



Fiscal Year Activity Report 2019-2020

Tours and Rentals

- 770 people visited the Dawes House for individual tours and 244 people for group tours.
- 97 people attended 7 walking tours and 81 people attended 5 special group walking tours.
- 15 groups representing 1,375 individuals rented the Dawes House for events such as weddings, receptions, concerts, fundraisers, picnics, memorial services, and birthday parties.
- A dedicated group of 10 docents expertly guided tours of the Dawes House.

Research and Archives Projects

- There were 102 phone, email and mail requests for information.
- 224 people visited the EHC archives for research projects.
- We had 3 volunteers and 2 interns working in the archives on various projects.
- Collections work in the archives included accessioning, processing and storing new and existing collections. We added 10 new collections to the archives, ranging from single records to two large collections. We also continued adding collections to our online collection database.
- De-accessioned records and collection items were sold at auction this year, contributing income toward maintenance of existing retained archival records and collections.
- Evanston High School Senior Studies students researched their homes using primary sources.
- EHC marked the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. An article appeared in *Timelines* and online about Evanston's experiences at the end of the war, with images drawn from the collection.
- The Evanston History Center Press now counts five books in its catalogue. In June 2019, EHC's Director of Education, Jenny Thompson's book, *The Takeover 1968: Student Protest, Campus Politics, and Black Student Activism at Northwestern University* was released.

Collection Projects

- We received 28 new donations to the collections: 10 artifact donations, 10 archival donations, and 8 costume donations for a total of over 100 items.
- EHC Collections staff continued to engage in a major assessment of the holdings in the collection and continued to upgrade records of existing collection items.
- Photographic documentation of the costume collection has resumed, in anticipation of making the images available for on-site research.
- Deaccessioned costume items were sold at auction this year, contributing income towards maintenance of the collections.
- Three dedicated collections interns contributed their time and efforts.

Dawes House Restoration

- EHC raised more than \$250,000 to meet a challenge grant from Tawani Foundation for the Capital Campaign. In honor of Tawani's incredible support over the course of our campaign, the Great Hall will be named in honor of Col. Jennifer Pritzker, founder of the Tawani Foundation. EHC has raised \$3.5 million to date for the Capital Campaign, which funds restoration work on the Dawes House.
- EHC completed two projects constituting a portion of Phase 3 of the restoration plan: structural reinforcement of the coach house floor and rebuilding of the Dawes House rear porch.
- Implementation of a third project began in Summer 2019: restoration of the wood doors, limestone stairs, and sandstone walls and ornamentation at the front entrance.
- The intricate plaster and colors of the Great Hall ceiling were restored and repainted after sustaining damage from a roof leak.

EHC Programs, Events, and Exhibits

- 50 people attended the FY19 Annual Meeting.
- *Dry Evanston: The Untold Story* opened in June 2019 and continued through January 2020. Curated by EHC Historian Lori Osborne, this exhibit told the story of alcohol in Evanston in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 18th (Prohibition) amendment.



- The annual Ice Cream Social was held July 27, with approximately 600 people attending.
- *The Blind Pig Speakeasy*, EHC's annual summer fundraising gala was held on August 24th.
- *Spirited: Prohibition in America* opened in late August. A national traveling exhibit organized by the National Constitution Center, *Spirited* explored the era of Prohibition, when America went "dry."
- A total of 150+ people attended two *Under the Buffalo* presentations on topics that included "Barrel-Aged Stout and Selling Out" and "From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran."
- EHC's Director of Education, Jenny Thompson, gave two presentations about her newly released book, *The Takeover 1968*.
- *Evanston on the Go*, EHC's travel program, welcomed 30 guests in September on a trip to the Indiana Dunes National Park to tour the Century of Progress Landmark Homes.
- A total of 500 people attended the annual Holiday Open House.
- The 14th Annual Food Drive was held in December 2019. Several 100 pounds of food were collected and donated to an Evanston food pantry.
- EHC hosted a special Presidents' Day event, which included a discussion of the 1924 presidential election, when Dawes ran as VP, and a tour of the house highlighting political stories.
- The 45th Annual Mother's Day House Walk-By was a successful re-imagining of our usual event due to the pandemic. Patrons were encouraged to do the "walk" on their own to see homes of Evanston women who were integral in the fight for suffrage and Evanston politics.

Outreach

- EHC developed and conducted in partnership with the Levy Center, three bus tours of Evanston visiting locations of artist Walter Burt Adams' iconic Evanston scenes and exploring his work.
- EHC's partnership with the Evanston Public Library continued this year. In May 2019, EHC's director of education, Jenny Thompson, was a guest on the library's podcast, *The Check Out*.
- EHC contributed research to a VFW Post 7186 and VFW Auxiliary exhibit of Black war veterans from Evanston. The exhibit was on view at the Evanston Public Library during the month of February.
- Aaron Masliansky, host of the podcast *Inside the Skev*, recorded an interview with Jenny Thompson at the Dawes House in January 2020. The podcast is available online.
- Hats from the costume collection were mentioned, and one full page photograph featured, in the recent publication *BES-BEN: Chicago's Mad Hatter*, by Elizabeth Jachimowicz.
- At the start of the statewide shutdown in late March 2020, EHC created a list of online resources/content for students/educators/general public. The resources were promoted online and on a new page on EHC's website.
- In April 2020, EHC launched a community history project focused on collecting items that document the COVID-19 pandemic. The collection has received roughly 150+ submissions and is ongoing.
- EHC's [website](#), Twitter feed, Instagram, and Facebook page were regularly updated. EHC has: 1,776 Facebook followers, 1,165 Twitter followers, and 856 Instagram followers. EHC also hosts a YouTube page, and a Flickr account. EHC's regular email was sent 40 times to 2,000 subscribers.
- Staff gave talks for the DAR, Presbyterian Homes, Rotary, and Kiwanis Club.

The Evanston Women's History Project at the Evanston History Center

- Women's Vote 100 Evanston, a commemoration organized by a group of community partners, kicked off in January with the display of the National Archives *Rightfully Hers* exhibit at the Civic Center and several other programs that continued in February. Following the March 17th stay-at-home order, all events and programs were cancelled or moved to later in 2020.
- EHC opened its new exhibit, *Evanston Women and the Fight for the Vote*, curated by EWHP Director Lori Osborne, on Sunday March 8th for International Women's Day with a community open house.
- In 2019 and 2020, the Vickie Burke Internship for Women's History was filled by students from Loyola University who continued research in preparation for the 2020 suffrage anniversary.
- The EWHP received a grant from the Evanston Community Foundation to support updating the EWHP [website](#) and research database of Evanston women and women's organizations.