They matched those images to their corresponding negatives and filled out image details for 150,000 digital images (around 6,000 jobs). Collections staff also began working with CHM librarian Gretchen Neidhardt to create inventories for the collection, which will help keep track of materials and make them searchable to the public. CHM Photo Lab staff scanned select small batches while also uploading preexisting digital images. All of this work thus far has resulted in more than 100,000 publicly searchable images (as of December 2020) on our online portal images.chicagohistory.org.





Processing of the Chicago Sun-Times collection is generously supported by the TAWANI Foundation, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, and Bon and Holly French.

# \* TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chicago History Museum closed fiscal year 2020 without incurring an operating deficit—a significant accomplishment considering the financial challenges resulting from COVID-19. At the time of the initial closure in early March, the pandemic's financial impact on the organization was expected to be \$2 million in lost or deferred revenue. To help mitigate the substantial revenue decline, the Museum secured a forgivable loan under the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program of \$1,140,211 providing funds for eight weeks of payroll costs and other allowable expenses. At the same time, CHM leadership instituted proactive measures to reduce costs while staff pivoted to working from home, keeping the community engaged with virtual content and communications. Our annual Making History Awards event was held virtually; through the generosity of many supporters, this event allowed us to finish the year with an operating gain-an unusual outcome compared to many nonprofits in 2020.

The financial position and results for fiscal year 2020 are presented in the charts on the following page.

The Statement of Financial Position section of the report includes balance sheet assets and liabilities, reflecting the financial position of the Chicago Historical Society.

The fiscal year closed with Total Assets of \$120,490,653 and Net Assets of \$46,381,821. The Museum had adequate cash balances with no liquidity concerns to fund operations and meet its current debt obligations. The market value of the Museum's investment portfolio was \$77,339,470. The Long-Term Debt outstanding was \$50,397,993. The Museum carries a \$22,249,422 liability on its books representing the current fair value of an interest rate swap agreement that would only be realized if the agreement was cancelled.

The Statement of Activities is the income statement of the Chicago Historical Society and reports summarized transactions that occurred during the fiscal year.

The fiscal year 2020 ended with an operating surplus of \$2,174,644. Support and revenue totaled \$14,508,899 with

\$12,334,255 in total expenses. The Museum's operating revenues include contributions and grants, Chicago Park District tax revenue, investment income, membership dues, admission, and income generated from auxiliary operations. Expenses include program-related costs of operating the Museum, fundraising, and general administrative costs. The Museum's net assets decreased by \$6,262,219 with the largest decrease attributed to the change in the value of the interest rate swap agreement (\$5,198,955).

In closing, with the oversight, support, and dedication of the Board of Trustees, the Museum will continue to monitor the financial risks arising from the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure a continued strong financial position throughout this challenging period. We are grateful to the Museum staff and volunteers for their many contributions and sacrifices as well as the amazing resilience they have consistently demonstrated. The coming year will bring continued uncertainty and associated financial challenges, unlike anything our institution has faced. The financial discipline of the CHM's leadership and our loyal supporters will ensure we emerge from this crisis with strength and stability.

The financial statements have been audited by Grant Thornton LLP, independent certified public accountants, and their audit report includes an unmodified opinion as to financial position and results of operations presented. You may request a copy of the full audit report from the Finance Office at the Chicago History Museum.



**Mark Trembacki** *Treasurer*Chicago History Museum Board of Trustees



#### **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

June 30, 2020

Support and Revenue	2020
Contributions and grants	\$7,016,711
Chicago Park District	1,753,483
Investment income for operations	2,287,941
Membership dues and admissions	1,379,782
Auxiliary services and other	2,070,982
Total Support and Revenue	\$14,508,899

Expenditures	2020
Collections and research	\$2,302,222
Exhibitions, education, and visitor services	3,711,892
Building operations and security	1,910,638
Auxiliary services	1,246,007
Fundraising	1,253,727
General and administrative	1,909,769
Total Expenses	\$12,334,255

Non-Operating Items	2020
Investment return, non-operating	\$1,265,358
Interest rate swap agreement	(5,198,955)
Split-interest agreement	(34,718)
Depreciation	(1,936,809)
Debt service	(2,531,739)
Total Non-Operating Items	(\$8,436,863)

Change in Net Assets	(\$6,262,219)

#### **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

June 30, 2020

Total Assets	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,533,946
Pledges, loans, and accounts receivable	7,918,842
Land, buildings, and equipment	25,190,398
Investments	77,339,470
Perpetual trusts	5,445,033
Other	62,964
Total Assets	\$120,490,653

Liabilities and Net Assets	2020
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$1,100,479
Deferred revenue	360,938
Interest rate swap liability	22,249,422
Long term debt	50,397,993
Net Assets	
Without donor restrictions	22,565,000
With donor restrictions	23,816,821
Total Net Assets	46,381,821
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$120,490,653



We greatly appreciate our volunteers who support the Museum through their time and expertise in Collections, Curatorial Affairs, Exhibitions, Research and Access, Marketing, and Visitor and Member Services. We could not do this without you. Thank you!

Vera Antoniadis\* Penny J. Applegate\*\*\*\*\* Nancy Armstrong Scott Armstrong Beth Benjamin Ava Holly Berland\* Robert W. Blythe\* Brian Boland Fusun Borelli Greg Borzo\*\*\* Laura R. Braglia\* Evan D. Brandstadter\*\* David Breitenbach\*\* Helen S. Brown\*\*\* Jeanette F. Cannon\* Robert Case\*\*\*\* Bryce Conrad Matt D'Agostino Lynn Doherty\* Chris Dransoff Marjorie E. Fahrenbach\*\*\*

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\*5+ years of service

\*\*10+ years of service

\*\*\*15+ years of service

\*\*\*\*20+ years of service

\*\*\*\*25+ years of service

Those who volunteered six or more months between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 are listed above.



#### PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

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Donna Edgar, Project Archivist
Emma Florio, Project Archivist
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Lucy Hereford, Metadata Specialist
Angela Hoover, Rights and Reproductions
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Allison Pohl, Collection Technician Jessica Pushor, Costume Collection Manager

Joseph Sarr, Curatorial Research Assistant Jake Silby, Photography Studio Technician Hannah Zuber, Archivist for Visual Materials

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Manager
Heidi Samuelson, Editor
Esther D. Wang, Content Manager and Editor
Jessica Zimlich, Digital Marketing Contractor

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Gretchen Neidhardt, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian

Arial Pobinson, Passarch Center Page

Ariel Robinson, Research Center Page

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Marne Bariso, Volunteer and Intern Manager

Erica Griffin, Public & Community Engagement Manager

Ivan Guzman, Teen Programs Coordinator Liliana Macias, Chicago Learning Collaborative Coordinator

Megan Clark, School Programs Coordinator Heidi Moisan, School Programs Manager Tyler Monaghan, Chicago Metro History Fair

Manager Sarah Norise, Chicago Metro History Fair Program Coordinator

Ema Pinto, Chicago Learning Collaborative Educator

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Irene Delgado Sadler, School Group Visit Coordinator

Sanara Victor, Visitor Services Systems Coordinator

Jessica Bandera, Fatmah Al-Safwani, Roberto Cardenas, John Martinez, Robert Medina, and James Saul, Visitor Services Associates

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Nancy Reyes, Payroll and Benefits Supervisor

#### **Information Technology**

Rey Garcia, Director Juan Martinez, Desktop Support Analyst

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Eric Sharp, Development Coordinator Lauren Wissbaum, Individual Giving and Annual Fund Manager

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John Vlna, Broadview Custodian Valerie Wells, Scheduling and Training Lieutenant

Alonzo Ennis, Marcello Franco, Security Sergeants

Reggie Coleman, Todd Kirk, Carl Mitchell, and Cathy Pierce, Security Officers

#### **Special Events**

Lorelei Kroulaidis, Director Anna Briskman, Coordinator Erika Johnson, Manager Brittany Smith, Coordinator Audrey Womack, Group Tours and Events Manager

The Chicago History Museum thanks all of its staff members.

This list reflects the staff on June 30, 2020.