Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

We are pleased to share this 2019 Annual Report. By the time you read this in 2020, however, New York’s museums and MANY will look very different than we did at the end of 2019. In these uncertain times, no one knows what challenges our museum community may face in a week, a month, or a year. But we have faith that as New Yorkers with common missions and goals we can support each other, share resources, and make it through together.

MANY is stronger and more deeply connected than ever before and we will be here to help our museums survive and thrive. At the end of 2019 we had 642 members from every region, budget size, and discipline and closed the year in a positive financial position. We are proud of the opportunities that we created for museum professionals to gather, to learn, and to grow their professional networks. This annual report details that growth and reach.

Our partnership with the Smithsonian Institution’s Museums on Main Street Program brought their Water/Ways exhibition to four New York museums. We signed the contract to bring the exhibition Voices and Votes: Democracy in America to twelve of New York’s smallest museums in 2024 and 2025 and will continue to leverage the resources of our nation’s preeminent museums to increase the capacity of our state’s smallest museums. It was an investment of funds and an expression of our strong belief that New York’s museums will significantly contribute to America 250.

We have many people to thank for making 2019 a notable year. MANY’s board of directors volunteered hundreds of hours of their time to strengthen our state’s museums and are increasing the value of what we can offer as an association to individual, organizational, and industry partner members. We welcome four new board members in our class of 2023 who will generously share their perspectives and expertise with our association and our museum community.

We thank you for your work as a museum staff member, a trustee, a volunteer, a student, an independent professional, a service provider, an industry partner, or a stakeholder. We couldn’t support museums without you!

Sincerely,

Suzanne LeBlanc
President, Long Island Children’s Museum
President, Museum Association of New York

Erika Sanger
Executive Director
Museum Association of New York
Officers
Suzanne LeBlanc, President
President, Long Island Children’s Museum

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Director of Building and Security Services, Asia Society

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Chair, Audit/Finance, Strategic Planning
Executive Director, The Chemung County Historical Society

Becky Wehle, Secretary
President/CEO, Genesee Country Village & Museum

Georgette Grier-Key
Chair, Governance Committee
Executive Director and Chief Curator, Eastville Community Historical Society

Tracy Kay
At-Large, Executive Committee
Executive Director, Westchester Children’s Museum

Eliza Kozlowski
Chair, Marketing Committee
Director of Marketing and Engagement, George Eastman Museum

Ken Meifert
Chair, Membership & Fundraising Committee
Vice-President for Sponsorship and Development, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

Thomas Schuler
Chair, Advocacy Committee
Chief Government Affairs Officer, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Brian Lee Whisenhunt
Chair, Program Committee
Executive Director, The Rockwell Museum

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Dayton Director, The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum

Billye Chabot
Executive Director, Seward House Museum

Starlyn D’Angelo
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Nomi Dayan
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Director of Collections Strategy & Archives, The Madison Square Garden Company

Brian Howard
Executive Director, Oneida County History Center

Peter Hyde
Owner, Peter Hyde Design

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President & CEO, Hadley Exhibits Inc.

Garet Livermore
Executive Director, Sagamore Institute of the Adirondacks

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Diane Shewchuk
Curator, Albany Institute of History & Art

Natalie Stetson
Executive Director, Erie Canal Museum

Marisa Wigglesworth
President and CEO, Buffalo Museum of Science, Tifft Nature Preserve

Staff
Erika Sanger
Executive Director

Hadley DesMeules
Association Administrator

Megan Eves
Marketing & Social Media Coordinator
Mariano Desmarás  
Owner / Creative Director, Museum Environments  
Region: New York City

Mariano Desmarás is an exhibit designer with two decades of working for museums around the world. He is both an architect and a graphic designer who has trained and worked in a variety of cultural and linguistic environments. He is the owner of Museum Environments (ME), which is presently designing the Molina Family Latino Gallery for the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian. Mariano has also designed numerous bilingual exhibits for institutions such as the Museum of Chinese in America, El Museo del Barrio, Inter-American Bank, and the Anacostia Community Museum, Smithsonian.

For the last decade Mariano has been immersed in studying and testing ways that design can advance inclusion in audience development for museums. He is the former Chair of the Latino Network of AAM and has lectured at the Smithsonian Latino Center. That experience informs his exhibit designs, in which he seeks solutions that are inclusive and celebrate diversity through audience participation.

Lara Litchfield-Kimber  
Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum  
Region: Mid-Hudson

Lara Litchfield-Kimber is the Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum in Poughkeepsie, NY. She earned her B.A. magna cum laude from Amherst College in Biology and her M.S. from Cornell University. Formally trained in the agricultural sciences as a plant pathologist, she left research and teaching to become an entrepreneur, starting Fertile Minds, Inc., an informal science education consulting group. She made the leap to higher education fundraising at Cornell University before joining the science center field in 2004 at the Science Center in Ithaca, NY.

She was named a Noyce Leadership fellow in 2010 at the recommendation of the Association of Science Technology Centers (ASTC), and in 2015 was the Athena Leadership Award Recipient for the Hudson Valley. She has been the Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum since 2012, and is currently serving as a member of the board of the Association of Children’s Museums in Washington, D.C.

Peter Hyde  
Founder, Peter Hyde Design  
Region: New York City  
Second Term 2020-2023

Peter Hyde is a highly accomplished designer with over 20 years of experience in the professional design field. Peter worked independently and for internationally recognized design firms before realizing his long term goal of founding Peter Hyde Design in 2012 to provide dynamic and innovative exhibit and experience design solutions for a wide range of project subjects and client types. Peter’s clients include museums, historical societies, learning centers, science centers, sports facilities, and Fortune 500 companies.

Peter is an Adjunct Professor in the Visual Presentation and Exhibition Design Department at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

Michael Galban  
Curator, Seneca Art & Culture Center  
Ganondagan State Historic Site  
Region: Finger Lakes

Michael Galban is the Curator for the Seneca Art & Culture Center at Ganondagan State Historic Site, a 17th century Seneca town site nationally regarded as a center for Iroquoian history and cultural preservation. His understanding of woodland people and the colonial history of the east is extensive and often lectures on the subject across the United States and Europe. Michael has expert knowledge of Native American material culture and art specializing in eastern woodland cultures and has been actively working with the many Haudenosaunee communities to preserve ancient arts for over 20 years. Michael has worked as a costume and historical consultant in film and television and on historic site development for many years - most recently working with the Museum of the American Revolution on their Oneida Patriots exhibit.

Emily Martz, PhD  
Executive Director, Sagamore Institute of the Adirondacks  
Region: North Country

Emily Martz is the Executive Director of Sagamore Institute of the Adirondacks, which is the steward of Great Camp Sagamore, a National Historic Landmark in Raquette Lake, NY. Emily’s work in museums combines her past careers that spanned the worlds of higher-education, nonprofits, and business. She spent a decade directing the sales and marketing for major mutual fund companies in the Pacific Northwest and Boston before earning her doctorate in History at University of Delaware. After teaching at Paul Smith’s College and Clarkson University, she moved into the nonprofit sphere directing the operations and finance for a regional economic development organization. Emily loves her museum work because through it, she helps others enjoy the rejuvenating powers of the outdoors and the lure of history.

Georgette Grier-Key  
Executive Director and Chief Curator, Eastville Community Historical Society  
Region: Long Island  
Second Term 2020-2023

Dr. Georgette Grier-Key, Ed.D, M.Ed. is the inaugural Executive Director and Chief Curator of Eastville Community Historical Society of Sag Harbor, NY, the President of the Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies, and Cultural Partner for Sylvester Manor of Shelter Island. She is one of the most outspoken advocates for the preservation and celebration of Long Island history with an emphasis on African American, Native American, and mixed-heritage historical reconstruction. As a founding member and lead organizer of the Pyrrhus Concer Action Committee, her work led to the re-building of formerly enslaved Pyrrhus Concer’s homestead in Southampton’s Village.

Dr. Grier-Key is a history and political science professor at SUNY Nassau Community College, where she created the new grant-funded History Institute. Dr. Grier-Key has been a guest curator at the Suffolk County Historical Society of Riverhead and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. She was awarded the Legacy Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Central Islip Branch.

To learn more about our MANY Board of Directors please visit nysmuseums.org/Board
Our Mission
The Museum Association of New York inspires, connects, and strengthens New York’s cultural community statewide by advocating, educating, collaborating, and supporting professional standards and organizational development.

Our Vision
MANY ensures that New York State museums operate at their full potential as economic drivers and essential components of their communities.

Membership Report

642 members
Year in Numbers

446 conference attendees with 37% first time attendees; 37% museum directors and 15% museum trustees

453 total fall program attendees

10 meet-ups

5 workshops

212 meet-up attendees

154 workshop attendees

10,291 social media followers with 842,891 total impressions

25 Museum Institute at Great Camp Sagamore participants
10 regional meet-ups highlighted different museums in each REDC region and offered exhibition and behind-the-scenes tours with time to connect with colleagues, MANY staff, and board members. 

5 workshops were chosen from the top rated sessions from the “Access and Identity” annual conference.

29% increase from 2018 programming

60% first time attending a meet-up

38% driving over an hour to attend

“MANY’s meet-ups and workshops are great opportunities to meet other museum professionals.”

- 2019 workshop and meet-up attendee
Thank you to our 2019 presenters:

Dr. Tonya Matthews, Associate Provost for Inclusive Workforce Development at Wayne State University
Sonnet Takahisa, Director of Education at the Brooklyn Historical Society
Andrew Marietta, VP, Regional Development at New York Council of NonProfits
Garet Livermore, Former Executive Director Sagamore Institute of the Adirondacks
Erika Sanger, MANY Executive Director
Bruce Whitmarsh, Executive Director at the Chemung County Historical Society

The New York tour of the Water/Ways exhibition is made possible by the Museum Association of New York. The exhibition and programming was made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Hadley Exhibits, Inc., the New York State Canal Corporation, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Folk Art programming is sponsored by New York Folklore, and supported by the New York State Regional Economic Development Initiative, a program of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts.
42 delegates from New York’s museums joined the American Alliance of Museums for the 11th annual Museums Advocacy Day in Washington, DC making 30 congressional visits.
446 Attendees
12% Increase in “decision-makers” attending
32% Organizational attendees with an annual budget between $100,000-499,999
38% 2nd or 3rd time MANY conference attendees
134 Presenters
34 Concurrent sessions
6 Pre-conference workshops
4 Special events
11 Capstone experiences
12 Awards of Merit

“The MANY conference is a great reminder of the strength and diversity of New York’s museum community.”

- 2019 conference attendee
2019 INCOME

PROGRAMS $155,023.61
FUNDRAISING $46,011.11
MEMBERSHIP $75,675.00
GRANTS $96,440.79
Total $373,150.51

2019 EXPENSES

OPERATIONS $33,509.56
PERSONNEL $181,101.89
PROGRAMS $156,939.48*
Total $371,550.93

*$4,820.01 Water/Ways deferred expenses to 2020
ANNUAL APPEAL

Frederica Adelman
Charles Bauder
Lynee Belluscio
Ian Berry
Susan Blackney
Robert Cassetty
Billye Chabot
Phoebe Cos
Starlyn D’Angelo
Dan Del Bene
Janice Fontanella
David Furber
Georgette Grier-Key
Nancy Helfrich
Brian Howard
Peter Hyde
Theodore Johnson
Tracy Kay
Dale Ketcham
Eliza Kozlowski
Suzanne LeBlanc

2019 Donations

Hillarie Logan-Dechene
Commendatore Aldo Mancusi
Shelia McDaniel
Ken Meifert
Freda Mindlin
Anna Musun-Miller
Sara Pasti
Patricia Sands
Erika Sanger
Thomas Schuler
Joan Schumaker
Diane Shewchuk
Patrick Stenshom
Natalie Stetson
Sonnet Takahisa
Becky Wehle
Brian Lee Whisenhunt
Bruce Whitmarsh
Conner Wolfe
Stephen Zabriskie

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The Museum Association of New York expresses our sincere appreciation to the following companies and organizations who have generously supported New York State’s museum community and our 2019 “Access and Identity” annual conference.

Visionary
New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)
I LOVE NY
Humanities NY

Platinum
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Silver
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ERCO
New York State Canal Corporation
Orpheo

Bronze
BBG&G
Cooperstown/Otsego County Tourism
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums

Partners
3D Photoworks
Association of Public Historians of New York State
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NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT

Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation

FALL PROGRAMMING SPONSORS

New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)
Humanitites NY
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Stewart’s Shops
Wegmans

The Museum Association of New York’s 2019 annual conference “Access and Identity,” Museum Institute at Great Camp Sagamore, and regional fall workshops were made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Note:
Donations from January 1 — December 31, 2019. Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions. Please contact MANY with any questions.
What’s next?

The Museum Institute at Great Camp Sagamore
September 22 - 25, 2020

Museum and Folk Art Forum
November 7, 2020

“The Power of Partnership” Annual Conference
November 8, 9, 10, 2020

Museums Advocacy Day with the American Alliance of Museums
February 22 - 23, 2021