

Michigan's Museums Support Communities

Why are museums important?

We'll let our visitors speak for themselves.

This packet includes examples of how Michigan museums are reaching out to diverse audiences, broadening horizons, strengthening communities, and fostering a new generation of thriving, educated Michigan citizens.

Michigan's Museums...

- * Challenge perspectives
- * Reach and impact diverse audiences
- * Reinforce and expand curriculum
- * Guide and create futures
- * Link generations
- * Forge vivid memories
- * Contribute to the community
- * Diligently protect and care for collections
- * Reach out to community members

Museums challenge perspectives...

A carefully curated art exhibit causes patrons to think about an intricate global economy. Connecting something like hot chocolate of our every day lives with the lives of those producing it half way around the world creates a sense of shared responsibility and accountability. Museums use art as a tool. A tool to teach otherwise highly political, tough topics of discussion.

*"Recently, a group of friends and I received a tour at the Broad Museum of Contemporary Art. **I gained a wealth of knowledge about how artful, even disturbing exhibits, can have a stunning effect on one's senses and help us expand our narrow or static world view.** Had we not had the benefit of a docent's expertise to guide us, we may have come away from the current museum displays without an appreciation of how video art has helped shape technology. I would not have understood how a Ghanaian artist could, from jute bags used to carry cocoa, create such a rich tapestry to develop a viable economic export; a story of the blood, sweat, and tears poured out in every cup of hot cocoa that we sip in comfort. **I am grateful for the genius of all those souls that help us to learn and grow.**"*

Letter to Editor, Lansing State Journal
Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University
Lansing, MI

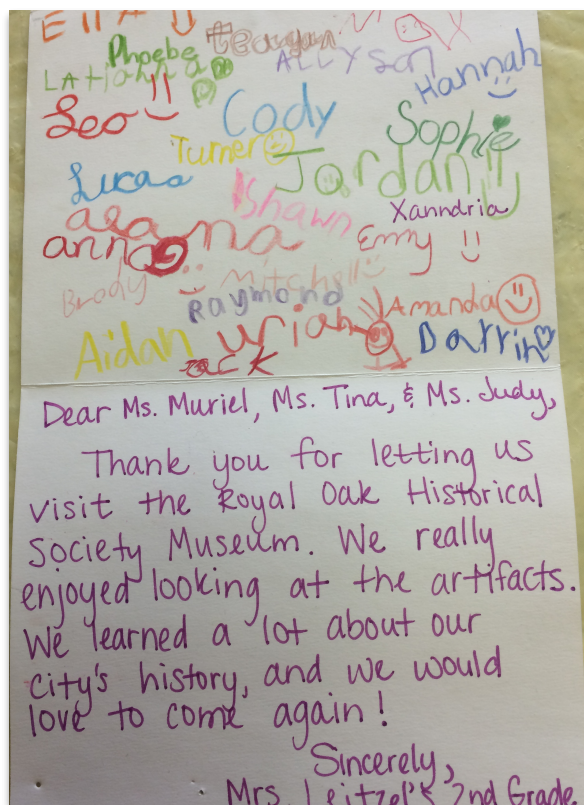
*"I just wanted to share my thanks for sharing the Jim Crow Museum through your website. I am a US History teacher in a suburban/rural district in Northeast Ohio. **Most of my students were not aware of the magnitude this time period has on our country's attitudes.** I showed 'The New Jim Crow Museum' youtube video today to my students and it helped bring the reality of the distortion of equality that was prevalent many years ago.*

Even though this is an ugly time in our history, I am glad you are able to share the truth at the museum and throughout the world on the website. I hope to incorporate more from the website in the future."

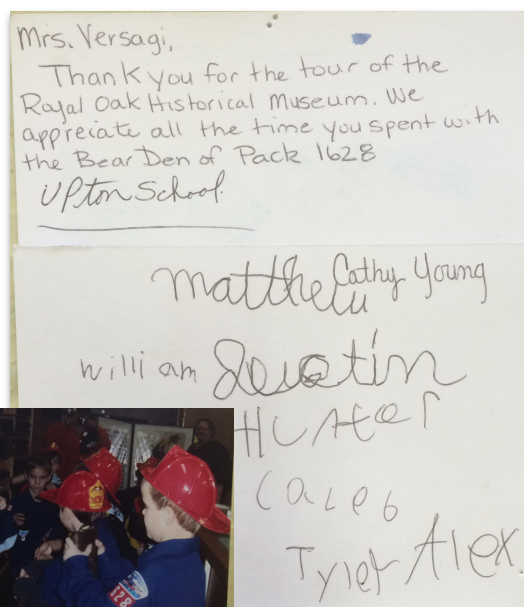
James Harris
Buckeye High School Social Studies Teacher
Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI

Museums reach and impact diverse audiences...

Going above and beyond the call, some museums offer lunch hour discussions, to reach those individuals who may otherwise not be able to attend museum programming. And they are thankful for it. They reach out to Cub Scout troops, Girl Scout Troops, Elementary Schools, and families. They're making personal connections with the community and gaining support.



Letter from school teacher
The Royal Oak Historical Society Museum
Royal Oak, MI



Letter from school teacher
The Royal Oak Historical Society Museum
Royal Oak, MI

*"Through the year I have been delighted to see the choices you have made to expose many voices in the gallery. Smiles and thoughtfulness has brought this place alive with energy and gratitude. **I attend the Art Break programs regularly and often we smile and say hi, but not recently, so I wanted to tell you how pleased I am for the diversity,** of your choices, and to continue on."*

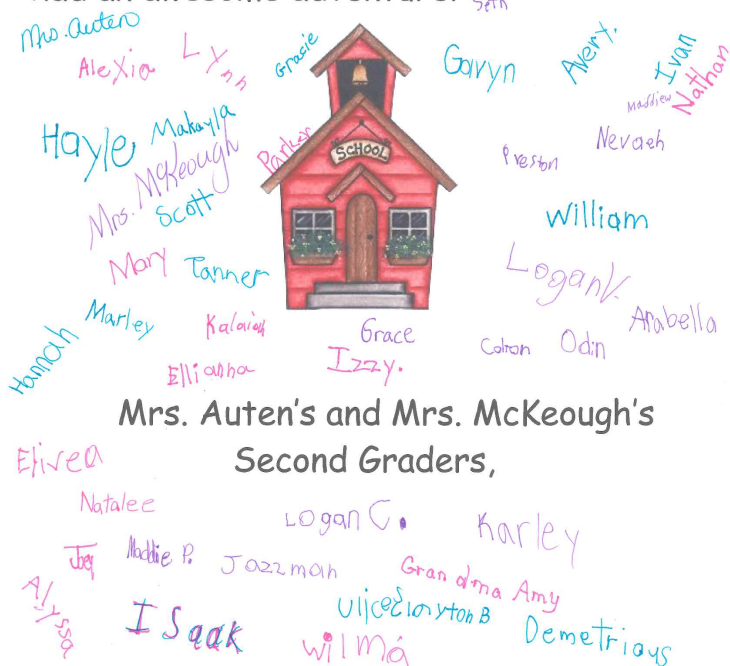
Letter to Director of Collections and Exhibitions
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
Kalamazoo, MI

Museums reinforce and expand curriculum...

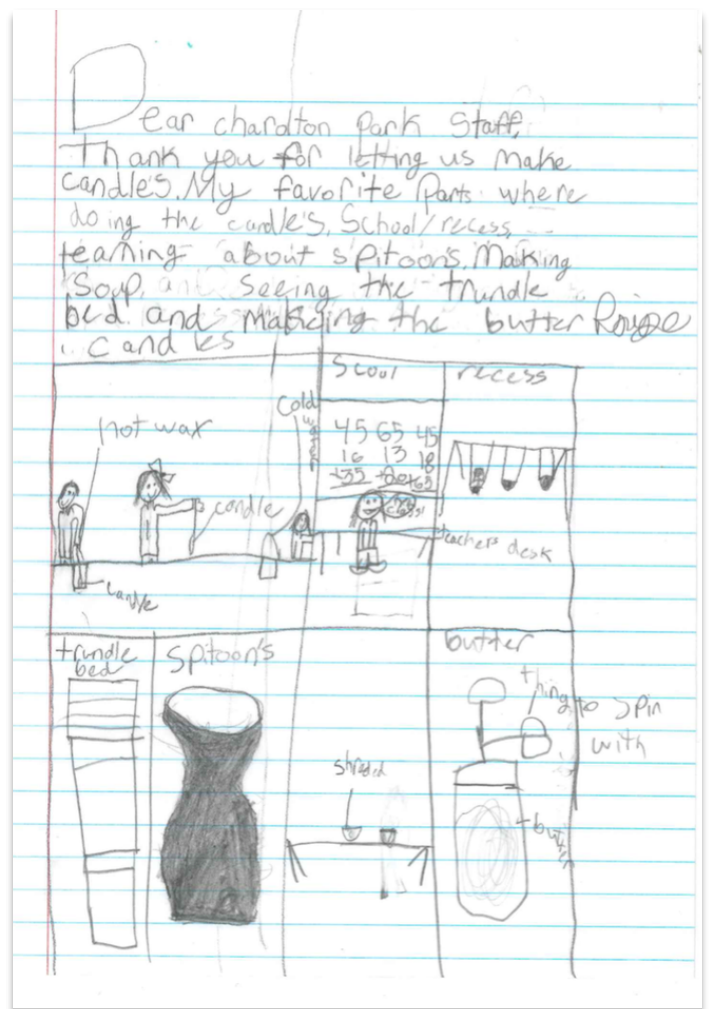
They build on the lessons teachers provide, emphasizing the definition of history, "change over time." Children learn about past life and traditions, sometimes in awe of the drastic differences. Museums immerse children, so that they might see and experience what they just read about on the chalkboard or in a book. This inspires curiosity, and in turn an excellent student emerges.

Dear Charlton Park Volunteers,

Thank you for sharing your time to help us understand what it was like to live in a rural community a hundred years ago. We had an awesome adventure!



Mrs. Auten's and Mrs. McKeough's
Second Graders,



Thank you letters from school children
Charlton Park Historic Village and Museum
Hastings, MI

Museums guide and create futures...

They offer professional guidance to those in need, creating a new generations of historians.

Dec. 11, 2015

Dear Megan O'Kon,

Thank you for showing me how cool your job is, and for taking the time out of your day to show my friend and me around. I enjoyed talking to you and learning about how you got your job at the museum as an interpreter.

I still really want a job involving history and stuff like that. Getting to see the room with all the collections, I was surprised at how many artifacts the museum had! I also loved finding out how this museum got started.

I only wished we had more time to see everything. The stuff you do at the museum is fascinating, I hope I get a job like yours.

The kindness you had to show us around was wonderful, Thank you!

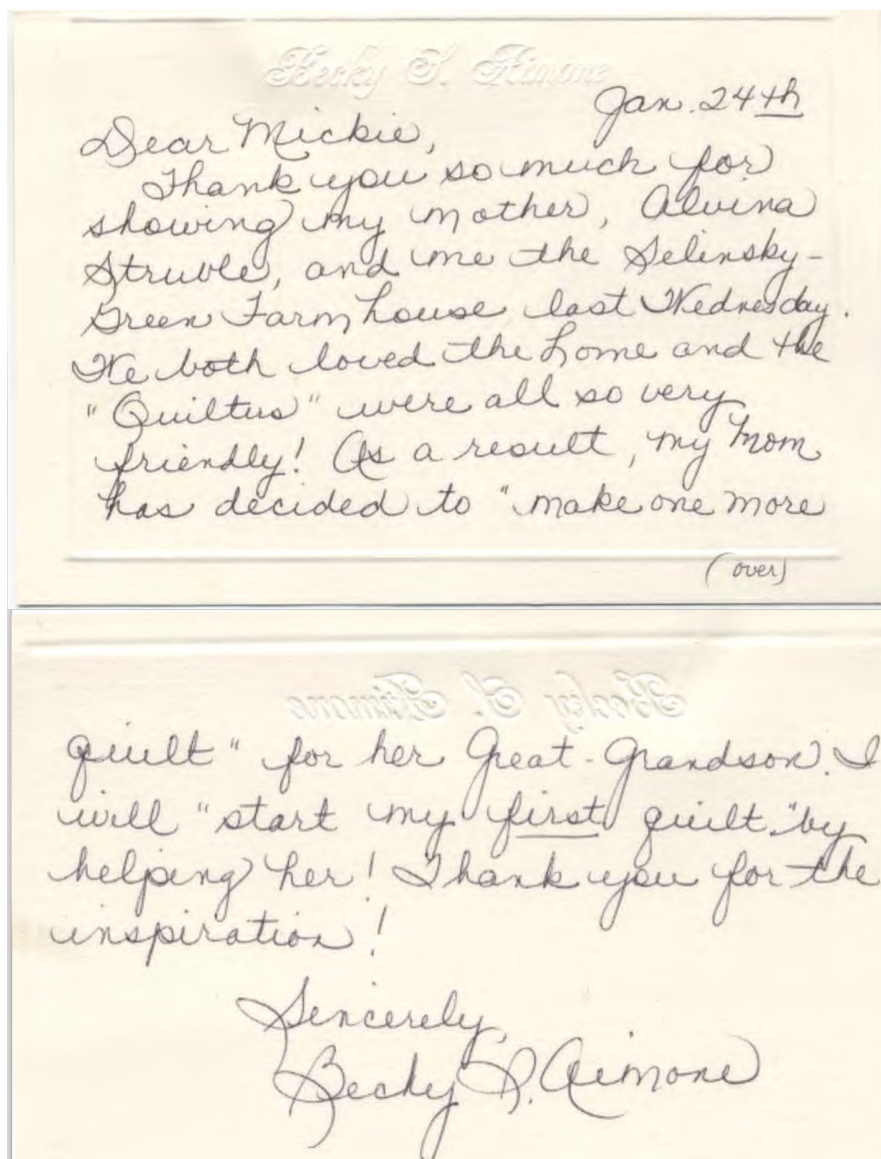
Sincerely,

Emily Johnson

Letter from school student
Kalamazoo Valley Museum
Kalamazoo, MI

Museums link generations...

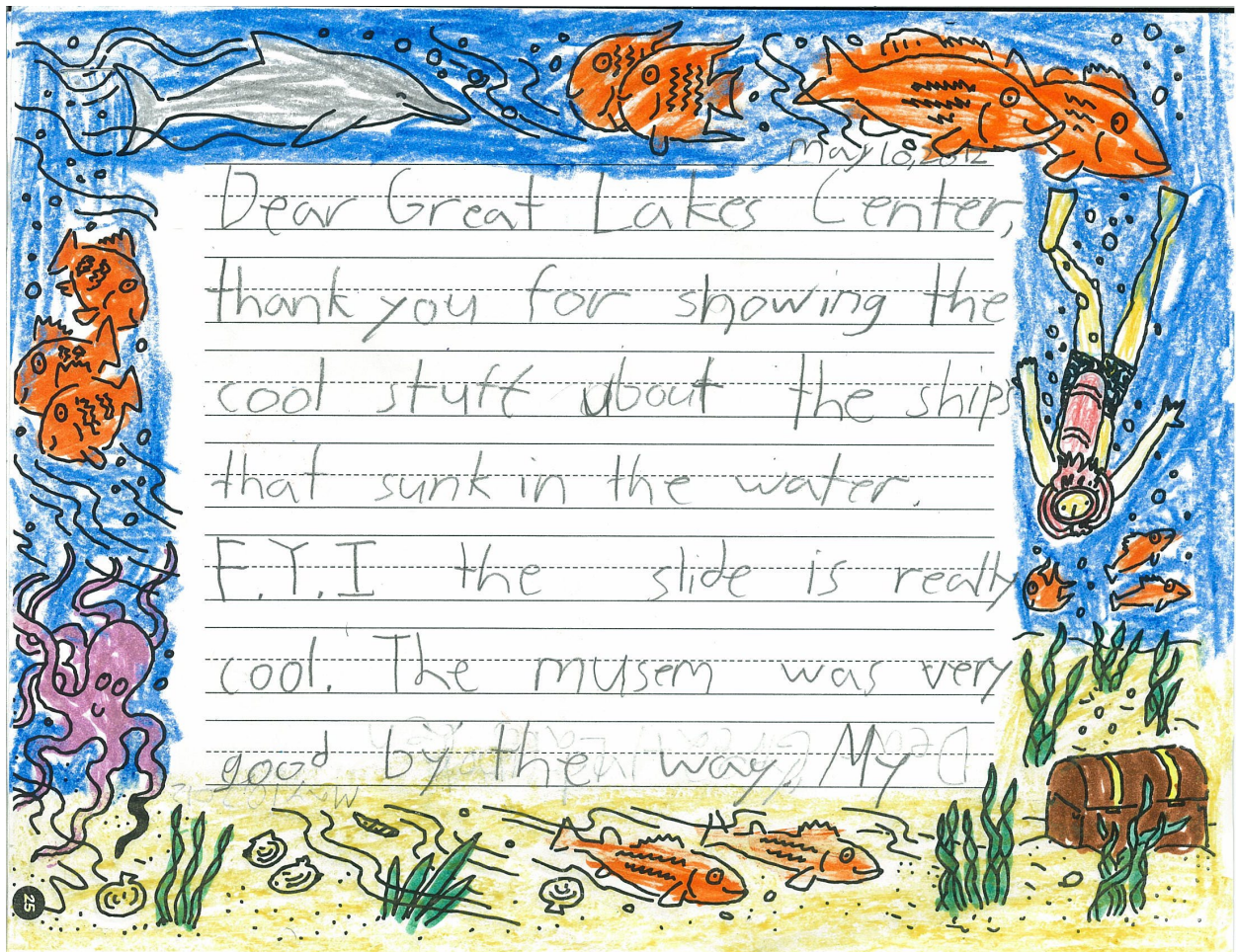
They act as a venue for new traditions and new beginnings. The experiences they offer spark conversation between generations, and strengthen family bonds.



Thank you note
Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum of St. Clair Shores
St. Clair Shores, MI

Museums forge vivid memories... never to be forgotten

They offer new experiences and paint memories for years to come. They combine play and knowledge to create a unique, lasting experience.



Thank you letter
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary NOAA
Alpena, MI

Museums contribute to the community...

Michigan museums are actively helping the community grow new opportunities for its citizens.

Dear Peter + SPLKA,
Thank you very much
for the exciting donation of
a stay at the Big Sable
Lighthouse for our auction
item for Special Days Camps!
It was a much sought after
item & the winning bid was \$400.
The winner is very excited
about this once-in-a-lifetime
opportunity!
Our Summer camp is
right around the corner & these
proceeds will be very
helpful in keeping us
provide a medically supervised
memorable camping experience
to children & their families
who have been impacted by
cancer.
Thank you again for this
special contribution
Sincerely, Carol Cooper, Asst. Treas

2 September 2015
Thank-you again for allowing us to
send a check when we realized we
got to the lighthouse without any
money. It was such a memorable
experience for our family and we
will cherish the memory we created
because of your generosity!
Thanks, The Triant Family

Thank you letters
Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association
Ludington, MI

Museums protect and care for collections...

They maintain high archive standards for their permanent collections and are always finding new ways to display objects, new ways to interact with the public.

*"I would just like to write you to express my appreciation for all the work that you do to keep the artwork at the DIA in pristine condition. **It has come to my attention that after visiting the DIA multiple times over the years that the breadth and depth of the art institute's collection is of high quality and is continually renewed keeping the collection fresh for both newcomers and returning visitors alike.** We hope you continue to do a great job in this category.*

We all know that just a few years ago there was a chance that the DIA may not make it with the Detroit bankruptcy case in full swing. City officials were contemplating selling off the DIAS's artwork away from the organization to pay off city debts. Undoubtedly this would have been a poor decision on the part of the city and the asset holders. Since this has not happened, the city leaving its bankruptcy worries behind, the DIA has come back in full swing better than before. We appreciate the hard work of everyone involved in this effort."

Karen Staszal, Letter to Curator
Detroit Institute of Arts
Dearborn, MI

Museums reach out to community members...

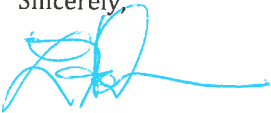
Not only do museums reach otherwise inaccessible audiences through their websites and digital presence, they also make an impact by providing outreach programs. By traveling to schools, they reach children who may otherwise never have the opportunity to visit the museum.

Dear Kira,

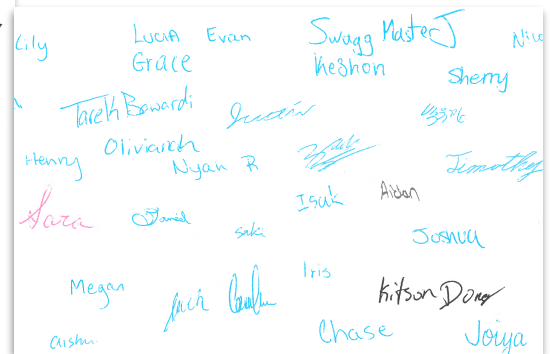
Thank you so much for coming to our class to discuss the program on the Geometry of Space. It was extremely informative and it opened our eyes to different ways of viewing the dimensions about us. We especially liked all the materials and manipulatives provided. They were helpful in understanding the complex concepts of space travel and non-Euclidean geometries.

Thanks again for taking the time to enrich our understanding of the universe.

Sincerely,

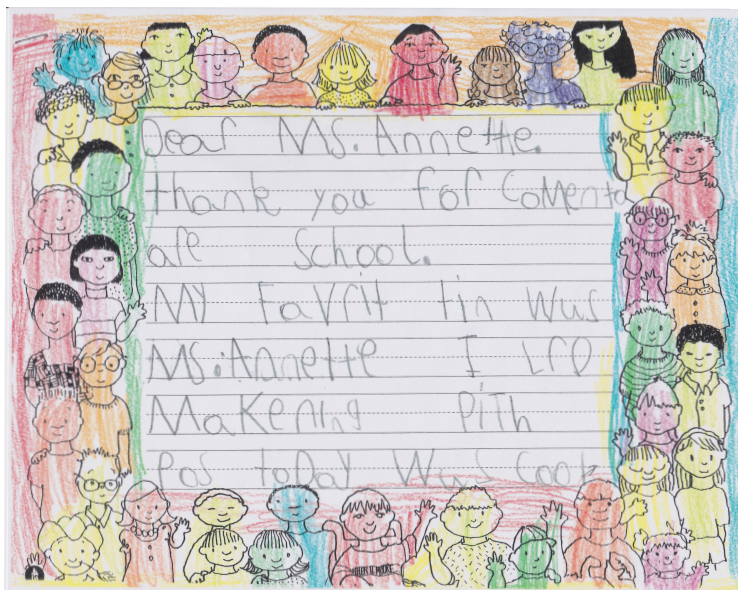


Laurie Hochrein & Students
U of M Museum of Natural History



City, Lucia, Evan, Swagg Master J, Nive
Grace, Keshon, Sherry
Tiah Bawardi, Jordin, Kasey
Henry, Oliviana, Nyan R, Zak, Timothy
Sara, David, Isak, Aidan
Megan, Jack, Iris, Joshua
Austin, Chase, Joya

Thank you letter
University of Michigan Museum of
Natural History
Ann Arbor, MI



Kid Thank you letter
Midland Center for the Arts
Midland, MI

The Michigan Museums Association supports museums of all types and sizes located throughout the state. We help members connect with expertise, engage with each other, and advocate for the value of museums in Michigan's communities. Please feel free to contact our office if you are in need of more information about any of Michigan's museums and how the work you do will impact them.

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A special thank you to the following for contributing materials:

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, Lansing
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo
Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University, Big Rapids
The Royal Oak Historical Society Museum, Royal Oak
Charlton Park Historic Village and Museum, Hastings
Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalamazoo
Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum of St. Clair Shores
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary NOAA, Alpena
Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association, Ludington
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit
Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art Midland Center for the Arts
University of Michigan Museum of Natural History, Ann Arbor