2015 MassMu
WHERE ART AND HISTORY COME TOGETHER
Whenever we witness art in a building, we are aware of an energy contained by it.
—Arthur Erickson

The Massillon Museum’s events, exhibit openings, receptions, Island Party, programs, and holiday celebrations were well attended (some in record numbers). Our membership numbers, volunteer hours, and outreach numbers continue to rise.

The board and staff tirelessly contributed numerous hours of time and talents. We are fortunate to have a group of individuals who share pride, passion, and love for the Massillon Museum.

We accepted the challenge of a Capital Campaign, which kicked off in August 2015. The impressive support and commitment received to this point from the community, corporate partners, foundations, advocates, and organizations have given us a boost of confidence. We THANK YOU!

We ask for your continued support!

There is much work to be done in 2016. We have the momentum and focus to work toward our goal of expansion.

Our Capital Campaign leaders, Bob and Nancy Gessner, have been first-class in their leadership on this project. We say THANK YOU!

We invite you to classes and “Do the Mu!”
Visit! Participate! Contribute!
Share in the excitement…HERE WE GROW!
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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### Notes
- Haley Paramore was among the Walsh University students who exhibited work in the annual Image to Image Studio M exhibition.  
- Judge Eddie Elum congratulated Chris Craft and Chris Pfendler for their representation of the surrender at Appomattox during the Bells across the Land commemoration.  
- Maggie Denman and Gayle Theiss are among the many regular Museum friends who attend both the Brown Bag Lunches and the History Discussion Group.  
- The Museum served a birthday cake at the June Brown Bag Lunch to celebrate the birthday of Jean-Baptiste Massillon, for whom the town was named.  
- Hundreds of children enjoy the annual Island Party—the Museum’s annual family-friendly “thank you” to the community for its support.
I tend to reflect upon the year at its conclusion in visual moments, as if each were a page in a photo album. I know that for many of you, like me, quite a lot of the significant moments within a review of the year occurred at or are connected in some way to the Massillon Museum. Although in 2015 we mourned the loss of former staff members Jeanne Cooper and Amelia Sparks, their lasting contributions to the Museum will be remembered always. Overall it was a historic year for MassMu, and most of the images in my mind recall celebratory moments. We hosted our first living Big Read author. Our archivist made her national television debut on the Travel Channel’s Mysteries at the Museum. The Museum was presented with the Best Exhibition award by the Ohio Museums Association for Imagining a Better World, and two of our original exhibits traveled out of state. A new account of Massillon’s history was published by MassMu press, and nineteen different entities borrowed materials from our collections and archives for regional and national print, film, and exhibition projects. We hired a new registrar and curator, and established the positions of traveling exhibits coordinator and guest operations associate. Anderson’s in the City completed its first full year in operation, and we revitalized the volunteer Activities Committee, members of which were responsible for the Museum lobby’s fashionable and spirited holiday décor.

Under the leadership of Bob and Nancy Gessner, and with generous support from local businesses and foundations, we purchased the Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce building as a defining moment in our Capital Campaign. As part of this project we also established a new building endowment with the Stark Community Foundation through a contribution from the Fred F. Silk Charitable Foundation. And among the crowning achievements of the year was our agreement with the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club to become the official stewards of its historic collections. Part of the Museum’s expansion project will include dedicated gallery, library, and storage space for the artifacts and archives that tell the story of Paul Brown and the Massillon Tiger football legacy. Not only will this addition preserve an important facet of our community’s history, but it will create a unique destination for former players and their families and fans of the sport.

We pride ourselves in providing a bustling center of cultural activity, and 2016 will be no exception. A great deal of excitement will surface around the visible changes at the corner of Lincoln Way and First Street East. Renovation and building plans for the Museum’s additions will be developed, adding a new dimension to the downtown landscape certain to impact generations to come. The staff and board will engage in preparation of a new three-year strategic plan to establish the goals and trajectory of your Massillon Museum. I have been asked to join the board of the Stark County Convention and Visitors’ Bureau, which will allow me to represent the interests of this Museum, and Massillon, in discussions about cultural tourism.

The first phase of our Capital Campaign to expand the facility has been successful in garnering adjacent properties, building relationships, and raising more than forty percent of our $5 million goal. This report includes a page dedicated to recognizing those who have contributed to the campaign and pledged their support. If you have not already done so, we urge you to help write our next chapter, and build the legacy of the Massillon Museum’s efforts to preserve art and history, present relevant and impactful exhibitions and educational programs, and foster meaningful cultural participation for our community. Without your support and that of the outstanding staff, board, volunteers, and program contributors, the Massillon Museum would not have the ability to grow its already vibrant, dynamic space to allow for more creative energy and quality experiences. I thank you for the role you play in making this institution a space where our shared heritage is preserved, quality of life is enhanced, and lasting memories are made.
Alexandra Nicholis Coon, executive director for the Massillon Museum, holds a BA in art history from Kent State University, an MA in art history through the joint program at the Cleveland Museum of Art and Case Western Reserve University, and a Collections Care certificate from the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies. She has been with the Massillon Museum since 2001, and served as curator for the Museum from 2003 to 2010. Exhibitions curated and co-curated include: All Play, No Work (Riffe Gallery, Columbus, 2015); Snap! In the Photobooth with Andy Warhol and Friends (2013); Faces of Rural America (2011), Between Two Worlds: The Photography of Nell Dorr (2010), Stark Naked Salon (2009), and Darkrooms in a Digital Age (2007).

Nicholis served as adjunct faculty for Walsh University from 2006 to 2011 and serves on the University’s advisory board. She is vice president for the board of the Ohio Museums Association and chairs its Advocacy Committee. She also serves as a trustee for Lighthouse Visions, Inc.; a member of the City of Akron Holocaust Commemoration Committee; a member of Jackson School for the Arts Community Advisory Board; and member of the City of Massillon’s Community Improvement Corporation and Third Century Committee.

In her spare time, Coon enjoys digital photography, and her work has appeared in exhibitions in Akron, Canton, and Massillon. She earned honorable mention in the Professional Women Photographer’s 37th International Women’s Call for Entry (2012). In 2011, she was recognized with the YStark! “Twenty Under 40” award and was a 2012 inductee to the CantonYWCA Women’s Hall of Fame. Coon serves as District IV Secretary of Soroptimist International Midwestern Region and is a member of the Canton/Stark County club. She is also a member of the Akron Chapter D.A.R. and resides in North Canton with her husband and twin daughters.

Scot Phillips, MassMu’s operations officer, also serves as membership coordinator and shop manager, handles Silk Room and lobby rentals, and organizes bulk mailings. He is working on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee. He began his internship at the Massillon Museum in January of 2008. Phillips graduated from Kent State University with a BA in art history and a minor in fine arts. He worked with Sandi Thouvenin—to whom he is now married—and the local community to acquire the vintage photobooth that has become a popular part of a visit to the Massillon Museum.

Phillips was commissioned by the City of Massillon to create murals on two of the flood-control pumping stations. He has since been commissioned by the Elum Music Company and Sangria Stand to paint murals and in 2013 he painted several of the public art portraits that were displayed in downtown Massillon. In 2015, Water Street Tavern and Main Street Kent commissioned him to create a mural in the revitalized area of downtown Kent.

Heather Haden is the new curator at the Massillon Museum, effective July 1, 2015, having previously served as the education and outreach coordinator from February 2014 to September 2015. She holds an MA in art history and a BA in fashion design, both from Kent State University. Haden has been involved with the Massillon Museum since 2011, when she served as curatorial intern for Another Look at the New Look. She has taught fashion illustration and various art history courses as an adjunct at Kent State University and contemporary art history as a faculty member at Malone University. She served various roles at the Kent State University Museum from 2007 to 2013.
In 2015, Haden published her MA thesis, “The Aesthetics of Unease: Telepresence Art and Hyper-subjectivity,” through Kent State University, and served as editor-in-chief for the Massillon Museum publication, *Educator Resource—Imagining a Better World: The Artwork of Nelly Toll*, working with a team of professional Holocaust educators and art therapists. She has presented independent art historical research to regional, national, and international audiences at conferences held through the Midwest Art Historical Society, the Ohio Museums Association, the College Art Association, and the Image Knowledge Community. In 2016, she will represent the Massillon Museum at the Ohio Museums Association Conference in Columbus, presenting on curating for the visually impaired in the joint session, “Museum Accessibility: Best Practices for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Visually Impaired.”

**Archivist Mandy Altimus Pond**

Archivist Mandy Altimus Pond began her Massillon Museum career in 2004. She graduated from Kent State University with a BA in history, *summa cum laude* with honors. Pond oversees the care and access to the photographs, rare books, documents, and institutional items in the archives, as well as handling research requests in the Velma B. Erwin Research Room. Pond has produced works for the Museum such as *The Legacy of Steel, Adaptations, Seafaring Forefathers, The Greatest Generation, and Faces of Rural America*. She has presented several times at Ohio Local History Alliance conferences on digitization, internship programs, and social media. As a part of the Museum’s Speakers’ Bureau, Pond offers an extensive list of lectures. Since 2012, she has traveled across Ohio to deliver her lecture about the sinking of the *Titanic* more than forty times. She will be the plenary speaker for the Society of Ohio Archivists 2016 Spring Conference. Pond serves on the Massillon Historic Preservation Commission and the Charity Rotch School of Kendal Foundation board.

A member of the Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce, Pond owns a photography business, Altimus Pond. Her photographs have been exhibited in juried shows in Ohio, Michigan, and Vermont, published in the highly competitive *International Photography Annual* (INPHA 2 and 4), produced by Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati (2014 and 2016); they have won several awards. Her one-woman exhibit, *A Long Time Ago: The Fairytales of Mandy Altimus Pond*, has been exhibited in Ohio and Pennsylvania. As the recipient of a 2015 ArtsinStark special projects grant, she produced the exhibit, *Face of Hunger in Stark County, Ohio*.

In 2015, Pond and her family published her grandfather’s World War II prisoner of war memoirs, *Forced March: From the Bulge to Berchtesgaden* by Major John J. Mohn, for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the war. She has traveled across the state, lecturing about World War II and sharing his story.

Pond appeared on the Travel Channel’s show, *Mysteries at the Museum*, in Season 8 (2015), retelling the tale of Jacob Coxey’s 1894 protest march from Massillon to Washington D.C.

**April Olsen**

April Olsen is the new education and outreach coordinator at the Massillon Museum. She moved from Illinois to Ohio with her husband to start her job. Interested in engaging students with history and art through interdisciplinary activities, April decided to pursue a degree in art history. She received her MA at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2013 with a focus in early twentieth-century German art. She holds majors in German and art history, with a minor in studio art, from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. She has taught during jobs and internships at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Lake County Discovery Museum in the Chicago suburbs, the Milwaukee Art Museum, UW-Milwaukee, and Illinois schools. She also has interned in curatorial departments including the Art Institute of Chicago’s prints and drawings department.

At the Massillon Museum, Olsen looks forward to learning about the area’s history; connecting her curatorial and educational interests to develop new programs and education exhibits; and creating ties with the surrounding communities through educational programming.
Christopher Craft

Chris Craft is a graduate of the College of Wooster with an MA in education from the University of Akron. He came to the Massillon Museum after thirty-one years in secondary education at Fairless Schools. Craft’s duties at the Museum include facilitating the History Discussion Group, managing The Artful Living Program, curating exhibits relating to the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, and acting as a member of the Museum’s Speakers’ Bureau.

Craft recently retired as an adjunct faculty member at Malone University. He has been involved in American Civil War living history since 1972 and was a consultant for the Canton Museum of Art’s 2011 Civil War exhibit, A House Divided, The Heartland Responds. He participated in several films about the Civil War, was a site producer and consulting historian for the History Channel production, “Civil War Journey,” and was invited to two presidential inaugurations. In 2012, Craft was honored to narrate the Canton Symphony Orchestra’s Master Work Concert presentation of Aaron Copeland’s Lincoln Portrait. As an artist, he has work in the collections of Kent State University, the First Ladies National Historic Site, and The White House. In 2012, Chris Craft was named to the Fairless High School “Wall of Honor.”

Emily Vigil

Emily Vigil is Massillon Museum’s events coordinator and Studio M coordinator. She earned a BFA degree in painting from Marshall University in 2000 and an MFA degree in painting and drawing from Louisiana State University in 2003. Her experience in the museum field includes curatorial work for the West Virginia State Museum and a position as Gallery Director for Marshall University’s Birke Art Gallery from 2003 to 2007. From 2003 to 2010, she taught art and design courses as an adjunct faculty member at various universities. Vigil owns Intimate Ecology Studio, where she specializes in creating oil and mixed media paintings. For the past sixteen years, she has exhibited her work professionally in solo, juried, and group exhibitions. She now enjoys teaching painting classes occasionally at the Museum.

Kaitlyn Gutshall

Kaitlyn Gutshall, the full-time facilities manager at the Massillon Museum, focuses on maintaining the overall function of the facility and assists with installation and de-installation of exhibits. She works with the Museum’s permanent collection and teaches many ceramic classes to all age groups. As a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, Gutshall uses her skills and experience to creatively uphold the dependability of the Museum within the community.

Kaitlyn has also gained valuable experience working with Art Restoration Technologies. During her time there she worked to restore many photographs, paintings, and sculptures that were damaged in floods and fires. She started at Kent State University in the fall to work toward a master’s degree concentrating in museum studies and art history to further her ambitions in art and museums.

Meghan Reed

Meghan Reed was hired this March as registrar at the Massillon Museum. A native of Pittsburgh, she graduated with a BA in history and English from Washington and Jefferson College and holds an MA in History with a museum studies concentration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. While in graduate school, Meghan developed a passion for preservation and connecting objects to communities. Her primary research interests lie in the conservation of material culture, twentieth-century social history, and the Native American heritage in Northeast Ohio.
Heather Bullach
Heather Bullach started her position as the Massillon Museum’s traveling exhibits coordinator in early 2015. Prior to joining MassMu, she spent five years working with Translations Art Gallery. A portrait and landscape artist working primarily in oils, her style ranges from tight realism to expressive impressionism. Whether painting an accurate likeness or a landscape inspired by her rural Ohio surroundings or frequent visits to Charleston, South Carolina, capturing an essence and mood beyond the physical surface is her focus. She earned her BA degree in art at Malone University in 2011. Her work is widely exhibited around Northeast Ohio, including three solo exhibitions since 2011. Her awards include The Canton Arts District All-Stars Exhibition winner in 2015, The Mary Ellen McFadden Award for artistic achievement in 2011, and the Ohio Watercolor Society 2010 Scholarship. She currently teaches painting at Malone University and resides in Dalton.

Libby Doss
Volunteer Coordinator Libby Doss received her BA in fine art from Malone University in 2009, with emphasis in painting and fibers. She earned the Outstanding Senior Award, the Mary Ellen McFadden Art Award, and a scholarship from the Ohio Arts and Crafts Guild. She earned an MA in arts administration at the University of Akron, where she was a graduate assistant at the Emily Davis Gallery in the Mary Schiller Myers School of Art. She interned at the Canton Museum of Art, the Ohio Arts and Crafts Guild, and the Massillon Museum. Her 2008 MassMu internship transitioned into volunteer work until she was hired by the Museum in March 2012. Doss and her husband, Travis, recently moved to Pittsburgh, where she works as the development manager for the Frick Art and Historical Center.

Dana Setting
Dana Setting is working toward a degree from Kent State University’s School of Communication. She began at the Massillon Museum as an intern before landing the guest operations associate position. A lifelong fan of both art, and history, Dana currently resides in Akron.

Kevin Lahm
Self-educated in carpentry and furniture design, cabinetry, and home construction, Lahm is the lead carpenter for Affinity Medical Center’s maintenance shops with twenty-one years of service. He is familiar with all associated mechanical systems and transfers that expertise to Museum applications. He has lived in the Canton/Massillon area for sixty years and has two children. His hobbies include gardening, boat-building, plant and bird identification, tennis, and shooting sports.

Margy Vogt
Public Relations Coordinator Margy Vogt has written and designed three local history books, presents local history programs, and leads Massillon history walking tours. As a volunteer, she chairs the Museum Brown Bag Lunch series and serves on the Massillon Public Library, Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce, Charity School of Kendal Foundation, Community Improvement Corporation, City of Massillon Third Century, and Massillon Historic Preservation boards.

When she received the Rotary Club of Massillon’s Paul L. David Humanitarian Award in 2004, she designated the accompanying charitable contribution to establish the Museum’s Margy Vogt Photography Endowment Fund. She urges others to contribute to the fund in support of the Museum’s photography collection and exhibitions. *The Repository* has recognized her as one of “Stark County’s Most Interesting People,” she was inducted into Canton YWCA Women’s Hall of Fame, and she was honored as a Massillon Distinguished Citizen.
The Massillon Museum has, for the first time in its history, a full collections team with individually designated positions of archivist, registrar, and curator. After transitioning from the education and outreach coordinator position, Heather Haden assumed the role of curator on July 1, marking the first time in five years the Museum has had a full-time curator. Her curatorial debut, Fashion Outlaws, exhibited many historic costumes and clothing archives for the first time. Her background in fashion design and art history has enabled her to bring the Massillon Museum historic costume collection into a more prominent position. This has been significantly assisted through the help of Kent State University interns Chris Pienoski and Michelle Persons and Walsh University Museum Studies student interns Kelly Murphy and Sadie Koehler, who inventoried the clothing collection.

The Massillon Museum was thrilled to welcome Meghan Reed to the collections team in 2015 as the new registrar. Reed brings to the Massillon Museum a wealth of experience, having been involved with many institutions in Ohio, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. She has already made great strides since joining the staff in March 2015. She completed inventory of the business collection with the assistance of Kent State University Masters of Library and Information Science intern Michelle Persons; researched Native American artifacts; revitalized a collections database update project; processed incoming donations and coordinated loan agreements; and facilitated the shipping and receiving of main gallery and traveling exhibits.

Part of the new staff responsibilities will include facilitating a new and exciting acquisition of the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club Collection. The Massillon Museum is honored for the opportunity to work with the club members to preserve the history and legacy of Massillon Tiger football in the coming years, and will work closely with the Booster Club in 2016 to review, inventory, and organize these collections. Members of the Booster Club have been instrumental in this effort, attending quarterly Collections Committee meetings.

The collections team has been working diligently during the past year to formalize donation processes. This has aided in selecting objects that represent Massillon’s heritage and has allowed the Museum to be more efficient stewards of Massillon’s art and history. Throughout the year we have accepted a variety of historically significant collections. Among these is a donation from Mark and Jack Converse on behalf of the Julian C. Converse family that includes a series of documents from the collection of Major General Samuel Beatty, the highest ranking Civil War officer from Stark County. Mark and Jack Converse’s father, Julian C. Converse, purchased these documents at auction and always intended for them to find a home here. The Museum displayed these documents in the second-floor exhibit, The Civil War: The Battlefield and the Homefront. Staff and volunteers intend to scan these documents and make them available online in 2016.

Additional donations from 2016 include a large donation of clothing, photographs, and archives from Ginger Sorg, a prominent Massillonian active at the Museum, the Woman’s Club, Spring Hill, and St. Timothy’s Church, and other charitable work in the community. Lois (née Bammerlin) Bader’s daughters, Daryl Chaney and Judy Oberlin, donated photographs, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks in their mother’s memory. Portions of one of these scrapbooks were reproduced in the Old School Days in Western Stark County exhibit this spring. Many of these treasured photographs were featured in Margy Vogt’s Massillon history book, Towpath to Towpath.

Working with Chicago-based conservator Barry Bauman, the Museum had Francis Cachoud’s oil painting, Trailing Moonlight, restored through cleaning to reverse the visual effects of aging. Hi
While the facilities department continues to strive for immaculate upkeep, functionality, and preservation of our historic building, this year we also continue to focus on the safety and well-being of patrons. After thorough assessment, the department is updating the Museum’s Disaster Plan. New staff members and volunteers are being trained to use the up-to-date Disaster Plan which will help patrons experience efficient and safe exit strategies, practices, and methods in the event of an emergency or major disaster. Thanks to the Health Foundation of Greater Massillon, the Museum will provide first aid training to all staff members, and replenish supplies in our inventory of first aid materials. With this funding, the Massillon Museum can work to ensure its patrons will be in well-trained hands if an emergency situation should occur.

The security and safety of the permanent collection is also a primary concern. Recently, the Museum has employed extra initiatives to enhance the security of the third floor, which houses the permanent collections. Increased security will ensure that our valued collections remain as safe and secure as possible. Apart from these major additions to the Museum’s wellness and operations, the department has also installed upgraded LED restroom light fixtures, replaced all outlets within each gallery, and mounted cabinets in the classroom. These additions and many more continuously add to the overall success and functionality of the facility.
During this busy year in the Velma B. Erwin Research Room, volunteer Lois McHugh has scanned hundreds of photographs and provided information for exhibits. During the past few years, volunteer Mark Pitocco has digitized more than 8,000 negatives—film negatives from *The Independent* newspaper photography collection by Jack Worthington, and glass plate negatives by Stan Baltzly (c.1890–1920), Teeple Photography studio (1889–1900), William L. Bennett (c.1870–1910), and A.J. Miller (c.1890). Thanks to Mark Pitocco, all of the glass plate negatives in the permanent collection are now digitized. The images will be added to our virtual exhibit galleries.

Interns Erica Wise and Brittney Locker worked during the fall semester to make the extensive photography and archives collections available online—more than 120 virtual galleries can be viewed. These include images of schools, weather events, Civil War, scrapbooks, Paul Brown, Russell and Company, and downtown Massillon. http://massillonmuseum.org/virtual-exhibits

MassMu staff added twelve videos to our YouTube channel this year—past Museum commercials, a Rhythms Concert, a Brown Bag Lunch, and home movies from Paul Reinkendorff (1930s–1950s) and Joseph Persell (1930s–1940s). All thirty-eight videos can be viewed and more will be added in the coming year: youtube.com/massillonmuseum.

Galleries, individuals, and film and TV studios have sought our photographs and objects for publication and broadcast this year and next:

3. Pond appeared on the Travel Channel’s *Mysteries at the Museum*, sharing the story of “General” Jacob Coxey’s historic 1894 march.
4. Pond is working with Arcadia Publishing to produce a book about the history of Kendal to be published in 2016.
6. *Imagining a Better World: The Artwork of Nelly Toll* exhibit traveled to the Goodwin Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.
7. The first exhibit installment (2012) of *Tiger Legacy* traveled to Kent State University.
8. The *Tiger Legacy* photobook created by Gary Harwood and David Foster with funding from the Ohio Arts Council and Stark Community Foundation will be published by Daylight Books in July 2016.
11. Two MassMu paintings—one depicting early Erie Street in Massillon, and a Civil War painting by William T. Mathews—were included in the exhibit, *Early Visions of Ohio, 1765–1865*, at the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio in Lancaster, Ohio.
12. Beth Odell used images from *The Independent* negative collection to lecture about the 1955 tornado that hit Perry Township.
13. The Lincoln Theatre ordered photo reproductions to adorn their walls for their one-hundredth anniversary celebration.


15. Two quilt museums and independent researchers are researching MassMu’s Hurxthal album quilt.

16. Walter Tyler, great-great-grandson of Jacob Rohr, visited the Museum to see the original Theodore Teeple studio glass plate negative of the Jacob Rohr barn raising photograph in preparation for writing a children’s book about the Rohr barn raising from the perspective of one of the young Rohr boys.

17. Judith Malinowski of the Jackson Historical Society featured the Rohr barn raising image from MassMu’s collection in the society’s two-hundredth anniversary quilt, summer 2015.

18. Photographs of industrial employees in the Massillon Museum’s permanent collection were reproduced for Blue Collar: Figurative Sculptures by Kyle and Kelly Phelps, on exhibit at the Canton Museum of Art, December 3, 2015, through March 6, 2016.

19. The team that created The Massillon Connection used information and images from the Massillon Museum archives throughout the process of researching and compiling the book, which was launched in February 2015.

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**VOLUNTEERS**

More than 120 volunteers assisted with various Museum events, archival and collections projects, classes and workshops, bartending, and baking. Our 21st annual Island Party was staffed by MassMu employees with the help of more than 110 volunteers. Individuals donated more than 4,000 hours of their time to the Museum in 2015.

Several of our volunteers have formed a new Activities Committee, which made its debut at the Children’s Halloween Party, planning activities and snacks. They also worked with staff to plan and host the Children’s Holiday Party. Their creativity and hard work was evident in the beautiful holiday decorations adorning the lobby in November and December. Their fashion-themed Christmas tree dresses complemented the Fashion Outlaws exhibit on the second floor.

To join the volunteer corps, contact Alexandra Coon: 330.833.4061 or volunteer@massillonmuseum.org.

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**FAR LEFT:** Paul Hobe researched General Samuel Beatty documents for his upcoming Dixie Odyssey book about the 19th OVI, which will be published in 2016.

**LEFT:** Walter and Allison Tyler researched his great-great-grandfather Jacob Rohr for his master’s thesis, an illustrated children’s book explaining the 1888 Rohr barn raising (the iconic image on the cover printed from a glass plate negative in the permanent collection) through the eyes of one of Rohr’s sons.

**RIGHT:** Volunteer Jan Jordan helped serve guests at the 2015 kick-off of The Big Read.
The Massillon Museum’s eighty-second year began with a celebration of the collage medium in the Ohio Collage Society Ninth Annual Exhibition, which was on view from January 24 to March 15, 2015. All members of the Society were eligible to submit up to two pieces of collage- or assemblage-based work for exhibition. The show was accompanied by themed classes, including the Collage in All Dimensions workshop, led by Society President Shirley Ende-Saxe.

Fifteen area public and parochial schools showcased kindergarten through twelfth grade student artwork in the annual Celebration in Art exhibit this year. From March 28 to April 12, 2015, more than three hundred two- and three-dimensional works adorned the walls of the main gallery. Ballet Le Rêve of Canal Fulton performed at the opening before a packed house of students, families, and art educators.

In conjunction with the Museum’s eighth National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program, the Museum explored school themes, both fictional and nonfictional, to celebrate the book, Old School, by Tobias Wolff. The main gallery hosted two concurrent exhibitions: Ludlow Prep: 1929 and Old School Days in Western Stark County, both on view from April 25 to May 24, 2015. Ludlow Prep: 1929 was a schoolroom installation created by Craig Joseph and Clare Murray Adams that invited visitor participation. Inspired by an undocumented class photograph found in a friend’s attic, Craig Joseph imagined the interwoven stories that may have existed within this class, which appeared to date circa 1929. The fictional characters were each represented by a desk transformed through word, image, and ephemeral objects, a collective effort between the two artists. As a non-fictional counterpart to Ludlow Prep: 1929, members of the Massillon Museum’s History Group lent school day ephemera and photographs to display in the upper level of the main gallery in the exhibit, Old School Days in Western Stark County.

To commemorate the sesquicentennial (150-year anniversary) of the American Civil War, the Museum hosted the traveling exhibit, Civil War Era Drawings from the Becker Collection this summer, from June 13 to August 16, 2015. Each of nearly one hundred hand-drawn illustrations by men enlisted as special artists were on view; the drawings recorded for the newspapers the events of war in a time before cameras were portable or could record motion.

Tiger Legacy: Our Tiger Football Family, a project led by Kent State University professors Gary Harwood and David Foster, is a community storytelling project that offers a firsthand account of the Massillon football experience through personal narratives and photographs from 2011 through 2014. A continuation of the 2012 Tiger Legacy exhibition—from September 5 to November 1 this year—the new installment of the project reflected on the community that is—and supports—the Massillon Tiger football team. Daylight Publishing will produce the book version of Tiger Legacy: Stories of Massillon Football in July 2016.

The last exhibit of the year was the Stark County Artists Exhibition, in which many talented artists living and/or working within the county exhibited their artwork. This year’s jurors were Ron Anderson, Visual Artist and Art Educator from Columbus, Ohio; Mark Slankard, Associate Art Professor at Cleveland State University; and Michelle Epps, Community Engagement Manager at SPACES in Cleveland, Ohio. Featured in this exhibit were sixty-three artworks by forty-two artists.
At the start of 2015, the Politics, Pantaloons, and Protest Marches exhibit, which opened on October 4, 2014, continued until May 24, 2015. Next, the Museum celebrated the centennial of the Massillon Chamber of Commerce with its exhibit, 100th Anniversary of the Massillon Area Chamber of Commerce, which opened on January 24 and remained on view until May 24, 2015. Representing the economic and financial growth of Massillon during the late nineteenth century, the exhibit told the history of the formation of a Chamber of Commerce in April 1915 by the Massillon Business Men’s Association and city officials. During the past century, the Massillon WestStark Chamber of Commerce has been unfaltering in promoting local businesses.

Brooklyn-based children’s book illustrator, artist, and author Sean Qualls was featured in the second-floor photography gallery from January 24 to May 15, 2015, in Sean Qualls: Published and Unpublished Illustrations. Qualls has illustrated celebrated books for children, including many children’s historic picture books about Dizzy Gillespie, Muhammed Ali, Harriet Tubman, and others. His multimedia illustrations incorporate collage elements, which elaborated on the theme of the concurrent main gallery exhibition, Ohio Collage Society Exhibition.

This year marked the 150th anniversary (sesquicentennial) of the Civil War. For the past four years (reflecting the duration of the Civil War from 1861 to 1865), Christopher Craft curated seven exhibits about Massillon and the War of the Rebellion. The seventh and final exhibit was Massillon and the War of the Rebellion: Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). From June 13 to November 1, 2015, the final exhibit in the series focused on the powerful political organization that was the GAR. Instrumental in establishing Memorial Day as a national holiday, the GAR also lobbied for veterans’ pensions, supported voting rights for Black veterans, and supported Republican candidates.

The Museum was honored to exhibit Photography by Willie Longshore from September 5 to November 1, 2015. This exhibit marked the second time the Museum has exhibited his work and the first time it has been displayed in the current building. Willie Longshore graduated from Massillon Washington High School in 1952 and was a member of the 1951 Championship Tigers football team.

Heather Haden made her curatorial debut with the exhibit, Fashion Outlaws, on view November 14, 2015, through April 24, 2016. This exhibit explores women’s clothing from the Industrial Revolution to World War II, focusing on the relationship between mobility and women’s rights. It tells the social history of fashion outlaws, women who bent the rules governing ladies’ clothing, rebelling against tight-laced corsets and heavy, full skirts that limited women’s social, spatial, and physical movement. The exhibit features clothing and archives from the Museum’s permanent collection as well as a Timken factory uniform and postcards on loan from The Timken Company.
Studio M exhibited a great balance between solo and group shows in 2015. The group exhibits showcased multiple artistic voices and media. These shows included the Relay for Life Photography Exhibit, Image to Image (Walsh photojournalism students), the Massillon Museum staff exhibit, the Canton Artist League exhibit, and the Massillon Boys and Girls Club exhibit. Many of these group shows made connections with community organizations, allowing artists of all ages—students, amateurs, and professionals—to shine. The Canton Artist League’s exhibition complemented the Stark County Artists Exhibition in the main gallery.

Solo shows in Studio M focused on the viewpoint of one artist, revealing a particular artistic vision. Both The Paintings of Mary Lou Eberly and Cheri Mohn’s Mogollon and the Old West posthumously presented a sense of certain eras of time in their expressive landscapes and portraits. The large, symbolic paintings and pointillist drawings by Amy Lynn Schlabach shared her exploration of mathematical concepts revealed in Biblical texts.

The new year began with another striking solo show: larger-than-life portrait paintings by Melissa Markwald. Markwald’s reception will be held at the same time as the openings of Celebration in Art and Paul Brown and Racial Integration in Ohio Football, January 30, 2016. Then the tenth anniversary exhibit of Growing Season, a photographic project by Gary Harwood and David Hassler, will be on display from February 26 through April 10, corresponding with The Big Read—which will feature In the Time of the Butterflies set in the Dominican Republic.
Imagining a Better World: The Artwork of Nelly Toll made its debut as a traveling exhibition in September. Work began in February to transform the exhibition originally hosted at the Massillon Museum in 2014 into a traveling version. Preparations included acquiring image reproduction rights, producing and framing forty-six archival quality reproductions of Toll’s childhood paintings, developing text panels and labels, building custom crates for transportation, and developing and distributing marketing materials. The original exhibit’s guest curator, Craig Joseph, assisted with adapting the exhibit to travel, along with a team of educators including Sam Chestnut, Esther Cohen Hexter, Marilyn Feldman, and Gail Wetherell-Sack.

Along with the exhibition, curator (then education and outreach coordinator) Heather Haden developed an extensive educator’s packet, which focuses on Toll’s childhood reaction to the Holocaust through an exploration of art and writing. Award-winning filmmakers, diane estelle vicari and Robert Kirk of DOCdance Productions, produced a ten-minute segment of the upcoming documentary to accompany the traveling exhibit.

The exhibit was launched at The Goodwin Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, where Toll now resides. Executive Director Alexandra Nicholis Coon, Traveling Exhibits Coordinator Heather Bullach, Curator Heather Haden, and Board Chair Gloria Pope attended the opening night with Nelly Toll and her husband, Ervin, along with their children and grandchildren. Nearly a thousand visitors total viewed the exhibit.

Massillon Museum is now booking venues for the exhibit and has four confirmed: the Holocaust Memorial Museum in San Antonio, Texas; the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum in Dennison, Ohio; the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center in Troy, Ohio; and the University of Alberta in Alberta, Canada. Additional information is available at massillonmuseum.org/traveling-nelly-toll.

On the same trip to the East Coast, the Museum contingent visited another MassMu traveling exhibition curated by Alexandra Nicholis Coon, Between Two Worlds: The Photography of Nell Dorr, in Washington, Connecticut. That exhibition was first exhibited at the Massillon Museum in 2010. Executive Director Coon presented a lecture about Dorr’s life and her artwork at the Gunn Historical Library and Museum, where the exhibition was displayed May through October of this year. More information is available at massillonmuseum.org/traveling-nell-dorr.

Nell Dorr (1893–1988) learned photography and darkroom skills in the studio of her father, Jacob Becker, near the Massillon Museum’s current site. Dorr is best known for her images of women and their children as depicted in her 1954 book, Mother and Child. The following year, she was included in Edward Steichen’s landmark photography exhibition, The Family of Man, at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. That year, she settled for the last three decades of her life in rural Connecticut.

In 1938, Dorr shipped eighteen prints to the Massillon Museum, writing: “I am proud to have a few of my pictures in Massillon. ...It held many happy years for me and my young dreams, some of which have come true. Life is curiously like a boomerang, isn’t it?” The Massillon Museum is proud to have shared that gift with the descendants of Dorr’s Connecticut friends and neighbors.
The Museum’s History Discussion Group, moderated by Chris Craft, recorded another stellar year in 2015. Participants enjoyed the memories and stories, as well as each other’s company. Turn-out for the year averaged more than thirty people each month, topped in May, when the topic was stone quarries, buildings, and bridges. Other subjects attracting large attendance included tools and hardware in August and local musicians and music stores in June. A particularly fun event was Margy Vogt’s annual Tigertown Trivia.

Next year promises great interest and success with the topics for the first three months: “extreme weather” in January, “special moments in my life” for February, and “what was there before” in March.

The Massillon Museum’s History Discussion Group meets the first Tuesday of every month in the Museum’s Silk Room. Attendance is free and coffee and doughnuts are available for a donation. The Massillon Museum History Discussion Group welcomes anyone with a story to tell and all who wish to listen and learn. It is a great way to make new friends and to receive an advanced education in local history.

The Museum education department is dedicated to enriching our community through a wide range of educational programming. In 2015, the Museum reached more than 8,000 people with offsite education and outreach programs. During the month of October alone, education staff worked with nearly 2,000 people offsite! Onsite, more than 700 people visited the Museum for staff- or docent-led tours that align with Ohio Learning Standards. In its seventh year, Do the Mu! participation increased to 337 people; this free, intergenerational workshop series is held the first Saturday of every month. More than 140 people enrolled in the wide variety of classes and workshops led by Museum staff and community instructors and artists.

For its eighth consecutive year, the Museum received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to host The Big Read, celebrating Old School by Tobias Wolff. The nearly two-month-long program was a huge success—the Museum distributed 1,500 free books to the community, and it was the first year the Museum hosted a living author. New partnerships are continually established during the planning of this event, as well as other Museum programming.

The education department also underwent a staff transition. In September, April Olsen moved from Illinois to join the Museum team as the new education and outreach coordinator, when her predecessor, Heather Haden, became the Museum’s full-time curator.
The Artful Living Program was founded through the Massillon Museum by the late Wilbur Arnold and staff member Christopher Craft. The Program is in its eighth year of providing lessons to children in Stark County. It presently employs twenty artists who are teaching one hundred seventy-four arts lessons weekly in nineteen elementary schools to more than one thousand preschool children. Lessons in drama, music, visual arts, dance, and literature are designed to reinforce the curriculum presented by the classroom teachers and are based on Ohio Department of Education Early Learning Standards.

Funding for The Artful Living Program is provided through grants from the PNC Foundation, Ohio Arts Council, the Timken Foundation, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, and ArtsinStark. Additional financial support is provided by Canton City School District, Massillon City Schools, the Stark County Educational Service Center, and various individuals.

The mission of The Artful Living Program is to improve academic achievement, creativity, and confidence in early learners through arts immersion. The members of the advisory board, administration, and teaching artists of The Artful Living Program firmly believe that, “every positive human endeavor bears value, but there is no more valuable endeavor to any society than the education of its children. Among the great powers of the Earth is human creativity; among the great tragedies: a child who has not been introduced to his/her creative potential.” The Artful Living Program is introducing children to their creative potential.

MassMu events bring people together. Our event audience listened, learned, created, danced, nibbled, sipped, laughed, and connected with others in the community. In 2015, they cheered for the Tigers at our annual Tiger Stripe Ice Cream night and at the Tiger Legacy: Our Tiger Football Family opening; learned about art and history at Brown Bag lunches; and kicked back at the annual Island Party. Guests dressed up and danced to Civil War-era tunes at the Steampunk Soirée. They rang bells as as part of the National Park Service’s anniversary of the Confederate army’s surrender at Appomattox.

Guests enjoyed warm hospitality at the opening of every exhibition, the children’s Halloween and holiday parties, and the members’ holiday event. ReelMassillon’s monthly film noir series added to its Lincoln Theatre tradition for screenings at Daugherty Hair Company, in the Immel Circus Gallery, and on the Museum lawn. The Rhythms concert series featured the Americana sounds of Roger Hoover and popular bluesman Austin Walkin’ Cane.

The February book launch of *The Massillon Connection: A Pioneer Woman, a French Bishop, and a Village on a River*—included an elegant French dinner in the main gallery and an authors’ panel discussion and book signing at the Lincoln Theatre. The book is available in the Museum Shop and online.

The Capital Campaign launched with a breakfast in August. Watch for a fundraising event June 25!

The staff continuously brainstorms to create events to interest our diverse community to ensure everyone can find a niche at the Massillon Museum.
DEVELOPMENT

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

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RIGHT: Dr. Charles Paquelet led The Massillon Connection project and Trisha Merchant was the French translator and culture consultant.

FAR RIGHT: Dr. Douglas Palmer, Shane Jackson, and Paul Renier were among the nine authors who signed The Massillon Connection at the book launch.
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Memorial donations directed toward the Capital Campaign are listed under Memorial Contributions (previous page)

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RIGHT: Ashley and Declan McFee star in the Capital Campaign video. MV
BELOW: Congressman Bob Gibbs and Executive Director Alexandra Coon talked after the Capital Campaign breakfast. MV
Our goals for 2015 were to raise $50,000 and reach 725 MassMu members. We would like to officially announce that we currently have 727 members and have raised $60,035, reaching our goal for the fifth straight year! Increasing our member number to 725 was a large goal, but we have accomplished it together. Our member base continues to expand and the 2015 campaign garnered more new members than in 2013 or 2014.

Without the passion and drive of supporters like you, this would not have been possible. We would also like to recognize the Gessner Family Foundation, which pledged to match all new member support and increased member support. That generosity was paramount for the success of this momentous membership year. Finally, we thank our campaign co-chairs, Jane and David Schultz. Through their strength and leadership we have officially had one of, if not the, strongest campaigns to date.

We look forward to what we can accomplish this coming year!
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Terrell Tripp  
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April Warstler  
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Dakota Wells  
Tom Wentling  
Bob Wenzel  
Doris Wertz  
James Wertz  
Sally Whiston  
Shari Wilkins  
Ms. Diane M. Wilson  
Michael W. Witt  
Bonita Yeager  
Mr. Dale E. Young  
Isabel Zaldivar  
Judith R Zimmerman  
Pet Members  
Brewskie Butt Boatright  
Mia Meow Boatright  
Bear Bullach  
Dawson Bullach  
Bindi Craft  
Scuppers Gessner  
Tita Gutshall  
Hunter Haas  
Orion Haas  
Roy Haden  
Blue Kraft  
Barkey Miller  
In memory of  
Benji Nicholis  
Grizzo Ohling  
Student Members  
Leah Rose Anthony  
Kiersten Bair  
Leslie Beauchamp  
Carla Bonner  
Lizzie Brown  
Marijane Broxson  
Clare Bruggeman  
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Megan Farrabee  
Brayden Frascone  
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Lillian G. Phillips  
Mo Phillips  
Otis Phillips  
Yogi Phillips  
Guinness Woods Setting  
Chester Schultz  
Keifer Schuster  
Nova Stahl  
In memory of  
Spartacus Vigil  
In memory of Shiloh Vigil  
Maple Vigil  
Rugs Vigil  
Piccolo Vigil  
Leo Vigil  
Fisherman’s Lady Vigil  
Heather White  
Madison Hale  
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Grizzo Ohling
The Island Party each summer offers fun and participation opportunities for all ages. It is an easy way to introduce teens to volunteerism.

Dr. Tony Perry and Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry regularly attend Museum events.

An enthusiastic crowd attended the Capital Campaign breakfast to learn about the Museum’s plan for expansion.

Alexis Whitaker and Claudia Anderson pamper customers at Anderson’s in the City, the lobby café, where muffins and cookies are freshly baked, soups are homemade, sandwiches are hearty, and salads are colorful and crunchy.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

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HH Heather Haden
ML Marti Livingstone
AO April Olsen
SP Scot Phillips
MAP Mandy Altimus Pond
MR Meghan Reed
EV Emily Vigil
MV Margy Vogt
THE MASSILLON MUSEUM COLLECTS, PRESERVES, AND EXHIBITS ART AND ARTIFACTS TO ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE.