Welcome to the Museum of Deaf History, Arts, and Culture! (the video pans from the right entrance of the MDHAC to its left entrance. There are flowers and brilliant greenery everywhere. In the middle of the shot is a sign “Deaf Cultural Center: William J. Marra Museum.”

Shara Winesberg, PR Coordinator at CSD (A brown-haired woman wearing a grey button up shirt and jeans. Behind her is a pair of small magnolia trees)

Hello, I’m Shara Winesberg with CSD, and we’re here in Olathe, KS, home of MDHAC, the Museum of Deaf History, Arts, and Culture, formerly known as the Deaf Cultural Center. CSD sponsored their Boots and BBQ Ungala and used this opportunity to meet MDHAC’s new Board Members. Come on, let’s get to know them better!

Meet MDHAC’s new Board Members! (Nine people are standing in front of a yellow barn and they are signing “Welcome!” in tandem. Listed from left to right, they are: Ashley Guy Watson, Luanne Barron, David Wilcox, Liz Brading, Chriz Dally, Jeanenne Ewald, Suzanne Dennis, Lorrie Shank, and Kim Anderson)

What is the Board’s Vision? Chriz Dally, President of MDHAC (a woman with dirty blond hair is wearing a light white button up shirt and a gold necklace. She is standing next to a display of MDHAC’s Vision Statement)

We are a group of individuals with shared excitement and passion working towards a vision of empowered Deaf individuals. We want to celebrate, cherish, and further our history, arts, and culture.

What Made You Decide to Join the Board? Liz Brading, Treasurer

There is huge potential in this place. MDHAC is the only independent museum, financed solely by sponsorships, memberships, and donations. We have a new vision and mission statement, becoming a truly Deaf-centric enterprise on the verge of attaining a nationwide presence. We expect to attract more patrons to come and see what the Deaf Community and its culture are all about.

Informational Segment: (A nurse stands behind the open passenger door of a vehicle painted with the logo of Red Cross)

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) raised $7,641.39, which was presented to the Red Cross to buy “clubmobiles,” that could be used as ambulances or to deliver coffee and donuts to the soldiers.

How Does Your Experience as a Museum Curator Contribute? Ashley Watson, Board Member (A grey haired man wearing a gold watch, a red plaid shirt, red jeans, and a pair of red glasses stands in front of a MDHAC display)

I became a board member to bring my experience into play towards preserving the history and heritage of Deaf Culture.

Informational Segment: (An elderly man in a work apron holds a clarinet) William Funkhouser of Elkhart, Indiana has made clarinets and saxophones for 52 years but he has never heard one! He has been Deaf since birth.
How Was MDHAC Founded and How Are You A Part? Jeanne Ewald, Fundraising (A chestnut haired woman wearing a black shirt is standing between MDHAC’s wall listing of sponsors and a photo portrait of EWALD’S MOTHER)

My mother wanted to better understand the lives of working Deaf adults within the Deaf community. She visited a Deaf couple with three hearing children. Upon entering their house, she was struck by the sumptuousness of the environs. The three children were well behaved! Utilizing an interpreter, she proceeded to get to know the Deaf couple. That night, she walked up to my father and told him that she wanted to learn sign language. The Deaf community was a source of great personal growth and my mother wanted to give back to this community. Funds were raised and eventually these doors opened in 2002. This place is a source of great pride for my mother, as she wanted people in all walks of life to learn about Deaf culture. Before she passed away eight years ago, she implored me to keep an eye on the DCC. A lot has changed during my time on the board!

Informational Segment: A picture of a display titled “Oral vs. Manual: the 100 year debate” filled with very old photographs and their descriptions.

Who is William Marra? David Wilcox, Board Member (a brown-haired man wearing wire-frame glasses and a blue button-up shirt stands next to a large photograph of William Marra)

William Marra started collecting memorabilia relating to the Kansas School for the Deaf, Deaf culture, Deaf organizations and clubs, and so on. Eventually he accumulated enough to open a small museum, located at the Kansas School for the Deaf. The Marra Museum grew into the Deaf Cultural Center, now currently known as Museum of Deaf History, Arts, and Culture. Without William Marra, we would not have MDHAC and we are infinitely grateful to him for his foresight in preserving our Deaf culture.

Informational Segment: A wall with the title “Memories for a Lifetime” is filled with pictures depicting slices of life within a school of the Deaf.

What Programs are Supported by MDHAC Fundraising? Kim Anderson, VP of External Affairs (a silver haired woman wearing a light white tunic stands in front of paintings created by Deaf individuals)

The Hands on Workshops for children is especially popular with the Girl Scout organization, where they can earn a badge (she shows an orange badge with a green eye in its center). Isn’t this adorable? The Deaf Cultural Day program at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art is a fantastic collaboration effort showcasing Deaf Culture and Deaf art. We also work closely with the Kansas School for the Deaf for the annual youth De’via competition, showcasing submissions from K-12 Deaf children all over the nation.

Plan a Trip! Tours Available (Chriz Dally, in a loose white shirt and blue jeans leads a tour in a section of the MDHAC displaying Deaf individuals in the professional workforce. A series of panels next to each photograph briefly describe each person’s history and challenges).

We want to update this section to expand past the local and celebrate the successes of Deaf people from all over the world. For example, in South Africa, we have a Deaf politician on their Congress!
Informational Segment: A panel with the title “To The Stars Through Difficulties” has pictures, a map, and descriptions about the trials of establishing a permanent school for the Deaf in Kansas.

Informational Segment: A photograph of a man sitting in front of a printer. “The Linotype proved to be a boon to students attending deaf schools. Deaf students had an advantage over public school students who were not offered vocational training. Linotyping remained a popular trade for deaf printers until the 1970’s when photo composition began to replace Linotype.”

A photograph of a basketball team of eight flanked by two coaches. On the floor are three championship trophies. In 1931 Nick Peterson’s Nebraska School for the Deaf team made history when it became the first school for the deaf to win a state basketball tournament. Not only did they win the title, but the team was undefeated, closing the season with a record of 29-0.”

Tell Us About the Volunteers at MDHAC. Suzanne Dennis, VP of Internal Affairs (a woman with salt and pepper hair wears a red shirt and a pair of black-rimmed glasses. She is standing in front of the MDHAC)

You can’t help but be impressed by our volunteers. Without their creative contribution and enthusiastic commitment to our shared vision, MDHAC, formerly DCC, as it stands now, wouldn’t be the success it is. They inspire me! When things are hectic and busy with MDHAC activities, the volunteers remain beacons of positivity and happiness. We have probably 35 to 40 volunteers, many of whom have been around from the very beginning. We are always looking for fresh faces to come volunteer their inspiration because the MDHAC is their future too, full of possibility! Prospective volunteers may find me here at MDHAC.

Are You Changing Your Logo and is there a Competition? Luanne Barron, Board Member (A brown-haired woman with wire-frame glasses is wearing a white shirt under a black cardigan. A painting of the Kansas School for the Deaf hangs on the wall behind her head)

The Deaf Cultural Center and its associated logo is being rebranded to the Museum of Deaf History, Arts, and Culture, MDHAC. We are now looking for artists who can help us with this effort by participating in our logo redesign competition! The deadline is October 25. [correction: deadline is January 31st, 2018]

Informational Segment: The old logo for the Deaf Cultural Center is displayed. “Want to enter? Submissions due by October 25, 2017; Enter here: http://www.deafculturalcenter.org/logo-competition”

Can Anyone Become a Member? Lorrie Shank, VP of Governance

Membership admission isn’t limited to local patrons. Anyone, nationwide, can join! To become a member, it’s $35 for students, $60 for individuals, and $110 dollars for a couple. To enroll, go to MDHAC’s website. As a member, you would be contributing your support. You also would receive a 20 percent discount on gift shop products and discounts on a variety of events we host here. The income for this museum is primarily membership driven, along with the donations and support of generous individuals across the country. MDHAC is a completely independent entity, unaffiliated with any schools
for the Deaf and any kind of state funding. We depend on the continued support of members and prospective members. Come join MDHAC!


**Informational Segment:** “Plan your next trip at MDHAC in Olathe, KS!” A wall display is titled “William J. Marra Museum: Deaf Culture” with the quote “They are facing not a theory but a condition, for they are first, last, and all the time the people of the eye.” By George Veditz, President of National Association of the Deaf, 1913.

**Made possible by CSD** (its logo is a cerulean circle bisected by six white lines originating from the circle’s left quadrant, accompanied by CSD in bold black lettering)