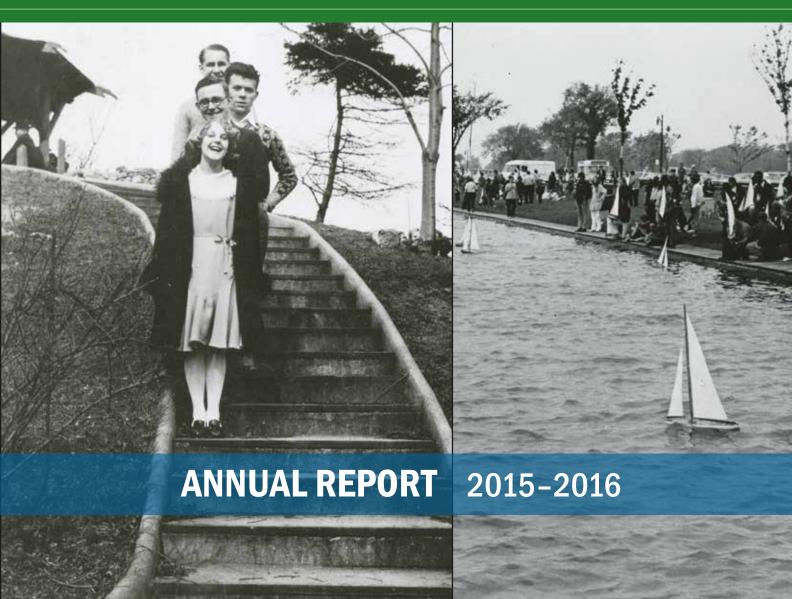




Where the past is present

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS:

The cover of this year's report shows memorable scenes of Belle Isle through the years. Many of us can relate to the excitement of arriving at the foot of the MacArthur Bridge and the park's entrance, with its vintage 1955 sign shown at top right, knowing that a special day was in store. Whether visiting for a school trip (as pictured top right in the 1930s), joining a model yacht race (shown bottom right in the 1980s) or snapping a photo with friends (shown bottom left in 1930), Detroit's island jewel has offered unique activities to visitors for over 150 years.

This year, we were proud to be both a destination for the island's growing visitorship and a crucial part of its cultural programming. For the first time, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum was open five days a week – Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the summer. This schedule allowed us to accommodate record crowds that often reached 500-600 daily visitors and also aligned us with the public hours of our neighboring institutions, the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and the Belle Isle Aquarium.

We're also pursuing new partnerships on the island. This past year, the Dossin hosted engaging educational programs, including the Friends of the Detroit River Water Festival, in which several hundred Detroit Public Schools students visited and heard about water ecology from guest speakers, and the Michigan State University Science Festival Expo, which included speakers, science booths and an inflatable planetarium from the Michigan Science Center. We were also host to over 2,000 visitors in just a few hours for the Belle Isle Conservancy's 2015 Belle Isle Holiday Stroll, at which guests enjoyed hot cocoa, cookies and crafts as they toured the museum.

This success positions us well for our Outdoor Enhancement Campaign. Kicked off at our gala this past spring, our planned improvements to the Dossin grounds will enhance the Dossin experience for all of our visitors – young and old, long time fans and those just discovering us! Flexible exterior event space outside of DeRoy Hall and a landscaped river walk area will be exciting new attractions for casual visitors as well as those attending one of the many private parties, meetings and weddings we host each year. Improved drop-off and parking lot access and enhanced interpretation of our outdoor artifacts, including the *Edmund Fitzgerald* anchor and our nautical flagpole, will be particularly welcomed by tour groups. We expect to begin work in earnest this spring.

Thank you to our generous donors including David Beddow, the Daville Consortium, Diane and Doug Dossin, Richard and Elaine Dossin, Sidonie Dossin, Marlena and Kevin Hanlon, Camille Jayne, Joe and Maureen Kaiser, and Paul and Carol Schaap for supporting the exciting evolution of the Dossin. We invite you to get involved, visit the museum and spread the word in the year to come.

As you browse this report, you'll find even more new programs, encouraging accomplishments and exciting initiatives that have characterized our past year. It's an exciting time at the Detroit Historical Society – and we couldn't do it without your support.

Sincerely,

THOMAS C. BUHL PRESIDENT

Two PBLD

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ROBERT A. BURY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2015-16 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IN CURATORIAL:

- Curatorial staff participated in community events, including a symposium on Community and Police Relations at the University of Detroit Mercy and the annual Local History Conference.
- The department worked with WSU students to develop new content for the Society's web-based *Encyclopedia of Detroit.*
- Senior Curator Joel Stone served as vice president of the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History, a professional organization for which the Dossin Great Lakes Museum is a founding institutional member.
- The manuscript for *Detroit 1967: Origins, Impacts*, *Legacies*, a publication project with WSU Press, was completed using the curatorial team's research.

IN COLLECTIONS:

- Our digital collection reached 40,000 records for the public to view.
- All of our traveling exhibitions traveled throughout the year. The newly created *Michigan in the Civil War* traveling exhibition had its debut at the Chelsea Library.
- Our earned revenue from the digital collection, artifact loans and research requests was up nearly 20% over the previous year.
- Collections staff consulted on finding aid development for DB&W Ferry Company, Lake Survey and Hydroplane archival collections, making these collections more accessible to researchers.

FOR EXHIBITIONS:

- The team completed planning and fabrication for *How Does That Work?* and *Ship Model Showcase* exhibitions at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and co-led development, research and exhibition planning for the *Detroit 67* Exhibition at the Detroit Historical Museum.
- We opened Fashion D.Fined: The past, present and future of detroit fashion exhibition at the Detroit Historical Museum. Slated to come down in June 2016, it has been extended through the end of 2016 due to continued interest.
- We received a donation of first-run prints from 1xRun and Inner State Gallery by artists who participated in the 2015 Murals in the Market project.

WITH OUR AFFINITY GROUPS:

- In January, the Society's Black Historic Sites
 Committee hosted its third Martin Luther King Jr.
 Day event. Around 450 people attended to learn
 more about Dr. King's life and legacy, share their
 dreams on our cloud wall and participate in or
 watch an open mic poetry event.
- We completed a new partnership plan with the Great Lakes Maritime Institute, including an attractive redesign of *Telescope* magazine.

- The Detroit Historical Museum's Community Gallery showcased Henry Ford Health System, WGPR the country's first African American-owned television and radio station and the early days of Motown in *Motown Black and White.* A photography exhibition from the collection of the late Al Abrams, it kicked off with a wonderful opening event with many Motown stars in attendance.
- The Society received a Knight Arts Grant to continue our *Documenting Detroit* photography series that revisits a project with the College for Creative Studies that started in the early 1970s. Thirty new *Re-Documenting Detroit* pieces have been completed by a CCS class dedicated to the project. The grant will keep the project going for four more semesters.



FOR DEVELOPMENT:

- The 2015 Holiday Ball at the Detroit Packard Plant, Building 22 was the Society's most successful Ball to date, grossing over \$505,000 and welcoming approximately 550 guests.
- The third annual Spring gala, Dig into the Dossin at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, broke revenue records, grossing over \$100,000. The gala celebrated the beginning of the Dossin's exciting two-year outdoor enhancement campaign.
- The Society has 2,377 active members. We retained 65% of our members from FY15 to FY16 and met our financial goals for membership.
- 774 new members joined the Society in FY16, including over 300 who joined thanks to our partnership with Community Choice Credit Union, who encouraged people outside of our geographic

IN PROGRAMS:

- We hosted 52 Behind the Scenes tours, of which 43 sold out. Five of this year's tours visited new locations.
- In conjunction with the exhibitions department, our programs team hosted the 150th Vernors Anniversary party on June 11, 2016. The recorded attendance of 3,170 people exceeded all expectations, and an estimated 2,000 joined the record-setting "big drink" on *Legends Plaza*.
- Just under 10,000 visitors enjoyed the Detroit Historical Museum's Noel Night festivities.
- The Belle Isle Holiday Stroll, which also featured the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and Belle Isle Aquarium, exceeded all expectations when nearly 2,000 people visited the Dossin.

WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS:

- We received 64 volunteer applications from our website, 61 from the VolunteerMatch website and 5 from events or walk-ins.
- Society docents volunteered 2,671 hours. Volunteers gave 7,386 hours of service.
- We trained and utilized 12 interns for the Detroit Historical Museum and Collections Resource Center.

- area to join the Society This number is up from 665 in previous year.
- The Society secured a number of significant gifts from corporate and foundation funders. Foundation and corporate support totaled \$1,950,000, an increase of over 112% from prior year's total contributions, due in large part to *Detroit 67* fundraising initiatives.
- The Society's annual appeal results grew again this year, bringing in 6% more than last year, with over \$53,600 in gifts. This growth was due in no small part to over \$18,000 in gifts from new or lapsed donors and to new solicitation approaches developed in partnership with the Development Committee.

FOR EDUCATION:

- Society staff and volunteer docents welcomed 17,500 paid school field trip participants to the Detroit
 Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum during the year, a 35% increase over FY15.
- The Society joined the Detroit Public Television Connected Learning Program, a lifelong learning badge program for Metro Detroiters. We offer two scavenger hunt experiences, one at each museum.
- For the sixth year in a row, the education staff has organized and facilitated the Michigan History Day Districts 7, 8 and 10 Contest at the Detroit Historical Museum. On the first Saturday in March, more than 100 4th 12th grade students from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Genesee, Livingston and Washtenaw Counties shared their historical scholarship with 35 judges and hundreds of friends and family.



FOR FACILITY OPERATIONS:

- As part of our partnership with Detroit Public
 Television, we created an office suite in the
 administration area at the Detroit Historical Museum
 for their use. Working with their operations team,
 we were also able to acquire cubicles for our
 administration area.
- The Society acquired two new vehicles, one donated and one purchased, which had been on our wish list for some time. Ford Motor Company Fund funded and Crest Automotive secured a Ford Transit, and a new friend to the Society, Joe Ricci Automotive, secured a pickup truck for us.

FOR FACILITY RENTALS:

- Revenue collected from facility rentals during FY16 (\$296,000) was up 24% over the previous fiscal year. We achieved 122% of the revenue goal.
- In FY16, the marketing and operations teams worked to execute 202 rentals plus an additional 9 events that were free of charge for community partners and donated auction items a total of 209 events and a decrease of 4% over the previous fiscal year.
- Although the number of events decreased slightly, the average rental contract price (\$1,270) was up 9% over the previous fiscal year (\$1,165), and the number of facility rental attendees increased at both museums.
- Facility rental attendance for the fiscal year was 22,715, accounting for 16% of our total attendance.

IN VISITOR SERVICES:

- Total attendance at the Detroit Historical Museum was 103,000 (a 16% increase over FY15) and 40,000 at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum (a 24% increase).
- The visitor services team supported new Dossin hours for the summer, Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am 4 pm, consistently welcoming over 1,000 visitors per weekend.
- The monthly film series featured all new films at both the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum this summer, including the month-long "Our Story Of" documentary series on the diversity of Detroit.

- The last section of the roof replacement at the Detroit Historical Museum was completed and our parking lot was repayed in August 2015.
- We made an upgrade to the Detroit Historical Museum's HVAC system, so that it is now on a computerized schedule. The upgrades are projected to pay for themselves within a year to 18 months, then continue to save the Society money.



FOR FIELD TRIPS & GROUP TOURS:

- For the first time in nearly a decade, both revenue and attendance for school programs and group tours increased.
- Revenue collected from school programs/group tours, including adopt-a-class tours, during FY16 was \$80,100. This is an increase of 39% over the previous fiscal year, dramatically beating our FY16 tour revenue goal.
- We booked 103 non-school group tours, comprised of 3,142 participants. Total non-school group tours increased 87% over the last year and the number of participants increased 106% over the previous year.
- We welcomed nearly 21,000 group tour and school program participants to the Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum in FY16, an increase of 44% from last year.
- We initiated marketing to the Midwest regional motor coach tour market, in anticipation of interest in the *Detroit 67* Exhibition and programming.

IN MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

- In May 2016, the Detroit Historical Museum and Chief Curatorial Officer Tobi Voigt appeared on the Travel Channel's popular series *Mysteries at the Museum*, showcasing an artifact from our collection.
- We enjoyed extensive media coverage for our Vernors 150th anniversary event, WGPR-TV exhibit in the Community Gallery, *Edmund Fitzgerald* 40th anniversary events, *Detroit* 67 oral history project and the launch of the Society's video history archive.
- We received international attention for the installation of the 1935 Stout Scarab in the Warner Norcross & Judd Automotive Showplace.
- detroithistorical.org had 1.1 million visitors this
 year, with substantial year-over-year increases
 in traffic to the "plan your visit" pages for both
 museums (13% for DHM and 16% for Dossin). We
 also saw a 30% increase in traffic to the online store
 for ticket sales.
- We tested Facebook advertising, reaching over

FINANCE AND HR

- Norma Jean Zaleski was hired as the Society's Director of Finance and Human Resources at the beginning of FY16. She has tackled a number of areas, including:
 - o An overhaul of the staff handbook, facilitated by a major in-kind gift from Deloitte.
 - Updates to the Statement of Activities format, including the addition of a 6-month budget reforecast.
 - o New annual budgeting process for the Society's managers and directors.
 - Implemented tracking of segmented spending on special projects with an updated chart of accounts.
 - o Updated the Society's annual review process, with additional enhancements to come.
 - o Implementation of financial reporting internal controls.
 - o Updated procedures to ensure compliance with retirement and health benefits.

- 100,000 people, generating thousands of likes and increasing the reach for our museum-specific pages, for a minimal investment.
- Our Vernors 150th anniversary event reached 850,000 people on Facebook with no advertising spend. The anniversary generated so much buzz that it was a "trending topic" on Facebook.
- We launched our Detroit History Video Archive on the Society's YouTube channel, racking up 19,000 views and over 60,000 minutes watched since February 2016.
- Our Twitter audience reach has more than tripled to about 100,000 people per month in the last six months. This is a result of the Society's marketing staff taking a more active role in posting and creating platform-specific content.
- We began an Instagram account at @detroithistorical and created signage to mark popular Instagram spots around the Detroit Historical Museum.

IN OUR MUSEUM STORES:

- We developed a new position in the Operations department, Manager of Retail and Visitor Services to focus attention on a growing revenue stream for the Society. Julie Sickinger was hired into that position and has increased sales 9.5% from the prior year in just six months.
- The innovative "pop up" shop in the Streets of Old Detroit helped to sell \$10,000 in merchandise during the Vernor's 150th anniversary event – as much as we do at the Detroit Historical Museum store in a busy week!



DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Combined Revenue and Expense Statement for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

REVENUE	
Philanthropy Earned Income City and State Funding Investment Income	\$ 3,995,118 704,665 567,693 154,002
Total Revenue	\$ 5,421,478
EXPENSES	
Program Services Supporting Services	\$ 3,524,847 1,224,739
Total Expenses	4,749,586
Net Change to Assets Before Investment Gains Net Realized and Unrealized Gains on Investments	671,892 (192,694)
Surplus	\$ 479,198
Detroit Historical Society BALANCE SHEET • JUNE 30, 2016	
Cash and Investments* Contributions and Accounts Receivable Other Assets	\$ 5,715,714 1,401,834 4,860,968
	\$ 11,978,516
Liabilities Net Assets — Unrestricted Net Assets — Restricted	\$ 109,451 11,065,078 803,987
	\$ 11,978,516

^{*}The assets do not reflect a Detroit Historical Society Endowment held by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The fund was valued at \$1,458,892 as of June 30, 2016.

Audited Detroit Historical Society financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 are available at the Society offices, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202, or by calling 313.833.7935.

Government, Corporate and Foundation Donors

\$400,000+

Ford Foundation Hudson-Webber Foundation City of Detroit

\$100,000-\$399,000

Lear Corporation Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan McGregor Fund

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The Detroit 67 Project was well represented at the Mackinac Policy Conference in May 2016.





Guests enjoyed an exhibit of Vernors artifacts at the 150th anniversary celebration.



Society CEO Bob Bury announce our cooperative partnership with a press conference at the Detroit Historical Museum in January 2016.

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\$100,000+

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Our annual Treats in the Streets event drew some 1,600 attendees in October 2015, an 11% increase over the previous year.



Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward Highlights

In March 2015, the Society launched *Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward*, a three-year project to commemorate the tumultuous summer of 1967. Those who engage in Detroit 67 will be able to better understand the events leading up to July, 1967, where we are today and connect to efforts that are moving Detroit forward.



DEVELOPMENT

- Detroit 67 Project Director Marlowe Stoudamire was retained to provide leadership on fundraising, marketing and outreach efforts.
- Just under \$1.2 million in cash support was secured in FY16 for a total of \$1.5 million as of June 30, 2016.

MARKETING

- The Detroit 67 Marketing Collaborative, including Brophy Creative, Mindfield, 3DEXCITE, Ignition Media Group and Saga Creative combined forces to create a graphic look-and-feel for Detroit 67 marketing, the Detroit 67 video and app that premiered at the Mackinac Policy Conference and to plan and publicize events.
- The Detroit 67 Brand Promise and Purpose were developed through the leadership of Society Trustee Camille Jayne.
- Detroit 67-specific Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages have been created and are using the @D67Project handle across all platforms.
- From May 31–June 3, Society staff presented the project to the business, policy and philanthropic community at the 2016 Mackinac Policy Conference. Partnering with the Detroit Regional Chamber and PNC Bank, we presented an unprecedented panel on opportunity and inclusion in Detroit, moderated by Soledad O'Brien.

PROGRAMS

- To complement the dialogue at Mackinac, the Society partnered with the Detroit Equity Action Lab to host a community conversation on economic inclusion at the Detroit Historical Museum on June 2 that was open to all.
- The programs team hosted eight oral history workshop trainings to encourage community members to help collect the region's stories.

PARTNERSHIPS

- The Society has focused on developing, formalizing and maintaining nearly 100 community partnerships related to the Detroit 67 Project.
- For the first time, the Society participated in Arise Detroit Neighborhoods Day by hosting a program at the Detroit Historical Museum in cooperation with the Youth Development Commission.

ORAL HISTORIES

- Over the summer, we hosted public oral history collection days in collaboration with partners across the region including the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue and the Macomb County Community College, bringing the number of unique first-hand stories in our online archive to over 200.
- Working with Detroit Public Television and the Marketing Collaborative, we have captured about 3 dozen video histories and interviews with significant metro Detroit leaders including Mayor Dennis Archer, Eugene Driker, Mayor Dave Bing, Shirley Stancato, Matt Cullen and Rabbi Daniel Syme.

EXHIBITION

- We entered into a contract with Good Design Group (GDG) to work with staff, advisors and key stakeholders to develop the Detroit 67 exhibition. We met several times with our historian advisors and community advisors to create a floorplan and exhibition summary.
- 3DEXCITE will work with GDG and Society staff on key audio visual interactives within the exhibition, using cutting edge technology to bring key stories to life.
- Detroit-based L.S. Brinker Group has been retained as our general contractor for gallery demolition and updates.

Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward is made possible with the support of the Hudson-Webber Foundation, Ford Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Lear Corporation, PNC Foundation, Brophy, Mindfield and Dassault Systemes - 3DEXCITE (as of June 30, 2016).



MISSION

The Detroit Historical Society tells Detroit's stories and why they matter.

VISION

To be an integral part of Detroit's present and future by providing meaningful experiences that preserve and share its past.

detroithistorical.org





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