

The  
CHARLOTTE MUSEUM  
of HISTORY



WHERE HISTORY HAS A HOME

Dear Friends,

During the last several years, your generous support has helped The Charlotte Museum of History reach more people than ever before with the important stories of the Charlotte region's history.

Today, we write a new chapter in the story of the Museum itself, as our President & CEO Kay Peninger announces she is leaving to accept a new position as Director of Museum Education at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. Kay has been a transformational leader for The Charlotte Museum of History, expanding our programming and bringing our educational offerings to a broader and more diverse audience.

Our board of trustees has named Lisa Gray the Museum's Interim Director, effective June 23. Lisa has more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit management and has served in interim director roles at Mooresville Soup Kitchen, Matthews HELP Center, WFAE Public Radio and Pat's Place. Prior to becoming an independent consultant, Lisa served in executive positions at WDAV Classical Public Radio, Charlotte Trolley Inc., GoCarolinas.com and the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. We know Lisa will lead the Museum ably as we search for a new president & CEO.

We expect our national search for a new president & CEO will attract an impressive and diverse slate of candidates given Charlotte's reputation and the opportunity to build on the current strength of the Museum. We hope to announce our new leader in the next four to six months. More important than meeting any deadline, though, is finding the right leader who will champion our vision, which is to preserve and interpret Charlotte's unique history for the benefit of our community, giving us a shared understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future.

As we bid farewell to Kay and wish her well on her new adventure, it is a time to reflect on everything the Museum has achieved under her leadership and - thanks to your support - over the last four years.

Since joining the Museum in 2013, Kay expanded the Museum's educational offerings; brought exciting new exhibitions to the Museum; created community partnerships to further our mission; and placed the Museum on strong financial footing. We wish her the best and know she will make a similar positive impact in her new role. Attached is a sampling of everything you have helped to support and that Kay has led in recent years.

On behalf of the Museum's Board of Trustees, thank you for your generous support of our mission and our ongoing work. We look forward to sharing news about our national search and our new leader soon.

Yours truly,

*Paul Kurzeja*

Chair, Board of Trustees

The Charlotte Museum of History - Telling our Region's Story, Stronger than Ever

- The Hezekiah Alexander House (c. 1774) remains front and center as one of Charlotte's most important cultural treasures, with recent preservation projects completed to accomplish one of our high priority goals - excellent preservation of this important historic site. This Charlotte gem is the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. Its original owner was a leader in the years that led to the American Revolution, and he served on the committee that drafted North Carolina's 1776 constitution and bill of rights.
- The Museum has expanded its traditional interpretation of the Colonial-era Hezekiah Alexander House and grounds beyond the story of European migration to include the original peoples who populated the area - the Catawba Indian Nation - and the history and culture of African American enslaved people. This has made the site's interpretation more rich, realistic and diverse and has attracted new audiences to the Museum.
- The Museum has created countless community partnerships to broaden its reach and expand its offerings, from programs on the Catawba Indian Nation with the USC-Lancaster Native Studies department; to collaborations with UNC Charlotte on Midcentury Modern architecture, to a new project with the Historic Landmarks Commission, the City of Charlotte and the Silver Star Community Group to save the historic Siloam School used by African American children during the Jim Crow era.
- The Museum successfully combined with Historic Charlotte Inc., a nonprofit focused on preservation of the built environment. This furthered the Museum's preservation mission and has proven to be a terrific example of how two cultural groups can join forces to be more efficient and effective.

- We have successfully emerged from the period of reorganization that lasted from May 2012 to December 2012. We are once again open five days a week.
- We have greatly expanded the number and variety of educational programs and exhibitions at the Museum. In 2016, we offered more than 170 unique programs and educational events.
- The Museum has a strong board, comprised of leaders from Charlotte businesses, academia, local government and the community at large.
- The Museum is financially stronger than ever, with a balanced budget and no debt.
- The Museum completed a comprehensive strategic plan in 2016 with PMA Consulting, LLC to determine strategic issues, to build consensus around long-range goals, to create alignment between the museum and its stakeholders and to develop an actionable plan for growth and development.
- Our mission and programs have a broad base of support from our individual members, as well as foundations and corporations including the ASC and the Wells Fargo Foundation.

#### The Built Environment Helps Tell Charlotte's Story

The Museum interprets Charlotte's built environment on the Museum grounds and beyond, including:

- Hezekiah Alexander House and home site buildings
- Diorama of colonial Charlotte
- Charlotte Neighborhoods exhibition - settlement to 2008
- Neighborhood walking tours
- Mad About Modern tours of midcentury modern homes
- Preservation & History Awards

#### Innovative Programs and Events Share History with a Broad Audience

The Museum provides outstanding educational opportunities for the Charlotte region, including the following programs:

- School programs for CMS, private schools, and home school students
- Backcountry Explorers
- Revolutionary Charlotte
- Hezekiah Alexander Home Site Tours
- Self-guided tours of the museum exhibitions
- When Charlotte Was Young Like Me!
- North Carolina: From Colony to State
- The Southern Campaign of the American Revolution
- Magna Carta and the Founding Principles of Liberty

- Passport to World Cultures and Geography
- Backcountry Housewife- Daily Life in the 18th Century
- Charlotte 240 Digital History Project
- Ron Hankins History Talks Lecture Series
- International Charlotte
- Backcountry Days Festival with Charlotte Folk Society
- Civil War Symposium
- Twelfth Night
- Fourth of July Celebration
- Teas of the British Isles
- Women's History Tea
- Catawba Nation Symposium
- World War I Symposium and Lecture Series

**We are grateful to the following for their support of our programming.**



**WELLS  
FARGO**

**The Charlotte Museum of History | 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215**

**Open Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm**

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