HOME RUN!

Where the past is present

DETOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 2013 - 2014
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On the cover: Detroit Tiger Hall of Fame second baseman Charlie Gehringer, whose career spanned 1925 to 1942, swings for the fences in this photo from the Detroit Historical Society’s Collection.

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Managing Director
Kate Baker

Chief Curatorial Officer
Tobi Voigt

Society Executive Director Robert Bury joins 2013 Holiday Ball co-chairs (from left to right) Society Trustee Leslye Rosenbaum, Bobbi Polk and Cat Ruffner at the Fillmore Detroit.
DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS:

Home Run!

The Detroit Historical Society’s *Past-Forward* comprehensive campaign concluded on June 30, 2014. The five-year campaign raised over $21.3 million in new cash and pledges, exceeding our $20.1 million goal by over $1 million. The Society received gifts from over 350 donors in support of the campaign, including seven gifts of $500,000 or more – four of which were from new donors – the John and Marlene Boll Foundation, the William Davidson Foundation, the Wayne and Joan Webber Foundation and the Ford Foundation. Certainly, this is an accomplishment we all can be proud of – let us express special appreciation to our *Past-Forward* Campaign co-chairs, Kevin Broderick, Ann Greenstone and David Nicholson. We’d also like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, talent and resources to the Campaign over the past five years: our board of trustees, staff, volunteers and, of course, all the donors who helped us exceed our goal.

Attendance and program participation continues to impress. The Detroit Historical Museum saw an increase in attendance of more than 39 percent compared with numbers from the last full year open to the public prior to the renovations. Similarly, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum’s annual attendance rose more than 74 percent over the last full year our Belle Isle gem was open to the public.

Those amazing numbers at the Dossin have been boosted significantly by the transition Belle Isle has undergone since the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) took over park operations in February. The Society continues to forge strong partnerships with the MDNR, the Belle Isle Conservancy and other island attractions to ensure that these positive trends continue.

This report details another year of great accomplishment for the Detroit Historical Society. In addition to our “home runs” in fundraising and attendance, we’ve remained focused on our mission, opening popular new exhibits like *Out on the Town: Drinking and Dining in Detroit Since 1920*, continuing to digitize our collections and offering new and popular public programs and educational initiatives.

Finally, we’ve raised record breaking revenue from our ever-popular special events like our annual Holiday Ball, this past year at the Fillmore Detroit, and from renting our outstanding facilities to over 200 individuals and organizations for private events and celebrations.

There is no doubt that the past 12 months – and the last five years – have taken a successful Detroit Historical Society to a new and higher level. We appreciate all your support. Thanks to you, like the City we call home, our future is bright.

Sincerely,

THOMAS C. BUHL
PRESIDENT
DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ROBERT A. BURY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO
DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2013-14 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IN CURATORIAL:

• The Society’s second book, *Border Crossings: Detroit in the War of 1812*, received two awards:
  
  o 2013 Historical Society of Michigan State History Award, Publications: Private Printing category
  
  o 2014 American Association for State and Local History Leadership in History Award of Merit, Publications Category

• The curatorial team completed a third cycle of preservation on the Detroit River cannon retrieved in October 2011, involving cleaning and re-emersion in a fresh electrolysis bath. At the conclusion of the cannon conservation this fall, it will be displayed at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

IN EDUCATION:

• The Society obtained funding for two new educational outreach projects; one is a research project for high school students that will help populate a web-based interactive map with information and primary sources on Detroit’s World War II factories. The second is to develop a Teacher Resource Portal on detroithistorical.org that will provide Detroit history resources for K-16 teachers.

• The Society developed a partnership with the Detroit Public Schools that resulted in approximately 1,200 summer school students attending day camps this year.

IN COLLECTIONS:

• Production of the Society’s first formal traveling exhibition, focusing on World War II posters from our collection as both art and propaganda, was completed. The exhibit debuted at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

• The Collections team has now exceeded 30,000 digitized artifact records at the conclusion of the first phase of the Digitization Project.

• The 1963 Ford Mustang II Concept Car (pictured at right on display at the Detroit Historical Museum) has made appearances around the country celebrating the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the production model.

WITH OUR AFFINITY GROUPS:

• The Black Historic Sites Committee celebrated its 42nd anniversary with a special event honoring African American trailblazers in July 2013 at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. The group also presented a very successful program celebrating the Martin Luther King Day holiday which welcomed over 600 visitors to the Detroit Historical Museum.

• The Dossin Maritime Group’s annual *Lost Mariners Remembrance* event on November 10th was another sell-out. The Group also hosted its annual *Fair Winds Fall Gathering* at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum in October and the annual Marine Mart at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial in November.

• The Glancy Trains Modular Railroad Club appeared at events year-round, including the annual Maker Faire weekend, Holiday Nights and Day Out with Thomas events at Greenfield Village, the Festival of Trees and a variety of metro Detroit train shows.
FOR DEVELOPMENT:

• The 2013 Holiday Ball at The Fillmore Detroit was the Society's most successful to date, netting over $300,000 and welcoming 430 guests.

• The Out on the Town exhibit opening party was a blockbuster, welcoming 400 members, friends, local restaurateurs and Detroit 313 Society young professionals in partnership with Cliff Bell’s and Detroit Passport to the Arts.

• Taking a new approach to this year’s Dossin Gala, the Society held its first ever Spring Into Belle Isle event in May. Opening with VIP yacht tours at the Detroit Yacht Club followed by historical Trolley Tours and concluding with dinner and dancing at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, this event raised over $40,000 with over 250 attendees.

• Overall membership at the Society grew, with over 540 new members joining, a surge of 14 percent over last year’s record-breaking increase.

FOR EXHIBITIONS:

• The Society received a 2014 American Association for State and Local History Leadership in History Award of Merit for the five new exhibitions developed as part of the 2012 Detroit Historical Museum renovation.

• The Community Gallery hosted exhibits featuring photographs from the book HeartSoul Detroit, Pewabic Pottery, the Detroit Public Library and the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors.

• New temporary exhibitions opened in January 2014 at the Detroit Historical Museum included a refreshed New To The Collection, Detroit Artist Showcase featuring 20 photographs from the Documenting Detroit series; Detroit Decides in the Allesee Gallery of Culture featuring our favorite three skyscrapers – the Guardian Building, the Fisher Building and the Penobscot Building; a 1916 Packard owned by Henry Joy in the Automotive Showplace; and Out on the Town: Drinking and Dining in Detroit Since 1920, which reviews gathering places starting during the prohibition era and continuing through the 1970s.

• A new exhibition opened in June at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum called Troubled Waters: Healing our Freshwater Habitats. The exhibit examines the changes that have occurred on Detroit’s waterways over 300 years and how areas like the Erie Marsh are recovering with the help of organizations like The Nature Conservancy and others.

• The Society re-energized its affinity groups to reflect the diverse interests of our members. By expanding programming and adding new groups, affinity group membership grew by 44 percent.

• Corporate and foundation gifts grew by 22 percent over last fiscal year with a total of $1,936,507 contributed in fiscal year 2013-14.
• One half of the Detroit Historical Museum’s roof was replaced, likely for the first time in the building’s history. J.D. Candler Roofing did an outstanding job, completing the work in less time than expected and without significant interruption to Society’s daily work.

• Lighting in all of the exhibits was upgraded to more energy efficient LEDs during the renovations, resulting in the Society receiving a $12,000 rebate from the Public Lighting Department.

• The Society was approved for a matching grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) for capital improvements last December. Electrical upgrades and waterproofing at the Detroit Historical Museum were identified as the two areas of concentration, including adding new lighting for Legends Plaza, electrical wiring repairs on the third floor, and replacing crumbling caulking on the façade and sealing several foundation leaks.

• To accommodate the popularity of our facility rental business, our event operations team grew from two people to an Event Operations Department with a manager and five part-time positions.

• The Operations Department teamed with Development to host viewers of America’s Thanksgiving Parade both inside and outside the Detroit Historical Museum, as well as partnering with The Parade Company on a breakfast for their “Big Head Corps.”

• Over 20,000 people visited our museums as part of facility rental events during the past year.

• Revenue collected from facility rentals was up 67 percent over the previous year.

• Over 200 events were executed by the Marketing and Operations teams, an increase of 49 percent over last year.

• Over 20,000 people visited our museums as part of facility rental events during the past year.
IN MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

• The Society’s website featured a total of nearly 300,000 visits – an increase of 24 percent over the previous year – by more than 195,000 unique visitors – an increase of 22 percent.

• The Detroit Historical Society’s social media presence dramatically expanded over the last year. The Society’s flagship Facebook page grew to 9,237 “likes” during the year – an increase of more than 47 percent.

• Facebook pages dedicated to the Detroit Historical Museum, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Detroit 313 Society and the Black Historic Sites Committee continued to grow at an impressive rate.

• On Twitter, the Society’s page grew to 5,018 followers – an increase of 72 percent.

• The Society’s speakers bureau made a total of 45 presentations, an increase of 45 percent over last year, reaching a total audience of over 2,000 people.

IN OUR MUSEUM STORES:

• Sales at the Detroit Historical Museum Store remained strong – down only slightly from last year’s Grand Re-Opening year number.

• Sales at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum increased nearly 240 percent over the previous year.

• Online store sales continued to grow, increasing 73 percent from last year.

• Strong sales have led to positive relationships with iconic and emerging Detroit brands, including Pewabic Pottery, Made In Detroit, Faygo, Better Made, Sanders, Vernors, Detroit Scroll and Wayne State Press.

IN PROGRAMS:

• A total of 51 Behind the Scenes tours were attended by nearly 1000 people this year, including 7 “overflow” tours to accommodate wait lists for popular sold out tours; 42 of the tours were sell-outs.

• Our popular Halloween-themed Treats in the Streets program returned to the Detroit Historical Museum, attracting a capacity crowd of over 1,000 people.

• At the Dossin, the Society introduced two new events – Noon Year’s Eve in December and Spring into Belle Isle Family Day in May. The May event drew over 1,000 people.

WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS:

• Society docents and volunteers served a total of 11,537 hours over the year.

• Eight new docents were recruited and trained to provide group tours.

• Working in conjunction with Wayne State University, the Detroit Historical Museum’s visitor guide was translated into Arabic, French and Spanish to accommodate our visitors from around the world.

• The Dossin Great Lakes Museum opened its doors in December for the first time in many years, welcoming 1,300 visitors during the week between Christmas and the first Sunday in January.

The popular Halloween-themed event, Treats in the Streets, returned in October after a year off due to the Detroit Historical Museum renovations.
**DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Combined Revenue and Expense Statement for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014

### REVENUE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philanthropy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
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<td>City and State Funding</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>47,249</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 5,397,136</strong></td>
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### EXPENSES:

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<td>Supporting Services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,334,959</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Change to Assets Before Investment Gains</td>
<td>62,177</td>
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<td>Net Realized and Unrealized Gains on Investments</td>
<td>360,129</td>
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<td><strong>Surplus</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 422,306</strong></td>
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**Detroit Historical Society**

**BALANCE SHEET • JUNE 30, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Investments*</td>
<td>$ 3,978,229</td>
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<td>Contributions and Accounts Receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Liability</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets — Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets — Restricted</td>
<td>1,153,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 11,713,352</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

*The assets do not reflect a Detroit Historical Society Endowment held by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The fund was valued at $1,629,651 as of June 30, 2014.

Audited Detroit Historical Society financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 are available at the Society offices, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202, or by calling 313.833.7935.

detroithistorical.org
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$250,000 - $500,000
William Davidson Foundation
Ford Foundation
Wayne and Joan Webber Foundation

$100,000-$249,999
City of Detroit Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
General Motors Foundation

$50,000-$99,999
Ford Motor Company Fund
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Harvey Rice Foundation
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The “Big Head Corps” gathered on Legends Plaza to await their entry into America’s Thanksgiving Parade. The Parade Company hosted breakfast for these volunteers that morning at the Detroit Historical Museum.
Thanks to the individuals and organizations listed here, the Society shattered its Past-Forward Campaign goal of raising $20.1 million over five years! The final Campaign total was $21.3 million. The Society thanks all of you for your support!

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