



Photo credit: Doetsch Contractors, Inc.

Introducing the Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie

Fall 2022

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

President's Letter

Lori Nerheim

It is truly an honor to serve as President of the Waukegan Historical Society for the next two years. This is such an exciting time in our organization's history. I hope you will join me in the work ahead to advance the Society's mission and grow to make an even bigger impact for everyone in our community. Your involvement and ideas are welcome!

As we began the new fiscal year, our dedicated Board of Directors has been hard at work to lead the Waukegan Historical Society forward by creating a detailed action plan to achieve our overall goals. I am pleased to highlight some of our recent accomplishments and share an update.

On October 18, we celebrated the groundbreaking for the future Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie. We were thrilled to achieve this significant project milestone together with our longtime partner, the Waukegan Park District. This day was the result of many years of thoughtful planning, collaboration, partnership and community support. We have been especially fortunate to work with one of the top preservation architectural firms in the country, Harboe Architects, and a team of expert consultants who have been advising us throughout this entire process. Now, the construction phase of the project has officially begun!

At the same time, our exhibits team has been designing the visitor experience and creating exhibit concepts for the new museum. Working with the award-winning exhibit design firm, Luci Creative, we have developed an exhibit framework for new Waukegan history and natural resources exhibits which will guide the next steps in the design process. Last month, we presented these design concepts to the Waukegan Parks Board, and they shared our excitement about the vision for future exhibits. We look forward to telling more of the dynamic and diverse history of Waukegan and creating a welcom-

ing space where all visitors feel comfortable learning, exploring, asking questions and exchanging ideas. You'll see a preview of the exhibit concepts in this issue.

Our research library volunteers have been busy cataloguing our collections and digitizing thousands of historic images as we are converting to new collections and archives management software to enhance curation, expand outreach and improve access.

We will be renaming our current museum space to better reflect the stories we wish to tell there. The name of that museum will be "The Haines House Museum at Bowen Park." The museum is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from noon until 3:00 p.m. We look forward to welcoming you!

I am profoundly grateful to all those who support the museum, research library and our Waukegan Historical Society community, and hope you take pride in the collective progress we have made. This would not have been possible without your involvement and generous support. We will continue to need your help as we are raising funds for the exhibit schematic design and exhibit construction phases which are getting underway and will continue throughout the rest of 2022 and 2023.

Thank you for helping to move the Waukegan Historical Society forward through your support now and over the past 54 years. Together, we have an opportunity of becoming a model for historical societies and museums through the use of leading technology to tell expansive stories and attract audiences beyond our current reach.

I look forward to connecting with you soon and hope you'll join us at our Holiday Open House on December 6th!

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A Groundbreaking Accomplishment: Construction Begins on Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie

On a chilly and windy day, the Waukegan Historical Society and the Waukegan Park District broke ground on their joint endeavor to bring a state-of-the-art historical museum to downtown Waukegan. The temperature outside the Carnegie Building might have been cold, but the sunshine and happy spirits at the ceremony won the day. As the custodians of Waukegan's history, we will surely look back on October 18, 2022 as one of the greatest days in the history of the Waukegan Historical Society.

Donors to the Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie were treated to a VIP tour of the top floor of the building. President Lori Nerheim delivered remarks of gratitude and optimism for the future to our donors and members of the historical society who have helped to make the restoration and adaptive reuse of the cherished Carnegie building possible. We are certain that Ray Bradbury was looking down on the day with admiration as his old library is about to be brought back to life.

As members, donors, and our board of directors made their way outside, city officials, the Park District Board of Commissioners and Executive Director, historic preservation architect Gunny Harboe, United States Representative Brad Schneider, State Senator Adriane Johnson, and community members excited about the project met to see the groundbreaking and listen to impassioned speeches by all those who share the vision of a restored Carnegie.

Berglund Construction is managing the construction effort working in collaboration with our project

team, and we expect the restoration to be complete within the next 12-14 months.

We all look forward to an even more wonderful event when the Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie opens its doors to welcome the community inside after restoration. We hope to see you there!

Waukegan Historical Society board members and Park District commissioners break ground for construction



Holiday Open House

Holiday Open House

December 6, 2022

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Haines House Museum in Bowen Park

Visit the Haines House Museum on December 6th to experience the Christmas spirit of the late 1800s. In lieu of a monthly board meeting, the public is invited to join the Waukegan Historical Society Board of Directors at the museum to celebrate the holiday season. Light refreshments will be served.

Vision of the Carnegie Exhibits

The Carnegie exhibits team consisting of Josh Bill, Diana Dretske, Bryan Escobar, and Ty Rohrer have completed the conceptual design phase with Luci Creative. This rewarding process has helped focus the main exhibit areas and we are so excited to showcase Waukegan's rich history in new and interactive ways!

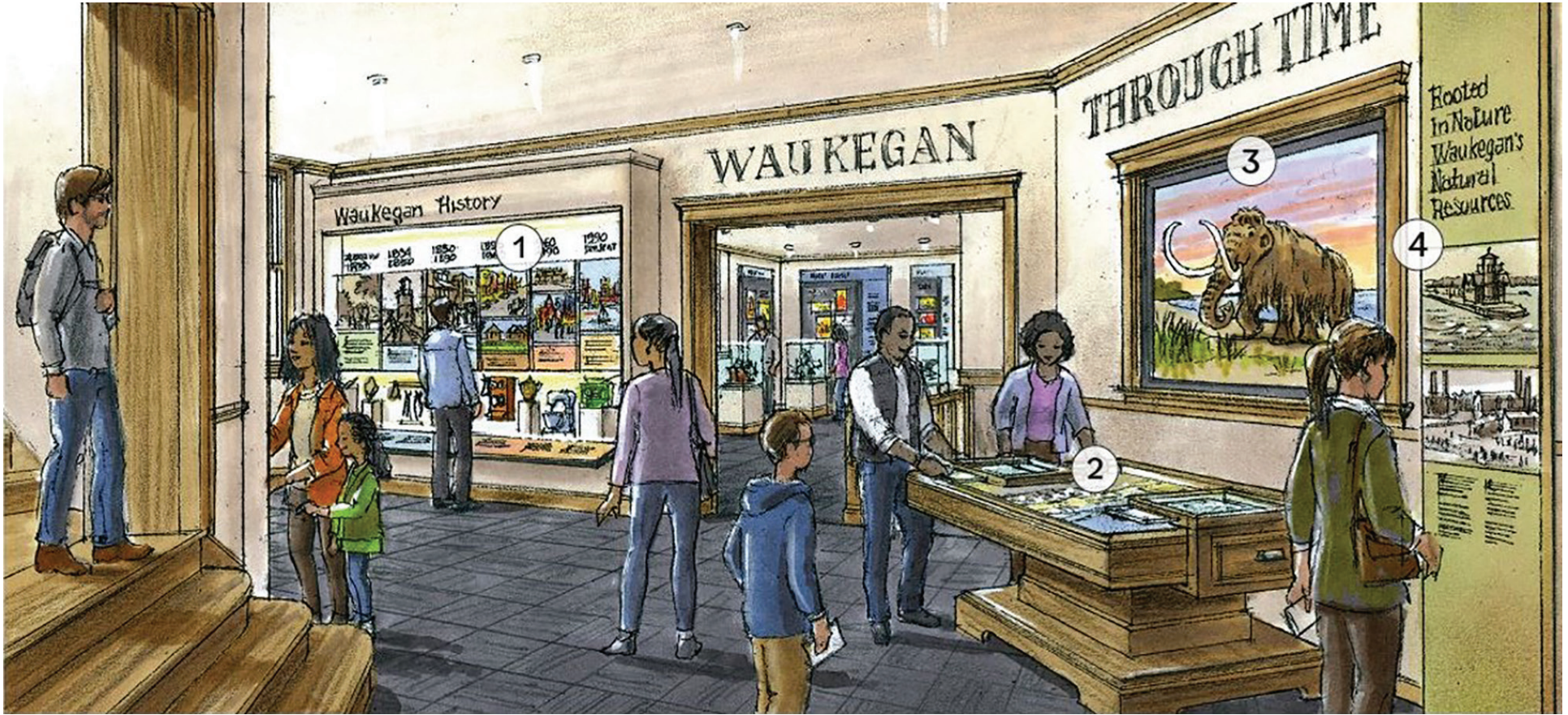
As we move into the schematic design phase, our plan is to feature a special exhibit on Ray Bradbury and Waukegan's influence on him. This exhibit would be housed in the room that was the children's reading room. In the lower level of the building, we plan on exhibiting our main Waukegan history exhibits. The exhibits will highlight Waukegan's natural environment and the many people that have come to Waukegan to call it home. These spaces will allow us to display many of the artifacts that have long been in storage.

Right: Early Children's Reading Room at the Carnegie Library.



Below: Rendering by Luci Creative of the proposed Bradbury Room in the Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie.



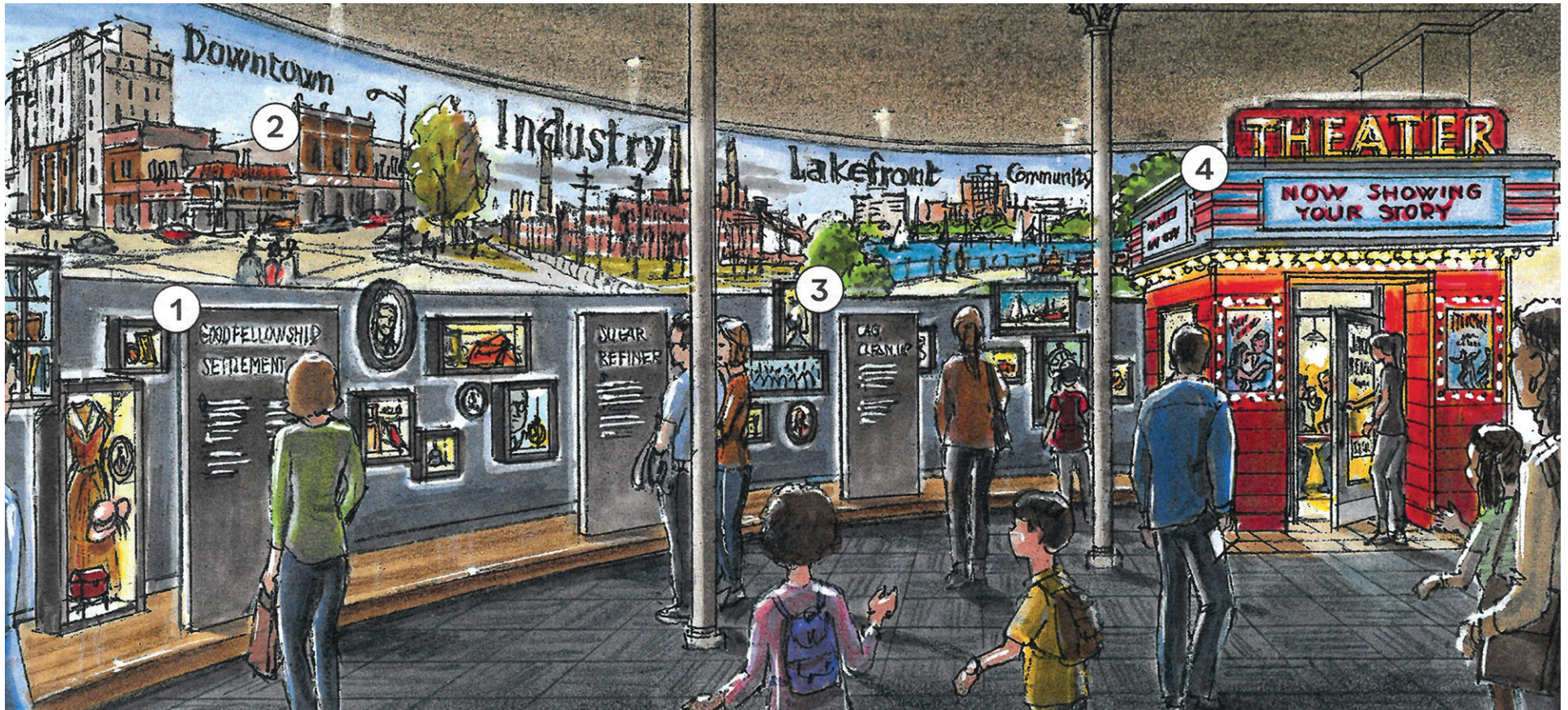


Rendering by Luci Creative of proposed exhibit space in the Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie.

Rendering by Harboe Architects of the plaza and corner entry.

Rendering by Harboe Architects of building addition for accessibility.





Above: Rendering by Luci Creative of proposed exhibit space in the Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie.

Summer Intern: Chris Bruno

This past summer we had a great intern who helped both in the research library and museum. He spent a good portion of his summer taking photographs of the museum artifacts that are currently in storage. As we prepare to move our collection to the Carnegie, it was important for us to get current images of the items, and to assess their conditions

before moving them. During this process, not only did Chris discover interesting items, but staff did as well.

In addition to the museum work, Chris helped our volunteers in the research library to inventory the research library collections, starting with the extensive scrapbook collection. The work Chris did this summer has helped the entire team with the colossal task ahead. Thank you for all your hard work Chris!

Ray Bradbury Literary Walk

We had our first major event inside of the Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie and it was a great success! The Ray Bradbury Literary Walk was brought back on August 20 to help celebrate the Waukegan Park District's "Ray Bradbury Day." The day called for poor weather (turned out to be beautiful all day) so all sites as part of the Literary Walk was moved in-doors to the Carnegie. This turned out though to be a wonderful evening where more than 450 attendees came to experience the building one last time, or for many, the first time, before it is transformed into the new museum.

Attendees were able to experience iconic scenes, acted out by local and regional actors, from some of Bradbury's most notable works. Folks were even treated to a puppet show that featured a narrator and music from a string quartet. We hope to be able to share parts of the performances from the Literary Walk later on our website and social media. The Literary Walk was funded through a grant from Illinois Humanities.

Scenes from this year's Ray Bradbury Literary Walk that was held inside the Carnegie Library. (Bottom left and right.)



Oakwood Cemetery Walk Recap

The 27th annual Oakwood Cemetery Walk was another great success with over 120 attendees! This year's theme "What Made the City Work" provided us the opportunity to share many of the stories of people who helped shape the growth of our town with both common and uncommon jobs. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and attendees who continue to make this an exciting event each year.

Performers from this year's Oakwood Cemetery Walk (Left and right.)



Thank You!

New Building Fund Donors

Marilyn S. Diehl
Gregory Alloian
Patty Colabuono

New Members

Dennis & Patricia Hentosh
Mikki Schuk
Molly Fletcher
Monica Burmeister
Kenneth Massey

Join us at the
**Holiday
Open
House**
on Tuesday,
December 6!

See page 5 for more
information.



Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

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STATE _____ ZIP _____

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MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+)	\$15.00
Student	\$5.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Patron, Organization	\$100.00
Life, Individual	\$150.00
Life, Couple	\$300.00
My additional gift	\$ _____

Make checks payable to
Waukegan Historical Society.

Volunteer

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Waukegan Historical Society

Founded in 1968, the Society collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits significant materials about the history of the Waukegan area. The Society, in cooperation with the Waukegan Park District, operates the History Museum and Raymond Library and publishes this quarterly newsletter.

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Visit our website for more information
about events, exhibits, and our
extensive library.

waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Manager of Cultural Arts: Ty Rohrer
847-360-4744
trohrer@waukeganparks.org
Museum Curator: Bryan Escobar
847-360-4749
bescobar@waukeganparks.org
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road
847-360-4772
library@waukeganhistorical.org
By appointment only



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See page 5.