

ELMHURST HISTORY MUSEUM



MOVING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

2021: OUR HISTORY CONTINUES

Although 2021 might have felt like a scene straight out of the movie *Groundhog Day*, there were certainly bright spots to be found as we continued to wade through the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic along with our community and country. Being resilient and expecting the unexpected remained the most-needed attributes for all.

History teaches us all that tough times will pass, and we will undoubtedly find positive ways to learn and improve as a result of the last two years. Here are a few of the highlights that made 2021 a memorable year despite the many obstacles in our paths:



EHM Staff, May 2021

AWARDS

September 2021:
**Illinois Association of Museums,
Superior Achievement Award/Special Projects**
The Churchville Schoolhouse: A Retrospective documentary, created by Daniel Lund, Curator of Collections

September 2021:
**Illinois Association of Museums,
Award of Excellence/COVID Response**
Churchville Schoolhouse Virtual Field Trips, developed by Jessie Wandersee, Supervisor of Education Services

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 374 people viewed the **online presentation** *The Great Depression's Impact on Chicagoland* by historian Dominic Pacyga.

FEBRUARY 599 guests participated in a **virtual Gallery Talk** exploring the *Together We Cannot Fail: Overcoming the Great Depression* exhibit.

MARCH 315 folks tuned in for the *War of the Worlds* **radio play** performed by GreenMan Theatre Troupe.

APRIL 127 participants watched historian Leslie Goddard's **online portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt**.

MAY 264 people took an **online tour** of the EHM galleries as part of the **Your City @Home series** of **virtual field trips** at **Chicago area cultural institutions**.

JUNE 62 friends dropped in for our first *Museum Maker Monday* of the summer.

JULY 105 participants viewed the **online lecture** *Apollo 10: Dress Rehearsal for the Moon*.

AUGUST Nearly 100 music enthusiasts enjoyed an **out-door concert** of **Vince Guaraldi tunes** performed by the Chris White Duo to celebrate *Snoopy Soars with NASA*.

SEPTEMBER 236 fans turned out for the *Vintage Baseball Game* at Elmhurst University, and 1,013 thirsty supporters attended the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation's 6th *Annual Craft Beer Fest* on the museum grounds.

OCTOBER 37 daring participants joined the *Haunted History Tour* exploring the Glos Mansion and local cemeteries after dark.

NOVEMBER 102 guests experienced **private exhibit tours** hosted by the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation for *An Ever-Widening Circle: Elmhurst University at 150*.

DECEMBER 169 local students participated in the **Kid-Story history program** in their classrooms marking a careful return to **in-person school programming**.

EXHIBITS

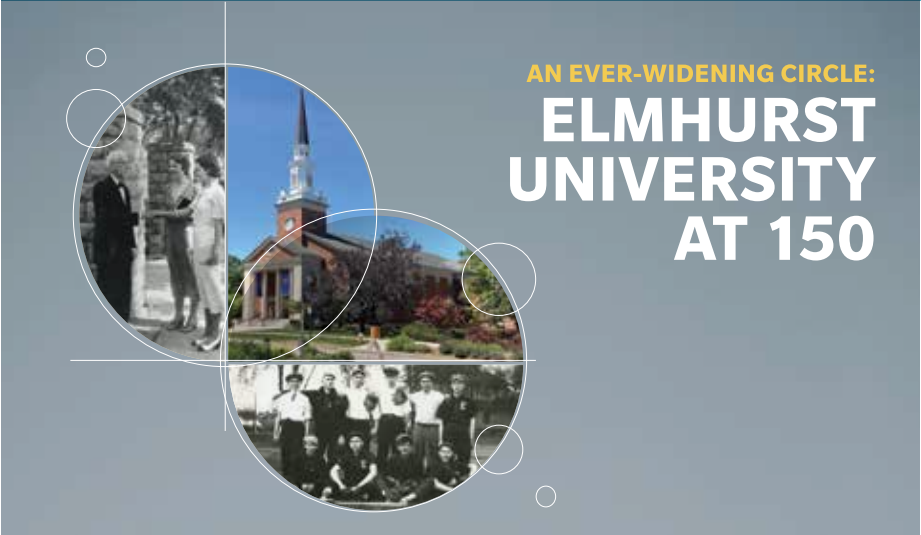
The Elmhurst History Museum continued to support our mission and engage with the community by offering an eclectic variety of exhibits in 2021. Despite limited visitation due to COVID-19 protocols, two in-house exhibits, one national touring exhibit plus our core Elmhurst history exhibit (*By All Accounts: The History of Elmhurst*) were presented and explored in 2021.



To start out the year, *Together We Cannot Fail: Overcoming the Great Depression* took a deep dive into the causes, challenges, and long-term effects of one of our country's most difficult eras: the Great Depression in the 1930s. The exhibit, developed and designed by Curator of Exhibits Dan Bartlett, interwove the national story with local aspects including rare photos and artifacts related to the Civilian Conservation Corps, the response of government, the impact on local businesses, and the rise of community support organizations during that tumultuous decade.



In summer, EHM turned to the skies with a new touring exhibit from the Charles M. Schulz Museum. *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars with NASA* landed in the gallery in June and attracted visitors from across the Chicago area with its heart-warming story of Snoopy's long-term relationship with the U.S. space program. The exhibit was supplemented with another related exhibit which was installed outdoors on the lawn. *Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission* from SITES (Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service) shared details on the historic 1969 mission when Neil Armstrong took man's first steps on the moon.



In fall, the museum collaborated with our hometown university to present another in-house exhibit, *An Ever-Widening Circle: Elmhurst University at 150*, in honor of the school's sesquicentennial. The exhibit and related programming provided an opportunity to collaborate with the EU faculty, students, staff, and alumni to depict the journey of Elmhurst's respected and beloved institution of higher learning.



PROGRAMS

Faced with the continuing challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic, public programming forged ahead in 2021 by adapting to virtual formats developed over the last two years. As patrons became more comfortable using technologies from Zoom to YouTube, prerecorded video lectures, live performances, gallery talks, and online book discussions provided much-needed learning opportunities for interested participants. As the year progressed, in-person programming with attendance limited to enhance safety cautiously started to return.

A sampling of the year's diverse program offerings included curator's gallery talks, the *War of the Worlds* radio play with GreenMan Theatre, *Songs of the Great Depression* music program by Dean Milano, a remote lecture on the Space Race, *Museum Maker Mondays* and a *Lunar Cartooner Workshop* for kids in summer, a fascinating presentation on the Great Chicago Fire, a walking tour of the Elmhurst University arboretum, and an off-site book discussion and tour at the Aurora Fire Museum.

A noteworthy new tool developed by our educator was a new **Mobile Tour App** for self-guided tours and interactive gallery activities. This new technology expanded learning opportunities to connect with audiences both in the galleries and outdoors in the community.

EDUCATION

With traditional field trips on hiatus for of the 2021 school year, our Supervisor of Education Services, Jessie Wandersee, continued to provide teachers and students with flexible programming that was adapted to a virtual format. The KidStory artifact-based program was presented to young students, often via Google Classroom. A virtual tour and live interaction with the Schoolmarm also proved to be popular for remote learners, and students were able to get a glimpse at what life was like in the Churchville One-Room Schoolhouse in the early 1900s. In all, 1,360 schoolchildren were served by our educator through these programs.

In addition to schools, local scout troops were able to take advantage of EHM educational programs. In 2021, 123 children were served as troops took part in programming at the museum and the Churchville Schoolhouse as well as virtually.



COLLECTION & RESEARCH



The most popular *Throwback Thursday* post of 2021 was this photo of the Elmhurst Shopping Plaza, c. 1960s which reached 7,035 social media users.

The Collections staff, led by Curator Daniel Lund, continued the ongoing work of managing, organizing, digitizing, and overall care for the EHM collection. Some of the various projects accomplished in 2021 included:

- ➔ The **History in Focus** video series continued in 2021 with five new installments on Lost Landmarks of Elmhurst, Elmhurst architecture, Veterans organizations, the 1936 Centennial Celebration, and the history of Elmhurst University.
- ➔ Digital copies of numerous **York High School yearbooks** were added to our website.
- ➔ **Weekly Throwback Thursday posts** featuring photos from Elmhurst's past reached a total of 176,338 Facebook followers on social media.
- ➔ **History Highlights** articles were added to the museum's website, covering topics such as the Case Cherry Farm, the Great Chicago Fire, Hill Cottage Tavern, and Wilder Mansion.
- ➔ **Quarterly History Spotlight** displays were added to the *By All Accounts: The Story of Elmhurst* exhibit featuring information about Elmhurst Hospital, a 1940's Lions Club event, a display about early domestic cleaning appliances, and York Theatre.

2021 Notable Donations to the Collection:

- ➔ A **travel trunk** that belonged to Emma Schween Glos (sister of Lucy Glos and wife of Jacob Glos).



- ➔ A **decorated piece of plywood** from Tannin's Wine Bar during June 2020 Black Lives Matter protests.

- ➔ A **painting** of Salt Creek by the noted late artist Keith Achepohl from Lincoln School.

ELMHURST HISTORY MUSEUM

Mission

To engage people with history through thoughtful collection, enlightening exhibits, and diverse educational experiences.

Staff

As of December 2021

Dave Oberg
Director

Dan Bartlett
Curator of Exhibits

Nancy Himmes
Administrative Assistant

Daniel Lund
Curator of Collections

Patrice Roche
Marketing & Communications Specialist

Jessie Wandersee
Supervisor of Education Services

Jane Grossman
Weekend Coordinator

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Val Stewart

ELMHURST HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The museum is grateful to the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation for their ongoing efforts to support the Elmhurst History Museum and Churchville Schoolhouse through advocacy, education, and fundraising. A highlight of the year was the return of the **Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest** in September, and beer lovers turned out in a big way to enjoy one of the most successful fests to date. Here are just a few of the notable accomplishments of this hard-working and dedicated board of volunteers this past year.

2021 EHF Notable Accomplishments



The Development Committee procured a **record number of exhibit sponsorships** from local businesses including Community Bank of Elmhurst, Feze Roofing, Christopher Burke Engineering Ltd., Itasca Bank, Lakeside Bank, John Noldan-Guaranteed Rate, Storino, Ramello & Durkin Attorneys at Law and Suburban Bank & Trust Co.



The 2021 Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest **received a record number of sponsors** and **sold more than 1,000 tickets**, raising essential funds to support the museum's exhibits and programs.

In lieu of exhibit opening receptions, the Foundation held a number of **special after-hours tours** for Members and Donors to safely welcome them to the museum in small groups to learn more about exhibits and interact with board members.



EHF presented a well-attended **Vintage Baseball Game** in September at Elmhurst University to celebrate the school's 150th anniversary.

The year-end **Annual Fund Campaign** provided another source of grassroots financial support for the museum.

The Foundation **provided an annual grant** to the museum which provided critical funding for exhibits, programs, special events, and key projects throughout the year.

The Membership Committee **published three newsletters** as a key communication tool and valued benefit of the Membership Program.

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*Cover photo:
 The Elmhurst Bluejay mascot
 visits EHM, September 2021.*