



# CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

JULY 2024-JUNE 2025 | ANNUAL REPORT



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** President & Chair Message
- 4** Board of Trustees
- 5** Treasurer's Report
- 7** Who We Served
- 11** The Work We Did
- 15** Supporters and Grants
- 16** Making History Awards
- 17** Honor Roll of Donors
- 28** Donations to Collection
- 30** Volunteers
- 31** Staff



### CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

1601 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60614-6038  
(312) 642-4600



ILLINOIS  
**ARTS**  
COUNCIL  
AGENCY

The Chicago History Museum acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

### CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

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,

**Over the past fiscal year, our work has reaffirmed the essential role history plays in informing, connecting, and inspiring our communities.** We remain committed to inclusive storytelling at the Museum, across diverse time periods, communities, and lived experiences in Chicago—offering perspectives and insights that help visitors better understand both the past and the present.

In the summer of 2024, six teens participated in the Chicago Teen Artivism Internship Program, where they examined social movements and movement-driven art from the 1960s and 1970s to inspire creative responses to today’s social issues in collaboration with local artists. This impactful program furthered the Museum’s priority to make active space for teens in museums, building future arts and culture supporters and participants in civic life. Chicago Teen Artivism was supported by the National Endowment of the Arts as part of our *Designing for Change: Chicago Protest Art of the 1960s–70s* exhibition.

On October 19, we opened *Dressed in History: A Costume Collection Retrospective*, celebrating significant milestones within our costume collection’s development and honoring the legacy of the Museum’s esteemed Costume Council. The exhibition offered visitors rare access to dozens of extraordinary garments—many displayed publicly for the first time—while communicating ways clothing reflects evolving material, social, and cultural values throughout history.

On November 22, we opened *Injustice: The Trial for the Murder of Emmett Till* in the KPMG and Paul & Katherine Snyder Gallery within our landmark exhibition, *Chicago: Crossroads of America*. Through photographs of Emmett Till’s life and funeral, alongside courtroom sketches by artist-reporter Franklin McMahon, the exhibition presents a powerful visual narrative of a trial that exposed enduring inequities within the American legal system and prompts visitors to consider how Emmett’s legacy continues to resonate in the ongoing efforts in seeking justice for Black lives today.

Much of the year was also devoted to the careful preparation of our ongoing *Aquí en Chicago* project. Extensive behind-the-scenes work—including conservation, object photography, oral history collection, research, educational development, community relationship-building, and exhibition planning—has laid a critical foundation for this important initiative and future storytelling efforts.

Through all of our efforts, we strive to connect people with the stories of those who came before us, encouraging reflection, compassion, and a deeper understanding of our shared city.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our donors, members, and partners. Your continued support makes it possible to honor the past, engage the present, and help shape a more informed and visionary future.

Sincerely,



**Donald Lassere**  
*Edgar D. and Deborah R. Jannotta President and CEO*  
Chicago History Museum, Fiscal Year 2025



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*Chair*  
Chicago History Museum Board of Trustees

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Noren W. Ungaretti  
Lawrie B. Weed  
Joan Werhane

*\*As of April 16, 2025*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The FY2025 Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) provides a snapshot of the Chicago Historical Society's Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets as of June 30, 2025.

Overall, our position at June 30, 2025, remained similar to last fiscal year's close with **Net Assets of \$126.6M (an increase of ~\$600K)**. Current assets dropped due to recognition of prior pledges receivable. Investments increased again due to strong market trends. Fixed Assets dropped consistently due to depreciation outpacing additions. Deferred revenue increased due to multiyear grants, while long-term debt remained consistent as planned.

The FY2025 Statement of Activities (Income Statement) represents the Chicago Historical Society's Revenue & Expenditures over the fiscal year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

The Museum generated \$11.9M in revenue in FY2025, an 11% drop (-\$1.5M) from FY2024. Park District support dropped ~\$250K and Government Grant revenue similarly dropped ~\$330K (mostly due to cuts to grants at the federal level). Contributions also lagged last year by 9% (-\$225K). Total expenses were strategically managed, landing 3.4% under FY2024, despite material inflation hikes. This combination yielded a **Net Operating Loss of \$2.2M**.

**We are very grateful for our dedicated staff, who continue to make everything possible at the Museum.**

Their passionate, collaborative work to implement our long-term strategic vision for the future is invaluable. Finally, we also recognize the many contributions and support of our volunteers, donors, advocates, and engaged 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 year ending June 30, 2025

Total Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	4,821,478
Pledges, loans, and accounts receivable (net)	4,066,134
Land, building, and equipment	26,946,355
Investments	84,462,387
Perpetual trusts	6,086,117
Other	182,710
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$126,565,181</b>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,267,470
Deferred revenue	2,997,521
Interest rate swap liability	6,433,005
Long-term debt	50,590,328
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$61,288,324</b>
Net assets	
without donor restrictions	44,583,713
with donor restrictions	20,693,144
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$65,276,857</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$126,565,181</b>

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

for the year ending June 30, 2025

Support and Revenue	
Contributions and grants	4,036,535
Chicago Park District	1,700,115
Investment income for operations	2,175,887
Membership dues and admissions	1,334,145
Auxiliary services and other	2,641,145
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$11,887,827</b>
Expenditures	
Collections and research	2,231,728
Exhibitions, education, and visitor services	2,568,161
Building operations and security	2,827,359
Auxiliary services	1,871,708
Marketing and communications	1,217,263
Fundraising	1,970,606
General and administrative	1,433,881
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,120,706</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$2,232,879)</b>
Non-Operating Items	
Investment Return, non-operating	5,352,825
Interest rate swap	(439,551)
Split-interest agreement	77,056
Depreciation	(2,676,832)
Debt service	(2,305,490)
<b>Total Non-Operating Items</b>	<b>\$8,008</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(\$2,224,871)</b>

# Who We Served

# 44

COUNTRIES

## VISITORS

This year, we welcomed **78,531 general admission visitors** to the Museum.

Of those, **48,752 visitors** were Illinois residents. Our **33,911 Chicago visitors** came from each of the city's 59 zip codes. We also welcomed international visitors from **44 different countries!**

We also hosted **323 group tours** for **4,042 attendees**. And visitors who stopped by our North & Clark Café enjoyed **3,803 cups of coffee!**

# 78,531

GENERAL  
ADMISSION  
VISITORS

# 323

GROUP  
TOURS

# 33,911

CHICAGO  
VISITORS

## STUDENTS *and* EDUCATORS

We welcomed **27,741 students, teachers, and chaperones** from **406 schools** at the Museum on field trips.

Most of our field trip visitors were from Illinois—**25,610 visitors** to be exact—and out of those, **17,055 visitors** were from Chicago. We also welcomed field trip visitors from **4 foreign countries**—Argentina, France, Germany, Romania.

Our **29 student programs**, which included enhanced field trips, the Park Voyagers program, Embarc programs, and custom student experiences, reached **713 students**.

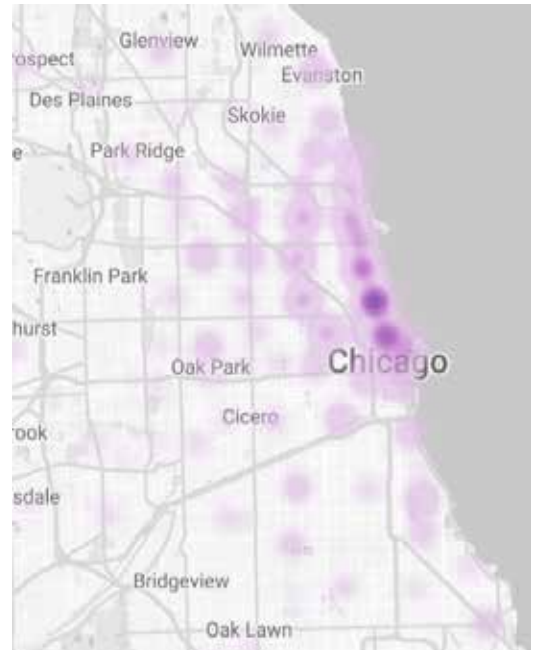
An additional **949 students** and **32 teachers** experienced CHM online with our gallery tour videos—including one group of students from Australia!

The Chicago Learning Collaborative program served **776 students** and **21 teachers** from **8 Chicago Public Schools**. Students participated in **44 artist sessions**, and teachers participated in **4 professional development programs**. The school year culminated in a Family Day event at the Museum attended by **400 students and their families**.

We offered an additional **27 professional development programs**, in which **561 teachers** participated. These programs provided **83.5 ISBE continuing education credits**. Of these, **7 programs** were collaborations with partner organizations.

In September, we hosted the Big Cities Social Studies Group, a partnership between Loyola University Chicago, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and other universities and school districts across the country, including Atlanta, the Bay Area, Boston, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, the Twin Cities, New York City, Philadelphia, San Diego, and Washington, DC.

As always, our work was supported this year by our invaluable Teacher Advisory Board, which included **15 teachers** and **2 emeriti** from area schools.



# 29

STUDENT  
PROGRAMS

# 406

SCHOOLS

## CHICAGO METRO HISTORY DAY

Chicago Metro History Day is a project-based inquiry program that empowers students to become historians who choose their topics, conduct research, and share their conclusions through projects presented to community volunteers at annual competitions.

In 2025, **75 schools**, **150 teachers**, and **8,581 students** in grades 6-12 participated at the classroom level.

To help students plan their projects, we hosted **2 History Day kick-off events** in October to connect students with resources available to them through the Museum and our partners to do historical research.

**1,468 students** participated in **2 regional competitions** held in Chicago.

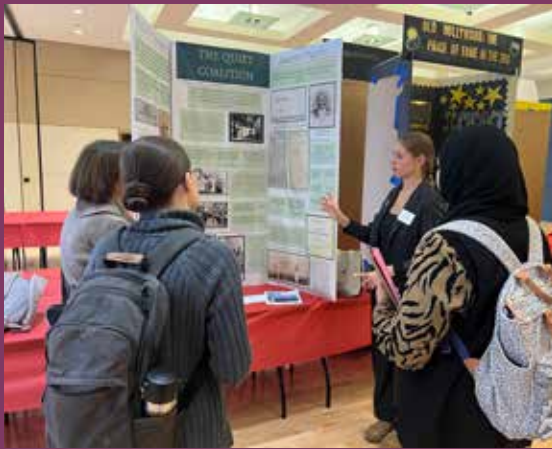
These contests were supported by **265 volunteer judges** with a total value of their volunteer time estimated at \$56,717.

**535 students** from the Chicago Metro regional advanced to the Illinois State History Day contest. Of those, **71 students** went on to compete in the National History Day contest. We congratulate all the students who participated this year!

75  
SCHOOLS

150  
TEACHERS

8,581  
STUDENTS





DN-0006800, Chicago Daily News collection, CHM

## RESEARCHERS

Abakanowicz Research Center staff served **4,621 call slip requests** for items in our vast research collection of 2D materials. Of those call slips, 2,033 were for published materials, 1,384 for prints and photographs, 1,124 for archives and manuscripts, and 80 for architectural drawings. Researchers also viewed **376 microfilm reels!**

These requests came from **1,997 in-person visitors** and **3,568 emails**.

Research & Access staff also scanned and photocopied **2,998 pages** of material.

Our vast image collection is also used by researchers, the media, and CHM staff. More than 375,000 of these images are viewable by the public through CHM Images, and we are always adding more! This year, **3,619 assets** were added to this online collection.

Our Rights & Reproductions staff received **801 image inquiries**. They completed **430 external image orders** from clients across **18 countries!** We also contributed **446 images** across **8 WTTW productions**.

Of the **1,725 distinct images ordered**, the most requested image was this view (left) of Clark Street north from Harrison Street in the Loop community area, taken in 1908 for a Chicago Railways Company Trolley Trip.



## MEMBERS

We had **3,850 members** as of June 30, 2025, including general members, Historical Alliance members, and life members. Over the course of the year, we welcomed **501 new members**.

Members enjoyed their membership by visiting the Museum **3,910 times**.

We also hosted several members-only events, including an Open House and an Annual Meeting, but the **3 top member events** were:



## GUESTS

The Museum hosted **130 special events**—63 social and 67 corporate or nonprofit—bringing in **18,753 guests**.

At these events, our hardworking staff set up **6,915 Chiavari chairs**, poured **1,653 sparkling toasts**, and served more than **1,000 espresso martinis**—our most requested cocktail of the year by far!

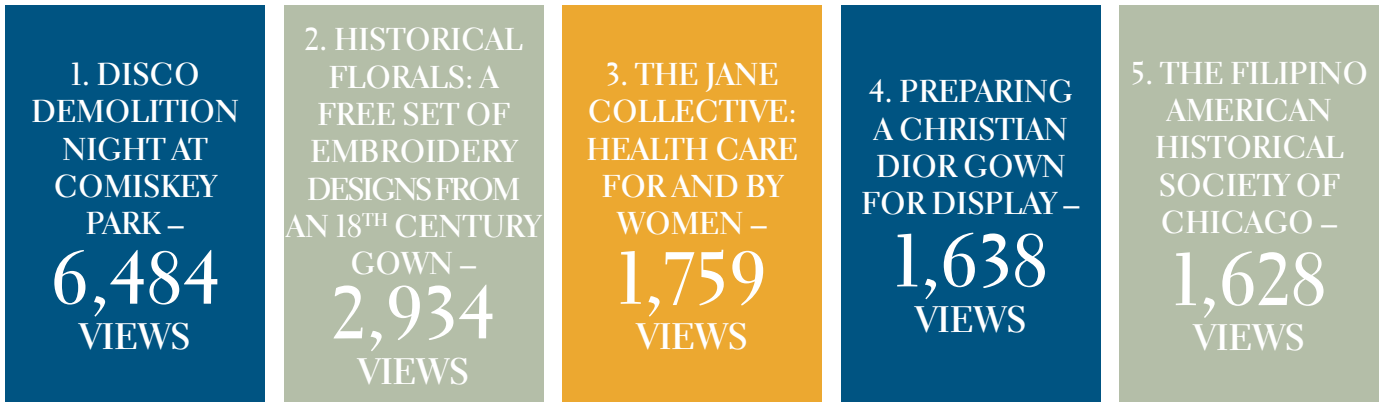


## ONLINE VISITORS

Our website received just over **1.8 million views** from approximately **702,000 users**.

In recognition of Chicago’s history as a host city for presidential nominating conventions, we created **1 history hub** for Chicago’s Political Conventions, which received **8,413 views**.

Our online audience enjoyed **37 new blog posts** written by CHM staff and partners, giving visitors a closer look at specific objects, collections, and stories from Chicago’s diverse communities. The top posts added in FY25:



Top blog posts overall in FY25:



# The Work We Did

2  
TEMPORARY  
EXHIBITIONS

1  
POP-UP  
EXHIBITION

6  
ROTATING  
DISPLAYS

## EXHIBITIONS

We opened **2 temporary exhibitions** in FY25:

- *Dressed in History: A Costume Council Retrospective*, which opened October 19, 2024, celebrated 100 years of our incredible costume collection, featuring everything from glamorous gowns and sharp suits to housedresses and sneakers.

*Thank you to our Dressed in History sponsors: The Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum, Liz Stiffel (presenting sponsor), Driehaus Design Initiative (sponsor)*

- *Injustice: The Trial for the Murder of Emmett Till*, which opened November 22, 2024, presents the 1955 murder of Emmett Till and the subsequent criminal trial in Mississippi, which attracted international attention and sparked the Civil Rights Movement.

We also hosted **1 pop-up exhibition** by Chicago Artivism Teens. We displayed murals, protest signs, and banners created by these **6 Chicago teens** as part of an intensive summer program at CHM exploring the city's legacy of activism (art + activism).

Our lobby atrium case saw **6 rotating displays** throughout the year, including: memorabilia from past Democratic National Conventions in Chicago, a haunted doll, the Palmer House brownie recipe, a Cracker Jill necklace, a Jane Addams figurine, and materials from the Pullman family and company.

In partnership with WTTW, we aired **12 episodes** of *Chicago Stories* in our Robert M. McCormick Theater, featuring a different episode each month.



## CITY TOURS *and* PROGRAMS

Visitors explored Chicago on **80 city tours**, which included 19 different walking tours, 4 different bus tours, and 1 fabulous fountains bike tour. New tours offered this year included:

- Convention City: How Presidential Nominations in Chicago Shaped a Nation with Paul Durica
- Crime of the Century: Leopold, Loeb, and the Murder of Bobby Franks with Paul Durica
- Gatsby and the Gold Coast with Paul Durica
- The Story of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Bus Tour with Sherman “Dilla” Thomas
- OUT at CHM Bus Tour: South Side LGBTQIA+ Stories with Mike McMains

We welcomed visitors of all ages to the Museum in recognition of **6 Commemorative Days**: Latine Heritage Month, Native American Heritage Month, Presidents’ Day, Black History Month, MLK Day, and Women’s History Month.

Chicago history enthusiasts also attended **1 author talk** on *Our Girl Tuesday: An Unfurling for Dr. Margaret T. G. Burroughs* and **2 panel discussions**: 100 Years of LGBTQIA+ Rights: Henry Gerber and the Society for Human Rights and Chicago Latina Trailblazers.

Our annual Civic Season brought visitors in for **2 Civic Saturdays** as well as for our reimagined 4th of July celebration.

80  
CITY  
TOURS

1  
AUTHOR  
TALK

2  
CIVIC  
SATURDAYS

14  
COLLECTIONS

## COLLECTIONS

### ► *Archives*

Our Archives staff processed or additionally processed **14 collections**. These amounted to about **20 linear feet (or 40 archival boxes)** of newly available research materials. The additionally processed collections include more than **100 linear feet (or about 200 boxes)** of materials now more accessible through finding aid, inventory, and catalog enhancements.

Through grant funding from the Lilly Foundation, our Collections fellow surveyed and inventoried an additional **17 archival collections**, totaling **105 linear feet (or about 210 archival boxes)** as well as **100 rolls of architectural drawings**.

Through grant funding from the Alphawood Foundation, our first Alphawood Project Archivist rehoused **73 large drawings and blueprints** in the Graham, Anderson, Probst & White architectural collection.

With the assistance of two undergraduate interns from DePaul’s Museum Studies program, the Archives unit successfully inventoried and permanently stored **5,544 audiovisual tapes** returned to the Museum following a digitization project.

The Archives unit also had **25 new acquisitions** across our architecture, archives and manuscripts, and prints and photographs collecting areas. They included **15.5 linear feet (or about 31 archival boxes)** of materials, in addition to **69 items** included in *Aquí en Chicago*.

73  
LARGE  
DRAWINGS AND  
BLUEPRINTS

5,544  
AUDIOVISUAL  
TAPES

## ► Conservation

Conservation staff completed all conservation treatment, mounting, and installation of the collection objects (and their rotations) displayed in *Dressed in History*, which included:

2  
LARGE  
FLAT  
TEXTILES

29  
COSTUME  
PIECES  
OR ENSEMBLES

29 COSTUME  
ACCESSORY  
PIECES,  
INCLUDING  
SHOES, GLOVES,  
STOCKINGS,  
JEWELRY, HATS, AND  
FANS

35 PAPER-  
BASED  
PIECES,  
INCLUDING  
ILLUSTRATIONS,  
SEWING PATTERNS,  
AND CATALOGUES/  
MAGAZINES

Staff also created **4 embellished textile swatches** to use on touch tours of *Dressed in History* for our blind and low-vision visitors.

Exhibition rotations are an important part of Collections and Conservation work in caring for our collections. This year, approximately **20 objects** were rotated in *Chicago: Crossroads of America* and approximately **30 objects** were rotated in *Designing for Change: Chicago Protest Art of the 1960s–70s*, including a White Sox jersey, cap, and ball; 15 objects related to the Great Chicago Fire; and a banner from the Youth International Party. Conservators treated, mounted, and installed each one.

This year we loaned **2 gowns and 1 framed oil painting to the Petite Palais**, in Paris, France, and **4 men's hats** to the Getty Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago. Conservators assessed these items for treatment, transport, and display needs.

Staff also accommodated **3 visits** by a researcher to examine fragile costume pieces attributed to George Washington.



## ► Curatorial

5  
COLLABORATIVE  
PROJECTS

In addition to all their interpretive work on our exhibitions and rotations, our curatorial staff supported **14 interns and volunteers** and **5 collaborative projects** with area community partners.

Our curators also gave **32 tours, presentations/lectures, and activations** to Museum members, students, scholars, and community members on topics related to Chicago history. They also did **21 interviews** with the media, sharing Chicago stories and the CHM collection to audiences far and wide.

7  
ORAL  
HISTORIES

As part of the Museum's storytelling mission, curators conducted **7 oral histories**. Documenting diverse Chicago voices ensures that the personal stories of those who are not always heard will be preserved for future generations.

## AQUÍ EN CHICAGO

We spent much of the year preparing for our upcoming exhibition, *Aquí en Chicago*, which is part of an ongoing project to inclusively, respectfully, and consistently preserve and present the Latino/a/e histories of Chicago.

To share information and themes found in the exhibition, we held **4 information sessions** for staff and volunteers. Key community advisors, including scholars and artists, participated and shared their knowledge and experiences.

In summer 2025, we welcomed **6 interns** and **1 fellow** to connect stories of Latino/a/e Chicago with our existing exhibition *Chicago: Crossroads of America*.

With the help of a curatorial volunteer, we developed **1 digital scrapbook** where community members can submit their own photographs to be featured in the exhibition.

Conservation staff began and completed assessments on the approximately **450 collection and loan objects** chosen for inclusion in the exhibition. They also:

- Prepared **107 paper-based items**, matting and mounting 35 items and creating 3 facsimiles
- Conserved **11 costume items and ensembles**, choosing and adapting mannequins/forms for each
- Made **4 display wigs**
- Mounted **14 costumes** for photography and display
- Completed treatment on **25 objects or groups of objects**

They also captured **1 video**, along with still photographs to document the dressing of a Kichwa Otavalo costume ensemble.

4  
INFORMATION  
SESSIONS

1  
DIGITAL  
SCRAPBOOK



# Supporters and Grants

The generous support of our auxiliary groups is an essential part of our work, and we are grateful to The Guild of the Chicago History Museum and The Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum for their enduring support. This year:

EACH GROUP  
CONTRIBUTED \$50,000 TO  
SUPPORT OUR *AQUÍ EN*  
*CHICAGO* EXHIBITION  
CATALOGUE AND MUSEUM  
OPERATIONS.

THE  
GUILD CONTRIBUTED  
\$10,000 TO THE MAKING  
HISTORY AWARDS AND  
\$5,000 FOR A COLLECTIONS  
INTERN POSITION.

THE  
COSTUME COUNCIL  
SUPPORTED THE  
ACQUISITION OF  
CANDICE JORDAN'S  
PLAYBOY ARCHIVE.

We also received the following project-based grants:

- **\$199,980 from the Abakanowicz Arts and Culture Charitable Foundation** for our East Basement renovation, crucial for improving our collection storage capacities.
- **\$50,000 from the Alphawood Foundation** in support of increasing discoverability in the architecture collection.
- **\$175,000 from the Digital Accelerator program of Bloomberg Philanthropies** for our Digital Futures project, which will help improve our digital infrastructure and better share our collection.
- **\$3,000 from The Brinson Foundation** for the president's fund to provide professional development.
- **\$129,373 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity** for exhibition support.
- **\$55,000 from the Illinois Arts Council Agency** for operations support.
- **\$750,000 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources** for capital projects.
- **\$335,161 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services** for our fall 2025 *Aquí en Chicago* exhibition.
- **\$2,499,992 from the Lilly Endowment Inc.** for the Chicago Sacred Initiative.
- **\$509,332 from the National Endowment for the Humanities** for several projects including upgrades to collection storage, the 2023 Gilded Age and Progressivisms program for teachers, our hybrid history work, and the fall 2025 *Aquí en Chicago* exhibition.
- **\$30,000 from the Polk Bros. Foundation** for the Chicago Literacies arm of our Chicago Learning Collaborative program.
- **\$12,500 from the TAWANI Foundation** for our *Designing for Change: Chicago Protest Art of the 1960s–70s* exhibition.
- **\$20,000 from the Terra Foundation for American Art** for our West Side Memory Keepers Project: Stories for the Best Side.
- **\$190,000 from The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust** to our Annual Fund, which supports day-to-day Museum operations.

# 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MAKING HISTORY AWARDS

Each year, the Making History Awards celebrate the accomplishments of individuals or corporations who have left their mark on Chicago. Over the past 30+ years, the Making History Awards have honored more than 154 prominent Chicagoans and Chicago-based corporations whose enduring contributions to our community have made Chicago a better and more vibrant place to live.

The Chicago History Museum inaugurated this event in 1995 to provide vital financial support to the Museum’s operations and programs. More than 30 years later, this event is still a cornerstone of the institution, supporting our mission to serve as the primary destination for learning, inspiration, and civic engagement to connect people to Chicago’s history and each other.

## MAKING HISTORY AWARD HONOREES

**Martin Cabrera Jr., CEO & Founder, Cabrera Capital**  
 Marshall Field Making History Award for Distinction in Corporate Leadership and Innovation

**Susan Crown, Founder and Chairman, Susan Crown Exchange**  
 Daniel H. Burnham Making History Award for Distinction in Visionary Leadership

**Hon. Rahm Emanuel, Former Ambassador to Japan; Mayor, City of Chicago; US Congressman; White House Chief of Staff**  
 Harold Washington Making History Award for Distinction in Public Service

**Steppenwolf Theatre, accepted by Audrey Francis & Brooke Flanagan, Chicago Theater Company**  
 The Theodore Thomas Making History Award for Distinction in the Performing Arts



From left: Martin Cabrera Jr., Susan Crown, Hon. Rahm Emanuel, Brooke Flanagan, and Audrey Francis.  
 Photograph by Kyle Flubacker Photography.

## MAKING HISTORY AWARDS COMMITTEE

Alejandra Garza\* - Co-Chair  
*AGG Consulting*

Walter Carlson\*  
*Sidley Austin LLP*

Guillermo Garcia\*  
*GSG Consultants*

Francia Harrington  
*Open Door Advisors Philanthropy*

David D. Hiller\*  
*Robert R. McCormick Foundation (retired)*

Janice Jackson\*  
*Hope Chicago*

Dan Jaffee\*  
*Oil-Dri Corporation*

Jill Kirk\*  
*President, The Guild of the Chicago History Museum*

Hon. Randye A. Kogan, ret.\*  
*Circuit Court of Cook County*

Donald Lassere\*  
*Edgar D. and Deborah R. Jannotta President and CEO, Chicago History Museum*

David Mordini\*  
*President, The Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum*

James O'Connor Jr.  
*William Blair*

Arnaldo Rivera\*  
*Navy Pier*

Larry Selander\*  
*Duane Morris LLP*

Liz Stiffel  
*Civic Leader*

Monica M. Weed\*  
*Monica M. Weed Consulting, LLC*

*\* Member of the Chicago Historical Society Board of Trustees*

2024-25 YEAR IN REVIEW

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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 Joan and John Blew  
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 Darcy L. Evon  
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 In Memory of Jean Wright Haider  
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 Mary Houston  
 Cheryl Iverson  
 Daniel and Gloria Kearney  
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July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

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## COSTUME COUNCIL HEAD-TO-TOE ANNUAL APPEAL HONOR ROLL

July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

The Costume Council proudly supports conserving, preserving, maintaining, and exhibiting the Chicago History Museum's 50,000+ Costume & Textile Collection through their Head-to-Toe Annual Appeal and their Sponsors of Style program.

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 Lorien Yonker

**SPONSORS OF STYLE***July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025*

The Sponsors of Style program was launched in 2006 to raise funds for exhibitions featuring the Chicago History Museum's costume collection, one of the largest in the world, which tells the story of Chicago and Illinois through the clothing of its diverse residents.

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**

Liz Stiffel

**SPONSOR**

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Joseph Seliga and  
Vanessa B. M. Vergara  
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Styled By Demetra  
Ruth Thuston  
Leslie and Robert Zentner

**TRIBUTE GIFTS***July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025*

Thank you for choosing the Chicago History Museum to honor your colleagues, friends, and loved ones.

**In Honor of Dora J. Aalbregtse**

Marcie Harrison  
Erica C. Meyer  
Lawrie Bowes Weed  
Mary Kay Wysham  
Robertta Zabel

**In Honor of Anika Allen**

Katie Beard

**In Honor of Constance K. Barkley**

Erica C. Miller

**In Honor of Joan Blew**

Kathryn Gibbons Johnson

**In Honor of Martin Cabrera Jr.**

The Brodsky Family  
Peoples Gas

**In Honor of Pamela Capitanini**

David Sanchez

**In Honor of Marissa Croft**

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The Crown Family  
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**In Honor of Rahm I. Emanuel**

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Paul and De Gray  
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Berte Dahl

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Lynn Orschel

**In Honor of Maggie M. Morgan**

Carrie Lepofsky

**In Honor of Jessica Pushor**

Petra Slinkard

**In Honor of Frank J. Rubel**

Amy Sweet

**In Honor of Heidi Samuelson**

George Fornero

**In Honor of Larry Selander**

Caroline and Charlie Huebner

**In Honor of Peggy Snorf**

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Nancy Boostrom

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Linda Case

**In Honor of Karen Zupko**

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Leslie Delany and John Yeoman

**In Memory of Paul Adler**

Rebecca Adler

**In Memory of Judith S. Block**

Caro L. Parsons  
Liz Stiffel

**In Memory of Bernhard B. Bruhn**

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**In Memory of Susan Stein**

Erica C. Meyer  
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Virginia Fitzgerald  
Henry and Elsie Loeb  
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Roger L. Strong  
Lynn Meyers and Dana Terp

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## HIGHLIGHTS TO THE COLLECTION

### COLLECTING FOR AQUÍ EN CHICAGO

Purchases of artwork by contemporary Latino/a/e artists including: Rene Arceo, Carlos Barberena, Alma Dominguez, Reuben Gerena, Greason Rosa, CHema Skandal!, Monica Trinidad, and Gabriel Villa

A women's traditional Kichwa Otavalo ensemble worn by the donor and her family members. *Gift of Gladys de la Torre*

Traditional shoes and sash to be worn with the Otavalo ensemble. *Gifts of Tamia Muenala and Hilda Pineda, respectively*

*Future Homes*, a collection of sculptures made by students from Benito Juarez Community Academy High School under the direction of the teaching artists. *Gift of Nicole Marroquin*

Paletero's cart used by paleteros/as (including María Siu and Josue Siu) at Reina de Sabores for more than 35 years. *Gift of Paletería Reina de Sabores*

Fourteen posters created by students at the Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy under the direction of their teacher, Anton Miglietta. Posters were made in response to a field trip the students made to the Museum, which they felt did not tell the Latine history of the city. *Gift of Instituto Justice and Leadership Academy*

Archival and photographic materials documenting the El Nopal Bakery, run by the donor and his family. *Gift of Mr. Francisco Bonilla, Jr.*

### ADDITIONAL COLLECTING HIGHLIGHTS

Photographic materials documenting Ismaili meeting places in Chicago and His Highness the Aga Khan IV. *Gift of Dr. Amir Rehmat*

Letter written by Simon Pokagon regarding his authorship of the novel *Queen of the Woods*, dated October 26, 1898. *Gift of Dr. John N. Low*

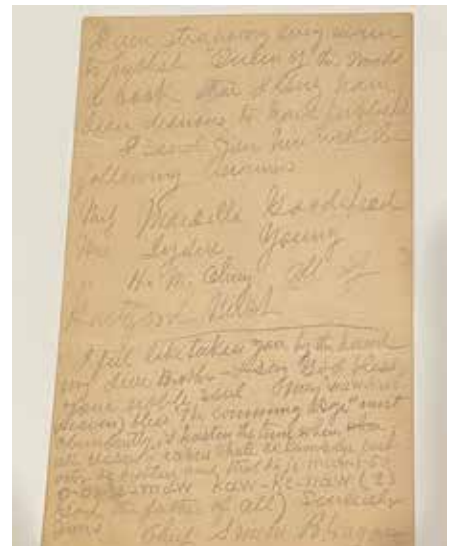
Thirty-one clothing ensembles documenting the fashion style of architect Helmut Jahn. *Gift of Mrs. Deborah Jahn*

Former Playboy Bunny/Playmate Candace Jordan's collection of Playboy memorabilia. *Chicago History Museum Purchase*

Archival records, photographs, a trader's jacket, a medal and ribbon badge documenting the life and career of the donor in the financial market and as CME chairman. *Gift of Mr. Leo Melamed*

Three issues of the Holy Family Academy yearbook, *The Academian*. *Gift of Ms. Debbie Kozlovich*

Issues of *Ebony, Jr!* *Gift of Olivia Mahoney*



## VOLUNTEERS



We greatly appreciate our volunteers who support the Museum with their time and expertise in Collections, Communications, Curatorial Affairs, Education, Exhibitions, Research and Access, and Visitor Services, as well as our Event Volunteers and Gallery Interpreters. We could not do this without you. Thank you!

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*Those who volunteered for several months between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, are listed above.*

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 Susie McGee, Executive Assistant to the President's Office  
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 Michael Hall, Costume Mount Maker  
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 Abbey Maynard, Senior Archivist  
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 Elena Gonzales, PhD, Curator of Civic Engagement and Social Justice

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 Noah Kelly, Chicago Learning Collaborative Coordinator  
 Lauren Maly, Chicago Metro History Day History Learning Specialist  
 Heidi Moisan, Senior School Programs Manager  
 Paige McCoy Niendorf, Chicago Metro History Day History Learning Specialist  
 Maris Rosenfeld, Chicago Metro History Day Program Associate  
 Greg Storms, Senior Public and Community Engagement Manager

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 Ethan Gasbarro, Production Supervisor  
 Renee Mudgett, Temporary Preparator

Mark Ramirez, Graphic Designer  
 Joshua Sundermeyer, Temporary Preparator

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 Maggie Cusick, Reference Librarian  
 Annika Kohrt, Research Center Associate  
 Erin Matson, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian  
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 Jojo Galván Mora, Digital Humanities Fellow  
 Alice Matthews, Rights and Reproductions Coordinator  
 Timothy Paton Jr., Photographer/Imaging Specialist

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 Elisabeth Heissner, Manager of Visitor Acquisition and Engagement  
 Heidi Samuelson, PhD, Content Manager and Editor  
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 Nell McKeown, Development Events Manager  
 Eric Miller, Development Coordinator  
 Jessica Quintero, Gifts Processing Manager

*The Chicago History Museum thanks all of its dedicated staff members. This list reflects the staff on June 30, 2025.*

## CHM STAFF EXTERNAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### COLLECTIONS

Jessica Pushor, member of the Costume Society of America; field reviewer for the IMLS FY2025 grant cycle

Jessica Pushor, “Dressed in History: A Costume Collection Retrospective,” presentation for Fortnightly, February 2, 2025

Jessica Pushor, “Chicago Fashion Icon Maria Pinto,” presentation for Women’s Athletic Club, February 23, 2025

Jessica Pushor, “Dressed in History: A Costume Collection Retrospective,” presentation for Arts Club, May 22, 2025

Jessica Pushor, podcast interviewee on *Dressed: The History of Fashion*, “Dressed in History: 100 Years of Collecting Fashion,” June 10, 2025

### CURATORIAL

Peter T. Alter, Chicago History Museum Experience course, DePaul University, Department of History

Rebekah Coffman, “Chicago Sacred: Centering Everyday Stories of Chicago’s Religious Histories,” panel discussion for the American Society of Church History Annual Meeting, January 6, 2025

Rebekah Coffman, talk for the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago’s Home of Harmony “Know and Love” series, March 2025

Rebekah Coffman, panelist on “‘It’s Personal’: Public History from the Inside/Outside,” National Council for Public History 2025 Annual Meeting, March 28, 2025

Rebekah Coffman, guest lecturer on the subject of religion in museums for several university courses, including for Northwestern University, Loyola University, University of Chicago, DePaul University, and Lake Forest College

Rebekah Coffman, Jojo Galvan Mora, and Elena Gonzales, *Aquí en Chicago*, Urban History Seminar, Chicago History Museum, April 26, 2025

Elena Gonzales, invitee of American Academy of Arts and Sciences, March 2025

Elena Gonzales, panelist on “Chicago Latinx Publics,” Organization for American Historians, April 4, 2025

Elena Gonzales, presentation on *Aquí en Chicago*, Institute of Museum and Library Services

Elena Gonzales, guest teacher/lecturer on *Aquí en Chicago* for several classes/courses, including, UNAM Chicago, Lake Forest College, Dewey Elementary School, Nicholas Middle School

### EDUCATION

Megan Clark, associate board member for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Megan Clark, panel discussion for Loyola Practicing Democracy in Schools – Meeting with Dick Durbin at Senn High School, July Conference, May 23, 2025.

Megan Clark and Heidi Moisan, presentation on *Designing for Change: Chicago Protest Art in the 1960s–70s*, Illinois Democracy Schools Convening, September 23, 2024

Megan Clark and Heidi Moisan, Illinois Association of Museums, Award of Excellence for Learning and Curricular Resources for *City on Fire: Chicago 1871*, April 3, 2025

Erica Griffin-Fabicon, board member for Jane Addams Hull-House Museum; board member for Honey Pot Performance/Black Social Culture Map Project

Erica Griffin-Fabicon, interview on *Designing for Change: Chicago Protest Art of the 1960s–70s*, Public Media Institute, August 8, 2024

Erica Griffin-Fabicon, “Learning, Teaching, and Celebrating Black History in Chicago,” Printer’s Row Lit Fest, September 7, 2024

Erica Griffin-Fabicon, Terra Foundation for American Art-Art Design Chicago Learning Community Convening, March 20, 2025

Erica Griffin-Fabicon, “Affirming Student Identities and Inspiring Civic Action with Chicago History Engagement,” panel discussion on Teaching and Learning History in Tumultuous Times, Organization of American Historians, April 3, 2025

Noah Kelly, alumni career panelist for Loyola University Chicago, April 7, 2025

### RESEARCH AND ACCESS

Ellen Keith, presentation on the Abakanowicz Research Center, Chicago Area Law Librarians, May 20, 2025

Erin Matson and Ayah Elkosse, “Infamy in the Archive: Illuminating Chicago’s Criminal Past Through a True Crime Research Guide,” Midwest Popular Culture Association and Midwest American Culture Association Annual Conference, October 4, 2024

### COMMUNICATIONS

Marissa Croft and Heidi Samuelson, “History Blogs Are Here to Stay,” panel discussion at National Council on Public History, 2025 Annual Meeting, March 29, 2025

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Lorelei Kroulaidis, adjunct professor, Roosevelt University; member of Wedding Industry Professionals Association; member of Association of Latino Professionals for America

Erika Johnson, board member/executive committee of Meeting Professionals International Chicago Area Chapter