

Missouri Historical Society

FOUNDED

August 11, 1866

MISSION STATEMENT

The Missouri Historical Society serves as the confluence of historical perspectives and contemporary issues to inspire and engage our audiences.

CORE VALUES

- Foster community engagement
- Lead education and exploration
- Strive for excellence and expertise
- Commit to stewardship and sustainability
- Honor inclusivity and collaboration

OUR HISTORY

In the wake of the Civil War, Elihu Shepard, a local educator and entrepreneur, collected 286 signatures on a petition that invited the signers to form a historical organization “worthy of the ages.” On August 11, 1866, founding members met at the Old Courthouse and officially established the Missouri Historical Society “for the purpose of saving from oblivion the early history of the city and state.” The Missouri Historical Society holds the distinction of being one of the oldest chartered nonprofits in Missouri.

TIMELINE OF OUR 150 YEARS

- 1866** Organization founded
- 1892** Opened membership to the general public and hired first paid staff
- 1913** Moved to the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park
- 1927** Welcomed record-breaking crowds to view Charles Lindbergh’s trophies
- 1946** Hired first full-time Museum director, Charles van Ravenswaay
- 1987** Joined the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District (ZMD)
- 1991** Opened the Library and Research Center
- 1993** Accredited by the American Association of Museums (now the American Alliance of Museums)
- 1994** Received the first National Award for Museum Services from the Institute for Museum and Library Services
- 2000** Opened the Emerson Center expansion, which more than doubled the space for exhibitions and community programming
- 2014** Received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award for Teens Make History
- 2015** Announced a \$5 million contribution from Emerson to assist with the establishment of an African American History Endowment
- 2015** Entered into agreement with the City of St. Louis to operate and manage Soldiers Memorial Military Museum
- 2017** Received the first Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Award from the American Alliance of Museums

FINANCIALS

Sources of Public Support and Revenue

	2015	2016
ZMD	\$10,420,600	\$10,480,662
Contributions, Bequests, & Memberships	\$3,850,316	\$4,272,361
Investment Income (Endowment Draw) and Gains from Securities, Net	\$(278,383)	\$3,078,641
Grants, Earned Revenue, & Other	\$510,363	\$742,950
TOTAL	\$14,502,896	\$18,574,614

Program Expenses

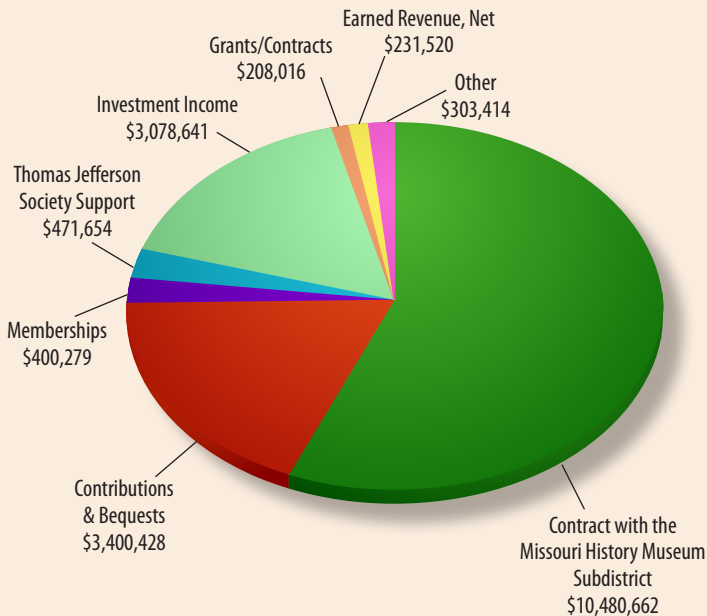
Community Education & Events	\$2,174,888	\$2,137,605
Library & Collections	\$4,380,124	\$4,656,189
Publications	\$384,915	\$382,542
Exhibitions & Research	\$4,302,976	\$4,177,380
Communications	\$1,011,096	\$1,073,289
TOTAL	\$12,253,999	\$12,427,005

Total Expenses

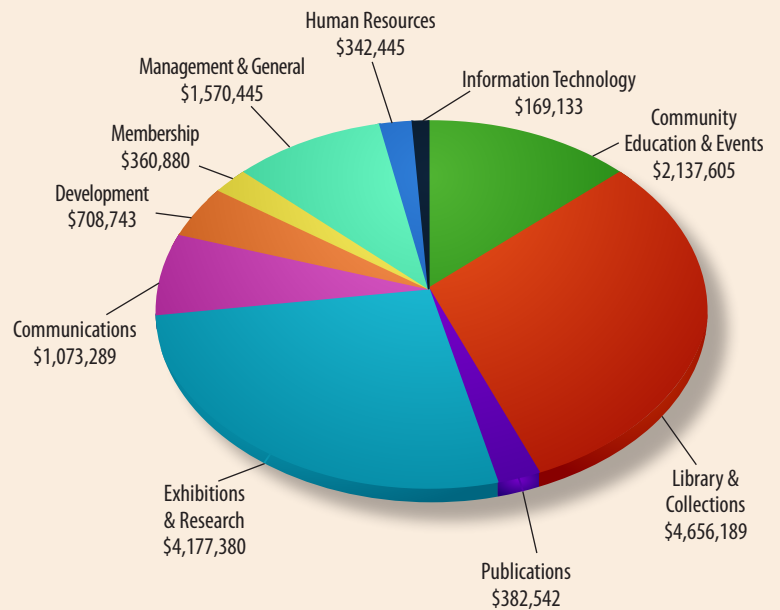
Programs	\$12,677,339	\$18,028,164
Administration	\$2,384,645	\$2,116,134
Fundraising	\$763,742	\$1,069,623
TOTAL	\$15,825,726	\$21,213,921



REVENUE AND SUPPORT



EXPENSES



SOLDIERS MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM

Construction Grant

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2016	\$1,256,236
2016 Contributions	\$7,462,602
Total Available for Use	\$8,718,838
2016 Expenditures	\$4,883,880
Ending Balance—December 31, 2016	\$3,834,958

Planning (Endowment) Grant

Beginning Balance—January 1, 2016	(\$125,282)
2016 Contributions	\$1,013,124
Total Available for Use	\$887,841
2016 Expenditures	\$414,242
Ending Balance—December 31, 2016	\$473,599

One of the most significant events in the Missouri Historical Society's 150-year history occurred within our lifetimes. On November 11, 2015, leaders from MHS and the City of St. Louis signed an agreement regarding construction oversight, museum development, and operations for Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, which includes the Court of Honor. This agreement allows MHS to lead a multi-million-dollar renovation of the historic structure to create a state-of-the-art museum facility that honors military service, veterans, and military families. After years of due diligence and planning, the renovation of Soldiers Memorial began on February 28, 2016. Since that time, significant steps have been completed, including the initial work on roof replacement, installation of HVAC ductwork, preparations for the new elevator, all asbestos remediation, installation of fire-suppression systems, and preliminary electrical work. Museum staff also held a series of meetings with architects, exhibition designers, donor representatives, St. Louis City employees, and others to review an overall exhibition interpretative plan. Soldiers Memorial is scheduled to reopen in November 2018.



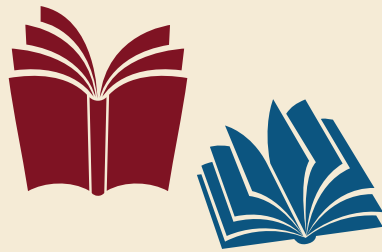
Rendering of the Court of Honor and Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, reopening in 2018

Why MEMBERSHIP Matters

Here's what our members made possible in 2016:

9 concerts
under the stars

TWILIGHT
TUESDAYS



3 books, 808 pages,
and 737 photos
published by MHM Press

1,000 trainers

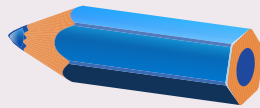
who caught
creatures and
explored the
Museum at our
**Pokémon
GO Night**



36,510
students served

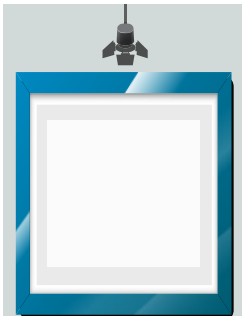


- Every fourth-grade class in the St. Louis Public School District served
- 2,204 homeschoolers served



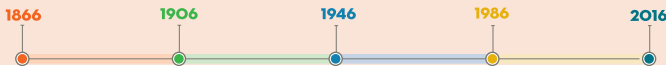
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little black dresses
on display in the
fourth most visited
exhibition



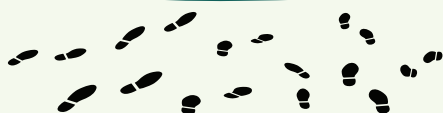
6 NEW
exhibitions covering
27,300
square feet

150 years of historical perspectives
since our founding in 1866



517,000+ visitors

and our **third
consecutive**
year with
400,000+
visitors in
attendance



177,159 artifacts searchable online
at collections.mohistory.org



More than **12 million**
people reached on **social media**
@mohistorymuseum

EXHIBITIONS

(on view January 1–December 31, 2016)

Total Attendance
Figures

236,895



Organized by the Missouri History Museum

51,249



THE WORLD IN YOUR CUP
& ST. LOUIS IN YOUR CUP

Organized by the Burke Museum
and the Missouri History Museum

184,173



Organized by the Missouri History Museum

66,921



Organized by the International Spy Museum

104,873



Organized by the Minnesota History Center

1,065 daily
average



Organized by the Missouri History Museum

ATRIUM INSTALLATIONS

Arch Perspectives

Where Did You Go to High School?

Capturing the City: Photographs from the Streets of St. Louis, 1900–1930

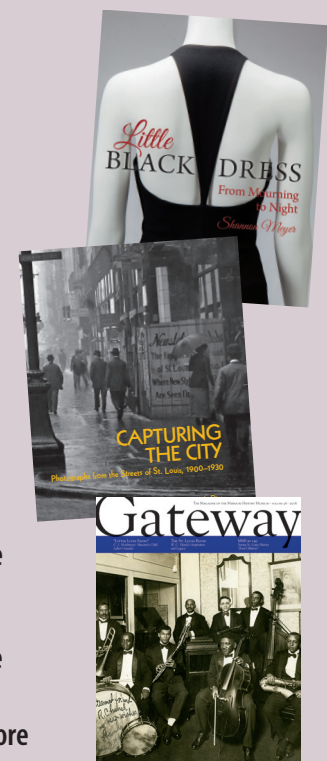
AWARDS



- Best Museum—Critics' Pick from *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *GO! Magazine*
- Grant from the National Archives
- Award of Merit from AASLH's Leadership in History Awards for History Clubhouse
- Award of Merit from AASLH's Leadership in History Awards for *A Walk in 1875 St. Louis*
- 2016 Top 100 Event from the American Bus Association for *Route 66*
- Best Place to Meet Up in St. Louis from *USA Today*
- Best Museum Exhibit—Readers' Pick from *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *GO! Magazine* for *A Walk in 1875 St. Louis*
- "Best Place for a History Lesson" by *St. Louis Post-Dispatch GO! Readers'* pick

PUBLICATIONS

- *Little Black Dress: From Mourning to Night*
Author Shannon Meyer, MHS Senior Curator
- *Capturing the City: Photographs from the Streets of St. Louis, 1900–1930*
Authors Joseph Heathcott and Angela Dietz, MHS Director of Digital Initiatives
- *The Aerial Crossroads of America: St. Louis's Lambert Airport*
Author Daniel L. Rust
- *Gateway*, our now twice-yearly magazine for Missouri History Museum members
- *History Happens Here*, our blog, where we feature fascinating pieces of regional history, behind-the-scenes peeks, and more



TOTAL
ATTENDANCE
FOR 2016
517,337



NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

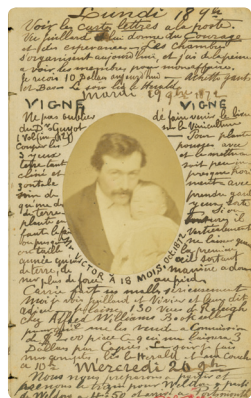
The Missouri Historical Society's collecting process seeks to serve and document all classes and all groups in the St. Louis region; the current collection priorities in all areas reflect this goal. The Museum Collections currently consist of more than **160,000** artifacts in a variety of formats that document the everyday life of the diverse inhabitants of our region. The Library contains more than **80,000** volumes. The Manuscript Collections comprise more than **1,800** separate collections, totaling **5,000+** linear feet of original manuscript records. The Photographs and Prints Collections contain more than **600,000** images. The Architecture Collections include records, blueprints, and designs of St. Louis architectural and design firms. The Broadcast Media Collections comprise audio, film, and video that document the history of 20th-century St. Louis and its broadcast industry.

During 2016 the Missouri Historical Society accessioned **474** items. Following are three examples of historic treasures that are now cared for by the Missouri Historical Society for the benefit of future generations:



French-American Miniature Portrait, ca. 1805

This miniature portrait of Amelie Marguerite Provenchère, painted in 1805, illuminates the history of the community of French Revolution refugees living in America. Provenchère (1774–1834) grew up in the French court at Versailles, where her father was a tutor to the youngest son of the future King of France, Charles X. She immigrated to America with her father and lived in Delaware and Philadelphia while her brother Pierre moved to St. Louis. Eventually she returned to France and lived there until her death. Her portrait is a valuable addition to our collections because it is related to several other Provenchère family items already in our care, including family papers and a miniature of Provenchère's niece, Marie Elise Provenchère (ca. 1815).



Camille N. Dry Diary, 1870–1873

Pictorial St. Louis: The Great Metropolis of the Mississippi Valley, a Topographical Survey Drawn in Perspective A.D. 1875, drawn by Camille N. Dry, has been an invaluable resource at the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center for many years. His diary is a valuable addition to our collections because it includes biographical facts about Dry and what appears to be information about his work on pictorial maps of other cities. The first two pages of the diary are written in English, and the rest are written in French. We are having all of the French pages translated in order to gain full knowledge of the diary's contents and make the text available to the public.



Anna, Mexican Gray Wolf Taxidermy Mount, 2016

The taxidermy mount of Anna, matriarch of Mexican wolves, preserves both a chapter of history in the passionate care of the United States's wild heritage and the very celebrity who helped save her species. Born on Earth Day 2001, Anna was the last surviving pup from the last remaining pure Mexican gray wolves, which were declared extinct in the wild in 1980. She lived at Marlin and Carol Perkins's Endangered Wolf Center in Eureka, Missouri, and gave birth to 41 pups in four separate litters as part of the EWC's Saving a Species breeding program. Several of her pups were released back into nature, which means all of the fewer than 100 gray wolves currently in the United States can trace their genetic roots to Anna and the EWC. Subsequent to Anna's death of natural causes in 2015, the Saint Louis Zoo studied her remains before a mount was made at Schwarz Studios, which has practiced the art of taxidermy in St. Louis since 1882.

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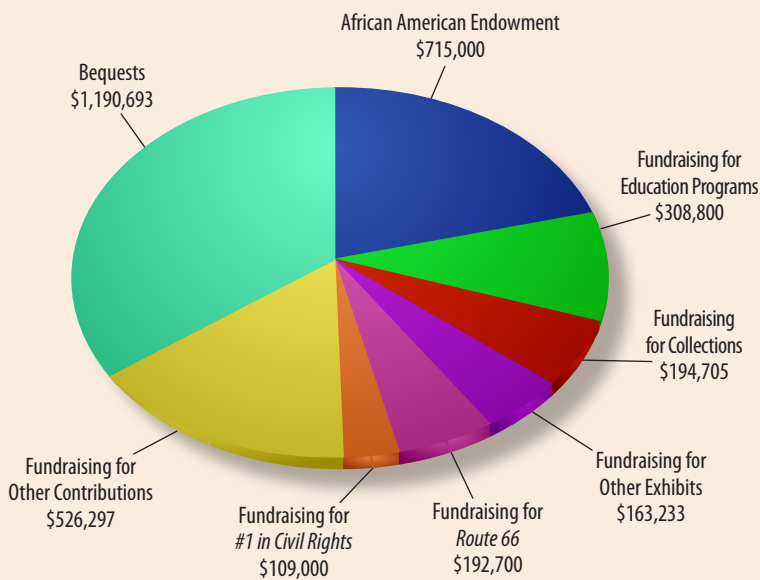
As part of the Missouri Historical Society's sesquicentennial commemoration, we debuted the 1866 Society, a special giving circle to help us continue our service to the community for the next 150 years—and beyond.

Members of the 1866 Society made a special one-time donation in addition to their annual membership gift. To show our immense gratitude for their above-and-beyond support, 1866 Society members enjoyed special benefits, including limited-edition lapel pins and invitations to exclusive events.

Thank you to the 379 individuals whose generosity will assist the Missouri Historical Society with fulfilling our mission far into the future.



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*Deceased