



LORAIN

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Making the Most of the Moore House: Sustainability Through New Use

Jen Neuhaus, MLIS and Kaitlyn Donaldson, MA

OMA Presentation 4-15-2024

Introduction & Outline

- Organization Background Info
- 2022-2025 Strategic Plan
- BIG IDEA
- 2022, 2023, 2024 Work Plan
- Collections Move
- Things that Helped
- Resources & Inspiration
- Light at the End of the Tunnel



Carnegie Center



Moore House

Background Info



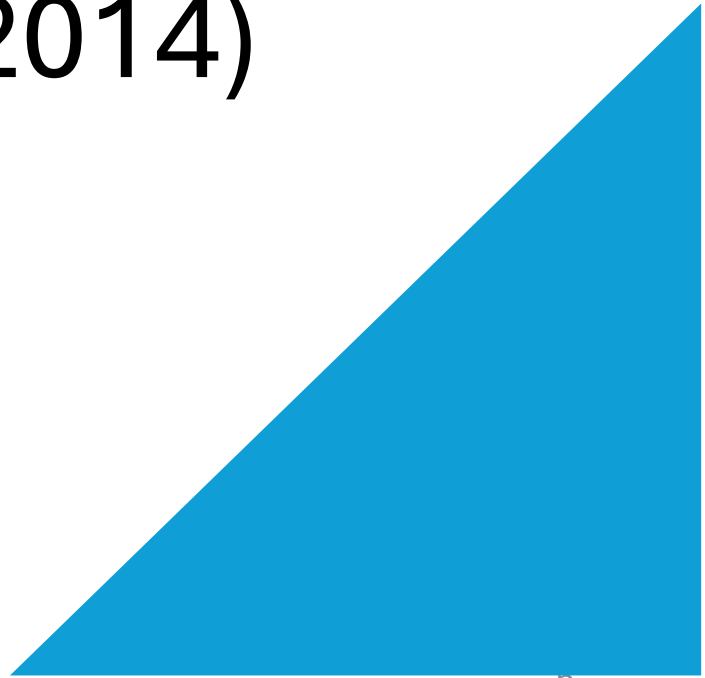
Black River Historical Society (1981-1994)



Moore House (1994)



Moore House (1994-2014)





Carnegie Public Library

New Building and New Name (2013)





Carnegie Center (2014-present)





Moore House (2014 – 2023)



REIMAGINING HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS

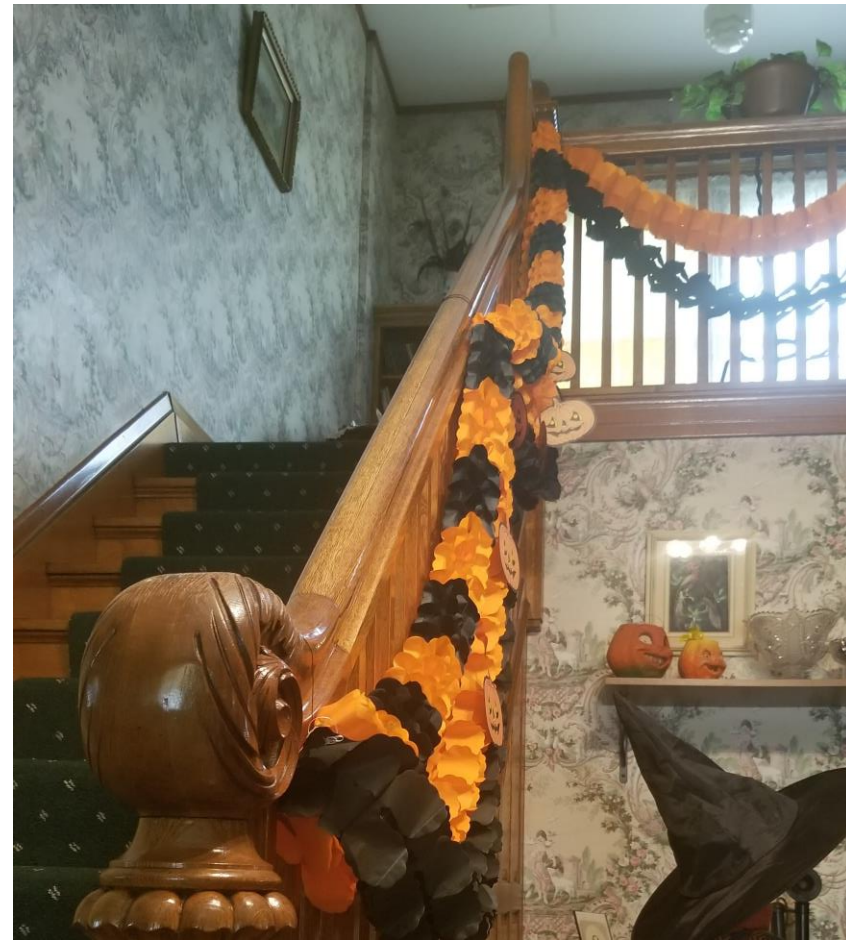


NEW APPROACHES AND
PROVEN SOLUTIONS

EDITED BY KENNETH C. TURINO AND MAX A. VAN BALGOOY

All historic house museums are the same. They tell the story of some rich white man and what he did and about his grand house and furniture and maybe a little bit about women's history too.

- as remembered by me heard at Reimagining the Historic House Museum AASLH Workshop in 2017.



Themed Tours





Themed Tours



3220 Green Road • Cleveland, OH 44122
office: 216.991.6003 • cell: 216.408.2711 • fax: 216.991.6009
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SECURING OUR FUTURE

Our Plan for 2022-2025

III. 2022-2025 Strategic Plan

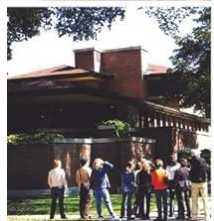
“Goal 3: Design and implement a physical expansion project and related capital campaign to assure appropriate facilities support for LHS’s programming and collection for now and the future.”



NEW SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSE MUSEUMS



Ensuring the Long-Term
Preservation of America's
Historic Houses



Donna Ann Harris

BIG IDEA

- “No one cares as much as you do, right now, about your site... Do not leave such an important matter to unknown board members in the future. Take action today.”
- – Donna Ann Harris, *New Solutions for House Museums*

BIG IDEA:
Convert Moore House
into Collections Storage
& Programming Space

- Moore House: Keep or Don't Keep?
- High Construction estimate of new collections building
- Estimate for buying an offsite building for collections
- Rental fee for offsite storage area



Background: 2022 Collection Storage



Background: Storage Concerns



Background: Moore House 2022

- Meeting Space with artifact donors
- Processing space for incoming donations



Background: Moore House Storage 2022



Moore House Roof

KM 01/14/2011 0:18

BIG IDEA

- Building Preservation/Maintenance
 - Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know
 - Moore House: Good and Bad
 - “New” old building: Unknowns
- Mission
 - Historic Buildings
 - Exhibit Space



Point of Pride

In 2022, the Moore House was already:

- Meeting space
- Storage
- Beautiful

What it can become:

- Welcoming
- No longer lying by omission about the state of our collection
- Behind the Scenes Tours



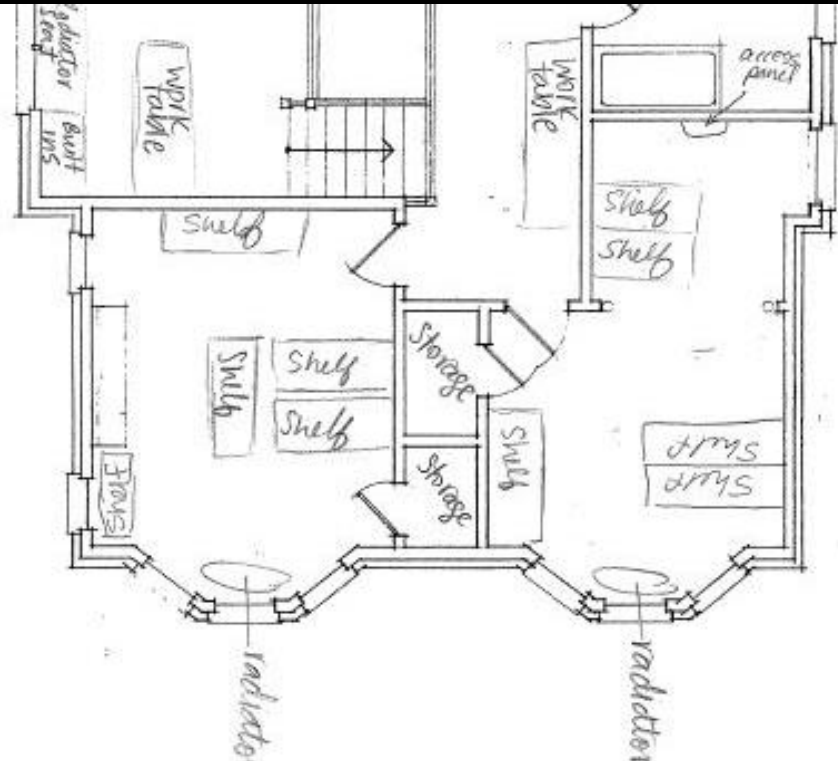
SECURING OUR FUTURE

Our Plan for 2022–2025

2022-2025 Strategic Plan

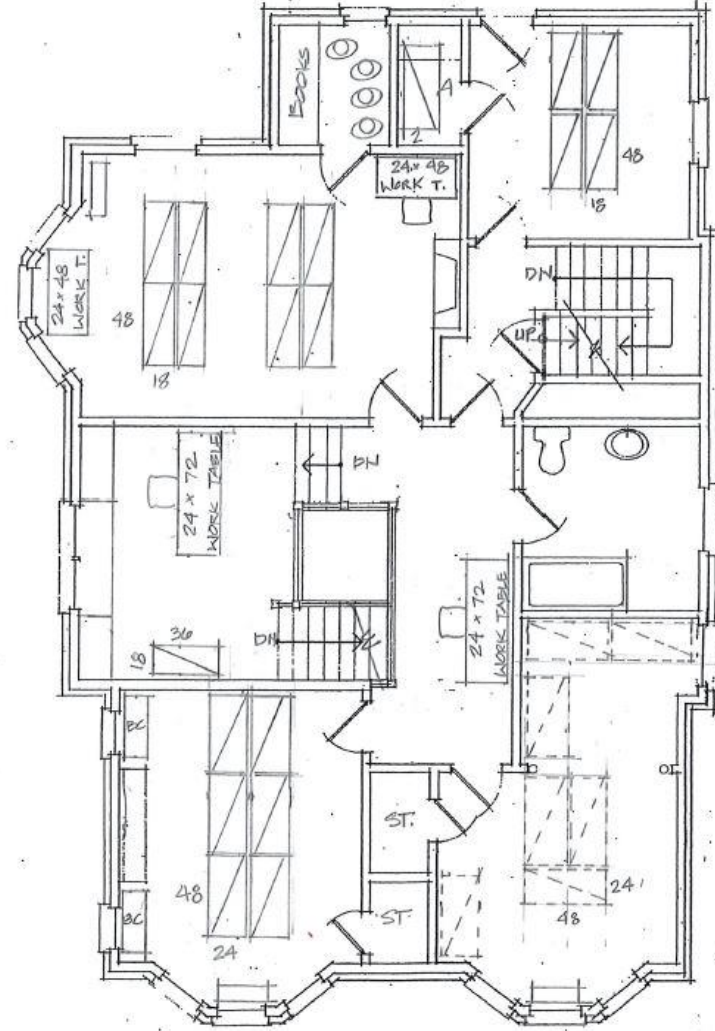
- “Goal 3: Design and implement a physical expansion project and related capital campaign to assure appropriate facilities support for LHS’s programming and collection for now and the future.”
- Board approved plan end of 2022.

Work Plan - 2023



Concerns

- * rugs / carpet
- * sprinkler system
- * peeling wall paper
- * structural concerns in blue bedroom
- * windows
- * light levels



Work Plan - 2023

- Full time Collections Manager: Jen Neuhaus 😊
- January - May

Inventory the Moore House

- Prepare for deaccession of the contents
- Prepare the house for the collections move

Update the CMP

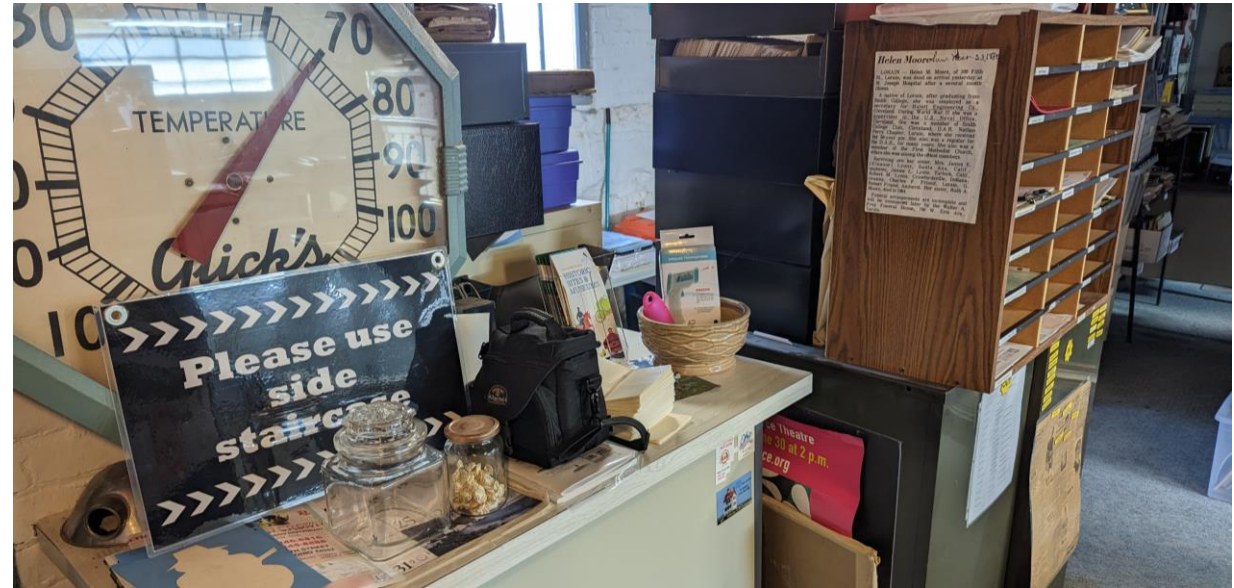
- Collections Management Committee - OK
- Board – OK
- Deaccession approved in April!!

Deaccession

- Prepare packets (5 forms)
- Letters to donors
- Offer items to neighboring museums
- Find an auctioneer

Basement


- Clear the basement for painting
- Prepare the basement for collections move



February 20, 2023

Whether you are a longtime fan of the Moore House or you've been meaning to visit, now is the time to see our beautiful house and learn about current and future projects – all in the name of making the most of the Moore House!


- On this tour you will see the beautiful architecture and display as if it were still the 1920s home of the Moore Family.
- Sample each of our past "themed" tours which included topics such as the Lorain Tornado, Prohibition, Helen Steiner Rice, and ... See more



Making the Most of the
Moore House

Tour Schedule:
Tuesday, March 7 at 10:00 am and 11:00 am
Saturday, March 11 at 10:00 am and 11:00 am
Tuesday, April 18 at 10:00 am and 11:00 am
Saturday, April 22 at 10:00 am and 11:00 am

Call and Reserve your spot today!



Work Plan – March & April 2023

Making the Most of the
Moore House “Last
Tours” of Moore
House



Work Plan

- May – August Ohio History Fund Grant project
- Rip up carpet in the bedrooms.
- Basement Updates
- Preparing House for new shelving and collections move.
- Auction in November



Old Post Office – end of 2023 – early 2024

- We made weekly visits to the Old Post Office beginning in October
- Ocular Assessment – TRIAGE SITUATION!
- Expedited Timeline (Had to be out by end of February 2024)



Moving Out

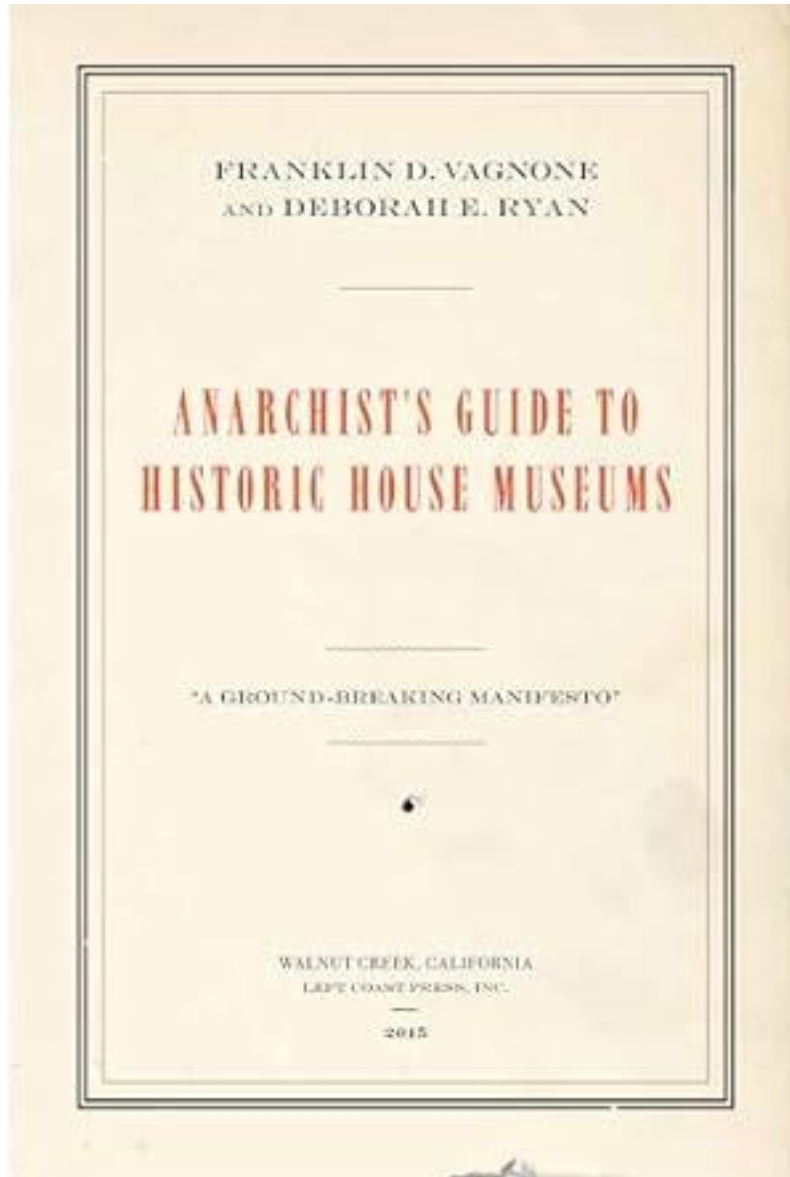






MH Today

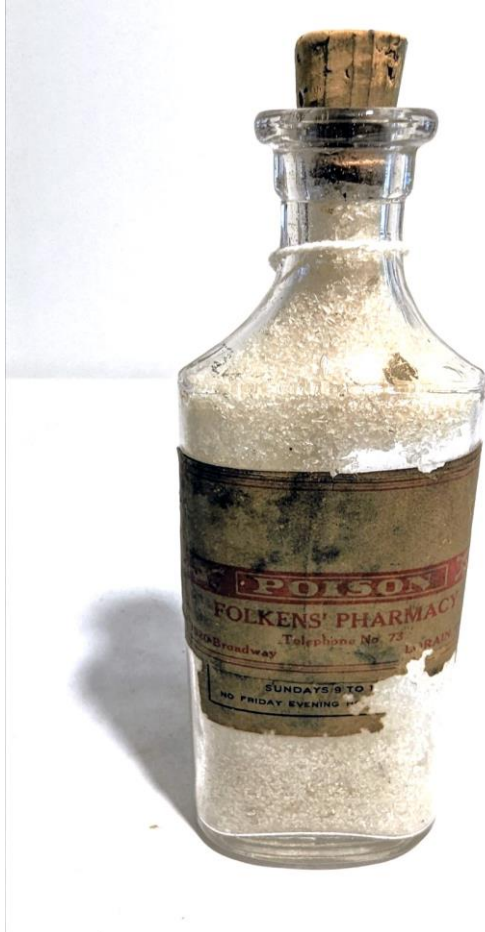




“...the visitor experience is more important than any other aspect of House Museum stewardship. When conflicts between use, collections, and preservation standards arise, discuss those differences and prioritize accordingly. However, it is most important not to let past methodologies and best practices limit new endeavors.”

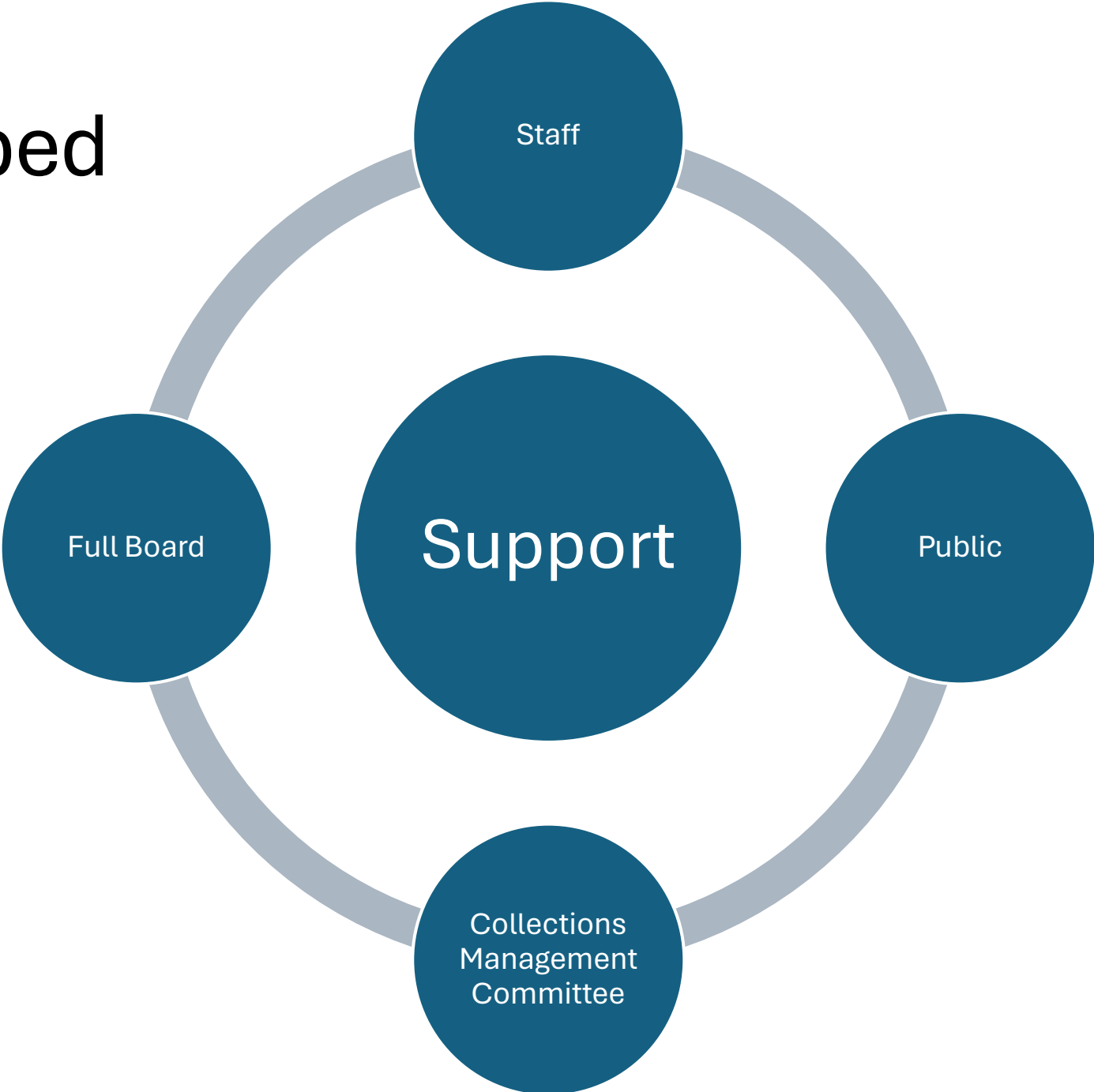
- Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums

Large Basement of Horrors



I forgive the past curators
who messed this up so
badly, for they knew
not what they did.

Things that Helped



Things that Helped:

Deaccession Form

Deaccession Form		Number _____
Date:	Location:	
Accession Number:		
Catalog Number:		
Object Name/Description:		
ANY potential historic or cultural value/usability: Yes No		
Donor or purchase information:		
See Attached:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Verification of Official Legal Title		
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentation for disposal method		
<input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal/Outside Opinions on Value		
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications with Donor		
<input type="checkbox"/> Photograph of item		
Condition: -Excellent -Good -Fair -Poor		
Notes:		
Background Research		
<input type="checkbox"/> See attached		
Donor/Ownership Information Found: Yes No		
Areas Checked		
<input type="checkbox"/> Deed of Gift Files		
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalogit		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
TIER CHART NUMBER:		
CRITERIA FOR DEACCESSION:		
Method of Disposal:	Disposal Completed? Yes No	Date:
Disposal Notes:		
Reviewed by Curator Committee: Yes No Reviewed by Collections Management Committee: Yes No		
Approved by Collections Management Committee: Yes No Date: _____		
Approved by Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Lorain Historical Society Yes No		
Date:		
Signed: _____, President Board of Trustees		

Deaccession Form					Number _____
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	
Significant to Lorain AND nationally or internationally significant	Significant historical value to Lorain. Strong provenance.	Historical value to a location in Lorain. Limited provenance.	Historical value to other locations, no Lorain connection.	Limited or no historical value. Limited or no provenance.	
Few if any duplicates in this or other collections and/or of high monetary value	Few similar examples in this or other collections.	Similar examples are held in this or other collections.	Common in this or other collections.		
Rare, likely irreplaceable	Uncommon or difficult to replace.	Moderately difficult to replace.	n/a	n/a	
Could be used to tell multiple powerful stories about Lorain and its place in the nation	Could be used to tell multiple powerful stories about Lorain.	Plays a supporting role in telling stories about Lorain.	May play a supporting role or illustrate a concept but is not the focus.	Plays a minor role	

CRITERIA FOR DEACCESSION:

- LHS has clear, legal title of ownership without limiting restrictions to the object being considered for deaccession. Deaccession of objects with unclear ownership is governed by the Ohio Museum Property Law of 2003.
- Works of inferior quality, works deteriorated beyond repair, and/or are hazardous or poisonous.
- Works inappropriate in relationship to the scope of the collections or no longer fits within the goals of the institution.
 - LHS Mission: The mission of the Lorain Historical Society is to engage members of the community and our visitors in our shared and diverse history through preservation, education, collaborations, and exciting programming for all ages, so that we learn from the past, develop civic pride, and transform the future.
 - LHS Scope: In fulfillment of LHS's mission, LHS collects artifacts, materials, and information that document the history of the City of Lorain and that tell the stories of Lorain's diverse community.
- Duplicates of works very similar to others in the collection, and which do not have sufficient educational value for comparative purposes.
- Works in such poor condition as to render them unfit for exhibition or study, and for which restoration is not feasible.
- The object is determined by the Curator Committee/Collections Management Committee to be no longer useful for research, education, or exhibition.
- Works acquired in violation of the UNESCO convention of 1970. (According to the convention, "Museums should not knowingly acquire objects, either directly or indirectly, that have been collected under illegal circumstances, or in a manner generally considered unethical or otherwise incompatible with professional standards and international treaties or conventions.")
- LHS is deaccessioning items as part of its overall Collections Plan to better administer and care for its remaining collections. Reasons must still be given.
- LHS has been ordered to deaccession by its governing authority, board, or director.

ACTIVE COLLECTIONS

EDITED BY ELIZABETH WOOD,
RAINEY TISDALE, AND TREVOR JONES



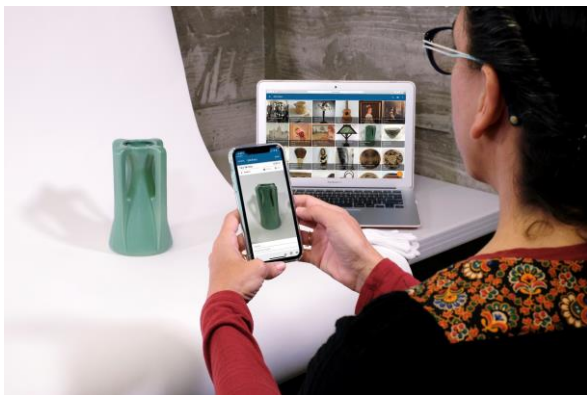
Things that Helped: Tiering Collections

“Ranking collections officially acknowledges what we already know but don’t talk about – that some collections are more useful than others and not everything is a Rembrandt.”

- Trevor Jones, “Tier Your Collections: A Practical Tool for Making Clear Decisions in Collections Management,” *Active Collections*.

Things that helped - Tiering Collections

Deaccession Form		Number		
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
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Could be used to tell multiple powerful stories about Lorain and its place in the nation	Could be used to tell multiple powerful stories about Lorain.	Plays a supporting role in telling stories about Lorain.	May play a supporting role or illustrate a concept but is not the focus.	Plays a minor role



Things that Helped

Past Perfect → CatalogIt

 **CatalogIt**

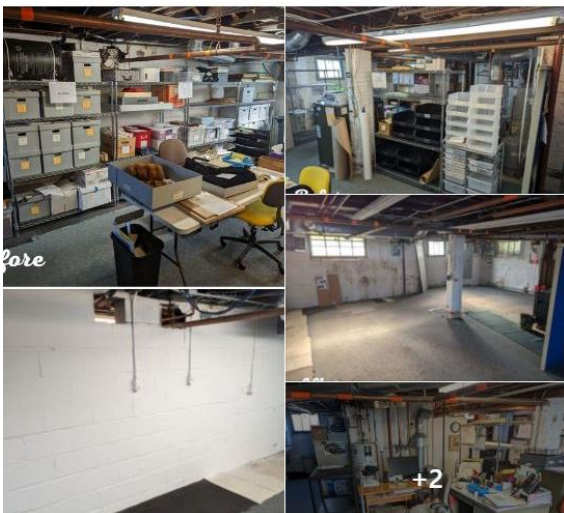


The beauty and preservation of the home is top priority and this solution will allow more people to view the home as well as see objects from the collection normally kept behind the scenes. Here's our current update... See more



Anne Sluterbeck Goss, Brandon J. Wysocki and 53 others 3 comments 3 shares
Like Comment Share

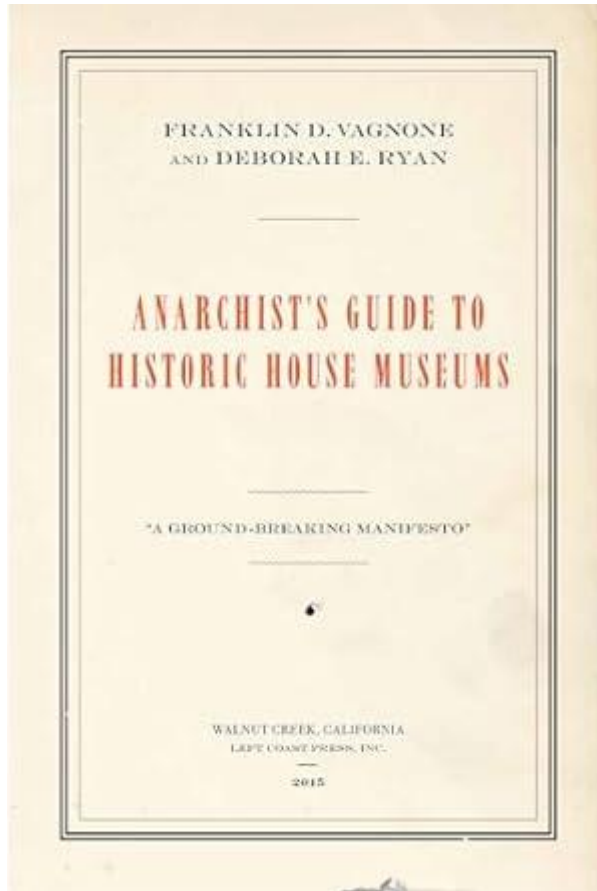
artifacts related to Lorain's history, it was time to create a safer environment to house them in. ... See more



Things that Helped

- Communication with Members & the Public
- Letters to our members about strategic planning.
- Social Media Updates

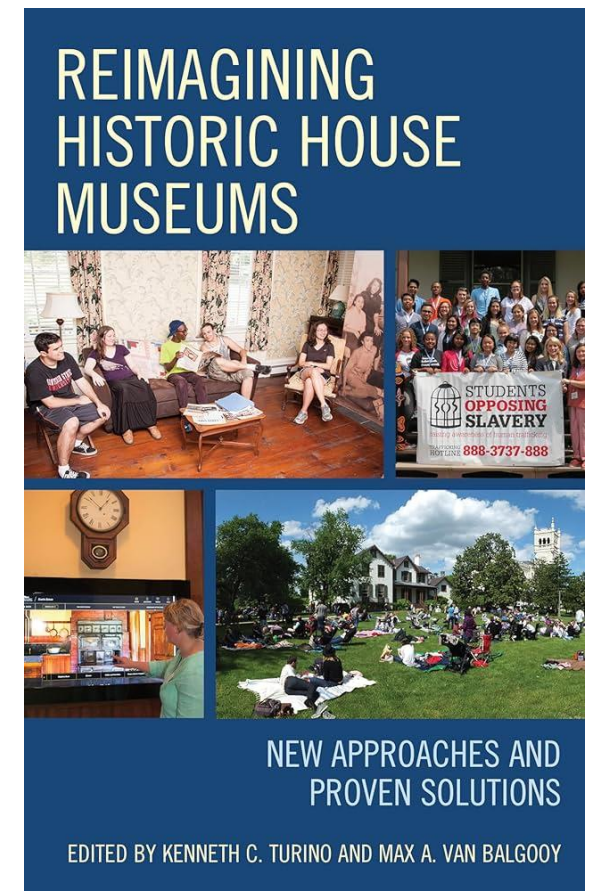
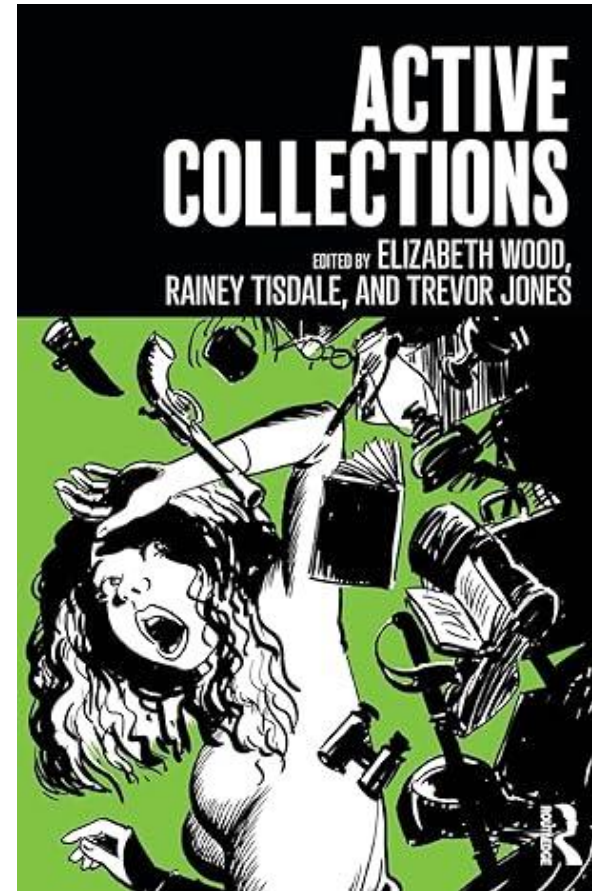
Resources & Inspiration



NEW SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSE MUSEUMS

Ensuring the Long-Term
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Historic Houses

Donna Ann Harris





Light at the End of the Tunnel

- Behind the Scenes Tours
- Quickly access items for exhibit
- Transferred 3-D Objects to Teaching Collection

Lorain Historical Society hosts open house in preparation for tornado centennial



Light at the End of the Tunnel

- Programming/meeting space
- A space we can be proud of!
- Next layer of weeding
- Identifying new projects for volunteers
- "Fun Find Fridays" on social media
- April 13, 2024 Open House



FUN FIND FRIDAY!

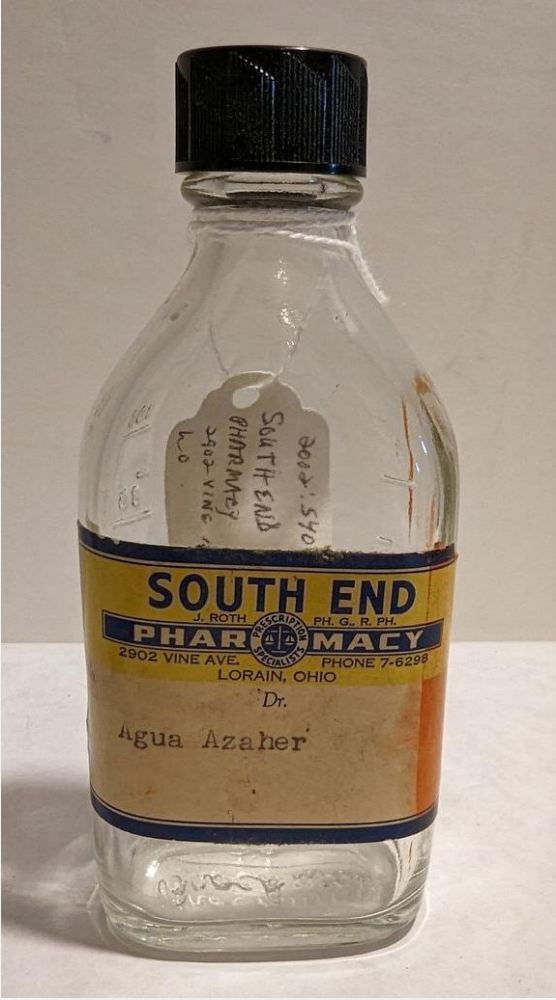
In 1928, 12 young women, all graduates of Lorain High School, were granted a charter by the Alpha Pi Sigma sorority, a national social and charitable organization. When it began in Lorain, there were 12 members and this was their ballot box!

Marble voting has been a part of social and fraternal clubs in the United States as early as the 17th century and, in some instances, one black "no" marble vote could defeat what was being voted on. Members chose their... See more



Light at the End of the Tunnel

Awesome stuff we've found so far!





LORAIN

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thank You!

- Jen Neuhaus: jneuhaus@lorainhistory.org
- Kaitlyn Donaldson: kdonaldson@lorainhistory.org