



Martha's Vineyard Museum Annual Report 2012



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2012 Year in Review

The momentum of the past few years began to pay off in 2012. It was a year marked by planning and progress toward our goal of becoming a “must-see” tourist attraction and a cultural community center for the entire Island. Board, staff, and volunteers joined together in some extraordinary ways to help chart a realistic path to both a more responsible present and a transformational future.

One major accomplishment in 2012 was the development of our new five-year strategic plan. Most of the Executive Committee and all staff members labored together from January through August, meeting monthly or more often, to paint a detailed picture of the Museum as it is today, what and where it wants to be in 2017, and the critical steps and milestones in the journey ahead.

Some highlights of our strategic plan include a more active charge in our mission language: we now seek to “engage and connect the public to the Island’s history, art, and culture.” This new energy brought about a substantial increase in admissions. In part this was due to the decision to expand our Gay Head Lighthouse seasonal opening to seven days-a-week, but that alone did not account for visitation increases of 15-to-40% between the Edgartown campus and lighthouses respectively, and an income increase of over 40%. Membership turned the corner and was up 12% in income. Nearly 20% of our census at the end of last year was in new members. One important benefit of the strategic planning process was the establishment of these and other ways of tracking our progress forward on significant service goals.

MV Museum Values

- * Integrity
- * Excellence
- * Stewardship
- * Inclusiveness
- * Intellectual Enrichment

de-accessioning, how we determine the mix of programming, and how we treat our members, our volunteers, and each other as staff and Board.

We continued in 2012 to focus our operating attention on three critical areas: exhibitions, education, and collections management. Our shows covered a wide

range of topics and media, from the Civil War to shipwrecks, from local theater history to contemporary portraiture, and from Eisenstaedt photographs to Island decoys. We also inaugurated our *Spotlight Gallery* space, which allows for smaller-scale and more rapidly changing shows, with or without themes. In this Gallery, our curatorial staff can present new acquisitions, feature rarely seen objects, or share some surprising discoveries. In September we opened *Enchanted*

Isle, a permanent exhibition that tells the story of Martha’s Vineyard from our geologic beginnings to the summer resort of today. And finally, with a grant from the Leavens Family Foundation, we opened the permanent *Hands-On History* spaces. In areas of the Pease House, Cooke House, and Carriage Shed, children of all ages are encouraged to “look and touch” and to be interactive with historical everyday objects and activities.

Our Vineyard school program continued its rapid and robust expansion in 2012, underwritten primarily by grants from the Beagary Charitable Trust and the Perkins family. The number of students served increased nearly 60% in just one calendar year—and that after a



*Lithograph by John Held Jr.
c. 1934. MVM Collections.*



Students from the MV Regional High School working on a Spotlight exhibit on the history of Island sports.

triple-digit increase the prior year. In addition, during the late fall Education Director Nancy Cole worked with a high school class as guest curators to mount an exhibition on the evolution of sports at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. These are encouraging signs that we are teaching the next generation about the value of the Museum and its collections.

Collections management was, and continues to be, the third critical area of our operating goals. Preserving our collections and cataloging them more rigorously, gaining a firmer grasp on our intellectual property, is an essential preparation for our move.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding from Edgartown enabled us to restore historic portraits last year, and CPA funds from the other towns, in grants given in 2011, 2012, and in 2013, are supporting the work of freelance professionals who are cataloging and protecting our archives and object collections. The big gift came virtually on Christmas 2012: a \$293,900 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that will make our enhanced archival records searchable online to scholars and students around the world.

Finally, three critically important projects directly related to our Marine Hospital property were completed in 2012. Just a few months after our purchase in late 2011, the Museum worked in partnership with the



Portrait of Benjamin Worth, one of six portraits conserved with CPA funds. MVM Collections.

Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head to contract PAL (Public Archaeological Laboratory) to perform an archaeological survey. Not surprisingly, the investigation revealed that the "Lagoon Pond Bluff Site" "includes intact deposits and features with the potential to provide important information about ancient Native American occupation and land use..." That information led to revisions of our second project, including plans for restoring the terraces, landscaping the front yard, and clearing a parking area. To protect the site for further investi-

gation, the Museum added tons of additional clean fill as it prepared the property to host events, beginning with a late June nearly sold-out *Evening of Discovery* benefit. The third major project was a fundraising planning study launched in late summer. Conducted by Demont Associates, the study interviewed more than 50 current and potential patrons, Board, and staff. The conclusion was that the Museum could design a successful capital campaign to transform the Marine Hospital property and the institution itself into a professional organization operating out of a museum-quality facility.

2012 was a year of incredible accomplishments, ably done under the chairmanship of Sheldon Hackney. Sadly, Sheldon was forced to step aside as chair in early 2013 due to illness, handing the leadership back to his predecessor, Elizabeth Beim. We know we speak for many of you as members and friends when we say: Thank you, Sheldon, for a job well done. And to use Sheldon's favorite expression for keeping the momentum moving forward—Onward.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Beim
Chair, Board of Directors

David Nathans
Executive Director

2012 Museum Exhibitions

We Are Marching Along: MV and the Civil War

Eisenstaedt and Us

Out of the Depths: MV Shipwrecks

Showtime: 100 Years of Theater

Island Faces: Portrait Competition

The Art of the Hunt: MV Decoys

Hands-On History

Enchanted Isle: The Story of MV

Spotlight Gallery

2012 Financial Report

Statement of Operating, Restricted, and Capital Activities

	FY 2012	FY 2011
Operating Activities-Income		
Membership Dues	82,659	72,880
Admissions & Fees	56,036	36,027
Lighthouse Admissions & Fees	132,829	90,992
Sales	27,978	26,411
Special Events	136,830	166,577
Interest Income	56	1,495
Grant Funds Applied	148,400	167,012
Restricted Gifts Applied	59,482	89,119
Pledge Payments Received	219,850	234,969
Contributions	224,735	221,534
Appropriation from Comprehensive Capital Campaign	157,615	0
Total Operating Income	1,246,470	1,107,016
Operating Activities-Expenses		
Programs, Collections & Exhibits	515,984	517,705
General & Administrative	314,753	298,648
Membership & Fundraising	314,688	305,528
Lighthouse Operations	48,809	85,845
Cost of Sales	11,330	11,426
Total Operating Expenses before Depreciation	1,205,564	1,219,152
Change in Net Assets from Operating Activities	40,906	(112,136)
Depreciation	53,399	62,237
Restricted Revenue Activity		
Grants, Restricted Gifts & Future Pledges	578,587	343,015
Interest	1,544	
Releases of Restricted Funds	(427,732)	(453,416)
Change in Net Assets from Restricted Activities	152,399	(110,401)
Comprehensive Capital Campaign Activities		
Contributions	115,829	3,400,329
Interest	3,591	9,322
Expenses Related to Fundraising and Site Improvement	(141,953)	(279,158)
Appropriation for Operations	(157,615)	0
Change in Net Assets from Campaign Activities	(180,148)	3,130,493
Purchase of Collection Items	(14,800)	(60)
Change in Net Assets	(55,042)	2,845,659
<hr/>		
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	5,785,718	2,940,059
Net Assets, End of Year	5,730,676	5,785,718

2012 Treasurer's Report

2012 was a year of continued growth in use and enjoyment of the Museum, with combined earned income from membership, admissions, and sales up over 30% from 2011. At the same time, operating expenses were maintained at a level slightly lower than the previous year. Thanks to a combination of fundraising efforts and a portion from the comprehensive campaign set aside for operations, the Museum achieved a surplus in 2012 of \$40,906 before depreciation.

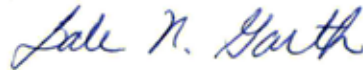
We started to implement some key financial elements of the strategic plan developed in mid-2012. We continued to expand museum activities and events and took steps to strengthen the organization, which will result in a slightly higher expense base in upcoming years. Substantial grant funding enabled the Museum to make great strides toward meeting the education and preservation goals not covered by the operations budget. Also, we continued to invest in maintenance, site improvements, and planning for our move to the Marine Hospital location in Vineyard Haven.

The Museum decided to prepare for a comprehensive capital campaign to be announced publicly in 2014 to support the key developments outlined in the plan. It is comprehensive because its funding targets include a

range of needs: funds to develop and relocate to the Marine Hospital site, funds to support operations during the several years of transition, and funds to build an endowment as a source of operational funding in future years.

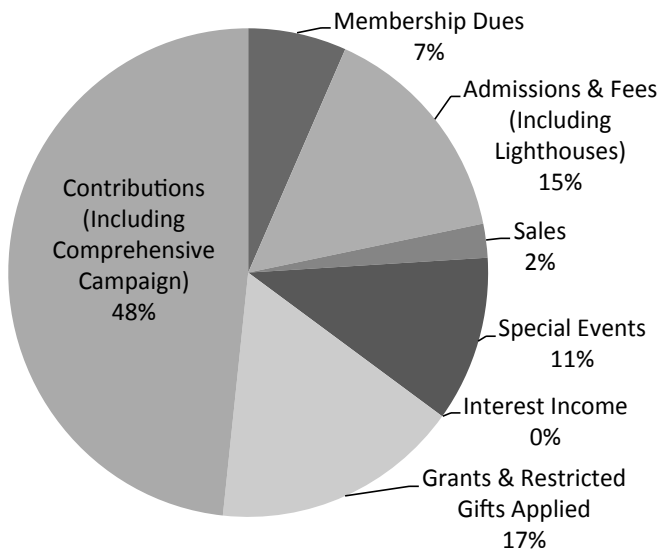
As we plan for a campaign, as well as start our detailed architectural planning for the Marine Hospital site, the Museum has a number of financial strengths. We have no debt, and we own two campuses—one in Edgartown and the other in Vineyard Haven—each with substantial real estate value.

This is an exciting period for the Museum, but the challenges to meet our day-to-day needs and accomplish our strategic objectives are great. With all of us contributing and working together—members, Board, patrons, volunteers, and staff—we believe we can be successful in encouraging the ongoing interest and caring of the Island community. We appreciate your continued support.



Dale Garth, Treasurer

2012 Total Operating Income



2012 Total Operating Expenses

(Before Depreciation)



2012 Contributors

In an effort to acknowledge the many ways in which our contributors support the Museum each year, donors are listed according to their total giving in 2012. Gifts included in the total are membership dues, Annual Fund contributions, Capital Campaign contributions, grants, employer matching gifts, endowment gifts, donations to fundraising events, and other charitable gifts from January 1 - December 31, 2012. The Museum is grateful for every gift. We have respected the wishes of those donors who have expressed a desire to be anonymous. All photos are from the MVM Collections.

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2012 Accessions

DVD copy of film chronicling a visit to Martha's Vineyard in June and July 1934.

Gift of the Shirley Historical Society, Shirley, MA.

Textbook, *Graded Lessons in Arithmetic* 1898-1899, used in Cottage City schools by Joseph Dunart.

Gift of Edgartown Council on Aging.

Photographs of the artist Paul Cadmus on a 1937 visit to Martha's Vineyard.

Gift of Virginia Crosby, Pomona, CA.

Photographs of Tisbury High School Senior Class and Baseball team, 1923.

Gift of Harlette Otteson, Chilmark, MA.

Two medicine bottles from the Vineyard Haven Marine Hospital; Life magazine featuring Martha's Vineyard photos by Alfred Eisenstaedt; tile made by B. Jean Silva.

Gift of Chris and Sheila Morse, West Tisbury.



Stanley Murphy gallery sign.
Gift of the Murphy Family, West Tisbury.

Letters from Katharine Cornell to Mrs. W. W. Kent, 1939.
Gift of the Chilmark Public Library.

Painted photographic portrait of Inez Pease; Scrapbook of Valentine Pease.

Gift of the Cunningham and Dey families, Lexington, MA.



Eighteenth-century wooden strongbox.

Gift of Jane West, Edgartown.

Photographs, book, ephemera from Martha's Vineyard businesses, and correspondence.

Gift of Lindesay Aquino, McLean, VA.

Historical objects from the Cooke/Shinn house, Edgartown including tools, pair of tin candle lanterns, and a Federal era looking glass.

Gift of Allen Shinn, Jr., Oakland, CA.

Painting by Judy Sunday of Black Dog at Gay Head cliffs.

Gift of Nicholas W. and Dexter P. Nerney, Greenville, RI.

Upis Land bumper sticker.

Gift of Craig Dripps, Oak Bluffs.

Swordfish spearhead.

Gift of Patricia Correia, Edgartown.

Flagman by Patrick Cashin.

Gift of the photographer, Brooklyn, NY.

Coupon books and stamps from the Vineyard Ice Company; Cards from Danny's Ice, Vineyard Haven; Japanese paper lanterns.
Gift of Myrnice Ravich, Evanston, IL.

Collection of clothing and accessories from the Athearn family.

Gift of Charles Kernick, West Tisbury.

Photographs, programs, and other materials relating to performances by the Island Theatre Workshop during the 1970s.

Gift of Joy Ryan, St. Louis, MO.

Correspondence and photograph relating to Katharine Cornell, 1952; Correspondence, photograph, and book relating to John Updike, 1980.

Gift of Thomas Thatcher, Vineyard Haven.



Seven decoys by Martha's Vineyard carvers.

Purchase and gift of Allan M. and Shelley L. Holt, Potomac, MD.

Emma Mayhew Whiting correspondence.

Gift of Donald and Catherine Mayhew, Vineyard Haven.

Stereo views of Oak Bluffs and postcard of Tashmoo Lake.

Gift of Keitha S. Fine, Aquinnah.

Photographs and ephemera.
Gift of Jim and Judy Richardson, Pittsburgh, PA.



Andrue, the Working Man, by Traeger DiPietro.
Gift of the artist, Vineyard Haven.

Photographs from WWII era showing servicemen and activities, Dutcher Dock dedication and Vineyard Haven boats; Rice Playhouse playbills, circa 1930's; Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute Brochure, 1890.
Gift of Susan Shea, Edgartown.

William J. Look campaign poster, 1924.
Gift of Bonita Craft Grant.

Glass-plate negatives and photographic prints of Cottage City scenes, late 19th century.
Gift of Neil Sweet, East Bridgewater, MA.

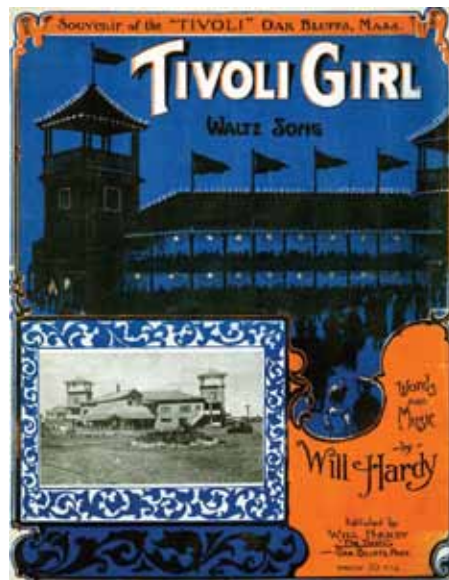
Record book of the Ladies Library League, Vineyard Haven. 1878-1921.
Gift of Meredith Gallo, Vineyard Haven.

Photographs of Gay Head Light and its keeper Frank Grider dating from 1938.
Gift of Michelle Dirkson, North Eastham, MA.

Twelve glass plate negatives of Martha's Vineyard subjects c. 1917.
Gift of Peter King, Boston, MA.

Partial manuscript "History of Edgartown" by Fred Chirgwin; bills and correspondence relating to Fred Chirgwin and the Colonial Inn of Edgartown.
Gift of Philip Fleischmann, Vineyard Haven.

Two Whalemens' Shipping Papers for the Mary Frazier dated 1876 and 1883.
Gift of John Osborn, Edgartown.



Collection of manuscript and printed sheet music by Will Hardy; photographs and news clippings regarding Hardy and the Tivoli, Oak Bluffs.
Gift of Sterling Smith, Martinsburg, WV.

Watercolor of Owen Park by Wayes Norton, Jr., 1959; Souvenir brick from Menemsha Clay Co.; Miniature decoys carved by Erford Burt, 1982 and Manuel Swartz Roberts, 1958.
Gift of the family of Thomas and Tenny Lehman, Cambridge, MA.

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