



Fiscal Year Activity Report -- 2014

Tours and Rentals

- 873 people visited the Dawes House for individual tours and 428 people for group tours.
- Evanston History and Architecture walking tours – 138 people attended.
- Special tours for the geothermal project and Dawes House Staff -- 115 attended.
- 15 volunteers served as docents giving tours of the Dawes House.
- Two District 65 schools brought all of their second graders to visit the house and grounds.
- 26 groups representing 1781 individuals rented the Dawes House for special events including weddings, book signings, receptions, concerts, alumni events, company retreats, fundraisers and birthday parties.

Research and Archives Projects

- There were 117 phone, email and mail requests for information.
- 219 people visited the EHC archives for research projects.
- We had 9 volunteers working in the archives on various projects.
- Collections work in the archives included accessioning, processing and storing new and existing collections. We had 14 new donations to the archival collection. We also continued implementing our online collection database.
- Outreach included working with Evanston150 to coordinate the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Evanston's incorporation; and the Frances Willard Historical Assn to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Frances Willard's birth.
- Our Maps exhibit won the Illinois Assn of Museums award of Excellence
- The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites moved its headquarters to EHC, in conjunction with the Evanston Women's History Project.

Collection Projects

- We received 26 new donations to our artifact collection.
- Mary McWilliams guest curated the Cellini exhibit, "Art, Craft & Argental: The Cellini Shop in Evanston, 1914-1978"
- Collections work included accessioning, processing and storing new pieces. Inventory work was done. The third floor ballroom stage shelving has been completely inventoried and objects have been put into better storage. Items moved from storage rooms that are being used for geo-thermal are being inventoried and stored on new shelves on the ballroom stage.
- 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. This includes taking digital photographs of collection items.
- We had 1 intern and 2 volunteers helping with collection work. There were 2 volunteers who worked with the Costume Collection.
- 5 students from the Theatre School of DePaul University Costume Technology II class used the EHC costume collection for study purposes.
- 5 families visited to view items donated to the collection.

Dawes House Restoration

- Phase II of the restoration plan was completed on time and under budget in December, 2013.
- A new high efficiency boiler replaced the nearly 60-year-old existing boiler.
- All the old electrical wiring in the house was replaced and all the historic light fixtures rewired as well.
- Air-conditioning was added to the Dawes house for the first time. The new geothermal system

supplies both heating and cooling. The new ductwork, grilles and piping was carefully integrated with minimal impact to the historic structure.

- The geothermal project has been awarded a Sustainability Award by the Evanston Preservation Commission.

EHC Programs and Events

- A total of 302 people attended 5 *Under the Buffalo* lectures on topics ranging from Chicago maps and Northwestern and Evanston history to the Devil in the White City and Evanston domestic workers.
- A total of 121 people attended a sold-out presentation by Amity Shlaes, author of *Coolidge*.
- A total of 50 people attended a free concert and reception in honor of Marian McNair's CD release.
- 2014 Ice Cream Social – approximately 600 people attended. 2014 Holiday Open House -- approximately 400 people attended.
- 9th Annual Food Drive -- several hundreds of pounds of food collected and donated to Evanston food pantry.
- 50 people attended the opening of the Cellini exhibit
- 2014 39th Annual Mother's Day House walk – 643 tickets were sold, approximately 100 children attended with no charge, and 93 people volunteered for a total of 836 attendees.
- 45 people attended the Annual Meeting

Outreach Efforts

- Five separate custom designed mailings sent out to 700+ members and organizations
- Four separate custom designed graphics and marketing materials created for special programs (special tours, etc) and sent through social media and email
- Marketing efforts for all events resulted in EHC's events being promoted in *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Reader*, *Evanston Review*, *Time-Out Chicago*, *WBEZ*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, and numerous other publications and websites.
- EHC Website and Facebook page updated and regularly visited by users.
- EHC Member email newsletter created, managed and sent regularly.
- Spring 2014 issue of *Timelines*.
- Staff gave talks at the American Association for State and Local History conference, the Association of Midwest Museums conference, Evanston Township High School, Kiwanis, Current Events Club of Evanston, Presbyterian Homes, and Frances Willard House.

Membership -- Total membership is 514, representing approximately 1540 people. In FY14, we added 88 New and 246 Renewing EHC members -- Thank you!