



"I grew up just blocks from the Museum . . . and spent many days learning from the exhibits. It was life-changing . . . thank you for all you do." Todd Embury

"I visited the Museum yesterday . . . I was so impressed [with People of the Waters] that I found it quite emotional . . . Thank you very much for a wonderful experience..." Betsy Bartelt

"[My class] had another very successful visit to your amazing Museum. The docents were wonderful . . . Thank you so much. We will be back next year." Debra Burmeister

"My wife and I visited the Museum and thought Cemetery Tales was wonderful. I have never been so interested in reading, listening and watching all of the excellent displays . . . Thank you." Bruce Bursack

The Director's Column

KIND WORDS



Looking back on a year's worth of work is always insightful. As the year goes along, we move from one project to another, guided by our strategic plan. As you read through this report, know that much of the accomplishments listed here are due to your support. The Membership program continues to be one of the primary ways we achieve our goals, so this report is a reflection of your support and confidence in what we do. I express my deepest gratitude for your financial gifts and your ongoing validation of our mission.

What the Oshkosh Public Museum does is essential. A recent national survey commissioned by Conner Prairie Museum revealed that an astounding 82% of Americans think that understanding history is important and that community history museums create a sense of place and promote civil discourse and greater understanding. Of note, the highest level of curiosity came from the Millennial generation. Our history is central to who we are, and the Oshkosh Public Museum is here to ensure our stories and heritage live on, generation after generation.

The above comments are from friends like you. Our mission is to serve the public. The kind words we receive in notes, emails, and letters encourage us greatly. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing our galleries and programs full once again.



Brad Larson, Director

"Thank you for making the Museum such a special gift for Oshkosh." Dave & Judy Goggin

The Museum enjoys a variety of different schools and groups visiting each year.



Strengthening Local Education

Five generations have used the Oshkosh Public Museum as the community's cultural center; the place to learn, be inspired, get connected, and be amazed. This year was no different as we looked forward to the students and adults who visited the Museum as a part of their learning.



Volunteer and retired school teacher, Patti Yana talks to students from Tullar School, Neenah, in *People of the Waters*.

We forged forward with new collaborations with the Oshkosh Area School District to understand revisions in the state history curriculum for grades 3-5. Our time together helped us all appreciate other ways we could connect and be a resource to 8th graders as they prepared for National History Day. This event allows students to learn critical thinking, problem-solving skills, research, reading skills, builds their self-esteem and confidence. The theme the students worked with was Breaking Barriers in History. Each year 10,000 Wisconsin students create a project and attend regional competitions throughout the state.

Our Museum staff was eager to share the three components necessary for a student's project: Selecting Your Topic, Finding Your Sources, and creating an Exhibition. The students from Traeger and Webster Middle Schools came to listen, share their interest in topics, and ask questions. Museum Staff Anna Cannizzo, Assistant Director/Curator, Deb Daubert, Curator, and Emily Rock, Registrar, prepared students for expectations from the judges. Deb and Emily both participated in National History Day in previous years, and they were able to share their experiences with students as judges.

Throughout the year, we enjoy Oshkosh and surrounding community schools, charter schools, and home schools who schedule their field trips to visit the Museum.



We collaborated with Oshkosh School District to understand the changes in the state history curriculum and how the lessons at the Museum could complement those changes.

Collaboration Equals Innovation

The Museum has always been a resource to libraries, publications, schools, other museums, and individuals. This year, we reached outside our walls to collaborate intensively with others who also offer similar education and programs for our community.



German exhibit at the Oshkosh Public Library

The Oshkosh Public Library is an excellent community information resource, offering an array of media, programs, books, and online resources. Outreach Staff from the Library and Museum met monthly to understand what each was offering and determine ways we could support each other. We set the plan in place for collaboration with a German Exhibit at the Library and loaned specific artifacts to enhance their exhibit. We discussed ways the Museum could offer a Book Club, and how the Library could coordinate the books and materials for those interested. The Museum included the Library as an additional resource for middle school students in our National History Day program.

Our partnership and collaboration this year were initial steps; we look forward to the ongoing work we can accomplish together in the future. Our plan for next year is to expand our collaboration with other Museums in Oshkosh and neighboring communities, creating culture and diversity in what we offer together.

Historical Resource

The Museum is a beautiful place to visit, experience an awesome exhibit, or enjoy a favorite artifact such as the Apostles Clock. But did you know the Museum is a historical resource, not only locally, but throughout the country, and even the world? Our staff are experts in artifact identification, documents, photos, and general history. In 2019, they were contacted over 700 times by people doing research, writers and authors searching for documentation or historic photographs, educational institutions and others looking for people, or things or information on an event in history. In addition, people asked questions about local cemeteries and prominent people who once lived in Oshkosh. The next time you think the Museum is only a place to visit, remember, the staff is continuously working to be a resource to connect, educate, and inspire others.

"Alone we can do so little: together, we can do so much."

-Helen Keller



Patti, Sandy and Peggy enjoying the Volunteer Appreciation program.



Sandy enjoys her role as a docent, and the kids love her too!



Jean with the students in the Pioneer Log Cabin.



Gene has been a Volunteer in Collections for 21+ years!

Volunteers Make the Difference

The Museum is fortunate to have volunteers who enjoy sharing their time and talents. With a small staff, our volunteers make the difference and allow the Museum to accomplish much more. Volunteers who enjoy working with our collections and archives take photos, and enter artifacts and documents into our software. We have volunteers who enjoy being a part of programs, school groups, and educating the students throughout their visit. Other volunteers enjoy being a docent, dressing the part for an exhibit or program, learning about the exhibit and sharing their knowledge with our guests. We appreciate all of our volunteers and their generous contributions.

Strength in Numbers

Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the year ending December 31	2018	2019
Operating Funds		
City Appropriation	\$907,500	\$977,700
Admission Fees	\$44,594	\$44,400
Enrichment Programs		\$6,690
Museum Store/Photography Sales	\$14,541	\$16,600
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$8,408	\$5,626
Transfers In	\$145,373	\$148,100
Total Revenue	\$1,120,416	\$1,199,386
Total Expenses	\$1,118,972	\$1,156,148
Balance For Fiscal Year	\$1,444	\$43,238

