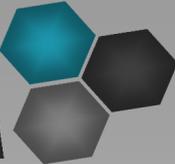


MUSEUM   
OF DEAF  
HISTORY, ARTS & CULTURE<sup>®</sup>



2017

Annual

Report 



## 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*PT Executive Director*

Tia Welch,

*PT Book-Keeper*



## OUR MISSION

The Museum of Deaf History, Arts & Culture (MDHAC) will advance and preserve knowledge about Deaf people, their languages, cultures, and experiences in the United States and around the world.

## OUR VISION

Through MDHAC, we will inspire visitors with meaningful appreciations of a rich and vibrant culturo-linguistic Deaf community, as well as invoke the truth of our struggles and resistance. As a result of our work, the values and endeavors of Deaf people will be embraced.

From the

# Board President

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the **Museum of Deaf History, Arts & Culture (MDHAC)** Board of Directors, I welcome you to review our *MDHAC Annual Report 2017*, the first comprehensive report of this kind, which we have assembled based on our commitment to keep our MDHAC community, including visitors, volunteers, members, donors, and all other stake-holders, better informed on the activities and financial health of our organization.

Looking back, 2017 was quite a journey, in which we embarked on tremendous renewal and growth for the **Museum of Deaf History, Arts & Culture** (formerly Deaf Cultural Center Foundation). This began with the revitalization of the Board through the addition of 5 dynamic members. The hopes and passions of these new members coupled with the loyalty and experience of the long-time members/volunteers strengthened clarity on what our shared vision for our organization's future would look like. Through two Board Retreats, we huddled together, turned vision into action plans and we turned action plans into reality by literally pouring our hearts out through teamwork and hard work!

As a result of our retreats, we agreed on several strategic priorities to keep us focused and organized for the next two years (2017-2018):

- Streamlining Organization's Mission & Program Structure,
- Growing & Strengthening our Board,
- Improving & Increasing Monetary Income,

In addressing the first priority, we enhanced our mission and vision statements, which considered our unique position in the world as an independently owned museum about Deaf people with this responsibility to advance and preserve knowledge. The board determined a need to change our organization's name due to the similarity of the old name with other organizations. We picked a new name that provided a visual concept of how we aim to meet the mission through three "arms", (i.e. history, arts & culture). Finally, we invited the community's involvement in creating a new, refreshed logo for our organization and, with much appreciation to the finalist's work, we are proud to have arrived at an image of how our Deaf collective experience is much like the bees' crucial connection with their hive.

continue to next page

## Continued from the *Board President*

Growing and strengthening our Board was an important focus, in which we enhanced Board's skills in governing more effectively and efficiently as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. We received training that increased our understanding of fiduciary responsibilities as board members. We changed our board organizational chart, which is enabling us to operate as a "working board" for the time being. We updated our charter documents, including bylaws, policies, and internal controls.

As many know, the ability to receive income is so integral to our organization's survival. And we need income for paid positions to help us carry on the mission of the organization. Since fund-raising can be time-consuming, especially with limited staff/ volunteer availability, we decided that it would be a better use of our time to focus our efforts toward annual "signature events", such as the Afternoon Tea, Boots & BBQ unGala, and Festive Holiday Open House so that this would not take so much time away from focusing on our mission. Incidentally, we had our most successful fundraiser with our Boots & BBQ unGala last October! In the hopes of increasing membership and sponsors/ partners, especially on a national level, we simplified our membership program. We also agreed to upgrade our database system, bringing it online, so it will be easier for people to make donations, become members, and communicate with one another. Products within our gift store were more carefully chosen to match consumer wants/ needs, which helped increase sales. Furthermore, we recognized the need to complete a financial audit in order for our organization to become eligible for grants and federal work-placing giving campaigns, thus a lot of our time had been focused on preparing for this audit.

With owning property, there is always a constant need to focus on maintenance and upkeep issues. This certainly applies with our aging building and land. Our Board strived to keep on top of all issues by working with our dedicated volunteers and wonderful donors such as Home Depot to keep things in good shape. We have had to replace all four of the building's AC/ Furnace units, and worked on getting the best advice/ counsel towards updating all our walls, lightings, and ceilings. We are working to ensure that all our expenses for building operations and maintenance are as prudent and cost-efficient as possible. Finally, our priority on programming is probably the most crucial, because programming provides us with the means to express why we exist in the first place!

In order to share the knowledge we have about Deaf people in our William J. Marra Museum, we expanded our weekend open-hours. We established a monthly Docent Tour, where a Deaf Guide shares in-depth information about various topics within our exhibitions. We are thrilled to see the growing popularity of the Hands On program designed for children, such as school groups from private and public entities and Boy/Girl Scouts of America troops which provides education about Deaf Culture. As part of our celebrations for Deaf Culture Month, we continued our partnership with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (NAMA) in providing an informative Deaf Culture Day event last September for the general public. We are working to improve our Cultural Series events (formerly Patio Culture Parties) by providing culturally rich workshops on a monthly basis, given by knowledgeable presenters. We made an agreement with the Kansas School of the Deaf (KSD) to jointly continue the Youth DeVIA (Deaf View/ Image Art) Art Competition among schools with Deaf students on a national level. And, we began preparations within our building with the goal to kick off our upcoming Chuck Baird Art Gallery to showcase the works of Deaf Artists nationwide. I must note that all of our programming activities would not have been made possible without our awesome volunteers and crucial collaborations with KSD and NAMA, in which we are so thankful.

What a year! But, our work is not yet done. Several priorities from above will be continued in 2018 and by the year's end, we hope to be ready to implement long-term strategic priorities that will be more focused on extending programming efforts. Potential goals include expanding staffing, updating our exhibitions, establishing digital archives, and creating virtual/ online experiences for non-local members/ visitors.

Without further ado, please check out the rest of this MDHAC Annual Report 2017. If you are not yet part of our MDHAC community, please consider joining us in one, or more, of the following ways: Become a Member or Sponsor/ Partner. Make a donation. Assist as a volunteer or through in-kind services. Sign up to receive our eBlast and/or follow us on social media. And, if you haven't seen our museum, please do stop by and/or join us at our next event!

Yours in service,

*Chriz Dally*

Chriz Dally, President  
Board of Directors

MUSEUM  
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# Museum Happenings

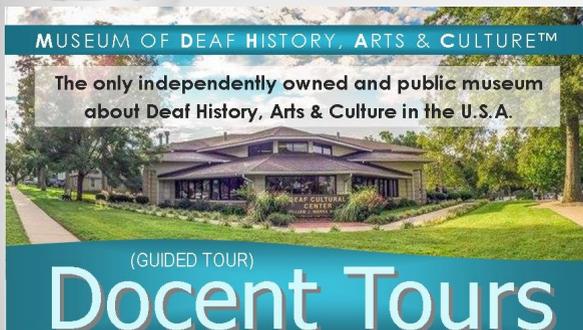
What was new in 2017?



For 2017, our annual display showcase highlighted the LEAD-K Campaign. The LEAD-K (Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids) Campaign is a visual civil rights movement to end the nationwide epidemic of language deprivation by promoting language equality, American Sign Language (ASL) and English for all Deaf babies, leading to a new generation of Deaf children who are Kindergarten-ready.



We celebrated the unveiling of the LEAD-K showcase with the sponsor of Kansas's LEAD-K Bill, Senator Julia Lynn, and with two of Kansas' Deaf community bill advocates.



A new visitor experience was added to our museum! We began to offer Docents fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) to give a rich in-depth, behind-the-scenes narrative and insights of the various exhibits throughout the museum. Offered on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or by appt. Interpreters were provided for those who were not fluent in ASL.



On October 24th, 2017, Lenexa Sertoma hosted a fundraiser to raise funds to support MDHAC in fostering the public's appreciation of the Youth De'VIA Competition's impact on human diversity. The event raised \$1,350.



### "The Many In One"

From January 2017 to April 2017, in partnership with InterUrban ArtHouse, the "The Many In One" exhibit showcased De'VIA artwork at the Johnson County Central Library in Overland Park, KS. De'VIA Artwork by Karen Christie, Patti Durr, KSD Students, Ellen Mansfield, Nancy Rourke and Heidi Storme were exhibited. The exhibit hopefully fostered the public's appreciation of the Deaf experience and message that will last a life time.



# Cultural Programs

## HANDS-ON Workshop

MDHAC's most popular cultural programming is the HANDS-ON workshop. It consists of three 20 minute mini-lessons customizable to group preferences. Most popular 3 sessions tend to be the following: a mini American Sign Language class, Storytelling in ASL, and a craft activity with a Deaf theme.



HANDS-ON is very popular with the Girls and Boys scouts. They are able to earn the HANDS-ON Badges after completing the workshop

Over **461** children participated in the HANDS-ON program in 2017! The program has helped educate children about Deaf people and their contributions to society, hopefully fostering lasting appreciation and acceptance of human differences and experiences to eradicate oppression of Deaf people for generations to come.

## Patio Culture

Throughout 2017, members and guests gathered together on the 3rd Thursday of each month to meet and greet, and learn from featured presentations relating to Deaf history, arts and culture.



**176** people attended the Patio Culture throughout 2017 to learn from special presenters about various topics such as the *Adventures of a Deaf Solo Traveler*, *Deaf Bing*, *200 Years of ASL*, *Train Services for Deaf Schools in the 1800's* and more.

# Deaf Cultural Month

Every year during the month of September, Museum of Deaf History, Arts & Culture® coordinates a month long schedule of events sponsored or hosted by a multitude of organizations that work towards advancing the lives and preserving the legacy of Deaf people and their significant contributions worldwide.

The purpose of Deaf Cultural Month is to enhance the public's knowledge of Deaf Culture through a variety of cultural enriching events.

## Deaf Cultural Day

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art partnered with the Museum of Deaf History, Arts & Culture® in presenting the 3rd Annual Deaf Cultural Day on September 16, 2016 at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

The day included American Sign Language Poetry performances from nationally acclaimed ASL poet Patrick Graybill and students from the Kansas School for the Deaf as well as films, tours and special artist presentation and activity by renowned artist David Call.

Over **225** people attended, while over **7,000** people viewed the events through social media. It was quite a success!



Over **820** people participated in a variety of events hosted by seven organizations celebrating Deaf culture throughout the month of September.

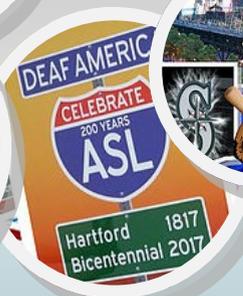


# Signature Event



The Board of Directors and an amazing group of volunteers hosted its signature event, the 2nd Biennial BOOTS & BBQ UN-GALA, at the Yellow Barn in Olathe, Kansas on Saturday, September 30th.

Thanks to all of the attendees, donors, sponsors and volunteers the event was a smashing success! After expenses, over **\$15,600** was raised to support MDHAC in furthering its mission!



## THE GIFT OF GIVING ... Volunteers

Starting April and throughout 2017, during the initial phases of the 3 year strategic plan, MDHAC has been kept standing strong and run by a multitude of an invaluable group of community volunteers, board of directors and one part-time book-keeper. The volunteers are truly the backbone and reason for MDHAC's growth and success. **MDHAC would not exist without its volunteers.**

## 2nd Biennial BOOTS & BBQ UN-GALA Benefit

The signature event was a smashing success! A net profit of approximately **\$15,600** was raised. This was made possible by **attendees** and the following **DONORS** for:

### Event Sponsorship and LIVE bids:

Communication Services for the Deaf  
April & Jeffrey Dunlap  
Anonymous Sponsor  
Ann Silver & Jim VanManen  
Kansas Association of the Deaf  
Shawnee Copy Center, Inc  
Olathe Club of the Deaf  
Randy Dunham  
Route 66 Promotions  
Barley Bus  
ASL Connections  
Interpretek  
Sorenson  
Nexus Interpreting  
Interpreting Solutions  
Beyond Interpreting

### Silent Auction:

Gallaudet University Store	
Artist & Craftsman Supply	
Art of Randy Dunham	
Garmin	Lorrie Shank
Fireside BBQ	Luanne Barron
Johnny's BBQ	Mary VanBavel
Smokin' Joes BBQ	KC Royals
The Rub	Bearded Dragon
Jeanne Ewald	Mary Costello

## Thank You



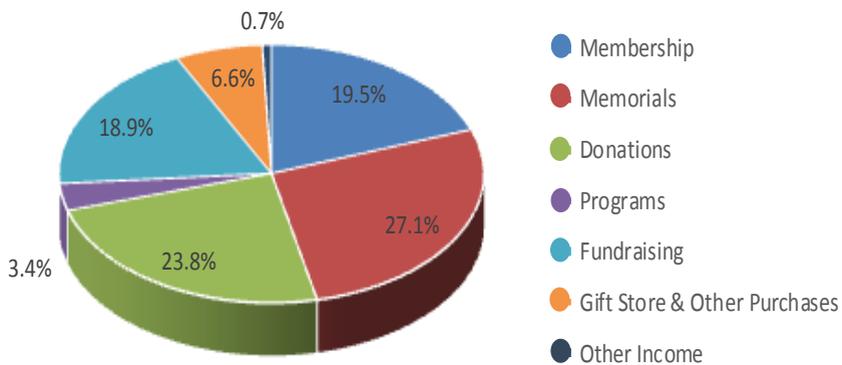
## THE ANNUAL GIFT OF GIVING ... Volunteers

In 2017, **35** volunteers donated **6,730** hours of their time to all areas of the Museum and **9** Board members, whom are all volunteers too, donated **3,832** hours of their time for administration and management of the museum, totaling to **10,562** hours at a total value of **\$241,658!**

**MDHAC** hopes to obtain capacity funding in the very near future to secure staffing for the obvious number of hours required by volunteers in keeping the Museum running at it's full capacity.

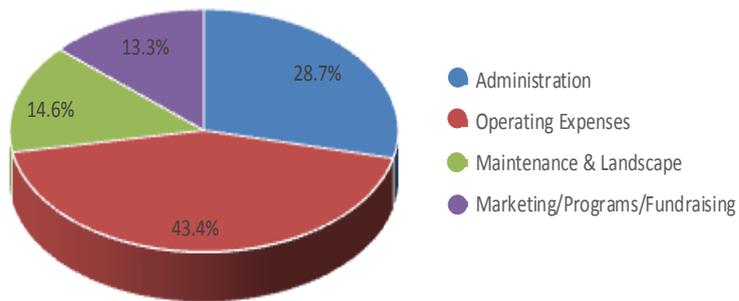
# Financial Snapshot

## 2017 REVENUES & SUPPORT



<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	19.5%	\$22,802.07
<b>MEMORIALS</b>	27.1%	\$31,733.11
<b>DONATIONS</b>	23.8%	\$27,907.00
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	3.4%	\$3,961.00
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	18.9%	\$22,155.25
<b>GIFT STORE/PURCHASES</b>	6.6%	\$7,785.57
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	0.7%	\$814.36
		<b>\$ 117,158.36</b>

## 2017 EXPENDITURES



<b>ADMINISTRATION</b> (payroll, taxes, contract svcs)	28.7%	\$21,699.55
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	43.4%	\$32,822.56
<b>MAINTENANCE &amp; LANDSCAPING</b>	14.6%	\$11,018.42
<b>MARKETING/ PROGRAMS/ FUNDRAISING</b>	13.3%	\$10,082.45
		<b>\$ 75,622.98</b>



# Donors *Annual Supporters*

# THANK YOU!

## 2017 DONORS

Members, Sponsors, Partners, Donations & \*Memorials

### \$10,000 & Above

#### Kansas School for the Deaf Endowment Association

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Mid-Kansas Deaf Campers  
Olathe Medical Charitable Foundation  
Anonymous Donor  
Anonymous Donor

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499

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David Wilcox\*

#### \$500 - \$999

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#### \$250 - \$499

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**Interpretek  
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