



CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

JULY 2022-JUNE 2023 | ANNUAL REPORT



2022-23 YEAR IN REVIEW

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 President & Chair Message**
- 4 Board of Trustees**
- 5 Public Programming Highlights**
- 6 Institutional Highlights**
- 12 Honor Roll of Donors**
- 25 Donors to the Collection**
- 26 Treasurer’s Report**
- 28 Volunteers**
- 29 Staff List**



CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

1601 North Clark Street
 Chicago, Illinois 60614-6038
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The Chicago History Museum acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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



★ PRESIDENT & CHAIR MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

This past fiscal year (July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023), the Chicago History Museum has continued to be a mission-forward institution, striving to be a destination for learning, inspiration, and civic engagement. With a strategic framework at our foundation, our work this year has been guided with clear goals across our departments to best meet our mission and goals.

One major achievement of note was the opening of *Back Home: Polish Chicago* on May 20, 2023. This exhibition was a collaborative project that began as an oral history initiative with the Polish History Museum (Muzeum Historii Polski), Polish Museum of America, and Loyola University Chicago Polish Studies program. The exhibition shares complex stories of Polish immigrants who changed the culture and landscape of the city over decades while grappling with their dual identities. Their stories may ring familiar with other immigrants and migrants who have made Chicago a second home.

In summer 2023, we hosted our second Civic Season, which we will continue to develop as an annual series. Rather than hosting a single commemorative event on Independence Day, the Museum held a series of programs starting on Juneteenth to help civic-curious Chicagoans connect with their communities, build new skills, and provide a roadmap to future civic participation, with the aim to encourage us all to be more informed citizens.

Joining with community partners continues to be an important focus in the work we all do at the Museum. As progress advances on our *Aquí en Chicago* project, starting this year we began cohosting several community collections workshops

with local partners. These free bilingual workshops are a chance for CHM staff to share about best practices for preserving family heirlooms. They are also a space to discuss how CHM can best help preserve Latine and local histories. These workshops are just one example of how we are incorporating the experiences of Chicago's many different Latine communities in the stories we share to better reflect the city's varied history.

As the tellers of Chicago stories, we marked—both via online content and in-person programming—some notable anniversaries this year, including 75 years of Kukla, Fran and Ollie, 40 years since Harold Washington's historic election, the 130th and 90th anniversaries of the World's Columbian Exposition and the A Century of Progress Exposition, along with their complex legacies. It is this complexity that makes our goal to understand, navigate, and represent the diverse communities and people of Chicago so important.

History is not just a single story. Dedicated CHM staff in all departments have been working on upcoming exhibitions, public programs, education initiatives, collecting and preservation work, and providing a safe and welcoming place for our visitors, all while building relationships and an environment so that the Chicago History Museum can be a space for all Chicagoans.

We are grateful to our members, donors, and partners who contributed to our success this past year. Your support makes it possible to continue sharing our city's rich history.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Lassere

Edgar D. and Deborah R. Jannotta President and CEO
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★ PUBLIC PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Community Collections Workshops

February 25, 2023 – Cohosted with 18th Street Casa de Cultura
June 3, 2023 – Cohosted with Gage Park Latinx Council

As part of our foundational work for *Aquí en Chicago* (opening 2025), CHM began cohosting a series of community collections workshops with local partners. Led by CHM curator of civic engagement and social justice Elena Gonzales and director of collections Julie Wroblewski, these free, bilingual workshops shared best practices for preserving personal photographs, negatives, documents, textiles, oral histories, and digital materials. They were also a space to discuss how CHM can best help preserve Latine and local histories. These workshops are ongoing into 2024 and possibly beyond.



CHM director of collections Julie Wroblewski speaks at 18th Street Casa de Cultura as CHM curatorial assistant Jojo Galvan (left) looks on, February 25, 2023.

Civic Season: Reimagining Civic Engagement

June 19–July 4, 2023

This summer, CHM presented Civic Season in partnership with Made By Us, a nationwide, nonpartisan coalition of history organizations that have joined forces to ignite and inform younger generations, the future inheritors of the United States. The programming kicked off with Juneteenth and continued with Civic Sundays—all leading toward a reimagined Independence Day celebration with traditions new and old. Using the framework of four “civic superpowers”—nurturing, connecting, defending, and amplifying—visitors were invited to learn more about some of Chicago’s civic superheroes on display in the Museum. Programs included an interactive map as well as digital exhibitions that encouraged users to learn more about the civic superpowers at work in Chicago’s history and draw inspiration from these actions.



★ INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Chicago Men's Fashion Awards

September 22, 2022

The Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum proudly presented the 7th annual Chicago Men's Fashion Awards, a keystone event whose proceeds benefit the promotion and preservation of the CHM costume collection. Building upon the success of its previous editions, the CMFAs continued to showcase Chicago's vibrant fashion scene and recognize the exceptional talents that shape men's fashion in our city. The 2022 winners were (right, from left) Carmen Rossi, D'Ontace Keyes, Danny Miller, Prosper Bambo, Jackson Miranda, Zak Rodriguez, Matthew Rodrigues, David Murga, Frank Rubel, and Sam Sanchez.



The 2022 Chicago Men's Fashion Awards winners.



Opening of Haunted Dolls & History's Horrors

September 27-November 6, 2022

When the lights turn off at the end of the day, do the artifacts come out to play? Some CHM staff members think so. *Haunted Dolls & History's Horrors* was a scavenger hunt-style set up designed for both kids and adults. Some of our toy dolls escaped from storage, and we needed help from visitors to find them! The dolls were hiding in 13 spots in *Chicago: Crossroads of Chicago*, plus one on the 1st floor, and thankfully, all were accounted for and returned to storage.



Opening of *Back Home: Polish Chicago*

May 20, 2023–June 8, 2024

Through the lens of Chicago’s Polish communities, visitors were invited to experience the journeys immigrants have taken to get to the city, the ways they have established themselves in its neighborhoods, and the duality of feeling a deep connection to two places at once. The Guild of the Chicago History Museum hosted a benefit celebration on the eve of the opening featuring performances by The Lira Ensemble, Polish cuisine, and a first look at the exhibition with project historian Dominic Pacyga.

This exhibition was a collaborative project and oral history initiative with the Polish History Museum (Warsaw, Poland), Polish Museum of America, and Loyola University Chicago Polish Studies program.

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The entrance to the Back Home exhibition.



Dominic Pacyga and Robert Kostro, director of the Polish History Museum in Warsaw.



From left: John Darrow, Jill Kirk, Ed Weed, Lawrie Weed, Eleanor Tippens.



Lira Ensemble

29th Annual Making History Awards

June 7, 2023

The Making History Awards honor 144 prominent Chicagoans whose enduring contributions to our community have made Chicago a better and more vibrant place to live. This annual event also supports the CHM mission to serve as the primary destination for learning, inspiration, and civic engagement, connecting people to Chicago’s history and each other. This year, we raised over \$1.1 million to benefit Museum programs. We are grateful to our trustees and the numerous individual and corporate sponsors who made the event a success.



From left: Award recipients William J. Brodsky, Michelle Collins, Robert Chen, and Greg Brown.



Award presenter Monsignor Kenneth Velo with CHM trustee and master of ceremonies, Ali Velshi. Photographs by Kyle Flubacker Photography

Making History Award honorees

William J. Brodsky, Past Chairman & CEO, Chicago Board Options Exchange. Past Chairman, Navy Pier, Inc.

The Marshall Field Making History Award for Distinction in Corporate Leadership and Innovation

Greg Brown, Chairman & CEO, Motorola Solutions

The Daniel H. Burnham Making History Award for Distinction in Visionary Leadership

Robert Chen, Violinist and Concertmaster, Chicago Symphony Orchestra

The Theodore Thomas Making History Award for Distinction in the Performing Arts

Michelle Collins, President, Cambium LLC

The Bertha Honoré Palmer Making History Award for Distinction in Civic Leadership

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★ COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS

The Chicago History Museum was proud to host many community partners and nonprofits for events in our space throughout the year. These partnerships brought new audiences through our doors while deepening our relationships within the city's cultural and nonprofit sphere. We welcomed our longtime friends at the LGBT Hall of Fame as they inducted new awardees and worked with the Latino Policy Forum and Chicago Urban League to host a mayoral forum with candidates Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas. CHM served as a venue for the Chicago International Film Festival, North America's longest-running film festival, and hosted free CIFF screenings throughout the summer. Mikva Challenge hosted a screening of *Mikva! Democracy is a Verb* and invited students for a roundtable to learn networking and career advancement skills from community leaders. Know Your Chicago hosted a panel discussion on historic Chicago monuments and how best to honor figures from our past, and the Benjamin Marshall Society screened a documentary of the famed architect. We are proud to uplift many of the excellent organizations throughout Chicago and strengthen our relationships within the city. CHM also partnered with the Japanese American Citizens League, the Japanese American Service Committee, and other groups for Day of Remembrance, a day of programming and community engagement to honor those impacted by the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.



From left: Serhiy Koledov, Consul General of Ukraine; Yevgeniy Drobot, Consul for Economic Affairs & Public Diplomacy; Nell McKeown, CHM development events manager; Vivian Teng, Director of Chicago International Film Festival



Consul General of Ukraine Serhiy Koledov introduces Chicago International Film Festival summer screenings

★ INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Members' Open House

May 31, 2023

An annual favorite, the 2023 Members' Open House was the first completely in-person open house since 2019! With 215 members in attendance, it was also one of the highest-attended member events of the calendar year. Highlights included tours of the Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail led by Vivant Gardens owner Kasey Eaves, paletas (popsicles) from Pilsen-based La Michoacana Premium, Chicago International Film Festival screenings, a display of Chicago Metro History Day projects, and, of course, behind-the-scenes experiences with our collections and exhibitions staff.



A member looks at negatives with CHM cataloging and metadata librarian Erin Matson (left).



Members look at 2D and 3D objects from our collection in the Mandel Conference Room.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

**THANK YOU
TO OUR SUPPORTERS**



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

LINCOLN HONOR ROLL SOCIETY

as of June 30, 2023

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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*T = Trustee of the Chicago History Museum
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Alfredo and Pamela Capitanini

In honor of Vivian Westwood

Bruce Ingram and Heather M. Farley-
Ingram

In honor of Bobbi Zabel

Kenneth W. Dam
Marcia Wachs Dam

In honor of Karen Zupko

Alfredo and Pamela Capitanini

In memory of Yolanda Benedetti

Diane J. Prospero

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Mr Henry Kogan
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In memory of Jeanette F. Cannon

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In memory of Margaret W. Carr

Elizabeth D. and Tobin M. Richter

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In memory of Thomas M. Goldstein

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In memory of Jean W. Haider

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Mary Kay Wysham

In memory of John W. Robinson

Nancy Kimball Robinson

In memory of Thierry Roger

Alfredo and Pamela Capitanini
Kathleen Haines-Finley and
John Joseph Finley

In memory of Virginia L. Shirley

Aaron J. Shirman and Adam Gilgour

In memory of Barbara B. Swanson

Edwin L. Swanson

In memory of Marion H. Tinaglia

Samuel J. and Suzanne Tinaglia

In memory of Sheila Todd Gary

Deborah Burklund Sokol

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

GIVING DAY 2023 DONORS

Giving Day is a 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 efforts of enhancing public programming, preserving our collection, and educating the next generation of civic leaders.

Anonymous (21)

Michael J. Anderson and
J. Andrew Caruso

Joshua E. Anderson and Caitlin Andler

Keith and Emily Anderson

Vera Antoniadis

Patrick Ashley and Michael E. McCaslin

Grace Bazylewski

Todd Bertulis

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Walter C. Carlson and

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Charles L. Katzenmeyer

Ellen Keith

Lorelei and Joe Kroulaidis

Carrie Lepofsky

William Logas

John and Barbara Low

Olivia M. Mahoney and Vasile Bouleanu

Paula McCabe

Jane and John McCarthy

Melinda McCrary

Tracey McGee

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Mark D. Potter

D. Elizabeth Price and Lou Yecies

Madeleine Rabi

Eva R. Rachau and Timothy Olson

Jennifer Rachau

Gayle M. Rachau

James and Mary Jo Rednour

Elizabeth D. and Tobin M. Richter

Allison Ryan

Lauren Schuster

Lei Shen and Bryan Unke

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Anna Volkmann

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Stephen Wysham

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Fur headband owned and worn by Black transgender activist Gloria Allen, a.k.a. Mama Gloria, c. 2000. 2023.3.3. Given in memory of "Mama" Gloria Allen by her family.



Left: Men's coat with red ribbon and blue stitching by Nick Cave, c. 2005. Wool, polyester. CHM, ICHI-179249. 2022.31.38. Right: Men's dark blue suit jacket with purple and red windowpane check by Nick Cave, c. 2010. Wool, plastic. CHM, ICHI-179283. 2022.31.35. Gifts of Greg Cameron and Greg Thompson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Following the challenges related to COVID-19 for the past few years, we saw improvement in our post-pandemic operations. Total attendance increased to 164,017, 46% higher than FY2022. We also saw a nice increase in member participation, with members returning to the Museum and attending our on-site programs in significantly greater numbers than in FY2022.

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

Financial markets continued a modest recovery in FY2023, and the value of our investment portfolio increased by \$1 million, a return of 7.5 percent over FY2022. Rising interest rates resulted in a \$3.2 million reduction in our interest rate swap liability, bringing the fiscal year 2023 balance to \$7.2 million. Pledge payments of \$1.1 million were received throughout the year, bringing the Pledges, Loans, and Accounts Receivable balance down to \$5.7 million versus \$6.8 million in FY2022. Total Net Assets were \$67.1 million, an increase of \$2.2 million from FY2022.

The *Statement of Activities* represents the Chicago Historical Society's income statement, and reports summarized transactions during the fiscal year.

The total revenue generated in FY2023 was \$15.2 million, a 4.5% increase from FY2022. Contributions and grants revenue totaled \$6.4 million, representing 42% of total revenue. The Museum, like others, faced inflationary cost increases across most expense categories. Total expenses increased by 17% and totaled \$14.3 million.

We are grateful for our dedicated staff, who make everything possible at the Museum. Their collaborative work to implement our strategic vision for the future is invaluable. We also recognize the many contributions and support of our volunteers, donors, and board members.

Grant Thornton LLP, independent Certified Public Accountants, has audited the Chicago Historical Society financial statements. Their audit report includes an unmodified opinion on the 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.



Monica M. Weed

Treasurer

Chicago History Museum Board of Trustees

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the period ending June 30, 2023

Total Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,829,101
Pledges, loans, and accounts receivable	5,733,264
Land, buildings, and equipment	30,822,621
Investments	79,115,921
Perpetual trusts	5,527,443
Other	180,751
Total Assets	\$126,209,101

Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$750,290
Deferred revenue	599,700
Interest rate swap liability	7,250,062
Long term debt	50,513,394
Net Assets	
Without donor restrictions	45,134,694
With donor restrictions	21,960,961
Total Net Assets	67,095,655
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$126,209,101

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the period ending June 30, 2023

Support and Revenue	
Contributions and grants	\$6,413,592
Chicago Park District	2,146,167
Investment income for operations	2,407,142
Membership dues and admissions	1,331,184
Auxiliary services and other	2,897,784
Total Support and Revenue	\$15,195,869

Expenditures	
Collections and research	\$2,439,403
Exhibitions, education, and visitor services	2,391,315
Building operations and security	2,726,436
Auxiliary services	1,801,178
Marketing and Communications	1,507,201
Fundraising	1,358,459
General and administrative	2,058,086
Total Expenses	\$14,282,078

Non-Operating Items	
Investment return, non-operating	\$2,904,988
Interest rate swap mark to market	3,222,687
Split-interest agreement	211,813
Depreciation	(2,660,639)
Debt service	(2,359,861)
Total Non-Operating Items	\$1,318,988

Change in Net Assets	\$2,232,779
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 VOLUNTEERS

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**
 Raymond Bernier
 Robert W. Blythe*
 Brian Boland
 Fusun A. Borelli
 Greg Borzo****
 Evan D. Brandstadter**
 David Breitenbach***
 Helen S. Brown****
 Robert Case****
 Lynn Doherty**
 Chris Dransoff*
 Marjorie E. Fahrenbach***
 Jean Feit*
 Mike Felten**
 Sandy Fitterer*
 Carol Fitzgibbons*
 Susan Geller*
 Richard L. Gordon**
 David Gudewicz*
 Ben Henderson
 Amy Hopp**
 Michael J. Johnson**
 Sandra Keefe***
 John Kierig*
 Anthony King**
 Sidney Lease
 Richmond Lord*
 Ryan Mahaney**
 Leroy Malone***
 Rosanna A. Marquez**
 Jane T. McCarthy****
 Wilhelmina McGee**
 Mia M. Mehta**
 Diane J. Mergen**
 Marlee Millman*
 Anita Morrison*

John M. O'Donnell****
 Michelle Ordway*
 Elizabeth Francis O'Toole**
 Martha S. Perry**
 John Quinn**
 Rosa Ramirez*
 Nicole Ramos*
 Dean Y. Rodkin***
 Bradley Ryba*
 Lisa Schilling**
 Alan Schwartz*
 Jean E. Schwartz**
 Christine Sheehan****
 Thomas C. Stokes***
 Nancy Stone*
 Rebecca Susmarski
 Edwin L. Swanson***
 Jim Talamonti***
 Bernard C. Turner****
 Mitzi Walchak*
 Edward B. Winslow*
 Leslie Yamshon**

*Over 5 years of service

** Over 10 years of service

***Over 15 years of service

**** Over 20 years of service

*****Over 25 years of service

Those who volunteered six or more months between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, are listed above.

★ STAFF LIST

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Donald E. Lassere, Edgar D. and Deborah R. Jannotta President and CEO
Adriana "Susie" McGee, Administrative Director

MUSEUM

Collections

Julie Wroblewski, Director
Lucy Hereford, Archivist
Lauren Janik, Project Archivist
Julie Katz, Senior Registrar
Jamie Lewis, Registrar
Amelia Licavoli, Project Archivist
Holly Lundberg, Senior Conservator
Allison Pohl, Senior Collection Manager
Jessica Pushor, Costume Collection Manager
Erik Rebain, Project Archivist
Natalie Sinclair, Project Archivist
Elizabeth Sorokin, Conservator for Paper and Photographs
Lauren Steinkoenig, Collections Technician
Adreanna Tyson, Project Archivist
Lydia Wood, Project Archivist
Hannah Zuber, Senior Archivist

Curatorial Affairs

Charles E. Bethea, Andrew W. Mellon Director of Curatorial Affairs
Peter T. Alter, PhD, Gary T. Johnson Chief Historian and Director of the Studs Terkel Center for Oral History
Joanna Bak, Curatorial Assistant
Rebekah Coffman, Curator of Religion and Community History
Jose Galvan, Museum Specialist
Elena Gonzales, PhD, Curator of Civic Engagement and Social Justice
Olivia Mahoney, Curator

Exhibitions

Paul Durica, Director
Ethan Gasbarro, Lead Preparator
Taylor Ausley, Temporary Preparator
Esau McGhee, Production Supervisor
Mark Ramirez, Graphic Designer
Jamie Topper, Lead Designer

Research and Access

Ellen Keith, Director and Chief Librarian
Brigid Crawley, Research Center Page
Maggie Cusick, Reference Librarian
Ayah Elkosse, Photocopy/Scan Assistant
Michael Featherstone, Research Center Associate and Architecture Specialist
Lesley A. Martin, Reference Librarian
Erin Matson, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian

Rights and Reproductions

Angela Hoover, Rights and Reproductions Manager
Colleen Layton, Rights and Reproductions Coordinator
Renee Mudgett, Photographer/Imaging Specialist
Timothy Paton Jr., Photographer/Imaging Specialist

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Thema McDonald, Vice President of Marketing and Communications

Communications

Arielle Antonio, Marketing Communications Coordinator
Paulina Budzioch, Brand Marketing Manager
Veronica Casados, Public Communications Manager
Marissa Croft, Research and Insights Analyst
Akane Henriquez, Senior Manager of Visitor Acquisition and Engagement
Heidi Samuelson, Content Manager and Editor
Esther D. Wang, Content Manager and Editor

Visitor Services

Joshua Anderson, Director
Jessica Bandera, School Group Visit Coordinator
Michael Glass, Coat Check Attendant
Eleanor Hein, Visitor Services Manager
Arrieonna Brewer, Nio Lozinsky, Ashley McCullough, Rob Medina, Lexi Nieves, Dorian Suggs, Visitor Services Associates

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Cheryl Obermeyer, Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Accounting

Steven D. Holloway, Director
Cynthia Mendez, Accounting Coordinator
Sharon Rogers, Staff Accountant
Ronald Solano, Gift Processing Manager

Human Resources

Shatierra Parks, Senior Director
Marne Bariso, Volunteer and Intern Manager
Bianca Corral, Recruiting Coordinator
Jeremy R. Campbell, Human Resources Generalist

Information Technology

Rey Garcia, Director
Jocelyn DeLeon, Technical Support Specialist

Special Events

Lorelei Kroulaidis, Director
Erika Johnson, Special Events Manager
Anna Rakowsky, Lynette Velazquez, Special Events Coordinators
Audrey Womack, Adult Group Tours Manager
Eddie Garcia, Jean Joffe, George Karmi, Darrin Wenzel, Bartenders
Olga Castrejon, North & Clark Café Manager
Monica Santizo, Café Supervisor
Brad Davis, Beverage Manager
Leslie Coreas, Renee Makowa, Denise Urquiza, Café Cashiers
Rudy Minchaca, Aurora Mustafa, Café Cooks

Properties

Terrance Lewis, Museum Facilities Director
Patrick Anderson, Shipping and Receiving Clerk
Ben Minnis, A/V Technology Manager
Gent Kazazi, Hysen Mustafa, Maintenance Technicians
Omar Otero, Chief of Security
Patrick Thomas, Harvard Property Caretaker
Albert Sanchez, Broadview Property Caretaker
Marcelo Franco, Todd Kirk, Nykee Mason, Champaigne Presley, Security Sergeants
Robert Johnson Jonathan Villanueva, Security Officers

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Michael Anderson, Vice President of External Engagement and Development

Development

Eva Rachau, Director
Christina De La Rosa, Development Operations Manager
Hannah Johnson, Member Relations Manager
Melinda McCrary, Institutional Giving Officer
Nell McKeown, Development Events Manager
Eric Miller, Development Coordinator

Education

Erica Griffin, Elizabeth F. Cheney Director of Education
Candace Bey, Education Coordinator
Megan Clark, School Programs Coordinator
Crystal Johnson, Chicago Metro History Day Manager
Noah Kelly, Chicago Learning Collaborative Coordinator
Lauren Maly, History Learning Specialist
Heidi Moisan, Senior School Programs Manager
Gregory Storms, Senior Public and Community Engagement Manager

The Chicago History Museum thanks all of its staff members. This list reflects the staff on June 30, 2023.