

# Muskegon Museum of Art Profile

Updated May 2015

## History Brief

At his death in 1905, lumber baron Charles H. Hackley created, through a bequest to Muskegon Public Schools, the and expendable trust fund to purchase “paintings of the best kind” for display in Hackley Library, which was owned and operated by the School Board. When it became apparent that a true art collection needed a home of its own, the Muskegon Board of Education decided to honor Charles Hackley and his gift by constructing an art gallery. Construction began in 1911 and was completed in 1912. In 1979, ground was broken for a \$1.6 million addition to the Hackley Art Gallery, funded by the L.C. & Margaret Walker Foundation. Construction was completed in 1980 and with that, the museum’s name was changed from the Hackley Art Gallery to the Muskegon Museum of Art. As part of the Museum’s 2012 centennial celebration, a capital campaign was launched to raise funds for the future financial security of the Museum in anticipation of its separation from Muskegon Public Schools, which was planned beginning in 2010 and was completed June 30, 2014. Over \$7.5 million has been raised so far for this fund.

## Mission

The Muskegon Museum of Art, founded on a tradition of aesthetic excellence, is committed to fostering the life-long study and appreciation of the visual arts by strengthening, preserving, and exhibiting its collections; offering a wide range of traditional and contemporary exhibitions; stimulating learning and creativity through diverse public and educational programming; and enhancing community involvement and support in a safe, accessible, and welcoming environment.

## Services

The Muskegon Museum of Art provides West Michigan access to a world-class collection of visual art - paintings, prints, sculpture and glass - enhanced by a wide range of temporary exhibitions. Educational programs, including classes, family programs, lectures, and hands-on activities, as well guided tours, provide a context for interpretation of the collection and make it accessible to diverse audiences. Books and unique gift items may be purchased in the Museum Gift Store. On Thursdays, the museum is open until 8:00 p.m.

## Programs

The museum sponsors guided tours, classes, family activities, film showings, lectures, and other programs related to temporary exhibitions and the permanent collection. Speakers on the museum, its collection and its activities are also available. The museum’s collaborative efforts are on-going and have included shared projects with other Michigan museums, arts organizations, West Michigan colleges and universities, The Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, the Lakeshore Museum Center, the West Michigan Symphony Orchestra, the Muskegon Civic Theatre, the LST 393 Landing Ship Museum, the Muskegon Area Arts and Humanities Festival Committee, the South Haven Maritime Museum, and downtown Muskegon retailers.

## Constituents

Local and regional residents, as well as national and international tourists visit the Muskegon Museum of Art to experience the museum’s collections, exhibitions and programs. The Museum is located in Muskegon County and is adjacent to the surrounding counties of Kent, Ottawa, Oceana, and Newaygo.

## Staff

The MMA’s group of nine full-time and nine part-time staff is supplemented by a corps of volunteers who contributed approximately 10,000 service hours each year.

## Accreditation

The Muskegon Museum of Art has been continuously accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1984.

**Affiliations**

The Muskegon Museum of Art is a current member of the following:

American Association of Museums, American Craft Council,  
Association of Midwest Museums, Glass Art Society, Lakeland Painters, Michigan Association of Community Arts  
Agencies, Michigan Museums Association, Museum Store Association, Inc.;  
Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Muskegon,  
National Art Education Association, Upper Midwest Conservation Association.

**Awards**

Governor's Arts Organization Award - 1989

MEGA Muskegon County 2000 - Quality of Life Award – 1993

Michigan Museums Association Quest for Excellence Awards – 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2008

Michigan Museums Association Peninsulas Award 2012