



Fiscal Year Activity Report -- 2014-15

Tours and Rentals

- 858 people visited the Dawes House for individual tours and 538 people for group tours.
- A fifth neighborhood architectural walking tour was added - Downtown Evanston. All together 207 people attended 10 walking tours.
- 10 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.
- 14 groups representing 910 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 131 phone, email and mail requests for information.
- 277 people visited the EHC archives for research projects.
- We had 6 volunteers working in the archives on various projects.
- Collections work in the archives included accessioning, processing and storing new and existing collections. We added 19 new collections to the archival collection. We also continued adding collections to our online collection database.
- Outreach included working with the Frances Willard Historical Assn to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Frances Willard's birth and hosting our first women's history month event in March.
- Four students from DePaul worked on transcribing oral histories from our collection.
- The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites continued to have its headquarters at EHC, in conjunction with the Evanston Women's History Project.

Collection Projects

- We received 10 new donations to the artifact collection.
- Collections work included accessioning, processing and storing new pieces. We have a dedicated Collections intern who has updated the database, consolidated all artifact database material, and prepared the data for transferring to a new data management system.
- EHC Costume Collection staff continued to engage in a 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.
- The Costume Collection staff and volunteers engaged in mounting a major exhibit of wedding fashions and customs called Evanston Ties the Knot
- We received 9 donations to the Costume Collection
- There were 2 volunteers who worked with the Costume Collection.
- 3 students from the Theatre School of DePaul University Costume Design I class visited the exhibition Evanston Ties the Knot with their professor Nan Cibula-Jenkins.

Dawes House Restoration

- The ornamental plaster ceiling in the dining room underwent extensive restoration after two separate water infiltration issues were discovered and corrected. New plumbing was installed above the ceiling. Damaged plaster was replaced. The entire ceiling was stripped and the original painting scheme was restored by an intricate, multi-phase, hand-painted process.

EHC Programs and Events

- A total of 345 people attended 5 *Under the Buffalo* lectures on topics ranging from the Cellini Shop

and World War One to Vivian Maier in Evanston and Henry's Farm.

- Approximately 50 people attended an offsite presentation by Janet C. Messmer, "Cocktails for Two" at Three Crowns in October 2014.
- 2014 Ice Cream Social – approximately 600 people attended.
- Approximately 650 people attended the 2014 Annual Holiday Open House.
- 9th Annual Food Drive -- several hundreds of pounds of food collected and donated to Evanston food pantry.
- 70 people attended the opening of Evanston Ties the Knot, an exhibit of wedding fashion and customs.
- 2015 40th Annual Mother's Day House walk – 572 tickets were sold, and 60 people volunteered for an approximate total of 1300 attendees.
- 45 people attended the 2014 Annual Meeting

Outreach Efforts

- A partnership with the Evanston Public Library and EHC was launched. EHC and EPL partnered on planning, organizing and hosting events and cross marketing events and programs. The partnership began with several WWI commemorative events and resources, and also programming related to EETK. This partnership will continue for YOD, with lectures, reading lists, exhibits and film screenings.
- Six separate custom designed mailings sent out to 700+ members and organizations
- Seven 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*, *WBEZ*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, and numerous other publications and websites.
- EHC Website and Facebook page updated and regularly visited by users. Analysis of statistics of site usage was launched in 2014. A complete overhaul of the website will debut later in June.
- EHC Member email newsletter created, managed and sent regularly.
- Fall and Spring issues of *Timelines*.
- Staff gave talks at the National Archives, Kiwanis, Current Events Club of Evanston, and Presbyterian Homes.

Membership -- Total membership is 487, representing approximately 800 people.