



Fiscal Year Activity Report -- 2015-16

Tours and Rentals

- 1,170 people visited for individual tours and 349 people for group tours.
- 2,087 people visited for Open House Chicago weekend. This successful collaboration with Chicago Architecture Foundation will be repeated in October 2016.
- 45 people attended 10 walking tours, 62 people attended 2 bus tours of Evanston.
- 7 volunteers served as docents giving tours of the Dawes House.
- 4 elementary schools brought all of their second graders to visit.
- Evanston Parks and Recreation partnered with us for their Youth Arts Summer Camp.
- 15 groups representing 1,913 individuals rented the Dawes House for special events including weddings, receptions, concerts, holiday celebrations, fundraisers and birthday parties. Three film shoots of documentaries, student projects and commercials were shot on interior and exterior.

Research and Archives Projects

- There were 95 phone, email and mail requests for information.
- 244 people visited the EHC archives for research projects.
- We had 5 volunteers and 2 interns working in the archives on various projects.
- Collections work in the archives included accessioning, processing and storing new and existing collections. We added 16 new collections to the archival collection. We also continued adding collections to our online collection database.
- We received a grant from the Illinois State Historic Records Advisory Board to digitize our oral history collection. The project was completed in May 2016.
- We partnered with Northwestern University Library and the Chabraja Center in Summer 2015 to begin a digitization project of historic Evanston newspapers. This project is continuing in 2016.
- The Evanston Women's History Project and the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites continued to have their headquarters at EHC.

Collection Projects

- We received many new donations to the collections.
- Collections work included accessioning, processing and storing new pieces.
- 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.
- There were six requests for information about the Costume Collection.
- The Costume Collection staff and volunteers engaged in mounting a major exhibit of wedding fashions and customs called "Evanston Ties the Knot".
- 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

- Plans for Phase 3 of the conservation management program are now being completed and will include masonry work on the front of the house.
- Upgraded sewers were completed for the coach house.
- East terrace landscaped thanks to member dedicated donation.

EHC Programs and Events

- EHC hosted a series of programs related to the 150th anniversary of Charles Gates Dawes' birth. The "Year of Dawes" (YOD) kicked off in August 2015 with a cocktail party for 200+ guests. The public phase of EHC's \$4 million Capital Campaign was

also announced that night.

- A total of 500+ people attended 6 *Under the Buffalo* "YOD" related presentations on topics ranging from the Dawes' family life in Evanston and genealogy to adoption and NAGPRA. January 2016's presentation by journalist Bethany McLean was sold out.
- In October 2015, EPL-EHC co-hosted an offsite presentation at the library by Janet C. Messmer who discussed her exhibit, "Evanston Ties the Knot."
- EHC began to work with Northwestern University's special collections library, home of the Charles G. Dawes archive, on two projects: 16mm films (Dawes' family home movies) held in the Dawes archive will be digitized and a YOD-related exhibit, "Dawes Delivers the Vote" will be on view June 13 – November 11, 2016.
- On President's Day, February 15, 2016, EHC hosted the official opening of the completed YOD exhibit, "A Crowded Life: Charles Gates Dawes." 75 guests attended.
- In April 2016, EHC hosted a book reading group with the Evanston Public Library. The event was part of the EPL's "The Big Read"--a community wide reading program featuring the book, "Into the Beautiful North" by Luis Alberto Urrea.
- EHC partnered with "One Book, One Northwestern" to host the April 2016 UTB, "Native American History and Evanston," a presentation by Alyssa M. Padilla.
- In honor of YOD, EHC worked with Senator Mark Kirk to have a statement read into the Congressional record honoring Charles G. Dawes, and a commemorative American flag was flown over the U.S. Capitol on Dawes' 150th birthday, August 27, 2015.
- EHC presented an online visual presentation of the Dawes family gravesite at Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago in honor of YOD.
- Work on two new publications continued in 2015-2016 (slated for issue in August 2016): *Charles Gates Dawes, A Life*, a biography of Dawes published by Northwestern University Press in partnership with EHC, and a new issue of Dawes' 1921 *A Journal of the Great War*, published by EHC. The WWI memoir includes two critical essays that draw from the Charles G. Dawes Archive at Northwestern and the EHC archives.
- In April 2016, EHC hosted students from a creative writing class from Northwestern University's Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities.
- 2015 Ice Cream Social – approximately 600 people attended.
- Approximately 650 people attended the 2015 Annual Holiday Open House.
- 10th Annual Food Drive -- several 100 lbs of food collected and donated to Evanston food pantry.
- 2016 41st Annual Mother's Day House Walk – 647 tickets were sold, and 75 people volunteered for an approximate total 675 paid attendees.
- 45 people attended the 2015 Annual Meeting

Outreach

- The partnership with the Evanston Public Library and EHC continued. EHC and EPL partnered on planning, hosting, and cross marketing events and programs. In 2015-16, the partnership continued with programming related to the exhibit, "Evanston Ties the Knot," and YOD, including the showing of the film, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," at the EPL in August 2016.
- 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 places.
- Website and Facebook page were regularly updated. A new website debuted in 2015.
- EHC e-newsletter was sent regularly. Fall and Spring issues of *Timelines* were sent to members.
- Staff gave talks at the Woman's Club of Evanston, Kiwanis Club, Association for Preservation Technology, Illinois Arts Council, and Presbyterian Homes.
- EHC's launched its first online fundraising event for our Capital Campaign. 88 donors contributed \$59,000 during our February campaign.
- Year of Dawes sponsors and the announcement of the public phase of our Capital Campaign were featured in a full-page ad in *Crain's Chicago Business* on August 24, 2015.