

Fiscal Year Activity Report -- 2010-2011

Awards

- Illinois Association of Museums Award of Excellence for *Lifting as We Climb: Evanston Women and the Creation of a Community* exhibit

Grants

- Evanston Arts Council Cultural Fund Grant Program
- Evanston Community Foundation
- Midwestern Antiques Club
- Frank B. Foster Charitable Trust

Tours and Rentals

- Total visitors to the Dawes House (for research, tours, meetings, lectures, events) from July 1 to June 1: **4540**
- 553 people visited the Dawes House for individual tours and 591 people for group tours.
- 20 volunteers served as docents giving tours of the Dawes House.
- 6 school groups, from second grade to high school visited the house and grounds.
- 11 groups rented the Dawes House for special events
- The Dawes House was rented to a crew from 20th Century Fox for use in a TV pilot.

Research and Archives

- There were 138 phone, email and mail requests for Evanston history information.
- 473 people visited the EHC archives for research projects.
- We had three interns and four volunteers working in the archives.
- Collections work in the archives included accessioning, processing and storing new and existing collections. We had 32 new donations to the archival collection and twelve existing collections were fully processed.
- Outreach included a House History Workshop held in January (with a new web site guide to researching Evanston houses); Scouting Heritage (Boy Scouts) Merit Badge workshop and exhibit; and Girl Scout Local Lore Badge workshops.

Collection Projects

- We received 50 new donations to our artifact collection. (Thirteen were to the costume collection.)
- Four smaller exhibits were curated on second floor and in archives cases.
- One large-scale exhibit, *A Curious Patchwork of Evanston Treasures*, was successfully curated.
- Collections work included accessioning, processing and storing new pieces.
- Inventory work and re-housing was done with the framed collection, linen collection, open storage section and furniture.
- Collection Database was updated and organized in proper nomenclature standards.
- EHC Costume Collection staff was engaged in major assessment of the holdings in the collection and continued the upgrading of records of existing collection items.
- We had four interns and three volunteers helping with collection work (two in Costume).
- Eight students from the Theatre School of DePaul University Costume Technology II class used the EHC costume collection for study purposes
- One costume designer doing research for an upcoming production of "Intimate Apparel" did research on 1900-09.
- Five families visited to view items donated to the collection.

EHC Programs and Events

- A total of 355 people attended six Under the Buffalo lectures on topics ranging from "The Wreck of the Lady Elgin" to "Architectural Evanston."
- 2010 Ice Cream Social – approximately 450 people attended.
- 2010 Holiday Open House - approximately 300 people attended.
- 2010 Holiday Children's Programs - 40 adults and children attended.
- Special event - "Unforgettable" film screening drew 100 people.
- Docent and Volunteer Appreciation - fifteen volunteers plus staff attended.
- 5th Annual Food Drive - several hundred pounds of food collected.
- 2011 Mother's Day House Walk – 536 tickets were sold. Approximately 100 people volunteered.
- Attendance at annual events and UTBs was up significantly from 2009-2010.
- A new Junior Curators program gave school-aged children behind-the-scenes access to EHC.

Evanston Women's History Project

- *Lifting as We Climb* exhibit related events and programs throughout the year, including 4 rentals and one lecture
- Creation of travelling version of exhibit -- on display at YWCA and YMCA -- final placement at Willard House
- Online curriculum for students and map of historic sites under development
- Research, web site and online database updates, and intern coordination for the project

Outreach Efforts

- Evanston150 -- EHC staff was greatly involved with planning and executing the community-wide visioning project in preparation for Evanston's 150th anniversary in 2013. Also, staff began planning for EHC's own anniversary projects, including a new edition of *Evanstoniana*, a new exhibit of Evanston maps, and an oral history project.
- Six separate custom designed mailings sent out to 700+ members and organizations.
- EHC's History Kit updated and loaned to eight District 65 teachers.
- Dawes House Booklet, second printing, on sale at EHC bookstore.
- Partnership with Pam Smith and Evanston Branch NAACP for event planning.
- EHC Web site and Facebook page updated and regularly visited by users. (Web site has an average of 103 page views per day.) New Flickr page created and updated regularly with EHC photos. Twitter identities and postings were also created for EHC and EHC Archivist.
- EHC Member email newsletter managed and sent regularly.
- Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 issues of *Timelines*.
- Presentation at Whole Foods Market, Evanston South -- "Architectural Evanston" by Kris Hartzell