

The Detroit Historical Society

Where the past is present.

By Susan Kehoe, Ph.D.

Photography by Brandon Schwartz



Gothic Room with 1912 City of Detroit bell in the Dossin Museum on Belle Isle.



Above: Sander's Storefront in the Streets of Old Detroit in the Detroit Historical Museum.

Right: Detroit Historical Society President Tom Buhl at the Detroit Historical Society Ball.

The Detroit Historical Society made history by holding its black-tie ball at the historic Packard Plant Building 22 in Detroit. Beautiful vintage Packard cars were on display as 400 guests strolled the area, enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres before dinner.

Mimi and Sandy McMillan of Grosse Pointe Farms, presenting sponsors, have ties to the Packard Motor Car Company. McMillan's great-uncle, Phillip H. McMillan, was a founding investor in the company in 1902 and served on the original board of directors. Continuing the family tradition, his grandfather and father both served on the Packard board until it discontinued operations.

Proceeds from the event support the Society's many exhibitions and educational programs at the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle. The Society covers 300 years of Detroit history with wonderful exhibits such as "Frontiers to Factories: Detroiters at work, 1701-1901."

It curates a collection of more than 250,000 objects and images that are exhibited on a rotating basis. Current exhibitions include a collection of toys from the early 20th century through the 1970s.

Guided educational tours are offered for students from grades



2-8. They learn about geographic, economic, social and cultural developments of the city, such as why the French settled here and why the fur trade was important. Detroit's natural resources, industrial development and the history of the Motor City are part of the presentations. The museum also provides many workshops and StoryLiving programs for various grade levels and classroom outreach with hands-on learning. Lesson plans are available for teachers at the Teacher Portal on the website.

Some may not realize that the Society has a second museum on Belle Isle named the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, which opened in 1960. This 16,000-square-foot museum has exhibits for more than 300 years of the region's rich maritime history on the Great Lakes and Detroit River. These waterways played a significant role in the

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Detroit Historical Society Executive Director and CEO Bob Bury addresses attendees at the Detroit Historical Society Ball.



Exterior of Detroit Historical Museum on Woodward Avenue.



Exterior of Dossin Museum on Belle Isle.

More Info

Admission is free.

The Detroit Historical Society and Museum
5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit
(313) 833-1805
detroithistorical.org

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum
100 Stand Drive
Belle Isle, Detroit
(313) 833-5538
detroithistorical.org

region's industrial and social history.

For 2016, the Society has planned behind-the-scenes tours for places such as the Detroit Opera House, Joe Lewis Arena and art in Detroit's Receiving Hospital. Films and documentaries are shown at both museums throughout the year.

Historical adventures and surprises await visitors of all ages at these amazing sites where the admission is free. The Detroit Historical Society tells Detroit's stories and why they matter. **NS**