Dear Donors, Members, and Friends:

2020 was quite a year for the Marquette Maritime Museum. Before the stay-at-home order in March, we hosted a movie screening in February of Robert Eggers' The Lighthouse (pedestal, fan legs, work cabinet, and an electrified brass oil lamp for the movie's 3rd Order Fresnel Lens built by the Museum vice president Kurt Fosberg). Maritime History on Tap programs at the Ore Dock Brewing Company (sponsored in part by grants from WE Energies, MCACA, and the NEA) featured Dan Fountain's Lost and Found: The Henry B. Smith in January and Jack Deo's What Ever Floats your Boat in February. The March program by Yooper Paranormal was cancelled but we hope to reschedule in 2021/2022. Our free school field trip programs in May and June were also cancelled but we were able to host a couple of free tours for NMU students in February and March, and the Darter/Dace Sea Cadets volunteered for a beach cleanup day on the Museum grounds. Other scheduled bus tours and group events were all cancelled.

We offered three FREE outdoor art/history workshops in June and July (to a reduced number with strict safety guidelines) in collaboration with Carol Phillips and the Liberty Children's Art Project (LCAP). The first workshop was our Plein Aire Painting on July 13, limited to 20 participants (we usually host over 50). Our “Anatomy of a Lighthouse” workshop on July 27 was inspired by the book 'Hello Lighthouse' by Sophie Blackall, and on August 10, we offered “Lake Superior Folklore.” Participants began each session learning about Maritime history and then they created art based on the history lesson.

The Marquette Breakfast Rotary Club grant program sponsored Elizabeth Yelland's mural painting workshop in August. Seven high school students learned about the wreck of the Kyle Spangler (Lake Huron, wrecked November 7, 1860) and the resulting mural is breath-taking. Elizabeth, now the artist-in-residence on our board of directors, has helped with a few exhibit renovations, including repainting the walls surrounding our Standard Diving Apparatus exhibit.

Since most of our fundraisers were cancelled, we learned how to better ask for donations on social media, including participating in Giving Tuesday in May and November. We also relied on one of our fantastic volunteers, Susan Hill, who gave evening Paranormal Lighthouse Tours as our only summer fundraiser with the help of Yooper Paranormal. Every paranormal tour was sold out with tour sizes limited to ten for our regular paranormal tour and six for our special paranormal investigation tour.
In September, Chicago actor and historian, Orion Couling, presented the Museum’s first virtual program, “Spectral Stories of the Inland Seas: Virtual Edition.” We sold 35 tickets and made over $500 on our first virtual event. Orion's program was such a success that we scheduled another one for October 2020.

In November 2020, Orion continued to raise funds and add excellent winter programming for the Museum with his virtual dramatic reading of Dr. Shelley Russell’s “Holdin' Our Own: The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald” by a cast of actors who played the roles in previous productions as well as newcomers. The evening concluded with a special performance by Lee Murdock singing the hauntingly classic “Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.”

Our first attempt at a virtual Maritime History on Tap was the "45th Anniversary of the Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: A Virtual Retrospective" by Fred Stonehouse on November 10. This popular program sold 250 tickets and was our best selling MHOT program to date.

The Museum Staff and Board of Directors were able to complete quite a few building/maintenance projects in and around the Museum. The director wrote a Frazier Fund grant for installation of a concrete walkway to the staff entrance, board member Dave Northey rebuilt the stand for our 1950 Old Town Canoe, and board members Dave and Scott Porter built new railings for our staff stairs and added new security features around all entrances and in our back hallway. As far as exhibits, board member Elizabeth Yelland added two new murals (in addition to the student mural), we updated our diving exhibit, added a temporary exhibit of the artwork of Cleveland Cliffs Boat Captain Harvey Almstedt, and Scott Porter built an amazing Beach Cart Replica for our Maryland Shipwreck/Breeches Buoy exhibit. We had to cancel our annual Lyle gun demonstration, Lake Superior Day, the Ghosts of Lighthouse Point fundraiser, and most of our Maritime History on Tap lectures.

Although it was a tough year, the Museum was able to accomplish more than we initially thought, despite COVID-19. We increased our social media presence and developed a new fundraising event, Paranormal Lighthouse Tours. What is most important to us, however, is the outcome of participants learning and appreciating maritime history. We strive for our Museum guests to have an enjoyable learning experience.
DONORS 2020

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2020 DONATIONS
$6,845
The Marquette Maritime Museum's 2020 season began on June 16 because of the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. Our original opening day was scheduled for May 12 and as a result of a later starting date and reduced numbers on tours, our overall ticket sales for the season were down 40% (despite an increase in Museum-only ticket sales).

This season visitation was at 5,023 visitors at the Museum and Lighthouse and another 755 at our Special Programs. We had visitors from every state except Vermont, Delaware, and Rhode Island. International visitors were down significantly.
Susan was our volunteer guide, and she was amazing!!! She was enthusiastic and so knowledgeable about the history behind the lighthouse and all of the different groups associates with it! She even talked about the paranormal activity that is present in and around the museum. She presented the information in such an interesting way and held the attention of our family of 5. We even had the pleasure of meeting Mary along the way to the lighthouse. Mary told a wonderful story about the lighthouse keepers Nelson and Eliza T! Highly recommend the Maritime museum and lighthouse tour!

Clockwise from top left: Shipwreck Mural Workshop; Spectral Stories Poster; Plein Air Painting Workshop; Beach Cart Replica; Facebook Tour Guide Review
Membership 2020

$2,700 Total

New Lifetime Members
Patricia Barton
Jon Billman
Dan Fountain
Jack Deo

BECOME A MEMBER

Individual $25
Family $50
Business $100
Individual Lifetime $250
Family Lifetime $500
2020 Board of Directors
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Thanks for supporting Maritime History!