YOUR MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Museum

Engaging Our University, State, Nation, and World

2011-2016

museum.msu.edu
The MSU Museum sparks curiosity, excites imagination, and opens us to the world’s knowledge. Each year, thousands of visitors explore the Museum’s three floors of interactive permanent and changing exhibitions that highlight only a small part of the Museum’s collection of nearly 1,000,000 objects and specimens. Traveling exhibitions bring innovative research to museums, schools, and community centers within Michigan and throughout the world, while K-12 educators borrow education kits to bring the Museum into their classrooms. Creative programming and experts working with communities engage the public beyond the Museum’s walls.

Since its founding in 1857, the MSU Museum’s researchers and curators have undertaken robust research and fieldwork that makes a difference in what we know about the natural world and human creativity. Scholars on and beyond campus use the Museum’s collections in world-class research. MSU faculty and students together engage with collections in their courses. Students gain invaluable professional experience by working in the Museum’s various departments. Within its galleries and collections, and beyond its walls, the MSU Museum, Michigan’s first affiliate of the great national Smithsonian Institution, embraces the University’s mission to advance knowledge and transform lives.

Discover the Michigan State University Museum—where science and culture meet!

OUR MISSION: Michigan State University Museum is committed to understanding, interpreting, and respecting natural and cultural diversity. As Michigan’s land-grant university museum, this commitment to society is met through education, exhibitions, research, and the building and stewardship of collections that focus on Michigan and its relationship to the Great Lakes, and the world beyond.

Data presented in this document reflect information from 2011-2015 reports. Highlights from 2016 are presented.
MSU Teaching and Learning
Expanding learning opportunities for MSU students

The MSU Museum is a unique learning laboratory for students from all around the university.

107 classes taught using museum resources
3,902 MSU students used museum resources in classes

COURSE AREAS
- African and African American Studies
- Animal Science
- Anthropology
- Apparel and Textiles
- Art Education
- Arts and Culture Management
- Arts and Letters
- Asian Studies
- Biological Science
- Community Sustainability
- English
- Geology
- History
- History of Art
- Integrative Biology (formerly Zoology)
- Integrative Studies, Biological
- Journalism
- Museum Studies
- Music
- Religious Studies
- Residential College of Arts and Humanities
- Romance and Classical Studies
- Studio Art
- Teacher Education
- Undergraduate Studies
- Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures

Campus and Community
Engaging and enriching community on and off campus

The MSU Museum is a conduit between university research and the public.

78 exhibitions in the MSU Museum building
199,895 visitors to traveling exhibitions
20,378 PK-12 students and chaperones
3,110 public requests for information
10,850 social media followers
1,126,146 people used MSU Museum websites
(not including collections databases)
The Collections
Care, preservation, and use of the University’s collections of objects and specimens

MSU Museum’s collections are the tangible evidence of the diversity of nature and human cultures throughout the world and through time.

1,328,402 uses of the Cultural and Natural Science collections databases

289 scholars used the collections for research
969,092 records accessed in other online collections
83 collections-based works by outside scholars
2,082 visitors toured the collections

Collections continue to grow—in the past 5 years, 15,719 objects, specimens, archaeological groupings, and archival documents were added to the collections

Collections used by researchers from:

United States locations: AK, CA, FL, GA, HI, IA, IL, IN, MA, MI, NC, NH, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VA, WA, Washington DC, WI

International locations: Bangladesh, Canada, China, England, Germany, India, Iraq, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, South Africa, Switzerland

Research and Public Scholarship
Museum staff doing individual and collaborative research work

87 scholarly publications (peer-reviewed articles, other journal articles, books, and book chapters)
50 technical reports, book reviews, and other publications
267 conference and other public presentations
14 fieldwork projects by staff (5 multi-year)
22 fieldwork projects by affiliates/research associates (3 multi-year)
137 Museum staff curator credits for working on exhibits locally and worldwide
Local and International Connections
Reaching out worldwide

Collaboration with campus and local communities define the MSU Museum, while national and international projects and research broaden our reach.

85 on-campus collaborations and 93 off-campus collaborations for research, exhibits, outreach, and programs

3 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) repatriations

United States locations of collaborators: AZ, CO, HI, IN, MA, MI, MN, NC, NE, NH, NM, NY, OH, OK, TX, WA, Washington DC, WI

International locations of collaborators: China, England, India, Indonesia, Israel, Morocco, Myanmar, The Netherlands, Philippines, South Africa

Funding Awarded
Support for Museum work that creates new knowledge and promotes understanding, learning, and engagement

External funding fuels research, supports programming and exhibits, and enables the stewardship of and access to collections.

$6,121,763 in grant funding

41 endowments totaling $5,200,000 (at the end of 2015)

92 grants from 36 agencies
Highlights from 2016

The MSU Museum continued its commitment to social justice programming, research, collecting and publication, exemplified by the book *Quilts and Human Rights*.
- **Cultural Collections**

I am proud to continue to be part of keeping several of our long-standing annual fundraising and community outreach events going strong.
- **Mike Secord, Event & Facility Manager**

Major initiatives focusing on historic dress, including an exhibition and related programming, new curricular initiatives related to dress, and acquisition of the Apparel and Textile Design Collection from MSU’s Department of Art, Art History and Design.
- **History Collections**

Two colleagues and I received funding from MSU’s BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action to support a multidisciplinary collaborative study investigating the evolution of temporal niche (i.e., timing of daily activity) in mammals.
- **Barb Lundrigan, Curator**

The Division of Anthropology acquired a collection of Okiek forager material culture, collected as early as the 1960s in the Mau forests of highland Kenya, from MSU Anthropology Department alumnus Dr. Roderic Blackburn.
- **Bill Lovis, Curator**

We developed a museum visitor engagement strategy to help guide our work.
- **Max Evjen, Exhibitions Technology**

The MSU Museum was featured as the MSU Alumni Magazine cover story in Winter 2016.
- **Stephanie Palagyi, Communications**

We installed the big “Tree of Life” touchscreen so visitors can explore the evolutionary relationships among species.
- **Education Team**

Our paper (Alstrom et al. 2016) on the discovery of the Himalayan Forest Thrush!
- **Pam Rasmussen, Assistant Curator**

We created a very successful interactive exhibition for the Museum featuring the robotic fish developed by Dr. Xiaobo Tan (MSU College of Engineering) as part of the National Science Foundation’s Broader Impacts mandate for grants.
- **Teresa Goforth, Exhibitions Manager**

“Ubuntutu: Life Legacies of Love and Action, Quilts in Tribute to Desmond and Leah Tutu”: an exhibition, publication, collections development, and innovative learning program in partnership with MSU’s African Studies Center, Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, Women of Color Quilters Network, Robben Island Museum, University of Stellenbosch Museum, and the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum.
- **Marsha MacDowell and Kurt Dewhurst, Curators**

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