



MVMUSEUM

MARTHA'S VINEYARD MUSEUM

Annual Report 2017



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2017 Year in Review

Vision started to become reality in 2017. After recreating our mission and vision in 2016, we embarked and completed our new strategic plan in 2017. Then, with wind in our sails from outstanding success in education, outreach, fundraising, and the unanimous approval from the Martha's Vineyard Commission, the board made a monumental decision in October – begin construction of the new museum in Vineyard Haven! We launched our destiny. The transformation of the prior historical society into a new museum for the entire island was truly underway.

Our new mission galvanized programs and events across the museum: to inspire all people to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections to this Island and its diverse heritage. It called out to everyone to help in this exciting new journey to interpret the Island's history, all the people and places, so that together we might better shape our future.

Education continued to lead the way as the Museum worked within each of the seven Island's public schools, bringing Island history to more than 1,100 Islands student, creating over 3,500 educational experiences. The Museum partnered with a diverse group of eight other Island educational organizations, including Polly Hill, Biodiversity Works, Sail MV, MV Film Festival, Island Grown Schools, MV Shellfish Group, MV Fisherman's Trust, and The Yard.

The Education team continued to focus its curriculum on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) priorities, adding "Math: Life or Death," in which students learn about mean, mode, median, and range using empirical data collected from Island cemeteries.



HistoryMakers assembled on the Museum lawn in Vineyard Haven for a collaborative event.



Kids testing their boats made from recycled materials in "What Floats Your Boat?"

Mathematics became exciting overnight! We also collaborated with WYOB radio, the local high school radio station, to produce student run "Martha's Vignettes," a series of 90 second snippets of Island history.

Moving to the world of exhibits and programs, we explored a variety of dynamic material. In addition to the perennial favorite exhibit *Shipwrecks!*, 2017 was a great year for exhibits (9 in total) closely involving our Island community, hosting more than 60 programs/events across the Island. The museum hosted idea parties in the community gathering people together to brainstorm ideas for exhibits and programs in the new museum. We exhibited a number of community exhibits in the *Spotlight Gallery* including 25 years of the Scottish Society, 375 years of the Federated Church, local immigrants from Vineyard history, the story of the Shearer Summer Theater, and more.

The museum led historic walking tours of all down-Island towns as part of the *Lost and Found* exhibit and hosted Edgartown tours weekly all summer long. *The Local Immigrants Project* brought in a diverse audience, attracting a whole new (and multi generational and ethnic) crowd to our doors. In our fifth year, we welcomed over 700 people to PechaKucha presentations all winter long at the Harbor View Hotel.

In our emerging collaboration with the Island's African American community, we hosted an evening with The HistoryMakers, the largest African American oral history archive in the country, beginning a collaborative partnership that will continue to grow. We also collaborated

with the African American Museum of Boston and Nantucket to welcome Joy-Ann Reid of MSNBC to the Island.

In curation and collections, we acquired objects, archives, and photographs from over forty donors to the collection. This included the purchase of two whaling logbooks and the Lois Mailou Jones reference library at auction, thanks to generous contributors. We added eighteen new voices to the oral history collection. In addition, we digitized and made all our whaling logbooks accessible online through the Massachusetts Digital Commonwealth thanks to a partnership with the Boston Public Library.

Under the leadership of our Research Historian, Bow Van Riper, we saw the library activity (admissions and inquiries) grow by 23%. He also led the herculean task of expanding and recreating our *Dukes County Intelligencer* into the *Museum Quarterly*, adding two additional publications per year and giving the publication a fresh new look to compliment the transformation of the Museum. The size remains the same, so all those who collect will not be dismayed!

The response from the public was tremendous in 2017. Museum logged over 4,500 volunteer hours in various departments thanks to over 130 Museum volunteers. The Edgartown, East Chop, and Gay Head Lighthouses saw over 35,000 people visit. Our prize catboat VANITY voyaged the waters of Edgartown for more than forty sails in June, July, and August.

Our focus on the capital campaign achieved new highs, as we reached nearly \$20 million by year's end. Members and donors were, as always, our most important resource. Indeed, you are the reason for our funding successes. Without you and your support, your donations of time, talent,

and treasure, the Museum could not exist. As well, you entrusted us with your art, objects and manuscripts that tell Island stories. We can't thank you enough for trusting us to steward the Island's irreplaceable history.

Indeed the Board did make a momentous decision in October and right it was. Our Museum, your museum has now officially launched its transformation. The new Martha's Vineyard Museum is now underway. Thank you all.

Sincerely,



Stever H. Aubrey
Chair, Board of Directors



Philip S. Wallis
Executive Director

2017 Museum Exhibitions

The Local Immigrants Project

Lost and Found

Sandy Fisher's Edgartown

Shipwreck! Stories from Beneath the Sea

Vaclav Vytlacil: Rhythm and Color

Permanent Exhibitions

c. 1740 Thomas Cooke House

Carriage Shed of Vehicles and Vessels

Enchanted Isle: The Story of Martha's Vineyard

Hands-On History

Spotlight Gallery



Lucy Hackney helped break ground at the Museum's future home in Vineyard Haven.

2017 Financial Report

Statement of Operating, Restricted, Capital Campaign, and Endowment Activities

	FY 2017	FY 2016
Operating Activities-Income		
Admissions & Fees	92,446	83,642
Lighthouse Admissions & Fees	127,403	124,565
Sales	24,161	20,153
Special Events (Net of direct benefit to donors)	141,296	121,441
Grant and Restricted Funds Applied	139,974	82,510
Interest Income	1,638	966
Pledge Payments Received	19,500	22,500
Contributions	310,734	211,402
Transfer from Comprehensive Capital Campaign	525,000	665,000
Total Operating Income	1,382,152	1,332,179
Operating Activities-Expenses		
Programs, Collections & Exhibits	633,718	556,281
Lighthouse Operations	45,670	38,404
Cost of Sales	12,604	9,585
General & Administrative	495,500	277,403
Membership & Fundraising	154,679	436,672
Total Operating Expenses before Depreciation	1,342,171	1,318,345
Change in Net Assets from Operating Activities	39,981	13,834
Depreciation	(55,583)	(54,807)
Restricted Revenue Activity		
Grants, Restricted Gifts & Future Pledges	126,259	34,098
Interest	1,009	3,938
Releases of Restricted Funds	(159,474)	(105,010)
Change in Net Assets from Restricted Activities	(32,206)	(66,974)
Comprehensive Capital Campaign Activities		
Contributions and Pledges (1)	3,457,212	3,392,681
Interest and Investment Income	5,154	4,605
Expenses Related to Fundraising and Site Improvement	(230,964)	(381,759)
Expenses Related to Hazmat Remediation	(397,036)	(34,080)
Transfer for Operations	(525,000)	(665,000)
Investment in Assets for Vineyard Haven Campus	(2,577,884)	(665,061)
Additions to Endowment	(5,000)	(1,053,667)
Change in Net Assets from Campaign Activities	(273,518)	597,719
Investment in Assets for Vineyard Haven Campus	2,577,884	665,061
Endowment		
Additions to Endowment	5,000	1,053,667
Interest and Investment Income	178,128	6,058
Change in Net Assets for Endowment	183,128	1,059,725
Purchase of Collection Items	(17,461)	(2,832)
Change in Net Assets	2,422,225	2,211,726
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	10,198,759	7,987,033
Net Assets, End of Year	12,620,984	10,198,759

- (1) In addition to the contributions and pledges raised in the Capital Campaign as shown in the schedule, the Museum received intentions to give through Letters of Intent or pledges with certain conditions of \$275,000 in 2017 and \$249,093 in 2016.

2017 Treasurer's Report

In 2017 the Museum made the momentous strategic and financial decision to move forward with the start of construction for the new Vineyard Haven campus. Architectural planning and construction preparation were completed along with various town and island approval processes. And fundraising from the comprehensive capital campaign and the planned sale of real estate from the existing Edgartown campus reached sufficient fund levels to make the decision to move ahead.

While these steps were underway, Museum operating activities and programming continued to show solid growth in revenue from operations. Operating expenses were well-managed with some planned growth in preparation for the relocation to the larger Vineyard Haven campus.

During 2017 the funds raised through the comprehensive campaign continued to grow steadily reaching \$18.3 million by yearend. The agreement to sell one parcel of the Edgartown property was completed and an agreement to sell a second parcel was actively underway. Further, in the spring of 2017 the Museum reached an agreement with a regional bank to establish a bridge loan of up to \$6.0 million to help the Museum manage the timing of cash flows during the construction process (none had been borrowed by yearend). Together these components provided the basis for moving forward with the commitment of funds to construction.

In the summer of 2017, the Museum reached an agreement with Consigli, a major Boston contractor, to manage the construction of the new campus. Combined with some additional construction costs outside of the contract along with non-construction costs, the total project budget was slightly less than \$18.0 million. Prior to the start of construction the Museum incurred significant project costs as part of this budget for hazardous material abatement, demolition and archaeological explorations. With these steps mostly completed, the actual construction began in the early fall of 2017, and by the end of the year total project costs had reach \$3.7 million (mostly capitalized but some expensed).

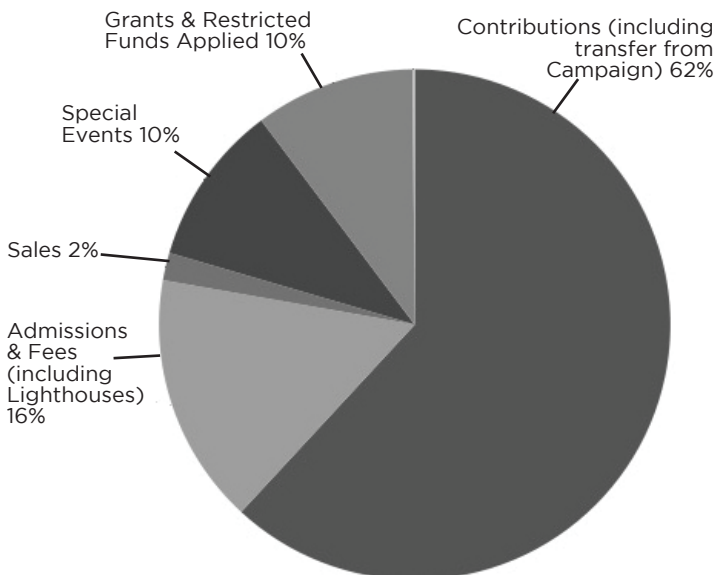
The Museum continued to build its endowment as an important strategic step for the future. With further commitments to support the National Endowment for the Humanities grant and strong financial market performance the endowment reached almost \$1.6 million by the end of the year.

During 2017, the Museum made the financial commitment to the new campus that will enable the Museum to become the true cultural center for the entire Island. With all of us working together -- members, board, patrons, volunteers, staff, as well as the Island community -- it is now becoming a reality. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

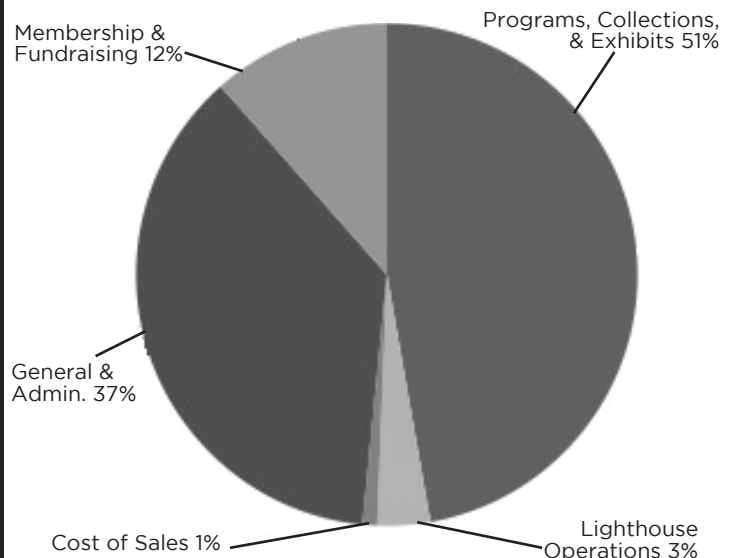
Dale N. Garth

Dale N. Garth, Treasurer

2017 Total Operating Income



2017 Total Operating Expenses (Before Depreciation)



2017 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, 2017 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.

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Scrapbook of photos from 1954 hurricane taken by donor
Gift of Shirley Mayhew, West Tisbury

Davies family photographs
Gift of Donald Mayhew, Vineyard Haven

Weathervane from atop the Federated Church
Gift of the Federated Church, Edgartown

Wooden relief carving made by Cooper Gilkes
Gift of Linsey Lee, West Tisbury

Log of the ship "Swift" (Francis Fisher, of Edgartown, master) on a whaling voyage from New Bedford to the Indian Ocean (1841-45).

Museum purchase through funds donated by Stever and Elsie Aubrey, David and Ann LeBreton, Chris and Sheila Morse, and Ron and Jill Sargent.

Porthole from the Port Hunter shipwreck.
Gift of John Lockwood, Pine Plain, NY



Poster from the first Island showing of the film Jaws
Gift of A. Bowdoin Van Riper, Vineyard Haven

Archival materials and objects relating to 4-H, Children's Theater/Island Theater Workshop, Island Youth Theater Drama Workshop, Minnesingers, and Sinfonietta. 1960-73.
Gift of Janet H. Erickson, Framingham, MA



Dancing dolls used by Mary Paiva Drouin
Donated in honor of Mary Paiva Drouin, Oak Bluffs

Sign and other materials from "Smoke 'N Bones" restaurant, Oak Bluffs
Gift of Lisa Kusinitz, Tiverton, RI

Archives, textiles, books, and photographs associated with the Hough family
Gift of Meta Hough and Alice Hough Robinson, Vineyard Haven

Deeds and other records pertaining to the Luckey house at Lamberts Cove
Gift of Laura Luckey, Salem, MA

Photographs and postcards relating to Martha's Vineyard c. 1930s
Gift of Linda Cox, New Hyde Park, NY

Photograph of Gerald Allen Pease (1885-1918), Dukes County Register of Deeds from 1916-1918
Gift of the Dukes County Registry of Deeds

Hine photo album
Gift of Eugene Goldfield and Laurie W. Douglas, Guilford, CT

T-shirts and sweatshirts relating to Island organizations
Gift of Lindesay Aquino, McLean, VA

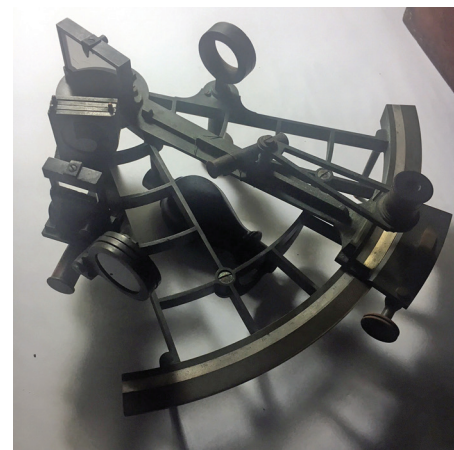
Bowl by Gladys Widdiss made of clay from Gay Head cliffs, 1994
Gift of Charlotte Hall, Edgartown

Two color photographs of the St. Pierre School (Marine Hospital), Vineyard Haven, taken in the late 1970s or early 1980s
Gift of Raoul St. Pierre, Seattle, WA

Archival materials associated with composer William Dinsmore
Gift of Fletcher Hodges, New York, NY

Sash worn by the donor at the Women's March in Boston on January 21, 2017
Gift of Caroline Mayhew, West Tisbury

Photograph by Albert Fischer from bridge of a fishing boat
Gift of Pam Flam, Vineyard Haven



Sextant previously owned by Rodman Swift
Gift of Alexander J. Forbes in memory of Agnes and Sally Swift

Photograph of World War I soldiers marching, Martha's Vineyard
Gift of the Brooks family of East Chop

Lois Mailou Jones research library. 26 volumes
Museum purchase with funds donated by Anne L. Stone, Baltimore, MD

Whaling/farming journal of Tisdale Smith of Edgartown, 1823-24
Museum purchase with funds donated by Anne Lewis and David and Nancy Vietor



12 issues of "The Delegate" magazine, 1968-1986; 1 issue of "A Tale of Two Cities" magazine, 1966
Gift of Skip Finley, Oak Bluffs

Promotional pamphlet from the "School of Creative Arts" girls' summer camp on West Chop, 1957
Gift of Muriel Minot, Santa Monica, CA

Two davit tops from a whaleship laid up at Osborn's wharf in Edgartown and subsequently used as porch supports for a house located near the Harbor View Hotel on North Water Street in Edgartown
Gift of Dan West

Fragment of Satinet produced at the Cleveland Satinet Mill, West Tisbury
Gift of the American Textile History Museum

Photograph of Edgartown Class of 1950
Gift of Alison Convery, Edgartown

Letters relating to the Norton family of Vineyard Haven and North Tisbury, 1852-85
Gift of Susan S. Nelson, Vineyard Haven

Journal of Light Station, Light House Service, Gay Head 1949-1951; mimeograph plan of Gay Head Light Station, 1924
From the estate of William Waterway

19th- and 20th-century ephemera relating to Martha's Vineyard
Gift of Anne Lewis, Glenview, IL

Photographs of Erford Burt, Burt's Boatyard/Maciel Marine, and the Bass Creek/Beach Road area, Vineyard Haven
Gift of Robert E. Maciel, Sr., Vineyard Haven

Postcards and ephemera relating to Martha's Vineyard
Gift of Deborah Rogers, Edgartown

Letter on Tashmoo Inn stationery describing a vacation in Tisbury
Gift of André & Barbara St. Germain



Archival material relating to the Agricultural Fair (1855 - 2015); Scale model of the Agricultural Society building; Posters, textiles, and trophies
Gift of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society

Tea sets that belonged to Polly Crowell Bodfish and her twin brother Eban Crowell
Gift of Anne Davey and Susan Weber, Vineyard Haven

Archival materials from D.A.R.; Huseby's Mt. Golf Course score card.
Gift of Patricia Tyra, Edgartown



Mahogany and ivory/whalebone walking stick previously owned by Antone Fortes; Antone Fortes's 1926 Wamsutta Mills ID badge.
Gift of Chris and Sheila Morse, West Tisbury

Research files for "The Chappy Ferry Book: Back and Forth Between Two Worlds - 527 Feet Apart," researched and written by the donor; Ephemera relating to Martha's Vineyard businesses
Gift of Tom Dunlop, Edgartown

Deed dated December 13, 1844, for the New Congregational Meeting House in Holmes Hole, Tisbury
Gift of Denys and Marilyn Wortman, Vineyard Haven

1910 Souvenir plate from Oak Bluffs
Gift of Karen Champagne in honor of Louis G. Champagne

Tisbury School Class of 1936 photo album
Gift of Michael Colaneri, Vineyard Haven

Drawing by Chandler Moore; photograph of Chandler Moore
Gift of Barbara Walsh in memory of Dilly Walsh, Chilmark

2017 Oral History Interviews

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Patricia Mead

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Geraldine Pinto

Jane Chandler Saltonstall

Grace Scarano

Elmer Silva

Leigh Smith

Woollcott Smith

Barbara “Sundy” Smith

Lyrinda Stork Snyderman

Pat Tyra

Gloria Wong

Besides the 35 West Tisbury Students

Interviewees involved in the Global Childhood Project are the participants of “Archive Live” Interviews collected at The Mini Maker Faire, Living Local Harvest Festival, Spooky not Spooky Exhibit Opening, and Holiday Cards and Dreidels Opening party.



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Kathy Cerullo	Rick Glassberg	Wes Mott	Pat Tyra
Linda Chapman	Alice Goyert	Barbara Murphy	Trudy Ulmer
Lynn Christoffers	Sharon Graham	Chris Murphy	Gaston Vadasz
Olga Church	Posie Haeger	Ted Murphy	Linda Vadasz
Matthew Clark	Rob Hammett	Anne Nevin	Bow Van Riper
Melissa Clay	Kate Hancock	Nora Nevin	Anne Vose
Ruth Cogan	Anita Hotchkiss	Jane Norton	Barbara Walsh
Susan Collinson	Thomas Huber	Greg Orcutt	Daniel Waters
Helen Colvin	Cornelia Hurst	Corey Pearson	Maddie Webster
Sean Conley	Genevieve Jeffreys	Bea Phear	Elaine Weintraub
Alison Convery	Brittany Jenney	Cathy Pierce	Margot Weston
Bonnie Conway	Lena Johnson	Jim Pringle	Lynne Whiting
Duncan Cooper	Sharon Johnson	Ally Reed	Preston Williams
Joyce Cooper	Wade Johnson	Phil Regan	Trude Wolfarth
Phil Cordella	Norma Jones	Jim Richardson	Denys Wortman
Patricia Correia	Kathy Kaempfert	Brad Rodney	Marilyn Wortman

MV Museum Board & Staff

* As of August 1, 2018.

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Heather Seger, *Advancement Director*

Catherine Merwin Mayhew, *Genealogist**
Chris Murphy, *Vanity Skipper**
* Volunteer

Summer 2018 Interns

Savannah Berryman-Moore, *Marketing and Events*
Kate Logue, *Curatorial*
Katie Van Riper, *Education and Curatorial*

