



# MVMUSEUM

MARTHA'S VINEYARD MUSEUM

## Annual Report 2015



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# 2015 Year in Review

Partnerships sprouted, bloomed, and came to fruition throughout 2015 as the Martha's Vineyard Museum followed its path to transformation into a true Island cultural center. Staff, Board, volunteers and interns built bridges to members, students, scholars, residents and visitors - often-times by joining forces with other Island organizations and institutions. We were reminded once again of the redeeming and rewarding effects of Island-wide collaboration.

One outstanding example of this collaboration occurred in our Education Department: we signed a three-year lease with the Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust for the Mayhew Schoolhouse and, with funding from the Beagary Charitable Trust, renamed it the Morgan Learning Center. The Center has been serving Island schoolchildren by day and Island adults by night, bringing the Museum closer to the day when the Marine Hospital provides permanent classroom space. The MLC (as it is now affectionately known to the staff) allowed us to expand attendance at our summer Discovery Days kids' programs to 450 - a 50% increase over 2014.

Still in Education, the Museum partnered with four Island public school classes to curate exhibits in the Spotlight Gallery. We partnered with a diverse group of Island preschool providers including Headstart, Project Headway, Montessori and Martha's Vineyard Community Services, to work with more than 100 pre-Kindergarten children, ages 3 to 5. Working within the Island's public school system, Museum educators brought Island history to more than 2,200 students in classrooms.

## **2015 Museum Exhibitions**

*Victorian Secrets*

*I Was a Stranger and You Took Me In*

*Lois Mailou Jones*

*Island Faces: Portrait Competition*

*Made of Clay*

*Nancy Luce: Madonna of the Hens*

*Identifying Eisenstaedt*

*Enchanted Isle: The Story of MV*



*A group of Pre-K kids examine an Island map at the Morgan Learning Center.*

A partnership with the Vineyard Gazette allowed us to produce *Previews from the Past*, a series of video vignettes using oral histories and collections, to be screened in the Martha's Vineyard Film Society's newly restored movie theaters in Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs. In an ongoing collaboration with the Harbor View Hotel, we continued a four-year-old tradition by presenting four standing-room-only PechaKucha nights during the winter.

Funding partners continued to be critical to the Museum's growth and success. A grant from the Linnemann Family Foundation allowed us to publish *Island Stories: Highlights from the Martha's Vineyard Museum* by Chief Curator Bonnie Stacy, featuring fifty items from the collection. This handsome full-color volume, photographed by Wayne Smith, has been a valuable tool for raising awareness about the Museum's mission and its plans for the future.

With the help of seven newly-trained docents, we presented 40 Museum Conversations to 436 senior citizens at four senior citizen centers across the Island. The Permanent Endowment for Martha's Vineyard and the Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank Charitable Fund provided important support for this program.

In addition to helping the Museum's Education Endowment grow through a \$500,000 Challenge Grant, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funded a professional evaluation of the Fresnel lens to create a plan for its conservation and eventual move to the Marine Hospital.

With funding from Edgartown voters through the town's Community Preservation Committee, the Museum was able to hire Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) to conserve and digitize five fragile Edgartown whaling logbooks, allowing a glimpse of handwritten records that have not been seen in living memory.

Dr. Chris Chapman, trustee of the Lois Mailou Jones Estate, played a pivotal role in the popular exhibit Lois Mailou Jones: Selected Works. He helped the Museum add some works by Jones to the Museum's collections, joining other 2015 donations such as a Rez Williams painting and a collection of milk bottles from historic Island dairies. Working closely with the Town of Aquinnah, the Museum helped re-open the Gay Head Lighthouse after its historic relocation and restoration. Record numbers of visitors have come to see the landmark. Bernard Fishman, Director of the Maine State Museum and co-founder of Stereoview 3D, worked with our Museum to present a Stereoview 3D lecture to a sold-out audience at Katharine Cornell Theatre.

In September, ten artists and fifty guests joined us at a private barn in Chilmark for the Museum's annual "You Can't Spell MARTha's Vineyard Without Art" Party. September was also the month when the National Trust for Historic Preservation National Advisory Council came for a four-day visit hosted by the Museum. As the organization spearheading the event, we made sure they got a good look at the Island's historic structures, with special emphasis on the 1895 Marine Hospital.

Large numbers of people became acquainted with the Museum, or with Museum properties in 2015. Over 25,000 visitors came to the lighthouses we steward: Edgartown, East Chop and Gay Head. In June we celebrated our largest-ever Evening of Discovery, with over 410 people in attendance. Captain Chris Murphy of the catboat *Vanity* conducted forty sails from June through August. And the Museum's membership mark topped 1,000 for the first time since 2007.

Members and donors are, of course, our most important resource. Without you and your support,

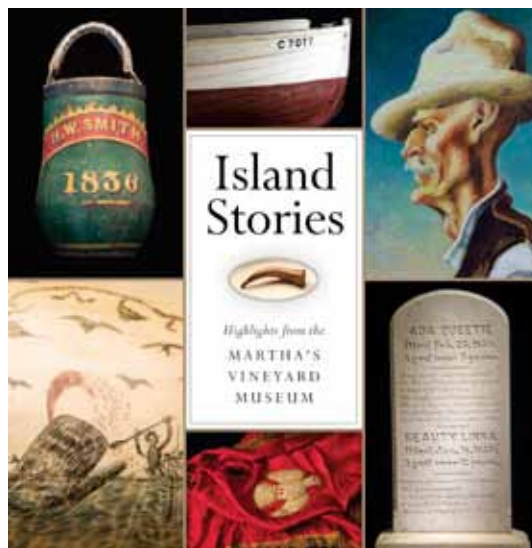


*Bernard Fishman presented historic stereoviews to a packed Katharine Cornell Theatre.*

your donations of time, talent and treasure, the Museum could not exist. Funds are essential, but so are art, objects and manuscripts that tell Island stories. Almost everything we acquired in 2015 was a gift from individuals (see pages 16-17 for a complete list, including 34 oral histories). We can't thank you enough for trusting us to steward the Island's irreplaceable history.

Finally, in late December, the Museum hired a replacement for outgoing Executive Director David Nathans, who stepped down after six years. A native of Pennsylvania, Phil Wallis was Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania. With an undergraduate degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and a master's degree in business administration from the Wharton Business School, he has been coming to the Vineyard for 45 years.

With our capital campaign making solid progress, we are delighted to have Phil at the head of our team during this very important stage in our history. He is a proven collaborative leader and builder of nonprofit organizations, and the ideal leader to complete the Martha's Vineyard Museum's historic transformation!



*The Museum published a collections highlight book in May 2015.*

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Beim  
Chair, Board of Directors

# 2015 Financial Report

## Statement of Operating, Restricted, and Capital Activities

	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>FY 2014</u>
Operating Activities-Income		
Membership Dues	91,450	102,746
Admissions & Fees	76,966	62,048
Lighthouse Admissions & Fees	103,049	149,826
Sales	25,399	32,279
Special Events	188,325	188,970
Grant and Restricted Funds Applied	223,486	310,384
Interest Income	245	572
Pledge Payments Received	33,091	59,092
Contributions	227,113	228,988
Transfer from Comprehensive Capital Campaign	520,000	430,000
Total Operating Income	<u>1,489,124</u>	<u>1,564,905</u>
Operating Activities-Expenses		
Programs, Collections & Exhibits	744,060	842,084
Lighthouse Operations	37,624	52,916
Cost of Sales	12,830	20,399
General & Administrative	328,288	297,609
Membership & Fundraising	321,680	346,707
Total Operating Expenses before Depreciation	<u>1,444,482</u>	<u>1,559,715</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operating Activities</b>	44,642	5,190
<b>Depreciation</b>	(47,784)	(52,411)
Restricted Revenue Activity		
Grants, Restricted Gifts & Future Pledges	243,852	144,290
Interest	926	1,294
Releases of Restricted Funds	(256,577)	(369,476)
<b>Change in Net Assets from Restricted Activities</b>	(11,799)	(223,892)
Comprehensive Capital Campaign Activities		
Contributions and Pledges (1)	2,445,854	858,853
Interest	2,344	1,968
Expenses Related to Fundraising and Site Improvement	(301,029)	(296,541)
Transfer for Operations	(520,000)	(430,000)
Addition to Endowment	(318,633)	0
<b>Change in Net Assets from Campaign Activities</b>	1,308,536	134,280
Endowment		
Addition to Endowment	318,633	0
Interest	331	0
<b>Change in Net Assets for Endowment</b>	318,964	0
<b>Purchase of Collection Items</b>	(1,823)	(515)
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<u>1,610,736</u>	<u>(137,348)</u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	6,376,297	6,513,645
Net Assets, End of Year	7,987,033	6,376,297

(1) The Museum received intentions to give through letters of Intent or pledges with certain conditions of \$743,000 in 2015, and \$541,298 in 2014, in addition to the contributions and pledges raised in the Comprehensive Capital Campaign as shown in the schedule.

# 2015 Treasurer's Report

In 2015 the Museum continued to make steady progress in developing its operations. After two years of strong growth in revenues from operating activities, the Museum had essentially flat revenue growth for the year after adjusting for the planned relocation of the Gay Head Lighthouse and the scheduled timing of grant funds received. With adjustments for these same two factors, operating expenses grew by slightly over 4.0% for the year. Included in these expenses was a 2.7% increase in payroll, benefits and taxes which is the largest expense category for Museum operations. With the support of contributions from annual mailings and the portion of the comprehensive campaign planned for operations, the Museum achieved a surplus of \$44,462 for 2015.

The comprehensive campaign to support the Museum's strategic transformation took strong strides forward in 2015. As discussed in prior years, the campaign is comprehensive because it is targeted to fund a range of needs - funds to purchase, develop and relocate to the Marine Hospital site; funds to support operations and transition costs during the years leading to relocation; and funds to build an endowment as a source of operational funding in future years. During 2015, the Museum raised over \$2.4 million in contributions and pledges, and in addition, received intentions to give of over \$0.7 million through letters of intent and pledges with certain specified conditions. These fundraising efforts brought the total contributions and pledges raised in this quiet

phase of the campaign to over \$11.7 million by the end of 2015 (including intentions to give).

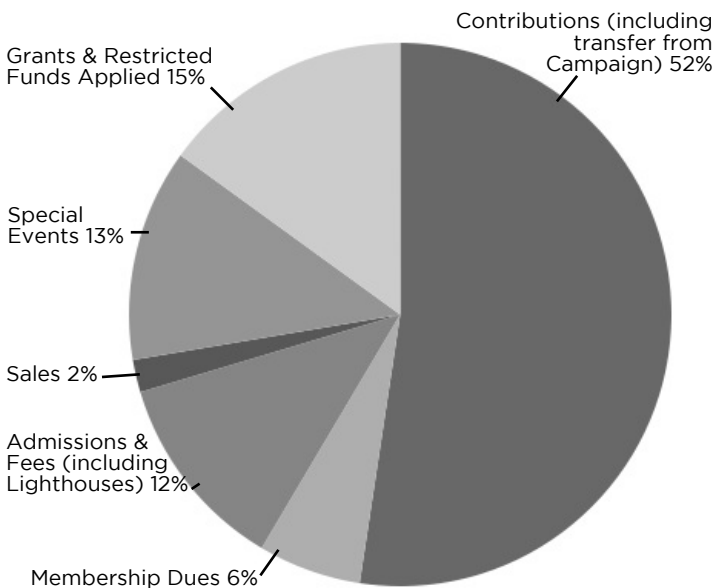
Developing a stronger endowment is an important strategic step for the Museum. In December 2014 the Museum was awarded a \$500,000 grant for endowment over five years from the National Endowment for the Humanities with a 3-to-1 match required to receive these funds. For 2015 the Museum met its fundraising target to receive the portion of the grant for that year and was able to add over \$300,000 to its endowment in 2015 in cash and pledges.

As stated before, the Museum is undertaking this strategy of transformation with key financial strengths. In addition to its invaluable collections, it has no debt and it owns two campuses - one in Edgartown and the other in Vineyard Haven - each with substantial real estate value.

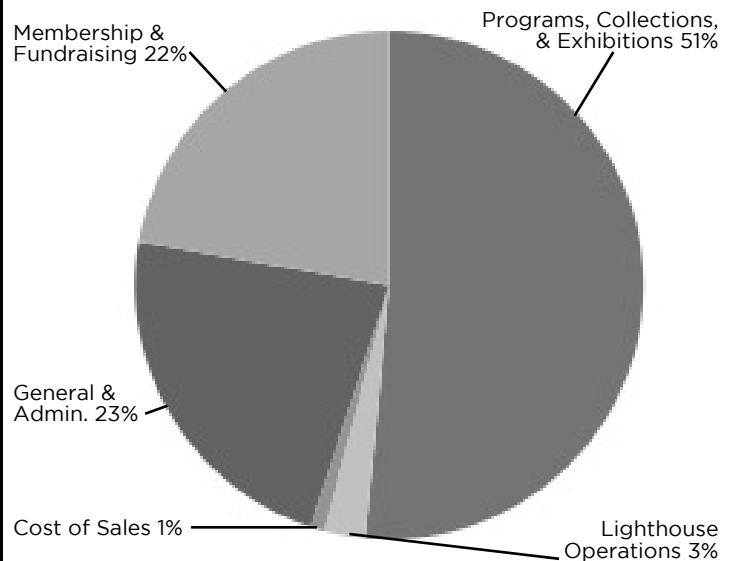
The opportunity to develop the Museum into a true cultural center for the entire Island is both exciting and challenging. With all of us working together - members, board, patrons, volunteers, staff, as well as the Island community - we believe we will be able to make it happen. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Dale N. Garth, Treasurer

## 2015 Total Operating Income



## 2015 Total Operating Expenses (Before Depreciation)



# 2015 Contributors

*In an effort to acknowledge the ways in which our contributors support the Museum, donors are listed according to their total giving. Gifts included are membership dues, annual fund contributions, capital campaign contributions, grants, employer matching gifts, endowment gifts, donations to fundraising events, and other charitable gifts from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2015 regardless of tax treatment. The Museum is grateful for every gift. We have respected the wishes of those donors who have expressed a desire to be anonymous.*

## \$100,000 and up

Edward & Joan Doherty  
Phoebe Lewis  
Aileen & Brian Roberts  
P. Roy & Diana Vagelos

## \$50,000 to \$99,999

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National Endowment for the  
Humanities  
Steven Rattner & Maureen White

## \$20,000 to \$49,999

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Dr. M. Trika Smith-Burke  
Anne L. Stone  
Vineyard Gazette

## \$5,000 to \$9,999

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 Eric Koenig  
 Ralph Krause & Marianne Schuelein  
 Scott E. Kulpa  
 Carol Laham & Paul Bridenhagen  
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Clifford Lasser & Elizabeth Adams  
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 Peter Lunn  
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 John & Irene MacKenty  
 Paul Magid & Anita Botti  
 Donald & Kay Mayhew  
 Thomas & Sara McCargo  
 Karin Stanley  
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 Alice & Brian McGowan  
 James & Madeleine McKay  
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 Carolyn T. Medgyesy  
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 Chocolates  
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 Pierre Northrup  
 S. Bailey & Joan Norton  
 Joseph & Julie Obermeyer  
 Louise W. O'Brien  
 Catherine O'Connell  
 Offshore Ale Co.  
 Jean F. O'Reilly  
 Tony Orphanos & Wendy Jeffers  
 Our Market Corporation  
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 Phil Regan  
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Jeremy Biggs  
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 Jim Connell  
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 George Sanford  
 Bob Tilton  
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## Gifts Received in Honor of

Stever Aubrey  
 Elizabeth Beim  
 John Belbruno  
 Bob Blacklow  
 Anna Carringer  
 Dr. Edward P Childs, Sr.  
 Nancy Cramer  
 Ann DuCharme

# 2015 Accessions

Photographs taken or collected by Basil Welch.

*Gift in memory of Basil L Welch from Linda M. Voluckas and Laurie C. Clements,*



Photographs of Manuel Swartz Roberts and Denys Wortman by Alfred Eisenstaedt; Denys Wortman Christmas prints; Letter from Lois Mailou Jones; program for Lois Mailou Jones exhibition.  
*Gift of Chris and Sheila Morse*

Photographic prints and materials relating to the filming of "Zeb: Schooner Life."  
*Gift of Gordon Massingham*

Books, journal, and ephemera relating to Martha's Vineyard 1801 - 1977.  
*Gift of the Vineyard Gazette*

Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society Fair Entry Registers, Treasurer's Ledgers, and Membership list, various dates 1858-1922.  
*Gift of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society*

Objects relating to Martha's Vineyard history, including water pitcher and goblets, scrimshaw, souvenirs, and medicine bottle.  
*Gift of James B. Richardson III*

Ephemera and photographs relating to Martha's Vineyard.  
*Gift of Betsy Hauck in memory of Thomas C. Armstrong*

Ephemera relating to Martha's Vineyard artists and Scott family.  
*Gift of Sally Cook*

Painting on two canvases by Kenneth Forman, Zack's Cliffs.  
*Gift of the artist*

Correspondence from Bob Hughes.  
*Gift of Browne Hollowell*

Archives of Patricia N. Nanon relating to her career as a choreographer and founder and director of the Yard in Chilmark.  
*Gift of Victoria Woolner Samuels, Cate Woolner, and Justine Woolner Wise in memory of their mother, Patricia N. Nanon*

Butter churn, firkin, and butter mold.  
*Anonymous gift*

Archival materials relating to Chilmark and Tisbury.  
*Gift of Hariette Otteson*



Eel spear made by Milton Jeffers.  
*Gift of Susan and Sherman Goldstein*

Taped interview with Albion Hart conducted by Renee Balter.  
*Gift of Renee Balter*

Typewriter owned by Helene Johnson and used by her and Dorothy West.  
*Gift of Abigail McGrath*



Photograph by Alfred Eisenstaedt of the giant North Tisbury oak.  
*Gift of Lulu Kaye*

Sampler worked by Caroline Baylies, aged 7, under the instruction of Margaret Arey, 1824.  
*Gift of Mark and Sally Haines*

Negatives and photographs of Menemsha and Chilmark 1948 - 1969 and Ephemera relating to Martha's Vineyard businesses.  
*Gift of Lindesay Aquino*

Pair of spats belonging to Mae Cronig.  
*Gift of Ruth Cronig Stiller*

Painting by Rez Williams, Magenta Boat Rough Seas, 2004.  
*Gift of Elizabeth Hawes and Davis Weinstock*

Letters sent to Court from persons throughout the USA during and pertaining to the Ted Kennedy inquest for the Dike Bridge/Kopechne incident.  
*Gift of the Edgartown District Court*

Drawing by Joseph Low.  
*Gift of Jennifer Low Oliver and Damaris Low Botwick in memory of Joseph Low*



Paintings by Julius Delbos:  
triptych of Edgartown harbor and  
view of S. Water Street,  
Edgartown.  
*Gift of the Vietor Family*

Book of minutes of the Bradley  
Memorial Church, 1953 - 1967.  
*Gift of Charity Randolph in mem-  
ory of Mildred Harris Randolph*

Archives, books, scrapbooks, and  
objects relating to the  
Johnson and Whiting families,  
West Tisbury.  
*Gift of Prudence Noon*

Minutes and papers from Bradley  
Missionary Society.  
*Gift of Ruth Scarville*

Five volumes of records of Loyal  
Order of Moose, Martha's Vine-  
yard Lodge No. 454. 1928 - 1965.  
*Gift of Peter Morse*

Certificate and booklet about  
Shurtleff cattle.  
*Gift of Patricia Tyra*

2015 Derby Kids' Day t-shirts.  
*Gift of Martha's Vineyard Striped  
Bass and Bluefish Derby*

Sextant made by Heath & Co.  
Ltd., Crayford London, 1906.  
*Gift of the family of Albert  
Wattenberg, a longtime summer  
resident of Martha's Vineyard*



Album of photographs relating to  
Lincoln Pope Jr.  
*Gift of Lance Pope*

Photograph of Bartimus Luce  
and Delia Pease along with vital  
records and other associated  
genealogical reference for the  
Luce and Pease families.  
*Gift of Susan Zaboltny*

Photographs of Martha's Vine-  
yard subjects and people; packet  
of 16 photographs of MV school  
houses and handwritten notes by  
Dionis Coffin Riggs.  
*Gift of Cynthia Riggs*



Collection of bottles and  
postcards relating to Martha's  
Vineyard.  
*Gift of Donna and Neil Weisman*

Collection of 11 fishing-boat  
weathervanes made by Jimmy  
Morgan c.1980-2000; Painting by  
Edmund Russell of the wreck of  
the City of Columbus, 1884.  
*Gift of Peter and Hilary McGhee*

Photograph album from 1920s.  
containing portraits and Island  
scenes.  
*Gift of Charles Giordano*

Collection of ferry, railroad, and  
airline schedules dating from the  
late 1960s through 2014.  
*Gift of Tom Dunlop*

Two ledgers from a Martha's  
Vineyard pharmacy dated late  
1700s.  
*Anonymous gift*

Three works by Lois Mailou  
Jones.  
*Gift of Chapman Pharmaceutical  
Health Foundation*

Papers that belonged to John  
and Ruth Galvin relating to the  
historic district and other  
matters; F & H T Anthony & Co.  
Stereo viewer  
*Gift of Judith Tankard*

Materials relating to Luxemoor  
Carved Leather.  
*Gift of Martha Schmidt*

#### Oral Histories:

Clifton Athearn  
Bruce Blackwell  
Bobbi Baker Burrows  
Barbara Child  
Noël Conrad  
Betty Farrow  
Rodney Farrow  
Carol Fligor  
Leona Coleman Flu  
Conrad Gaskin  
Frances Gaskin  
Frank Gonsalves  
Lucy Hackney  
Mildred Henderson  
Lisina Hoch  
Esther Hopkins,  
Rosetta Hughes  
Rupert Hughes  
Charles Kernick  
Margaret Logue  
Clyde Mckenzie  
Conrad Neumann  
Nancy Nitchie  
Paul Chapman  
Ruth Bonaparte Scarville  
Marge Scheuer  
Vera Shorter  
Tom Thatcher  
Steve Trieschmann  
Mary Hill Tucker  
Gertrude Ulmer  
Gretchen Tucker Underwood  
Brandy Wight  
Robert Woodruff

# 2015 Museum Volunteers

*Over 165 volunteers dedicated almost 4,000 hours to assist with the library, visitor services, curatorial projects, education projects, oral history, special events, lighthouses, and other areas of Museum activities. Our Museum, like so many others, depends on volunteers to fulfill our mission. They can be justly proud of what they accomplished in 2015. We thank them for all their hard work and dedication.*

Barbara Almquist	Brenda de Oliveira	Peg Kelley	Brad Rodney
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Jeremy Balano	Joan Dunayer	Chelsea Lee	Margot Salisbury
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Julie Brand	Allie Ford	Sherry Mattison	Billy Seabourne
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Mary Jane Carpenter	Sharon Graham	Barbara Murphy	Chris Trubiano
Heidi Carter	Posie Haeger	Chris Murphy	Pat Tyra
Kathy Cerullo	Rob Hammett	Ted Murphy	Lara Ullman
Linda Chapman	Kate Hancock	Emmaline Nathans	Trudy Ulmer
Lynn Christoffers	Anita Hotchkiss	Sam Nathans	Gaston Vadasz
Olga Church	Caitlin Houghton	Anne Nevin	Linda Vadasz
Matthew Clark	Thomas Huber	Nora Nevin	Bow Van Riper
Melissa Clay	Cornelia Hurst	Jane Norton	Anne Vose
Ruth Cogan	Genevieve Jeffreys	Greg Orcutt	Barbara Walsh
Caitlyn Colley	Brittany Jenney	Bea Phear	Maddie Webster
Susan Collinson	Clint Johnson	Cathy Pierce	Elaine Weintraub
Helen Colvin	Jessica Johnson	Jim Pringle	Margot Weston
Sean Conley	Lena Johnson	Lilie Pudnos	Lynne Whiting
Alison Convery	Sharon Johnson	Ally Reed	Trude Wolfarth
Bonnie Conway	Tyler Johnson	Jim Richardson	Emma Woodcock
Joyce Cooper	Wade Johnson	Alistair Rizza	Denys Wortman
Phil Cordella	Norma Jones	Jack Rizza	Marilyn Wortman
Patricia Correia	Kathy Kaempfert	Leslie Rizza	
Bonite Craft Grant	Lia Kahler	Lauren Robinson	

# MV Museum Board & Staff

\* As of June 1, 2016.

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Alison Convery	Phil Regan
Craig Dripps	Rosalie Shane
John R. Ettinger	Susan Shea
Woody Frank	James Tuck
Eve Gates	Davis Weinstock
Noel Gearhart	Preston Williams
Mark Lapman	

Caroline Drogin, *Education*  
Sarah Greve, *Education*  
Puravi Kumar, *Curatorial*  
Sydney Tate, *Marketing and Events*

