

MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY AND GOVERNING BOARD

History

At his death in 1905, lumber baron Charles H. Hackley, through a bequest to Muskegon Public Schools, established the **Hackley Picture Fund** to purchase “**pictures of the best kind**” for display in Hackley Public Library, which was owned and operated by the Board of Education.

By 1910, the Board of Education determined that the Library was not a suitable facility for these paintings and that a museum-quality facility should be built. Construction began in 1911 on a place for their growing art collection. Upon completion, the Board of Education chose to honor the inspiration for the project, naming their newest building the Hackley Art Gallery.

The Hackley Art Gallery was dedicated on June 21, 1912 to national and international notice, because it was the first building built in America in a city of 30,000 or less expressly to hold art.

The museum’s first director, Raymond Wyer, was a man of unique foresight who would lay a strong foundation for this outstanding art collection. The 12 directors who followed Wyer have continued to uphold the original charge to acquire “pictures of the best kind,” and the Muskegon Museum of Art, now in its 106th year, is nationally accredited and internationally recognized, fielding requests for the loan of works in the permanent collection on a regular basis.

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 Hackley Art Gallery changed its name to the Muskegon Museum of Art.

In 1983, the Muskegon Museum of Art Foundation Board of Trustees was established at the conclusion of a successful community-wide fund drive to raise \$1,000,000, led by industrialist Robert Tuttle, leading to the creation of the first organizational endowment fund at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

After 102 years of ownership and four years of thoughtful planning by the School District and the MMA Foundation, the Board of Education for Muskegon Public Schools transferred the governance and ownership of the Museum and all its assets to the MMA Foundation (MMAF), the 501(c)3 organization originally formed in 1984. The MMA Foundation is comprised of a volunteer board of 15 members, to which the Executive Director reports. To support the needs that were necessitated by this new chapter of this museum, the MMAF, in January of 2012, launched a \$7.5 million campaign, the largest capital campaign ever in Muskegon County. The MMA Foundation met its goals, having secured \$7.6M in gifts and pledges for endowment, facility improvements, and programming. The MMA is now in its sixth full year as an independent, self-funded museum.

Currently, the MMA is wrapping up a \$9.9 million capital campaign launched last year to expand the museum by adding a 20,000 square foot addition with new galleries, classroom and support space. We are now at \$8.6 million – 87% of goal. Groundbreaking will be this late this year.

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 both a wide range of original exhibitions organized by the curatorial staff and by unique traveling exhibitions. Educational programs, including films, classes, family programs, lectures, hands-on activities, and docent- guided tours, provide a context for interpretation of the collection and make it accessible to diverse audiences. Our school outreach and tour program reaches over 5,000 area students and adults annually. Annual attendance is trending to over 30,000 per year. The Permanent Collection is renowned regionally, nationally, and internationally, with regular requests to borrow works coming from national and international museums.

Collaborations

The museum's collaborative efforts are on-going and have included shared projects with other Michigan museums, Grand Valley State University and other West Michigan colleges and universities, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, Lakeshore Museum Center, West Michigan Symphony, Muskegon Civic Theatre, LST 393 Landing Ship Museum, Muskegon Area Arts and Humanities Festival Committee and the Pittsburgh Foundation. We are a founding member of Muskegon's Amazing Museums, a Muskegon County museum networking organization. MMA's Executive Director currently chairs a coalition of local arts and cultural organizations called The Muskegon Area Arts and Culture Coalition (including the West Michigan Symphony, Frauenthal Center, Muskegon Civic Theater, Muskegon Area District and Hackley Pubic Libraries, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and several others) to raise awareness of the cultural and economic impact locally of the arts.

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 9 full-time and 19 part-time staff is strengthened by a corps of over 200 volunteers who contribute approximately 7,000 hours of service annually.

Accreditation

The Muskegon Museum of Art has been continuously accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1989.

Affiliations

The Muskegon Museum of Art and staff are current members of the following: American Alliance of Museums, American Craft Council, Association of Midwest Museums, Circle Michigan, Inc, Glass Art Society, Michigan Museums Association, Museum Store Association, Inc., Lakeshore Area Chamber of Commerce, The Grand Haven Area Chamber of Commerce, The White Lake Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Muskegon, National Art Education Association, Upper Midwest Conservation Association, and Fiber Arts Now.

MUSKEGON MUSUEM OF ART FOUNDATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2020-2021

OFFICERS

CHAIR: FRANK BEDNAREK (Whitehall)

Retired Owner of Hooker DeJong, Architects and Engineers; Chairman of the MMA Collections Committee for the MMA for 20 years; nine years as Development Officer for the MMA; Trustee, MMA Foundation since November 2015; Trustee, former Mercy Health Board Chair (also member of Executive and Quality Committee); former Trustee, Howmet Theater Foundation-Whitehall; Member, Muskegon Rotary Club.

VICE CHAIR: KIMBERLY VAN KAMPEN, Ph.D. (Spring Lake)

Owner of Hampton Green Farms, specialists in the breeding and training of championship Spanish dressage horses and Spring Lake Epicurean Village. Director, Van Kampen Boyer Molinari Family Foundation; Board of Directors, United States PRE Association; Board of Advisors, United States Equestrian Team Foundation; Owner of Spring Lake Epicurean Village development; Chair, Dressage Owners Task Force, United States Equestrian Federation; Member, Foro de Opinion El Caballo Espanol, Sevilla, Spain, Sport Commission, Asociación Nacional de Criadores de Caballos, and de Pura Raza Española, Sevilla, Spain.

SECRETARY: CLAUDIA BERRY (Holland)

Recently retired Vice President, Lakeshore Business and Wealth Management, Huntington Bank; founder and chair of Lakeshore Arts, a networking coalition of arts/culture organizations of West Michigan region; Member, Corporate Board, GoodHeart-Willcox Co. Inc., Trustee, Destination Education, Lakeshore ATHENA Award; Hope Academy of Senior Professionals; Hope Church Endowment Committee; Century Club; former Trustee, Saugatuck Center for the Arts.

TREASURER: JOHN PRIDNIA (Norton Shores)

Managing Principal for Michigan Region, Rehmann, financial services firm; served as trustee for Hackley Hospital; Member, Community Foundation for Muskegon County, external relations committee; Trustee and Treasurer, Hackley Cornerstone Foundation; Member, Mercy Health Partners, Business Development/Strategic Planning Committee; former Trustee, American Red Cross and West Shore Symphony. Chair of MMA Nominating Committtee.

TRUSTEES (in order of tenure)

CHARLES JOHNSON III (North Muskegon)

Business owner and community entrepreneur; Chair, Investment Committee, Community Foundation for Muskegon County; Board Member of MCC Partners; City Council Member, City of North Muskegon. Also is lead partner in Muskegon's Windward Point lakefront development. Chair of MMA Facilities Committee.

MIKE OLTHOFF (Norton Shores)

Principal and owner of Nichols, one of the largest independently owned paper, packaging and sanitary supply distributors in the Great Lakes region. Chairman, Network Services; Board Member: Talent

2025; Grand Valley University Foundation; West Michigan Symphony. Previous board membership on Mercy Health Systems; American Red Cross; Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce; Community Foundation for Muskegon County; Muskegon Area Growth Alliance; West Michigan Policy Forum; Chairman, National Paper Trade Association; Partner, Windward Pointe Development.

NANCY CRANDALL (Norton Shores)

Former Mayor of Norton Shores, MI, Michigan State Representative, and long-time community advocate; Secretary and Past President, Muskegon Rotary Club; Chair, Board of Directors, Friends of Camp Pandalouan; Chair, Church Council, Central UMC; Formerly, Director, Michigan Office of Services to the Aging; Chair, Community Foundation for Muskegon County; Chair, Muskegon YMCA; Chair, United Way of Muskegon-Oceana Counties.

GIL SEGOVIA (Spring Lake)

Managing Director of the West Michigan Office of Northern Trust in Grand Rapids and serves on several non-profit boards throughout the Grand Rapids area.

GAYLE R. DAVIS, Ph.D. (Grand Rapids)

Recently retired Grand Valley University Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs from 2002-2017, former chair of Women's Studies Department and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research at Wichita State University; a board member of Goodwill Industries; served for three years as chair of the Academic Officers of the President's Council of the State Universities of Michigan, named by the *Grand Rapids Business Journal* as one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan; and was recognized with the Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award by the American Council on Education. Chair of MMA Education Committee.

JONATHAN WILSON (Muskegon)

Jonathan Wilson began his career as marketing director for a large food company in Grand Rapids before becoming Economic Development Director for both the County and City of Muskegon. In October of 2018, we took the position of Regional Manager for DTE Energy in West Michigan. Jonathan also serves on the board of Read Muskegon, a literacy advocacy group, as well as sitting on the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. Chair of MMA Marketing Committee.

ERIC RINGELBERG (Muskegon)

After serving in the military as a technician, Eric moved back to Muskegon as founded NeXt I.T., an I.T. company that has grown to included offices around West Michigan including Traverse City. Eric serves on the boards of several local organizations including the Lakeshore Museum Center and is active in the Muskegon Rotary Club.

ROBERT DUBAULT (Norton Shores)

Attorney, Partner, and member of the Management Committee with Warner, Norcross, and Judd, a major law firm that has been associated with the MMA since the origination of the MMA Foundation Board. Current chair of the MMA Collections and Personnel Committees.

TOM DEVOURSNEY (Norton Shores)

CEO, Shape Corporation (retired). Trustee of the Muskegon Boys and Girls Club.

JOHN SWANSON (Ravenna)

President and CEO, Swanson Pickle Company. Also former trustee of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce and The Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

CHRIS WITHAM (North Muskegon)

President of Motion Dynamics Corporations (largest medical device manufacturer in West Michigan) and former mayor of the City of North Muskegon.