



2024

Annual Report



Where Deaf history lives. Where Deaf futures begin.



Wendy Koch



Chriz Dally

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Champions of MDHAC,

2024 was a landmark year for our Museum, filled with bold programming, inspiring community engagement, and meaningful celebrations of Deaf culture. From the second annual ASL-for-ALL 5K to artist Susan Dupor's residency, your support brought Deaf history, arts, and culture to life in extraordinary ways.

We were proud to connect with over 5,000 visitors and participants through museum visits, immersive workshops, and thousands more through our Deafhood Institute classes, private tours, and cultural series. Your generosity created spaces for learning, dialogue, and joy - a true beacon for Deaf and hearing communities across generations.

Together, we are preserving the past, celebrating the present, and shaping the future of Deaf cultural pride. Thank you for being an essential part of our story.

With heartfelt thanks,

Wendy Koch

President, MDHAC Board

Chriz Dally

Executive Director



MDHAC welcomed artist Susan Dupor as our featured Deaf artist. Also her workshop, Deaf Self-Portraits, brought together participants of all ages to explore identity through art. It wasn't just about painting—it was about discovery.

Milestones & Moments



Booths

National Association of the Deaf Conference - Chicago, IL
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Day at Capitol - Topeka, KS
Deaf Festival at Nelson-Atkins Museum of Arts-Kansas City, MO



Ice Cream Social with Daniel Perez, Deaf artist from El Salvador, who shared his experience in creating artwork



Chuck Theel and Sally Luton facilitated Hands-On Immersive Activities



“Is DEAF a disABILITY?” Panelists: Melisa Dennis, Brandon Henry, Melissa Elmira, and Host Butch Zein



Moments like this remind us why MDHAC exists: to give space for Deaf stories, Deaf expression, and Deaf pride.

MDHAC was recognized in KansasTravel.org and posted in Facebook!



Kansas Travel at KansasTravel.org
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Deaf Author Karlie Waldrip and illustrator Susan Dupor signed their books for our volunteer librarian, Shirley Sears, to catalog in our library



A volunteer generously crafted a custom stand to display a video honoring Chuck Baird

Hard at work in developing a Deafhood Studies curriculum for youth



A group took a photo opportunity after finishing Deaf-Guided Docent Tour

Marvin Miller, MeLisa Dennis, Chris Dally and Joyce Burbaker

Chris Dally and Sam Griffins visit fascinating vendors for museum ideas at the American Alliance of Museums Conference in Baltimore, MD



Fireside Chat with Dr. Paddy Ladd, author of Deaf Culture and Deaf Pedagogies sponsored by DawnSignPress



Alyce Slater Reynolds, former DHF Board member, shared her experience visiting MDHAC for first time

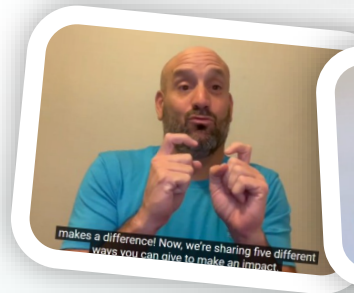
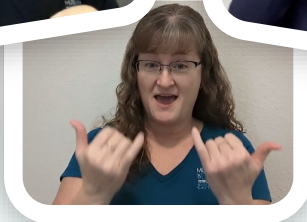


Board of Directors



Our esteemed team of ten volunteer Board members are dedicated to continuing and expanding our mission. We are a family of creative minds and professionals in different fields who are bound by an undying passion for Deafhood and redefining Deaf as “Deaf Gain” and redefining Signed Languages as “Sign Gain” that contributes to our human biodiversity.

- Wendy An Koch, President, Bellevue, WA
- Suzanne Dennis, Vice President of Governance, Lewes, DE
- Lorrie Shank, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Shawnee, KS
- Butch Zein, Vice President of External Affairs, Palm Springs, CA
- Kevin Clark, Board Member, Sacramento, CA
- Matt Ellis, Board Member, San Diego, CA
- Misty Flowers, Treasurer, Seattle, WA
- Iuy Vélez, Board Member, Marlborough, MA
- Kevin Smith, Board Member, Chicago, IL
- Elizabeth 'Buffy' Brading, Board Member, Washington, DC



Matt Ellis and Kevin Smith created a donor guide video to encourage people to donate toward MDHAC

Suzanne Dennis, Wendy Koch and Lorrie Shank assisted with creating videos for new a Hands On activity, “Scavenger Hunt”

Misty Flowers as Treasurer reviews budget and prepare reports for board members



Board member Butch Zein and his partner, Allen Baki, hosted a warm and successful fundraising gathering at their home in support of MDHAC’s mission



As the first independent 501(c)(3) museum of its kind rooted in Deaf-centered leadership, we're proud to serve as a beacon - for celebration, conversation, and connection.

At A Glance



Museum Visitors

1,742 people explored the stories, art and history of Deaf lives at our museum.



Website Reach

34,100 visitors explored our programs and resources online.



Featured Deaf Artist

Susan Dupor led a Self-Portrait Painting Class and shared her powerful work in the Chuck Baird Art Gallery.



Cultural Series Participants

1,162 people joined lectures, performances, and cultural events.



5K ASL-for-ALL

284 runners, walkers, and rollers, showed up for language and community pride in a fundraiser for both MDHAC and Kansas School for the Deaf Endowment Association.



Deafhood Institute Classes

1,811 enrollments in our transformative ASL-led classes on identity and culture.



Private Docent Tours

554 students, educators, and folks from the general community explored the museum with Deaf guides.



Hands-On Workshop

333 participants learned more about Deaf people through immersive, tactile experiences.

38 Volunteers
Total of
1,437.50 hours!

Volunteers
Athena Clayton and
Lily Heller



Long-time volunteer Chuck Theel with
Program Coordinator Amy Adams

We are grateful to ASL/Interpreting students from KU Edwards Campus, Johnson County Community College, and St. James Academy for serving as volunteer interns.

“My experience with the ASL program, particularly regarding Deafhood and reframing, was truly transformative. Marvin, a key figure in this journey, inspired our ASL team to adopt a new perspective. He guided us through the process of rethinking and reshaping our responses to statements from other departments, such as Communication Disorder or Speech Language Science. This shift in perspective not only enriched our professional understanding but also fostered a more inclusive and empathetic approach in our field. Marvin's influence was instrumental in both our professional and personal development.”

- University ASL program coordinator who requested Deafhood 101 training



Donors

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[Link to Candid. \(GuideStar\)](#)



Curators of MDHAC

Allen Baki & Butch Zein
Dally Family Charitable Fund
Kansas School for the Deaf Endowment Association

Celebrators of Deaf Culture

ASL Connections, LLC
Nexus Interpreting
Siemens
David Wilcox
Ella & Judy Lentz-Gough
Kenneth Mikos
Kevin Clark
Lance & Joan Forshay
Lorrie Shank
Olathe Health/University of KS Health System
The Walt Disney Company
Vadim J. Milman



Chris Dally accepted a proclamation from Olathe Mayor, John Bacon, honoring Deaf Culture Month



We cherish our donors!!

Benefactors of Deaf Arts

DawnSignPress
KB Complete Plumbing
Interpretek
Johnson County Community College
Kansas Commission for Deaf/HoH
Kansas Relay
Kansas University Edwards Campus
Olathe Public Schools ASL Programs
The Whole Person
Trane Technology
Alyce Slater Reynolds
Barbara and Bruce White
Chris Dally
Chuck Theel
Earl & Betty File

Jeanne & Eddie Ewald
Kathy McGuire
Kevin Smith
Malory Hendel
Marilyn Smith
Melinni Taylor
Peter Seiler
Ramona Huggins
Robert & Wendy Koch
Ronald & Maddy Starks
Scott Brignoni & Scott Turner
Susan Delong
Suzanne Dennis
Tia Welsch
Twila Latini

Preservers of Deaf History

St. James Academy ASL Honor Society
Billy Barr
Carl Mazer
Carrie McGoldrick
David Myers
David J. Weiss
Dennis Rodgers
Debbie Sikes
Eddy F. Laird
Eliza Kragh
Elizabeth Ann Prinz
Helen Johnson-Peterson
Kechia Lake
Luanne Barron
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Terry Hostin
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Whit Knapp

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