AS IN HAPPENS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As a fellow supporter, I am in awe of the Chicago History Museum's commitment to our communities. Despite operating under challenging circumstances, our talented team has reached new levels of innovation. In October 2021, we are opening the **Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail (p. 10–15)** to the public. An outdoor interactive gathering space, this park trail will welcome visitors on an interpretive journey to the Museum.

We have brought back our popular in-person walking tours highlighting the uniqueness of our Chicago neighborhoods. We also continue to offer virtual programs that can be enjoyed from anywhere. You can RSVP to our events at **chicagohistory.org/events**



We also have been busy creating new programs and exhibitions that begin to fill the voids in our historical narrative. With an approach rooted in equity, programs like the **Voids Project (p. 3)** challenge us to think of history from multiple angles and imagine a better future for our city.

I look forward to meeting you in person at our **Members' Commemoration | City on Fire: Chicago 1871** event on October 13, 2021, as we celebrate the opening of our newest exhibition (**p. 4**). Save the date for our **Members' Annual Meeting** on November 4, 2021. I hope to chat with you about our upcoming projects and the future of CHM.

Thank you for your continued support and loyalty. See you around the Museum!

Donald Larsere

Donald E. Lassere | Edgar D. and Deborah R. Jannotta President and CEO

Image: Donald E. Lassere in the Morse Genius Chicago Room, photograph by Timothy Paton Jr., 2021.

FILLING THE VOIDS

By Colleen McGaughey, senior manager of institutional advancement

When it comes to preserving and sharing history, what is left out is often as influential to our worldview as what gets archived or exhibited. At CHM, we value history as a tool for social justice, and this includes bringing diverse perspectives to decisions on which artifacts we collect and how we interpret them. For too long, history museums mostly shared the viewpoints of people with power and privilege, leaving the experiences and contributions of many communities out of the narrative. As we move forward with equity and inclusion as priorities, CHM is finding creative ways to engage the public with marginalized histories. Recently, CHM's education department launched the Voids Project, which invited teens to discover hidden history and bring it to light.

Voids was influenced by CHM's online experience Democracy Limited: Chicago Women and the Vote, which commemorates the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 2020. When considering the American suffrage story in Chicago, African American women's activism in support of the vote for women and their simultaneous fight for community betterment have often been left out of the conversation. The historical silence around their contributions–and the destruction and neglect of the physical spaces in which they worked–impacted public memory, leaving harmful voids in the historical record.

In winter 2021, eight teens from across Chicagoland teamed up with a cross section of CHM staff to learn about the work of Black women suffragists and activists. After researching collections at CHM and other institutions, they speculated on the alternate futures that could have been realized if history had honored them more fully. Working with teaching artists, the teens created a scrapbook that vividly portrays what they learned and how it inspired them. Their work is shared on **democracylimited.com/ the-voids-project/**

Erica Griffin, Elizabeth F. Cheney Director of Education at CHM, said about this project: "This group of teens was inspiring and creative. They treated the stories of these women with the empathy and care they deserved. I am honored to have helped them bring their vision to life."



The Voids Project was inspired by the Chicago History Museum's online experience Democracy Limited: Chicago Women and the Vote, which you can see at **DemocracyLimited.com**

Image: Illustration of a page in the Voids Project teen zine, 2021.

SNEAK PEEK AT CITY ON FIRE: CHICAGO 1871



On October 8, 2021, the sesquicentennial of the Great Chicago Fire, CHM is opening **City on Fire: Chicago 1871.** Designed for families, this exhibition explores the impact the Great Chicago Fire had on the city and the people who lived here. Check out *City on Fire* programming and events at **chicago1871.org**. You won't want to miss this blockbuster exhibition.

Image: Lithograph titled Chicago in Flames: Burning of the Chamber of Commerce by Wandsbeck Seitz depicting crowds running from the Chamber of Commerce during the Chicago Fire of 1871. CHM, ICHi-063134.

The Chicago History Museum has thousands of items related to the Great Chicago Fire in its collection. From charred keepsakes to firefighting equipment, the artifacts bring the rich narrative of this pivotal disaster to life. Here is a sneak peek of items that will be on display in *City on Fire: Chicago 1871*:



FIREFIGHTER'S HELMET

Made from leather and metal, this helmet belonged to Chicago Fire Marshal William H. Musham. It was an essential piece of protective equipment for 19th century firefighters.

Chicago History Museum, c. 1871. 1972.132



MINIATURE BELL

Some people made souvenirs out of artifacts that survived the fire to sell to the public. This miniature bell was made from the large bell at the Courthouse and City Hall building destroyed in the fire.

Chicago History Museum, X.504



MARBLES MELTED TOGETHER

Many kids had to escape quickly from the fire, leaving their toys behind. After the fire, people picked up toys they found in the rubble.

Chicago History Museum, c. 1871. 1919.9



TEACUPS FUSED TOGETHER

Not everything was destroyed in the fire. Some household items survived without any damage, while others were burned badly or fused together, like these cups. *Chicago History Museum*, c. 1871. 1363-11H

COSTUME COUNCIL

By Nell McKeown, institutional advancement events manager



The Costume Council has demonstrated great agility navigating the shifting landscape of fundraising, exceeding its historical benchmarks. The Council's annual appeal raised a record high of nearly \$60,000 last fiscal year by embracing new fundraising strategies and leveraging virtual and social media outlets to foster awareness of CHM's internationally renowned collection of over 50,000 costumes and textiles.

In June 2021, Michelle Bibergal hosted the first in-person event in over a year at Max Mara in downtown Chicago. At the annual meeting, Max Mara Corporation presented an exclusive tour of their fashion archive in Italy. A new slate of Council officers was elected, including Maggie M. Morgan, Pamella Capitanini, Courtney Hopkins, David Mordini, and Ruth Thuston.

Special thanks go to our FY21 Head-to-Toe sponsors:

Women's Look Sponsors Carlette C. McMullan Richard and Lyssa Piette

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Images from left: Nell McKeown, Connie Barkley, Michelle Bibergal, Sherrill Bodine at the annual meeting at Max Mara Col, courtesy of Max Mara; Man of Style Chip Hendon, Frank Rubel, CMFA Co-Chair Dustin Erikstrup, host Pam Capitanini, Karen Peters, and Man of Style Grant McNamara, photographed by Breeze Art Photography.

The 6th annual Chicago Men's Fashion

Awards honored ten of Chicago's best dressed men in September. Each of this year's honorees embodied a unique and fresh perspective on dress-bringing elevated personal style to the Chicagoland area. This event included a VIP Party for the Men of Style, donors, and sponsors, hosted by Pam Capitanini. Major sponsors included Peter Billmeyer, Pam and Al Capitanini, ESQ, Perillo, The RealReal, and Richard and Diane Weinberg.

For the first time, the Council will host a virtual auction on the platform Everything But The House this fall. Council members donated their fashion finery for the event. All proceeds will directly support the preservation and interpretation of CHM's costume collection. Co-chairs Tanner C. Branson and Costume Council President Maggie M. Morgan are excited to start the fall season with the auction. The event will take place online at EBTH.com from October 11 to 17.

COSTUME COUNCH of the Chicago History Museum

FASHIONING CHICAGO'S HISTORY

Interested in joining the Costume Council? Visit chicagohistory.org/ costume-council or contact Michael Anderson, vice president of external engagement and development, at manderson@chicagohistory.org or 312.799.2142 for more information.

THF GUILD

By Nell McKeown, institutional advancement events manager

The Guild concluded another great year of fundraising, fulfilling their second installment of \$100,000 toward their three-year \$250,000 pledge in support of the Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail. The Guild Rain Garden on the Jaffee History Trail, opening in October 2021, will feature a lush garden of natural plants and pollinator attractors such as buttonbush, nodding onion, and wild blue iris.

Individuals who support the Guild Annual Appeal with gifts totaling \$1,000 or more between July 2021 and June 2022 will have their names inscribed on a permanent plaque in the Guild Rain Garden. An honor roll of donors is listed on p. 14.

In September 2021, the Guild welcomed Ann Keating, the Dr. C. Frederick Toenniges Professor of History at North Central College and author of The World of Juliette Kinzie: Chicago Before the Fire. Dr. Keating, one of the foremost experts on nineteenth-century Chicago, offered a moving portrait of a trailblazing woman. The Guild enjoyed Keating's musings on her book and interpretation of Chicago before and after this transformative event in 1871.

On October 8, 2021, The Guild is hosting its party, "A Hot Time in the Old Town," to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Great Chicago Fire and the opening of CHM's newest exhibition, City on Fire: Chicago 1871. The evening will include combustible cocktails, dinner, and a program featuring Carl Smith, Professor Emeritus of English and history at Northwestern University and author of Chicago's Great Fire: The Destruction and Resurrection of an Iconic American City. The Guild will also welcome Annette Nance-Holt, Chicago's first female fire commissioner, as an honored quest at this special event.



THE QUILD OF THE CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

SUPPORTING THE MUSEUM FOR NEARLY 75 YEARS

Interested in joining The Guild? Visit chicagohistory.org/the-guild or contact Michael Anderson, vice president of external engagement and development, at manderson@chicagohistory.org or 312,799,2142 for more information.

Images from left: The Guild 2020-21 executive officers, CHM president Donald Lassere speaking at the podium; costume collection manager Jessica Pushor conversing with guests. All photographs by Sean Su, Purple Photo Group.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Lauren Wissbaum, individual giving and annual fund manager

Lisa Hall-Schilling

While her career in the modeling and fashion industries has taken her all over the globe, Lisa Hall-Shilling has always had a special love for her hometown Chicago.



When she was 11 years old, Lisa's mother and aunt sent her to Cleo Johnson, the nation's first Black-owned modeling and charm school, and she walked in her first runway show in New York City. She graduated from John Robert Powers modeling and acting academy at age 17, and eventually became an international model with the esteemed Ebony Fashion Fair. In this role, Lisa traveled to Turkey, Japan, Italy, and Germany during the 1980s to early 2000s. She graced ads for I. Magnin, Marshall Fields, and Sears and worked with top names in fashion, such as Hubert de Givenchy, Louis Fèraud, and the House of Dior. Lisa was living abroad when she retired as a model and became a mother to two boys.

Upon her return to Chicago in 2003, Lisa was looking for ways to reconnect with the city. Around 2013, a friend mentioned that the Chicago History Museum was looking for volunteer docents to take visitors around the exhibitions. Intrigued, Lisa interviewed and was shocked to discover the Museum was looking for guides for their upcoming exhibition, *Inspiring Beauty:* 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair. The show even featured a dress Lisa wore on the runway. It was kismet!

Nearly a decade later, Lisa is still volunteering at CHM, and she loves to share her knowledge about Chicago with our visitors. "People don't realize how amazing Chicago is. They walk by history every day and don't realize what happened there or around that street corner. It's so important," says Lisa.

"I will continue to volunteer at the Museum and share these stories as long as I can."

Images from left: A clipping from Ebony magazine, 1980, shows Lisa Hall-Shilling wearing a "Picasso" evening dress, 1979, by Yves Saint Laurent, photographed by Francesco Scavullo. The dress, which is now in CHM's costume collection, was on display in Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair (March 16, 2013-May 11, 2014). 2018.1.24a-b © 2013 Chicago Historical Society, all rights reserved.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT



* Make a Gift to the Annual Fund

The annual fund gives vital support where it is needed most–enhancing visitor experience, preserving our collection, making our historical resources accessible, and educating the next generation of civic leaders. We welcome donations of all sizes. To make a gift, visit **chicagohistory.org/ give-now** or contact Lauren Wissbaum, individual giving and annual fund manager, at wissbaum@chicagohistory.org or 312.799.2114.

* Join the Historical Alliance

The Historical Alliance is a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to supporting the Museum with a gift of \$500 or more to the annual fund. As part of the Historical Alliance, you make a real difference in supporting the Museum and its work to share the authentic Chicago. To join the Historical Alliance, visit **chicagohistory.org/give-now** or contact Lauren Wissbaum, individual giving and annual fund manager, at wissbaum@chicagohistory.org or 312.799.2114. Historical Alliance levels and benefits are listed on p. 17.

Image: History Happy Hour, 2019, photograph by Timothy Patron Jr.

* Become a Member

Membership offers ways to engage with other people who love the city of Chicago and its history. As a member of the city's oldest cultural institution, you support a museum dedicated to sharing Chicago stories for all. To become a member, visit **chicagohistory.org/membership** or contact Justina Doyle, member relations manager, at doyle@chicagohistory.org or 312.799.2113. Membership levels and benefits are listed on p. 16.

* Join the Lincoln Honor Roll Society

The Lincoln Honor Roll Society recognizes special individuals who support the Museum in their wills, trusts, life insurance policies, retirement assets, or other estate planning. Create your legacy today and be among more than 90 individuals who have committed to supporting the Museum for generations to come. For more information about the Society and planned giving options, contact Michael Anderson, vice president of external engagement and development, at manderson@ chicagohistory.org or 312.799.2142. A full honor roll is listed on p. 19.

WELCOME TO THE

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RICHARD M. AND SHIRLEY H. JAFFEE HISTORY TRAIL

RICHARD M. AND SHIRLEY H. JAFFEE HISTORY TRAIL

By Michael Anderson, vice president of external engagement and development

After months of construction, the Chicago History Museum is proud to unveil the **Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail** to the public in October 2021. An interpretative trail and gathering place for the community, this 4.5-acre park includes nearly 150 new trees, a collection of kinetic sculptures designed by local artist Bernard Williams, and seven history stations. Each installation along the 600-foot pedestrian pathway around the Museum follows the theme "Chicago is..." and highlights the city's resilient, bold, and complex personality.

The Jaffee History Trail will serve as a space for education outside of the Museum. History stations incorporate features such as the "Fire Blob," a rarely seen and massive relic from the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and the Couch Tomb, a reminder that the area was once a city cemetery.

Check out each history station on p. 12.



To learn more about the Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail, visit **chicagohistory.org/history-trail**

MAKE YOUR MARK ON THE JAFFEE HISTORY TRAIL

We provide many opportunities to make your mark along the Jaffee History Trail. From honoring a loved one on a park bench on the Museum Plaza to naming the new Parisian-styled outdoor seating area at the North & Clark Café, we can customize the right gift for you. For more information, contact Michael Anderson, vice president of external engagement and development at **manderson@chicagohistory.org** or **312.799.2142**.

Images: Map of Jaffee History Trail, designed by AmazeDesign. Station 1, the fire relic in front of the Chicago Historical Society, CHM, ICHI-066993. Station 2, Map of Potawatomi place names created by Bmejwen, Kyle Malott, Potawatomi language speaker and citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, additional design by AmazeDesign. Station 3, the Couch tomb, photographed by Luiz Magaña, 2021. Station 4, Statue of Abraham Lincoln, DN-0008643_pm, Chicago Daily News collection, CHM. Station 5, weathervanes, photographed by Luiz Magaña, 2021. Station 6, butterfly on nodding onion © Shedd Aquarium/ Brenna Hernandez. Station 7, railroad tracks, photographed by Luiz Magaña, 2021.



Chicago is...Complex challenges visitors to consider the many ways we share history and how the stories we tell reflect what we value in the present.



Chicago is...Curious reminds us that history is everywhere in Chicago, even underground. This stop features the Couch tomb, a visible reminder that Lincoln Park was once the site of the City Cemetery.

0



Chicago is...Zhegagoynak

recognizes that before there was a city as we know it, this area was a thriving center of Indigenous life. This stop acknowledges the land rights of the Indigenous people in our communities and their contributions to the city as it is today.





Chicago is...Resilient

describes the city after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This stop features the fire relic–the melted contents of a hardware and cutlery store, which weighs more than 13,000 pounds.

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CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

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Chicago is...Connected highlights Chicago's trade routes and railroads and its role as a transportation hub and gathering place for people for thousands of years.



Chicago is... Community

features kinetic sculptures by Chicago artist Bernard Williams based on symbols of our community crowdsourced from neighborhoods all over Chicago. CHM partnered with 15 Chicago Park District Cultural Centers to develop concepts for each design.



Chicago is...Natural showcases Chicago's close relationship with nature, featuring a lush garden of native plants and pollinators that works as a natural water collection area for the park.

Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trailblazers Honor Roll as of June 30, 2021

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as of June 30, 2021

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as of June 30, 2021

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July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

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Front: Lithograph titled Chicago in Flames. Scenes from the Chicago Fire of 1871. CHM, ICHI-023436; Currier and Ives, Ithographers. Back: Entrywoy to the Richard M, and Shinley H. Jaffee History Trail. Illustration by

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