OUR MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

OUR MISSION
Through its arts and educational programs and its permanent collection, the Swedish American Museum interprets the immigrant experience for children and adults and promotes an appreciation of contemporary Swedish-American culture.

OUR VISION STATEMENT
To be the preeminent Swedish-American immigration museum in the greater Chicago area and a unifying force within the Midwestern Scandinavian community.

OUR CORE VALUES
- Celebrate Swedish culture, customs and traditions
- Honor the Swedish immigration experience
- Recognize contributions of volunteers and supporters
- Foster collaboration with the broader community

On the cover: In 2017 the Museum purchased the building next door at 5217 N. Clark Street.
GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our Annual Report gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past year and to highlight some of the things that happened. Many of these are known to you, and perhaps you worked on some, but you may not be aware of things that take place in the background that are part of the life at the Museum.

As you read through the report give yourself a large Tack! (Thank You!) The Museum is what we are and who we are as a community thanks to all of you, staff, board, trustees, members, volunteers, and friends. I continue to be honored to be part of this Museum and to share our mission and vision.

Our staff of five full-time and two part-time people have learned to wear multiple hats at different times and they are always willing to jump in to help where needed. This is especially helpful in times of change and transition. In 2018 we had two staff changes, first our store manager, Frida Idesten, moved back to Sweden, and Jitka Terhaerdt joined the Museum. She has done a great job continuing to add new products and constantly changing the store to be fresh and inviting. The other staff change was later in the year when curator Keith Ulrich left in early October and Emily England started in January of 2019. We had a great Christmas gift when Emily accepted the offer to be our curator on Christmas Eve of 2018. All of our staff does a fabulous job working on their own specific area and also as great team members.

Stacey Nyman, education manager, makes school tours a very fun experience for students and she makes our family events memorable for all ages. Caroline Gerbaulet-Vanasse, member and community engagement manager, makes sure that our volunteers are well taken care of and part of our Museum team when they join us for a full day or special event. Angelica Farzaneh-Far, communications manager, and Anna Wramner, PR & Publicity manager, get the printed material ready, handle posts on social media and manage all our marketing. We are fortunate to have such a talented team!

Here are some highlights from 2018:
We started the year by removing the worn flooring in the gallery space and re-finishing the hardwood floor that had been below all these years. It is beautiful and we are so happy we figured out that we had wood floors throughout the gallery as we removed the kitchen floor. We closed the Museum during the floor project which also gave us time to do inventory and get ready for the year. Before we had a chance to start using our licensed and approved commercial kitchen we had to close the doors again for a couple of days to replace the boiler. In the middle of the cold January days the old boiler had developed a crack and a new boiler was installed which is now efficiently heating our building and should last many years to come. Serving Swedish treats was a delight throughout 2018 and we baked Semlor for Fat Tuesday, made Våfflor for Waffle day and later in the year Kanelbullar for Cinnamon roll day. We even had a Rulltårta day (swiss rolls) in August to connect to the Swedish Food days that we are learning about. Our events became more

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fun with food prepared in our own commercial kitchen and served with a concert or as part of a lecture. However, we will always work with Tre Kronor for Herring Breakfast and Julmiddag. Their excellent food and wonderful partnership is very valuable to all of us and it is a joy to have them in our Swedish-American community of Chicago.

For the first time, at least in many years, we decided to have a special Volunteer Appreciation dinner and then have the Annual Meeting and Celebration of the Museum on a separate day, a Sunday afternoon. Both events were great and well attended and we had a wonderful evening with our Volunteers who contributed over 7,000 hours to the Museum during 2017. At the Volunteer Appreciation dinner we believe we surprised Miles Lindblad who was honored as our Volunteer of the Year. Miles is here often and helps with the things that are needed but maybe not known to all.

The Annual Meeting and Celebration of the Museum was fun and inspiring as we talked about the plans for 5211 and 5217. Board chair Janet Nelson and Trustee chair Bengt Sjögren led most of the discussions and presentations. The goal was to inform every one of the current plans, and to get everyone excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

It was time to hold Tantalizing Treasures Sale again in April of 2018 and many volunteers spent hours going through items donated to price and sort them. We were especially thankful to Joan Papadopoulos and Vereen Nordstrom for being our co-chairs again for this event.

Before we got to all our summer events, we had the Skolavslutning (ending of the School year) with Svenska Skolan in early June. The morning started with Bullerbyn children singing some of their songs (under age 6) and then the Svenska Skolan students sang traditional Swedish summer songs for their friends and parents before getting their diplomas for finishing a year of Swedish studies. Svenska Skolan has been at the Museum for many years and is now part of the Museum. It is fun when the families arrive for Svenska Skolan on Sunday mornings and the Swedish language fills the Museum. Svenska Skolan is supported by the Swedish government and we have four great teachers, all Swedish, who teach the children about Sweden’s language, geography, history, and culture.

The summer was filled with many Midsommar celebrations and our Swedish intern, Lina Granberg said that she celebrated Midsommar more here in Chicago than she had in Sweden for many years. We start with Midsommarfest here in Andersonville and the packed crowds during the ABBA Salute show that Swedish music, and especially ABBA music, is popular with all ages of all backgrounds. It is a joy to be part of the beer tent during the last two hours on Saturday evening. The whole space between the beer tent and the stage is packed with people, dancing and singing along with the performers. The Fest starts with dancing around the Midsummer pole on Saturday morning with Linda Westergren-Muhr.
who teaches everyone about being frogs and musicians when we dance and sing traditional Swedish songs. The flowers donated by local stores were made into midsommar wreaths throughout the weekend; another little touch of Sweden right here in Andersonville. Midsommar is celebrated throughout June by the Swedish-American community, and we go to Rockford, Bishop Hill, and Geneva to participate in their celebrations by selling products and talking about the Museum.

Not only did we have ABBA music in June, but also in September when the ABBARAMA group from California shared their music at the Museum. It was a fun Swedish way to start the fall events. The traditional way to start the fall is for the Museum to be part of Scandinavian Day at Vasa Park on the second Sunday of September. Together with other Nordic-American organizations we connect with visitors and each other for a full day of food, music, and shopping. We encourage all of you to come and join us this year at Vasa Park in Elgin.

The gallery was turned into a mini Kungsholm for our exhibit Encore! Encore! when we displayed some of our Kungsholm Puppets and told the story of the Smörgåsbord in the U.S. and how the Kungsholm Restaurant was a Swedish destination for many years. Along with the exhibit we had Richard Tellström from Sweden teach us about the tradition of Smörgåsbord and Julbord and how it today differs in the U.S. and Sweden. Some traditions have stayed the same in the U.S. while they have somewhat changed with the times in Sweden.

Early in November, we had our annual fundraising gala Aspire!2018 at the Saddle and Cycle Club at Foster Ave. by Lake Shore Drive on Saturday, Nov. 3. It was a special honor to recognize Tom Martin of SVEA Restaurant and Scott Martin of Simon’s Tavern for their work and dedication to Andersonville and our Swedish-American community. We give a special thanks to co-chairs Madelaine and Philip Gerbaulet-Vanasse and everyone who came to celebrate the Museum and helped us raise over $60,000!

The month of December, as always, is filled with holiday celebrations and events for all ages. We enjoyed working with SWEA for our Julkafé during Julmarknad and served homemade cookies, cakes, and open sandwiches. The saffron buns were made fresh each day and tasted almost like we all remembered from our childhood.

In addition to this short summary of 2018 here at the Museum, please read more about the collection, education, genealogy, retail space and more in our 2018 Annual Report.

Thank you for a great year and for making the Museum a wonderful place. Our future is exciting as we work together to revitalize and expand our Museum along with continued pursuit of our mission of connection to our heritage.

Karin Moen Abercrombie
CHAIR’S MESSAGE

WOW — that about sums it up! So much excitement, movement and, yes, work. Much of what was accomplished during this past year was behind the scenes and not things that could be seen by just a glance around. Lots of planning has gone into what will happen soon and quickly. The Swedish American Museum has always prided itself in doing things the right way, well the right way takes time. Time to get permits, time to evaluate, time to plan and make sure all will turn out as expected with minimal surprises.

The people and the staff at the Swedish American Museum continue to be the driving force, or shall I say the “wind beneath my wings.” There are always people to step up and help when needed, no matter what the task. It is so wonderful to hear volunteers talk about their experience at the Museum and watch how they interact with the many visitors on a day to day basis.

“Pop-Up Café” has become the most exciting and the strongest beacon for things to come that the Swedish American Museum has expanded into this year. It has been well received and well attended. It not only gives us a chance to educate people about Swedish customs, particularly as centered around food, but gives people a chance to meet, visit and see our Museum. It is the precursor to our more permanent Café in the future.

It is with heavy heart that I retire as Chairman of the Board, it has been a challenging, enlightening, humbling and invigorating year. The Museum has so much in the future and the key is always looking to the future. I look forward to helping and being around in different capacities but always with the same love and dedication for an institution that gives me more than I can ever give back.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement,

Janet Nelson
THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN IN ACTION

Thanks to the success of the Museum’s 40th anniversary campaign, 2018 has been a year of expansion, renovation and renewal. In January the main gallery saw new life brought to the hardwood floors and the same month saw the boiler replaced. When the building next door to the Museum was purchased in 2017, it came with tenants, and not until their contracts expired could work begin to prepare the building for Museum use. It may seem like little is happening from the outside, but behind the scenes work has been moving forward. The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce moved in as soon as renovations on the third floor were completed. The second floor also received a facelift. This apartment is used to host visiting performers and artists, people who would previously be put in hotels in the area, so a significant cost saving for the Museum. Work is also under way in the basement and on the ground floor. The Museum did not only grow in physical size; it also increased in capacity. With the new, commercial kitchen and a brand-new Food and Retail License, the Museum was able to start hosting pop-up cafés and cater its own events. This has provided the Museum with an opportunity to offer culinary treats from Sweden to its visitors and we will see much more of these events in 2019.

In addition to this, the Museum upgraded its telephone system and internet server in order to improve speed and efficiency.

As we look towards 2019 we will continue to see changes that were put in motion by the 40th anniversary campaign. Another exciting year ahead.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

We had an delightful year at the Swedish American Museum with many inspiring exhibits and activities, ranging from music and art, talks and lectures, food events, movies, community events to holiday celebrations.

Exhibits

Two gallery spaces for special exhibits offer an opportunity to broaden the visitor’s view of Swedish and Swedish-American art. The main gallery hosted four exhibits in 2018.

Swedish artist Hans Öhman showcased in “Inspired: Contemporary Swedish Folk Paintings and Haiku Paintings” had two different styles of art. One is decorative and based on a Swedish traditional way of painting furniture and walls. The other technique, purely in water color, is philosophical and based on Haiku poetry that expresses the span between micro and macro cosmos.

In the Spring we were introduced to Sweden’s colorful history of sequential art, cartooning, and graphic novels. The exhibit, “Outside the lines; a history of Swedish comics”, offered account of comic art development in Sweden, from early cave drawings to today’s webcomic culture. We especially learned about the cross pollination of artistic expression in Sweden and the US, including shared characters, magazines, and movements, ranging from Mad magazine and underground comics to Kalle Anka and Fantomen.

Karin Broos is one of the most acclaimed Swedish artists of our time. Her photo-realistic work of seemingly mundane moments express ambiguous meanings and universal feelings of melancholy and sadness. Broos gains inspiration from within her home and family, as well as from the nature and landscape of Värmland, where she resides. Karin Broos’ “Still Life” exhibit, showcased during the summer, included paintings from 2011 until today, many of which were new to the public.

In 2017, the Museum received a generous donation of puppets, stage sets, plates and menus from the Swedish restaurant Kungsholm and its Miniature Grand Opera. In September 2018, these items were brought back to life in the exhibit “Encore, Encore! — The Puppets of Chicago´s Kungsholm Miniature Grand Opera.” Along with dozens of puppets, the display included elaborate set pieces, meticulously detailed props, smorgasbord, and Kungsholm-related ephemera.

The Wallenberg Gallery, located on the Museum’s second floor, hosted seven unique exhibits in 2018. The year started off with a display of letter correspondence between Swedish immigrants and their family and friends back home. Although separated by an ocean, they were still able to share their lives with one another.

In February, we could enjoy the Swedish-American artist Erika Råberg’s fascinating work with both still and moving images that explore the intricate relationship between language, image, and sound.

Generations of Swedes have grown up reading Astrid Lindgren’s books, listening to them on tape or watching the movies. In the exhibit “Astrid Lindgren; To Play is to Live”, we learned about the beloved author’s life and the inspirations behind her stories.

“Dreams of a Swedish Summer,” was another beautiful exhibit with gardener, speaker and author LaManda Joy. Here, she shared some of her favorite
garden memories from visits over the years to Stockholm and Gotland. From kolonilott (community gardens), to 300-year-old urban farms and charming garden centers, to renegade hollyhocks growing through sidewalk cracks in Stockholm.

Photographer David Girson purchased a cache of turn of the 19th-century glass plate negatives at an estate sale in 1998. He then revealed another photographer, Charles Spaak, an 1885 Swedish immigrant, draughtsman and engineer in Chicago. In “Modern Antiquity - The photographs of Charles Erik Spaak”, Mr Girson showcased these pictures for the first time nationally at the Museum.

Following the Swedish tradition of watching Donald Duck on Christmas Eve, the Museum brought back “It’s Just Ducky” in time for Christmas. The annual viewing of “Kalle Anka och hans vänner önskar God Jul” among Swedes on Dec. 24 is a charming, unique holiday tradition that stops nearly half of the population in its tracks.

Food
Food brings people together at the Museum and remains a vital part of our heritage, whether we prefer old family recipes or holiday dishes with a modern twist.

With our new, commercial kitchen, we are now able to host pop-up cafés and cater our own events. We have been cooking and baking so that visitors could get a real taste of Sweden. Throughout the year, we honored traditional Swedish “food days,” such as Fettisdag (Fat Tuesday), Våffeldagen (Waffle Day), Rulltårtans Dag (Swiss Roll Day), and Kanelbullens Dag (Cinnamon Bun Day). We also hosted our annual and popular tasting, and competition event Got Glögg, as well as the recurring Herring breakfasts, and Pancakes with Pippi. The Museum also participated in community events like the dessert crawl Andersonville Sweet-ish stroll.

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Concerts and Performances

The performing arts range from music and dance to verse and beyond. They are perhaps the most tangible expressions of cultural heritage, and we offer all types of genres in our popular music and dance shows.

The year started with the entertainer and Music Director of the Scandinavian Chamber Orchestra of New York, Magnus Mårtensson. As he returned to the Museum, he presented another favorite comic interlude of piano and violin music.

In May, the Chicago Swedish Mixed Chorus celebrated its 80th anniversary and held a performance celebrating spring, love, and heritage.

The Merula Choir kicked off summertime with Swedish composers and music ranging from jazz and pop to folk and blues.

Our annual “Jenny Lind concert,” where the winner of The Royal Swedish Academy of Music’s Jenny Lind award performs at the Museum, was a well-attended event. This year featured 26-year old Kine Sandtrö.

The Lindsborg Swedish Folk Dancers is a group of high school dancers and musicians. On a warm summer afternoon, these enthusiastic dancers, dedicated to promoting the study and appreciation of Swedish folk dance and music, performed traditional dances at the Museum. They were accompanied by high-quality musicians who used both common instruments, like bass and fiddles, as well as the more unusual Nyckelharpa — literally “Key Harpe” — which is a string instrument with tangents unique to Swedish music.

“A Special evening with ABBARAMA,” had everyone dancing in early September and a live broadcast of the Small Fish Radio Theatre’s Annual Horror Show was part of Halloween.

Lectures, Talks and Movie Nights

Well known Swedish scholar and media authority, Professor Richard Tellström, gave a series of lectures about Swedish food traditions and the participants also had the chance to try some of the foods they learned about.

We also hosted movie nights, showing Swedish movies, ranging from old classics, independent films to modern box-office hits.

Holiday Celebrations

The two main holidays in Sweden are Midsummer and Christmas. Midsummer is the most typically Swedish tradition of all. Each June, this holiday is celebrated at the Museum and throughout Andersonville. During this three-day event, part of Clark Street, from Foster to Catalpa, is closed and turned into a popular street festival, Midsommarfest. The Museum is in charge of the Swedish Stage, children’s entertainment and a beer tent as part of the fest. Raising and dancing around the Midsummer pole, as well as creating flower wreaths for the visitors are some of the highlights. Each year, more and more locals wear flowers in their hair to celebrate Midsummer in Andersonville.

Christmas is the other main Swedish celebration of the year. All Swedish traditions around this dark period of the year are celebrated at the Museum, including St. Lucia, Julmarknad and Breakfast with Tomten. Some of these recurring events have become an essential part of many families’ holiday traditions.
The neighborhood joins the Museum in keeping Swedish heritage alive and is proud of its Swedish roots. The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce frequently uses Sweden in its marketing efforts. Both Midsummer and Christmas are wildly celebrated, not only at the Museum but in the neighborhood as a whole, for example when Lucia walks down a candle-lit Clark Street and lamp posts are decorated in Swedish colors during the holiday season.

Collaborations

Fostering collaborations with the broader community is one of the Museum’s core values. Some of the events offered by the Museum is hosted together with other organizations that also strive to keep Swedish-American heritage alive.

The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce respects the neighborhood’s Swedish history and continuously works with the Museum. It also is the Museum’s first tenant in the recently acquired next door building at 5217 N Clark St.

Swedish immigration was significant across the Midwest. The Museum works closely with other organizations in Chicago, for example SWEA Chicago, Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce, North Park University, and American Daughters of Sweden. Equally valued are the Museum’s sister organizations outside Chicago, like Vasa Park, Bishop Hill Heritage Association and Swedish Historical Society of Rockford, where the Museum participates in events such as Midsummer celebrations.

The Aspire! Gala

The Museum’s annual fundraising gala took place on Nov 3. It was a night of joy and celebration of Swedish and Swedish-American heritage and culture.

This year’s honorees were father and son Tom Martin and Scott Martin, owners of SVEA Restaurant and Simon’s Tavern. Where it has become increasingly difficult for Swedish businesses to thrive, the Martin family has found a way to combine their Swedish heritage with a modern touch that also appeals to a wider clientele.

pictures of the gala are on the next two pages
Father and son Tom Martin and Scott Martin were honored.

The Aspire! Gala was held at The Saddle and Cycle Club.

The Martin Family

Laura & Larry Ekstrom

Members of Verdandi Lodge #3, I.O.S.

Joe & Kerstin Lane

Bengt & Gerd Sjögren

Laura & Larry Ekstrom

The Martin Family
Co-chairs Madelaine & Philip Gerbaulet-Vanasse

Linda Westergren-Muhr & Paul Muhr

Aspire! Gala volunteers

Kristine & Göran Aronsson

Sten & Karin Bjorkling

Left: Rosemary Schnell & Russell Bruzek; Center: Aspire! 2018 Guests

Photos by Tone Stockenström
PROGRAMS AND CLASSES

Exhibits
• An Ocean Apart: Immigrant Letters
• Inspired: Contemporary Swedish Folk Paintings and Haiku Paintings by Hans Öhman
• Available Light by Erika Råberg
• Outside the Lines: Comics from Sweden to Chicago
• Astrid Lindgren: To Play is to Live
• Dreams of a Swedish Summer by LaManda Joy
• Modern Antiquity — The Photographs of Charles Erik Spaak by David Girson
• Encore! Encore! the Puppets of Chicago’s Kungsholm Miniature Grand Opera
• Bonader
• It’s Just Ducky! A Modern Swedish Christmas Tradition

Guided Tours
• The Dream of America — Swedish Immigration to Chicago
• Walking Tour of Andersonville

Special Events
• Appreciation Brunch
• Fettisdag (Fat Tuesday)
• Herring Breakfaests with Tre Kronor Restaurant
• Våffeldagen (Waffle Day)
• Tantalizing Treasures Sale
• Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
• Annual Meeting
• Midsummer Night’s Dream — Joffrey Ballet
• World Cup Watch Parties
• Rulltårtans Dag (Swiss Roll Day)
• Kanelbullens Dag (Cinnamon Roll Day)
• Aspire! 2018 Gala
• Kungsholm Package, a behind the scenes tour of the Kungsholm Theatre at Lawry’s Restaurant
• Got Glögg? Tasting and Competition

Holiday Celebrations and Programs
• Midsommarfest including Children’s Crafts, Swedish Stage and Beer Tent
• Christmas Preview and Sale
• Julmarknad
• Breakfast with Tomten
• St. Lucia celebration at Chicago Cultural Center, Museum, and Ebenezer Lutheran Church
• Svensk Julgudstjänst — Swedish Christmas service with Ebenezer Lutheran Church
• Julmiddag

Museum Store on the Road
• Swedish Historical Society Midsommar Celebration in Rockford Illinois
• Bishop Hill Heritage Association Midsommar Music Festival
• Sweden Väst in Geneva Illinois
• Scandinavian Day Festival in Vasa Park
• Scandinavian Festival in New Berlin, Wisconsin
• SWEA holiday celebration

Concerts and Performances
• Concert with Magnus Mårtensson
• Chicago Swedish Mixed Chorus Concert
• SMED the Mini Musical
• Merula Choir Concert Harmony in Style

• Annual Jenny Lind Concert
• Lindsborg Swedish Folk Dancers
• Frida Hyvönen Concert
• A Special Evening with ABBARAMA
• Duo Scandinavica

Lectures/Films
• Movie Nights - Maria Wern, Love and Lemons, Rebecka Martinsson
• Comic exhibit lectures with artists Mike Centeno, Eric Basir, and Vicko Alvarez
• Reflections, a film about Karin Broos
• Charles Erik Spaak photographs, a talk by David Girson
• Julbord and Smörgasbord lectures by Richard Tellström
• Introducing the Kungsholm Puppets

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Family Programs

- Moon Madness
- Hejsan: Story and Craft Hour
- Bullerbyn Swedish Language Playgroup
- Pancakes with Pippi
- Mulle
- Kidworks Theatre
- Travel the World Summer Camp
- Pippi Longstocking movie
- Cow Celebration and Name Unveiling (Moomor)
- Dala Horse Decoration

Swedish American Genealogy Center

- Overcoming Research Obstacles in the Swedish Church Books
- DNA: A Power Tool in the Genealogist’s Tool Box
- Old Swedish American Newspapers - New Treasure Trove for Online Research
- Digging Up Funeral Records
- Swedes in the Civil War
- Nordic Research: Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish
- The Four Estates: Nobility, Clergy, Burghers, Farmers
- Exploring Your Swedish Roots

Classes and Workshops

- Swedish Language Series
- Svenska Skolan
- Scandinavian Dances with Linda Westergren-Muhr and Paul Muhr
- Scandinavian Jam Sessions for Musicians
- HERstory Stitch Up
- Cream Demonstration and Salt Tasting

Community Events

- Chicago Museum Week
- Chicago Concierge Favorites Awards

St. Lucia celebration at Chicago Cultural Center

- Welcome Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter at North Park University
- After Work event at Business Sweden
- DePaul University Vincentian Service Day
- Andersonville Farmer’s Market
- Andersonville Food Tour
- Adler Planetarium Solstice Bash
- Cultural Intersections: Iconic Chinese Design by Norwegian Architects
- Andersonville Summer Sidewalk Sale
- Taste of Andersonville
- Ask a Curator Day
- Andersonville Arts Week
- Smithsonian Museum Magazine Museum Day
- Lit Crawl
- CCA World Dumpling Fest
- Chicago Film Festival, Waltz for Monica, with the Swedish Consulate
- Swedish-American Historical Society 70th Anniversary Dinner
- The Nordic Success Story at North Park University
- Andersonville Sweet-ish Stroll (Dessert Crawl)
- Halloween-in-Andersonville
- Andersonville Late Nights
The Kerstin Andersson Museum Store specializes in all sorts of Swedish and Scandinavian gifts. May it be food, cooking supplies, children’s books, jewelry, clothing or handicrafts, the Museum Store has something to offer children and grownups alike.

Every year new items are added and others disappear. For example a new Museum mug was introduced in November and quickly sold out. The positive feedback from many customers makes us confident that this unique mix of traditional handicraft meet modern design is a recipe for ongoing success.

One major highlight of the year that was made, was the addition of a Museum Store fridge. We can now offer refrigerated delights like herring, Gothenburg sausage, Kalles Kaviar, Swedish cheeses, as well as seasonal specialties throughout the year. Food links us to others, as well as to our past. The kitchen and the fridge play an essential part in our efforts to offer a fuller experience of Swedish heritage and tell the story of Swedish immigration more completely.

The Museum always strives to connect with other Scandinavian organizations, so, like in previous years, the Museum Store went on the road. The Store took part in popular events in Chicago, and in the Greater Chicago area, Midsummer events in Rockford and Bishop Hill in Illinois, New Berlin in Wisconsin, as well as various SWEA events.

The Museum Store looks back on a year of positive changes, nice additions, and high sales, both by customers coming from afar and by Andersonville residents shopping locally. Volunteers are always a cornerstone in running the Museum Store, and we continue to welcome new ones.

“I always make sure I stop by the Museum store when I am in Chicago,”
visitor from St. Louis

“My best gifts are from the here,” Carol from Evanston; “My sister and I always stop by here when we come and visit our mother’s grave, she was Swedish, and the Store reminds us of her,”
Helen and her sister from Los Angeles

A TASTE OF SWEDEN

Popular items in the Museum Store were socks, books about the Lagom concept, and Snaps mixes.
**Swedish Language Classes**

Heritage and connecting to your past is increasingly popular. Throughout the year, the Swedish American Museum offers Swedish language classes on four levels, and in 2018, we saw an increase in the number of students in all our groups.

In beginner levels I and II, the students are given an introduction to the Swedish language and culture, starting with practicing vowel sounds, being able to introduce oneself, weekly vocabulary lists, textbook work and an overview of Swedish holidays, geography, and traditions. Then further elements of grammar, problem-solving, as well as asking questions are added.

Our intermediate course focuses on how to use Swedish in everyday situations and has both homework and in-class exercises to practice to listen and speak. Classes also include information about Swedish geography, traditions, and daily life.

Conversational Swedish is taught in Swedish and is geared toward students with advanced knowledge of the language and who wants to practice with others. Students get to discuss current events, play board games, read short stories together and then watch the film version of the story. Student assignments include reading articles in Swedish, summarizing them and presenting them to the group.

All classes incorporate Swedish art and pop culture through several different forms of media. Handouts, Podcasts, online videos, movies, and board games are a part of the curriculum for all levels. Swedish classes offer Museum members and non-members a valuable connection to their heritage, family, the Swedish community in Chicago, and beyond.

**Svenska Skolan**

Svenska Skolan has been teaching Swedish children about their history and geography, alongside reading and writing Swedish, for years at the Museum. The school is funded by the Swedish Government, and the Museum has donated space for the classes over the years. This year the Museum has taken over the running of Svenska Skolan. This has been done in many other states that have both Svenska Skolan and a Swedish history museum or cultural institution. For the school year 2018-2019, Svenska Skolan has 35 students in three different age groups. The children range from Kindergarten to 8th grade, but students can come to Svenska Skolan through high school. In becoming part of the Museum, the school has been able to add more cultural events and experience for its students.
In America, the question “Where am I from?” usually means “Where did my family live before they came to the US?”

Tracing your family history is increasingly popular all over the world. The Genealogy Center at the Swedish American Museum gives visitors the opportunity to learn more about their family heritage and to dive into different topics of Genealogy research. It can sometimes be a daunting and time-consuming process to find details about the past. Luckily, modern technology has made historical data more accessible and a team of dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers at the Center are there to help.

Individual research expanded in 2018 to include sessions on Saturday afternoons in addition to Wednesday afternoons. In these popular one-on-one research sessions, people came for help with specific questions about their own family, and sometimes translation of Swedish documents unveiled new information. Our volunteers helped put a smile on many faces as more details were discovered. One woman from Indiana found a cousin in Sweden who she later visited.

More than 150 people participated in the monthly Genealogy events. These included presentations about old records such as church books and funeral records, which are new avenues for research when you hit a brick wall, as well as clues which can be found in old Swedish newspapers. Hundreds of Swedish-language newspapers were published from 1850 on. Today only Nordstjernan remains in print. Births, deaths, marriages, social group events are some items reported.

Several presentations were held throughout the year, all exploring different aspects of genealogy research. In the talk “Nordic Research: Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish”, we presented different sources available for each ethnic group.

Other presentations dealt with Swedish historical events such as “The Four Estates of Sweden: nobility, clergy, burghers, and land-owning peasants.” This institution, which was the highest authority in Sweden next to the King, was dissolved in 1866. Genealogical research remains, giving valuable insight to many.

“Exploring Your Swedish Roots” is a full day Open House in November. It was again very popular. Researchers from the Museum and Sweden assisted participants in their individual genealogy questions.

The monthly lectures are always held in the larger Gallery space as more and more people have become interested in their ancestry.

“I am very grateful for the help I received. I found a living relative thanks to Elisabeth Thorsell, a researcher at Exploring Your Swedish Roots.”

Sue Stockwell

“Bengt explained clearly how the four estates worked together in the Parliament. The fascinating thing was the depth of genealogical records available if an ancestor belonged to one of them. My ancestors were all farmers, but they did own their farms, so maybe I’ll discover something more as I push back the generations!”

Jill Reider
The Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration is a beloved part of the Museum. This child-friendly area is a highly educational exhibit catered to please young, curious minds in an exploratory setting.

The Swedish American Museum, with its more traditional artifacts and exhibits, and the Brunk Children’s Museum, with its modern, hands-on fun, composes a mix of both instruction and play. It is a popular destination for school field trips to learn about early immigration and is specifically designed to provide a useful supplement to the primary- and middle-years school curriculum. Although having a Swedish setting, the story of migration is shared by many throughout the world.

In 2018, the Children’s Museum hosted many events, reaching more than thirteen thousand visitors. A number which increased by more than a thousand since last year. Some activities are recurring, like Pancakes with Pippi, as well as the monthly Moon Madness and Hejsan events. Others are linked to different exhibits, or holiday celebrations, like the immensely popular Breakfast with Tomten at Christmas. All activities aim to highlight various aspects of the Swedish American heritage, and range from movies and music events, to arts and crafts, family nights and language classes.

One popular event that took place in 2018 was the Dala-horse painting, where children and adults gathered to decorate authentic, unfinished wooden Dala-horses in vivid colors. The latest addition to the Brunk’s Museum is a milking cow, which was celebrated at a special Cow Party.

The Museum is also a popular venue for birthday parties and arranges tailored children’s activities during school breaks, like the Travel the World Summer Camp, and arts and crafts during Spring break.
Dancing around the Midsummer pole

The number of people reached by the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration in 2018:

- Children’s Museum: 13,323
- School Tours: 3,464
- Birthday parties: 1,309
- Special events: 1,180

Some comments from our visitors:

“I used the Museum’s Dream of America exhibit as one of my resources for my high school research project on ways that Swedish immigrants impacted Chicago and received an A on my project! Thank you!”
Carl (age 14)

“Your Summer Camp was amazing — it was exciting to board the plane and travel to a different country each day!”
Kristina (age 11)

“Breakfast with Tomten is our family’s favorite Christmas tradition! We always enjoy Santa’s visit, the delicious pancakes, kid’s crafts and Christmas shopping in the gift shop.”
The Gillen Family

“As a father of 2 toddlers, I am grateful for the Children’s Museum. My daughters love the hands-on, interactive displays.”
Eric Berliant
20

9,300, this is the incredible amount of hours devoted to the Museum by our volunteers in 2018. More than 190 volunteers have taken time off their busy schedule to come and help out, be it in the Store, the Front desk, during events, in the kitchen, or with any other of our many activities during the year. The Swedish American Museum would not be able to be as successful as it is without its pool of volunteers.

The Museum has had an increasing number of food events in 2018. We are therefore especially grateful to the volunteers who have taken the extra step to get Food Handler’s certificates.

Our big events of the year — Midsommarfest and Julmarknad — were both a great success — and they require many extra hands prior, during and after the actual facts. As many as 120 volunteers helped out to make these events a big success. Our annual Tantalizing Treasure Sale is another event that requires a lot of extra help.

Each year, the Museum hosts a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, where one of the volunteers is awarded the Volunteer of the year award. This year’s award was given to Miles Lindblad.

Volunteer of the Year
Miles Lindblad is a person who brings joy to Museum visitors, makes the Museum his priority, is always there when needed, and has become a significant part of many families’ holiday traditions. He helps with art exhibitions and is there when something needs fixing or to help out with the last minute pick up.

Top Volunteers of the Year

Steve Anderson
Karin Andersson
David Anthonsen
Carolyn Aronson
Lena Billgren
Else-Britt Delong
Carol Erickson
Vivi-Anne Erickson
Kristin Even-Bergquist
Angelina Farzenah-Far
Rebecca Flanagan
Linda Flentye
Diana Gardner
Lina Granberg*
Jim Haglund
Cathy Holmquist
Sue Jackson
Ted Johnson
Joanne Kiewicz
Norma Kirby
Shirley Koelling
Rebekah Kunes
Margaret Larkin
Miles Lindblad
Brock McCord*
Kathy Meade
Jordyn Michaels
Bianca Milligan*
Isabella Moughal
Paul Muhr
Wayne Nelson
Janet Nelson
Kerstin Nicholson
Vereen Nordstrom
Sue Nordstrom
Sophie Nyman
Kevin Palmer
Ed Pritikin
Barbara Ross
Frank Schneider
Carol Seaton
Kate Sheehy
Bengt Sjögren
Astrid Thoren
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Kathy Voss
Margot Ward
Linda Westergren-Muhr
Kevin Williams
Diana Young

* Intern
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Dorothy Carlson  
Christopher Carlson  
Erik Carlson  
Carl “Whitey” Eglund  
Mildred Gillen  
David Leslie Johnson  
Gunnel Lundquist  
Sune Norberg  
Bibi Orelind  
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Ed Zasadil

We apologize if we have missed a donation or if a donor is listed incorrectly.

Legend

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# Aspire Gala Sponsor  
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Overall 2018 was a good year for our Museum. While the year resulted in a loss of about $40,000, as a Non-Profit organization our success is measured by our programs. Our spending for Program Services of $778,199 grew by almost 15%. Expenditures for Management, Fundraising and General Expenses of $170,262 also increased, primarily due to the interest, insurance, depreciation and other operating expenses, some related to the 5217 building.

Our Revenues, excluding investment returns, of $950,260 was sufficient to support our increased expenditures. The loss on investments of $41,668 was due to the year-end decline in the investment markets. The market value of our investments has already recovered this year. We received $60,000 of new donations to our 40th Anniversary Campaign bringing the total amount raised to $1,033,000.

### Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and dues income</td>
<td>$328,732</td>
<td>$268,011</td>
<td>$279,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission fees</td>
<td>$38,285</td>
<td>$37,560</td>
<td>$39,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorials and restricted gifts</td>
<td>$94,519</td>
<td>$278,769</td>
<td>$331,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift shop sales</td>
<td>$210,143</td>
<td>$174,487</td>
<td>$201,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events/programs (net of program costs)</td>
<td>$91,482</td>
<td>$80,676</td>
<td>$123,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total public support</strong></td>
<td>$763,161</td>
<td>$839,503</td>
<td>$974,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants from government agencies</td>
<td>$78,077</td>
<td>$33,507</td>
<td>$80,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income and net assets released from restriction</td>
<td>$67,354</td>
<td>$345,033</td>
<td>$206,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support &amp; Other Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$908,592</td>
<td>$1,218,043</td>
<td>$1,259,362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$778,199</td>
<td>$685,228</td>
<td>$665,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general services</td>
<td>$126,399</td>
<td>$104,982</td>
<td>$118,576</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund-raising services</td>
<td>$43,863</td>
<td>$43,890</td>
<td>$44,122</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Functional Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$948,461</td>
<td>$834,100</td>
<td>$827,933</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>-$39,869</td>
<td>$383,943</td>
<td>$431,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior period adjustment/Special expense</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets - beginning of year</td>
<td>$4,028,813</td>
<td>$3,644,870</td>
<td>$3,213,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets - end of year</strong></td>
<td>$3,988,944</td>
<td>$4,028,813</td>
<td>$3,644,870</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Balances at year end - 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets (cash, grants, and inventory)</td>
<td>$2,095,975</td>
<td>$2,214,482</td>
<td>$2,381,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets, less depreciation</td>
<td>$3,273,076</td>
<td>$3,282,470</td>
<td>$1,696,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable (noncurrent portion)</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$32,350</td>
<td>$43,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total other assets</td>
<td>$74,731</td>
<td>$74,731</td>
<td>$74,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$5,473,782</td>
<td>$5,604,033</td>
<td>$4,195,997</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>$99,069</td>
<td>$125,424</td>
<td>$49,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term and deferred debt, net of current portion</td>
<td>$1,385,769</td>
<td>$1,449,796</td>
<td>$501,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$1,484,838</td>
<td>$1,575,220</td>
<td>$551,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,988,944</td>
<td>$4,028,813</td>
<td>$3,644,870</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS
2018 Annual Report

Swedish American Museum and the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration

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