





# From the Director

# The year 2023 marks 45 years

since the Lawrence History Center was founded in 1978 by German immigrant Eartha Dengler. We celebrated the milestone in different ways across the year and are enthusiastic about the bright future that lies ahead for the organization and for Lawrence!

Through **ongoing archival collection and research activities**, the expanded provision of digital content, and virtual and in-person programming, LHC engages its community locally and from around the world. Visitors to 6 Essex Street approached 1,500 people, our dedicated volunteers logged **2,542 service hours** (valued at \$86,670), and our research team fielded **244 requests** received in-person, by email, through social media, and by mail on a rich variety of subjects. Please turn to pages 4 — 10 for detailed information about all of these activities.

LHC was happy to partner with the Friends of the Lawrence Heritage State Park, Elevated Thought, and other community partners to create the new exhibit, "Somos Latinos: Our Journey to Lawrence and Beyond / Nuestro Viaje a Lawrence y Más". The bilingual exhibit represents post-WWII immigration into the city, a focus presently omitted from the LHSP Visitor Center exhibits. It is comprised of archival materials held in the LHC collections—photographs, newspaper articles, oral history interviews, material in subject boxes, etc.—along with information gathered in community engagement sessions. Centered around 5 themes, a community content team curated materials to tell the vibrant story of Latinos in Lawrence. More information about this Mass Humanities funded project may be found on page 11.

The theme for **The Rising Loaves**, our three week, place-based summer program for middle school students, was **Leaving A Legacy.** We served 20 young and emerging leaders in July (p. 12).

On Thursday, June 8, 2023, nearly 170 people gathered at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence to celebrate the Lawrence History Center's 45th anniversary and to honor key volunteers Pamela Yameen, Robert Forrant, Kathleen Flynn, and Thomas Walsh with the 2023 Eartha Dengler History Award (p. 14).

LHC continues to invest significant resources into the historic preservation and accessibility of our home in the Essex Company Offices & Yard, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places (p. 16).

Our social media presence continues to grow and engage thousands daily. For example, our Facebook followers grew from 3,545 in March 2020 to 12,643 in November 2023 and our Instagram followers grew from 430 to 1,417. From October 21 to November 17, 2023 our Facebook posts reached 224.7K people and we have received our first monthly Facebook Performance Bonus (p. 18).



Robert Berthel

Thank you for bringing history to life here on Facebook. It doesn't benefit anyone locked away in a file cabinet. I wish the town that I grew up in would follow your initiative.

On September 23, 2023, the Lawrence History Center held its **45th Annual Meeting and Open House**. LHC board treasurer Mark Svendsen presided over the meeting at which Mark Cutler became immediate past president, Sara Morin Barth was installed as LHC board president, Andy Kelley moved into the LHC board vice president role, Karen Van Welden Herman took on the role of LHC board secretary, and one new board member -- Stelvyn Mirabal -- was elected by the membership to his first three year term *(p. 18)*.

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, LHC will host its sixth community symposium, "The History and Evolution of Education in Lawrence and Similar Communities". The day-long effort will focus on the topic of education in Lawrence (and similar communities) from its founding as a town in 1847 to the present day (p. 19).

for its staff, leadership, donors (p. 20), and volunteer family (p. 22) who propel our work. We are excited about what 2024 will bring and hope that this Annual Report inspires you to engage with us in the future. I invite you to read further and to consider investing in our efforts by making a tax-deductible donation.

With gratitude,

# Susan Grabski



Researching Lawrence History:
Inside the Collections

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Amita Kile

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# **Contact Us**

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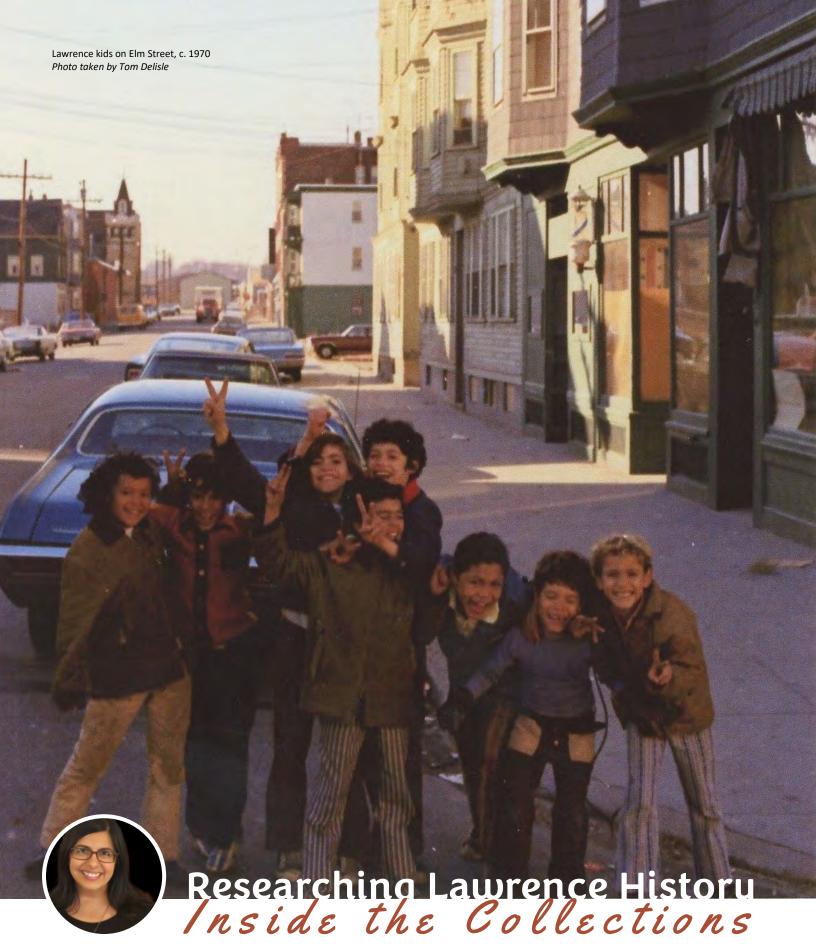
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by AMITA KILEY

Collections Manager & Research Coordinator

What an incredible year of strengthening relationships, expanding our capacity, processing collections, preserving history, and making new community partners here at Lawrence History Center! We made tremendous strides in terms of organizing collections and making their finding aids available, digitizing previously hidden material, and hosting a record number of directed study students, paid employees, volunteers, and fellows. We welcomed and incorporated donations to the collection from nearly 100 different donors. We answered research questions from our community and from all over the world. And we engaged with new audiences through partnerships with our local cultural institutions. Please read on to learn about how the work we've done this year has furthered our mission of collecting, preserving, sharing, and animating the history and heritage of Lawrence, Massachusetts and its people.

### **Collection Donor Stories**

We had some wonderful opportunities to work closely with donors to the collection and their families to better understand the material they gave:



We worked with Greg McEvoy who looked through nearly 1,000 photos in order to identify members of his family! Greg's great grand uncle, James L. McEvoy, and his family lived on 432 Lowell Street in the early 1900s. James was a talented and avid photographer who captured the development of that area by creating glass plate negatives, which pre-date film negatives. James also photographed his family in various scenes outdoors in their yard and on Lowell Street, and at Salisbury Beach. The collection is a remarkable look into an early twentieth century Lawrence family.

During his visit, Greg identified many of his family members. He is pictured here

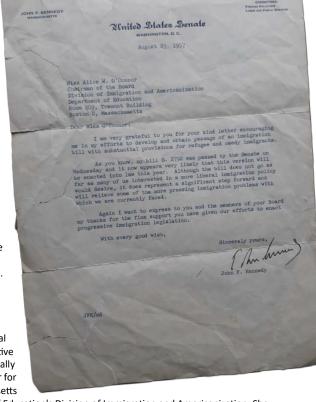
with a photo of his great grandfather, Peter McEvoy, son of Phanton McEvoy. We are deeply grateful to Greg for all the time he spent going through each and every photo to ensure that these faces are not lost to history.

During the 1930s, the United States (and the rest of the world) were in the throes of the Great Depression. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt enacted the New Deal, a series of programs, public works projects, and regulations set to bring immediate relief to a suffering country. One of the first New Deal objectives was to put people to work through agencies such as Works Progress Administration (WPA). From 1934-35, the WPA provided employment to thousands of men and women in Lawrence, who completed a variety of projects/jobs under the supervision of Lawrence WPA Administrator Cornelius "Con" Casey. We hold a ledger in our archives, "An Authentic Record of Federal Emergency Relief at Lawrence, Massachusetts 1934-1935", that details these projects.

This year we met Karen Casey, granddaughter of Cornelius "Con" Casey. We were delighted to share with Karen that we had this wonderful ledger documenting her grandfather's WPA activities! This led to a Casey family discussion on what to do with the trove of research held in their own family. Karen summarizes it best:

"Francis (my father and youngest son of Con), researched and produced a book of the Casey family history. I inherited the research and this past winter decided to go through the papers. I reached out to my family asking what we should do with it. A unanimous vote was to approach the Lawrence History Center and in March, we did. The papers were accepted into the archives, and a formal gathering was planned at the LHC to celebrate this honor. Twenty-five family members came from MA, NH, and Maine. This was an opportunity to gather as a family, tell stories and share our history. It was a huge success!"

We had a wonderful visit with Susana O'Sullivan, grand niece of Alice O'Connor. Alice O'Connor was raised in Lawrence, and spent her life meeting the needs of immigrants throughout the state of Massachusetts. Between 1918 and 1962 she worked as the executive secretary, social worker, executive official, and finally board member for the Massachusetts



Department of Education's Division of Immigration and Americanization. She sought to ensure that all immigrants to Massachusetts were treated without prejudice and were given the opportunity to gain an education, earn a living, and become citizens of the United States.

During this visit, Susana donated a letter to Alice O'Connor written and signed by Senator John F. Kennedy in 1957 (above) and a small portrait of O'Connor taken in 1933. These items fit nicely into our existing *Alice O'Connor Collection*.

Susana also had another connection to an incredible donation we received this year – two Irish quilts. The quilts were owned by Susana and donated to the Rev. James T. O'Reilly Division Eight Ancient Order of Hibernians Lawrence, Massachusetts around 2012. Hibernian President Bill Sullivan donated the quilts to us in late 2022.

These quilts were hand made from flax in County Cork, Ireland and brought here in 1849 by John Patrick O'Connor of Macroom (Ballymeekera) County Cork. John landed in Nova Scotia and brought the quilts by ox cart to Bridgewater, MA, and then to his new home in Methuen, MA. Susana says, "The flax quilts kept him warm from Ireland to U.S.A."

John eventually moved to Lawrence where he became a policeman. John was married to Susanna (Brassill) and they had four daughters - Mary, Susanna, Eleanor, and Alice, the famed immigration reformer.

Photographer Tom Delisle allowed us to scan nearly 500 photos from his private collection, and he spent several days providing information about each picture. The primary focus of these photos is the Union, Common, Newbury, Garden, Chestnut, Maple, and Oak Streets area during the 1970s and early 1980s. These photos hold a special place in the hearts of Lawrencians, as evidenced by the thousands of comments and reactions they received on our social media pages. Our followers were also able to identify some of the people pictured in the photos, all these years later (example on front cover, third from left, and on opposite page).

# W. Dean and Sy Eastman Student Research Fellowship

This year marked the 3<sup>nd</sup> Annual *W. Dean and Sy Eastman Student Research Fellowship at Lawrence History Center.* The fellowship is awarded to a high school or college student to conduct research that will be of mutual benefit to

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LHC and the fellow. The Eastmans provided funding for two Fellowships this year, which were awarded to Grace Kasabula of North Andover High School and Isabella Rozzi of UMass Lowell (above).

Isabella examined records from the *Essex County Jail Records Collection* for different years—1864, 1900, and 1920-23—and collected information such as age, gender, ethnicity, birthplace, offense, and sentencing of people from Lawrence. She analyzed the three time periods and compared the statistics over time to identify changes in the economy, society, and politics in America through the lens of Lawrence, MA.

Grace explored the Lawrence History Center's archival collections on public health, public water supply, Hiram F. Mills, the Lawrence Experiment Station, and the State Board of Health Reports, to create an informational video about the history of wastewater treatment in Lawrence, MA. Her video, "Municipal Treatment of Human and Industrial Pollutants", tells the story of how Lawrence became the first city in the United States to treat its municipal water for disease prevention and paved the way for public health advancements in other cities across the United States.

# **Essex Heritage Future Leaders Grant**

For the second consecutive year we received Essex National Heritage Area's Future Leaders Grant funding which allowed us to hire young people to carry out 'heritage' work. The following 3 college students worked on various aspects of the collection:

- Nicole Sabando, a UMass Lowell English major, processed a large portion
  of our Scrapbook Collection, created the Spanish translation for the
  exhibit, "Somos Latinos: Our Journey to Lawrence & Beyond / Nuestro
  Viaje a Lawrence y Más", created an oral history questionnaire to be
  used in conjunction with the exhibit, and linked the audio for nearly 700
  oral histories to their database record.
- Isabella Rozzi, a UMass Lowell history major and president of the History Club, cataloged over a thousand photographs and objects, helped organize our oversized photograph collection, and processed and creating finding aids for several large collections.
- Sibelle Grisé, a UMass Lowell history major, organized and created inventories for the majority of our Church subject boxes.

A fourth young person, Abigail Latham, was hired through the grant to carry out much needed landscaping at our historic property (please see page 17).

# Collection Processing and Preserving

Our dedicated team of volunteers continued to work on processing and preserving new donations and collections:



- Betsy Brien and Marie Boyd organized the Essex County Jail Records Collection using a detailed filing system so that the records may be accurately housed.
- Kathi Levine finished scanning the Diaries of William Madison Wood, preparing them for the next stage of processing.
- Grace Piazza (above) cataloged photographs.
- Matt Bigham and Monica Bruni created inventories of our obituaries and newspaper clippings collections.
- Tom Walsh created inventories of our subject boxes, organized newly donated collections, and finished cleaning and processing the records of the American Woolen Company Collection, which amounted to nearly 100 boxes.
- Kathy Flynn answered research requests, enhanced the organization of subject boxes to make the items more easily identifiable, oversaw volunteers working on jail records, and helped manage intern and student projects.
- Mary Pannos organized dozens of subject boxes on all different topics, including our Lawrence Public Schools Collection, in anticipation of our April 27, 2024 Symposium "The History and Evolution of Education in Lawrence and Similar Communities".
- Marilyn Freeman spent much of the year working on processing the photographs of the newly donated Kaatz Family Collection, donated by Marilyn Kaatz. Marilyn Freeman even met with Marilyn Kaatz several times to ensure that the photos were properly identified and organized.
- Gene McCarthy processed newly donated photographs and collections, and organized existing subject boxes.
- Zach Najarian-Najafi processed collections, catalogued photographs, and helped pack newly donated textiles and hats into proper archival storage containers (above right).
- Tommy Perliger worked on cataloging our poster collection.
- Dave Bradley cleaned and digitized over a dozen film reels (above).







 Yadira Betances Muldoon interviewed Al Torrisi of Jackson Lumber for our Oral History Collection about his family history, family business, civic life, and growing up in Lawrence (above).

In addition to our wonderful daily volunteers, we welcomed the following summer volunteers:

- Fiona Bolzan of Masconomet Regional High School organized and cataloged our German subject boxes
- Olivia Dannenberg, a labor studies student at UMass Boston, worked on our labor unions collections and housing and preservations collections
- Kumar Muniappan, of Northfield Mount Hermon School, worked on cataloging newly donated books and organizing collections in the closed stacks

We processed and completed finding aids for the following collections:

- Bread & Roses Heritage Committee Collection, 1984-2015
- Everett Marshall Collection, 1901-1965
- Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent James F. Scully Collection, 1988-1998
- Traveler's Club of Greater Lawrence Collection, 1897-2006
- H.K. Webster and Blue Seal Feeds Collection, 1875-1993

# **Beyond Our Walls**

Conducting research and preserving and sharing history occurs beyond the walls of LHC thanks to some terrific community partners:

 Lawrence-based organizations and municipal departments who've conducted research using our archives are:

Bellesini Academy, Cuban Cultural Movement of Lawrence, Elevated Thought, Greater Lawrence Kiwanis Club, Groundwork Lawrence, Lawrence City Council, Lawrence CommunityWorks, Lawrence's Disabled American Veterans organization, Lawrence Fire Department, Lawrence High School, Lawrence Historic Commission, Lawrence International Book Fair, Lawrence Veterans Office, Lazarus House, Merrimack River Watershed Council, Monday Night Club, Old Colony YMCA, Rumbo Newspaper, and YWCA

Other locals who used our archives were:

Andover Center for History and Culture, Andover Village Improvement Society, Haverhill Historical Society, Salem (NH) Historical Society, Wilmington, MA Historical Society, National Park Service, North Andover High School, Phillips Academy, and the Eagle Tribune.

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Our collection was used as the basis for the Friends of Lawrence



Heritage State Park's exhibit "Somos Latinos: Our Journey to Lawrence & Beyond / Nuestro Viaje a Lawrence y Más."

 I represented LHC at William Hobdy Day at the Derry, NH Opera House (above). William Hobdy was born in Virginia in 1862, and grew up in Lawrence, MA where he worked in a cotton mill before moving to Derry where he was the first known Black business owner on record. On August 5, 2023, he received Derry's first Black Heritage Trail landmark. The event was sponsored by the Derry Public Library and the Black Heritage Trail of NH, among others.

# Shared Knowledge

This year we were able to share our archives and historical knowledge with our local community in many ways:

- We worked with Anne Bradley of St. Patrick Parish, Lawrence to help the Parish celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Anne curated an exhibit using photographs and other documents from our archives.
- At the Flags for the Fallen Memorial Day weekend ceremony, I spoke about Albert, Carmen, and Bernard Campagnone, the three Lawrence brothers who died in WWII. The Campagnone Common is named in their honor.
- For the YWCA Youth Voices program and to Entre Amigos, a local nonprofit interested in history and community (below), I provided an indepth tour and overview of LHC and how the archives may be used for research opportunities for youth
- I read a poem at the Robert Frost Foundation community poetry read.
- I provided an overview and brief tour of LHC for 70 students and



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- teachers from Andover High School (Spanish class).
- Kathy Flynn and I presented to the 2023 Station1 Frontiers Fellowship education, research, and internship program on socially-directed science and technology, with a presentation on Lawrence history and archives entitled "Archival Research".
- I was the guest speaker at Lawrence Heritage State Park's Bring Your Own Lunch speaker series with a presentation titled "Archives on the Road", during which I shared material from our collection as well as information about LHC's mission and activities.

In addition to these presentations, I also attended many online workshops geared toward preservation, archives and local history offered by MA History Alliance-Conversations on the Common and Massachusetts Library Systems.

Our collection travelled for inclusion in the following exhibits:

 "Jean-Charles Chapais (1850-1926)", displayed at the Maison Chapais in Saint-Denis-De La Bouteillerie, Kamouraska, Quebec, CA; "Industry, Wealth, and Labor: Mapping New England's Textile Industry" at University of Southern Maine; a digital exhibit for <u>Suffrage100MA</u> (soon to be the Massachusetts Women's History Center); and in Yale University's Energy History Project, an online teaching resource

#### Our exhibits travelled, too:

- "Lawrence, Massachusetts: A First American Home", which was on display at Ellis Island in 2003, was displayed at the Lawrence Community Justice Support Center Diversity Event; and "Latino City" was on display at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, MA for Hispanic Heritage month.
- Look for our photos in these upcoming publications:
  - \* University of Toronto Press, Answers to the Labour Question (2024)
  - Stanford University Press, <u>UNMENTIONABLES: Textiles, Garment Work, and the Syrian American Working Class</u> (late 2023) by UC Davis Professor Stacy Fahrenthold who described her visit to LHC as "... transformative to my working book on Arab American textile workers."

Thanks to volunteer Rick Wetmore (below), our other exhibits were able to travel as well, in a different way. Beginning in our early days as Immigrant City Archives and continuing all the way until 2011, we would create exhibits that were displayed at the Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center nearly every year. These exhibits were created with the material available at the time; usually copies of photographs and documents attached to foam core boards. After their time in the gallery ended, the exhibits were brought back to the archives and packed away. As time went on, the exhibits began to age and fall apart, becoming unsuitable for display. Yet, the information these exhibits held was too valuable to discard. Thanks to today's technology and Rick's



patience and expertise we were able to digitize the exhibits.

Rick began the project by identifying the exhibit he was going to work on and making sure he had all the pieces that went with it. He then made the exhibits whole again, by re-attaching pieces that had fallen off. Then, he created a dedicated area to photograph the exhibits, one panel at a time. This involved setting up lighting and easels to hold the panels. This part of the set up would change depending on the size of the exhibit that Rick was photographing.

This digitization project enabled us to bring decades worth of exhibits out of our basement and online, into the homes of researchers all over the world. It also allowed for the preservation of the history of Lawrence. See the exhibits here: https://www.lawrencehistorycenter.org/exhibits



In addition to sharing our collection with others, we're lucky to have been on the receiving end as well. LHC board member and chair of our collections committee Karen Van Welden Herman arranged for a very interesting engraving of the Great Stone Dam, owned by local collector Alfred Adams, to be on display at LHC in 2023 (above). The wood carving of the Great Stone Dam was done by Methuen artist MaryAnn Normandin in 1965. The carving is a unique piece of art and our visitors have enjoyed seeing the historic Dam represented in a new way.

# Research and Collection Use Highlights

- We were contacted by an out of state researcher named Saman, who was looking for the book "Under The Sugar Palm Trees Memoirs of Cambodian Refugees Living in Lawrence, Massachusetts" edited by Peggy Rambach and translated by Nhek But in 2004. Saman said, "In the book, my late grandfather, Duch Ouk shared a special story. He passed away a few years ago and with Pchum Ben (Khmer Ancestors Day) currently underway for the next few weeks, it would be a great way to honor his memory." We were happy to scan the pages Saman requested, and were honored to share them on social media so that we may all remember the story of Duch Ouk.
- LHC worked with Masao Okazaki, an American-born, Japan-based researcher, who volunteers with the North American Vexillological Association and the Flags of the World database, on his research of the history of the Lawrence flag. We hold the original Lawrence flag created in 1903 in our collection.
- An incredible intercontinental research connection was made this year
  when Jeffrey Nadison in Strasbourg, France, e-mailed us searching for
  photographs of his uncle, Jacob Hershfield. Not only did we have many
  Hershfield family photos and records, we had connections to members of
  Jeffrey's family in the United States as well!

In early 2021, Julie Wilkens, from New York, reached out to us for

information on her grandfather Jacob Hershfield. When Jeffrey e-mailed us, we remembered Julie's inquiry on the same person, and connected her with Jeffrey. From there, the Hershfield story travelled to the west coast, where Jeffrey connected with Julie's mom, Doris Coris, of Arizona, and sister, Lisa Coris, of California. Doris said, "Since the beginning of our emails, we have added other family members, thanks to Jeff. It has been an interesting and educational journey that is ongoing."

Of the experience Jeffrey said, "This is brilliant and beyond my expectations! If it weren't for you, I would not have connected with Julie, and then her sister and mother... and then two more cousins, one in Boston, the other in Texas. The later two I had not communicated with for over 50 years! I couldn't have pieced together my story without the help of my cousins, so your intervention was a real gift.

Thank you for this."

# **Academic and International Connections**

We worked with several colleges and universities including:

Professor Walker Robins and his students from Merrimack College, who focused on our *Urban Renewal Collection*. Professor Robbins created a curriculum and class project making significant use of the maps, photographs, and drawings from the *Urban Renewal Collection*.

Professor Dámaris Mayans and her Spanish language students from Colby College used our vast Hispanic archives and participated in an exercise in conducting archival research.

UMass Lowell's Introduction to Archives class received an in-depth tour of LHC and the archives, learned about our mission, my role at LHC, and day to day life in an archive like this one. We also welcomed two student interns from the class:

- Charles Healy who helped organize and re-house our special edition newspapers as well as survey our newspaper clippings collection for stories on LGBTQ history in Lawrence.
- David Joyner has begun working on cataloging our collection of Individual and Family folders, by describing their contents and getting the inventories online.

Endicott College engineering Professor Jack Duggan (below), and his students used the Essex Company's engineering records to explore ways in which to revitalize and make use of the South Canal. Last Spring, Professor Duggan and his students won the Best Overall award and the Case Study award in the



Hydropower Collegiate Competition in D.C. for their year-long project "Living with Water, Sustainability and Resiliency in Lawrence, MA".

This fall, a new group of students focused on the restoration of the South Canal. They intend to come up with a cost estimate and construction schedule for restoring the canal to be operable for future hydropower.

In addition, we welcomed international researchers from Oxford University in England; Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in Dominican Republic; and University of Limerick in Ireland; and stateside from Boston University, Bowdoin College, Champlain College, Colgate University, Northeastern University, Northern Essex Community College, Olin College of Engineering, University of California Davis, University of California Los Angeles, University of Missouri iSchool (Mizzou), University of Southern Maine, University of Texas at San Antonio, UMass Lowell, and Yale

We welcomed in-person visitors and online researchers from as far away as Strasbourg, France; Oxford, England; Ontario and Quebec, Canada; Japan and Poland. Locals continued to visit from all over the United States and closer to home in the Merrimack Valley.

# Collection Donations Keep Coming In!



Nearly 500 photographs were donated this year, in addition to family collections, personal papers, ephemera from local businesses, books, textiles, objects, documents, and even digitally mastered film. The material varies, but one aspect remains the same – the donors knew the importance of preserving Lawrence's history. Some of the newly donated material includes:

- Newspapers, ephemera, textiles, pamphlets, objects, flyers and photos
  documenting recent Lawrence activities, news, and events, donated by
  Yadira Betances Muldoon. One such photo (above), is of State
  Representative Frank Moran with Jennifer Pagan, Madrina of
  Movimiento Puertorriqueño, during Hispanic Week 2023. Moran is the
  Second Assistant Majority Leader making him the highest-ranking person
  of color in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.
- Research on Thelma Todd which includes notes, magazines, and the FBI

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files relating to her death, donated by the late Benjamin "Benny" Drinnon via his niece Misty Huffman.

- Letter written and signed by Abbott Lawrence to his relative Andrew Bigelow, discussing action, or lack thereof, against slavery, dated January 21, 1840, donated by W. Dean and Sy Eastman.
- Titan-Danmark Knotting Machine in custom wooden case, donated by Warren Daigneault and Family.
- Paperwork, ephemera, photos, and plaques pertaining to Latin Lions Club, Los Trinitarios, and the work life of Rafael Antonio Mirabal, donated by Stelvyn Mirabal.
- Blueprints for Holy Rosary School, donated by Grace Piazza.
- Original copper piece from the Ayer Mill Clock Tower, donated by Tom Caffrey.
- Springfield 1888 model rifle that was used by Louis Haskell Rice who was part of the Massachusetts Militia that was brought to Lawrence during the Strike of 1912, donated by Louis' grandson, Christopher Rice.



- Oil on canvas portrait of Emily Kemble Oliver Andrews, daughter of Henry K.
   Oliver, done by Oliver Lay in 1919-1920; size 39" x 57", donated by Boisfeuillet and Barbara Jones.
- Personal and professional papers relating to Jose Zaiter and his role as the first Hispanic reporter for the Lawrence Eagle Tribune, first Hispanic board member of the Lawrence Housing Authority, and his role as a civic leader in Lawrence, donated by Jose Zaiter.
- US Army Hat, canteen, patches, mess kit, and biographical information pertaining to Henry DeMonaco who fought in the US Army in WWII and served in Sicily, Africa, and Italy, donated by Carmine DeMonaco.
- Autograph of Lawrence born awardwinning singer and songwriter Nick
   "Nicky Jam" Rivera Caminero, from the dedication of the new music and arts center bearing his name, set to open on Haverhill St., donated by Lawrence City Council President Marc Laplante.
- Knights of St. Patrick's sash, likely made c 1869; the Knights of St. Patrick's Lawrence chapter was organized on March 21, 1870, donated by the estate of Francis and Rita Burke Macklin (left).

# **Special Recognition**

I'd like to recognize and thank Joe Bella (below) for his years of serving on the LHC Collections Committee where he helped us make decisions on new donations as well as donating hundreds of items over the years himself. He retired from the committee this year.



I was deeply honored to become a trustee of The White Fund. The White Fund is a charitable trust established in 1852 by the Honorable Daniel Appleton White to benefit the citizens of Lawrence, MA.

**Below:** The White Fund Trustees (left to right, Dave Abdoo, Amita Kiley, Jay Dowd) are pictured with two of the paintings that are on loan to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston by the Trustees of the White Fund.



The progress that LHC has made and success we've enjoyed this year is built on the passion and dedication of those that came before us. Since 1978, Eartha and early volunteers sought out, preserved, and meticulously catalogued this material in the days before computers, creating a card-file cataloging system that we still use on a daily basis. Our vast archive and ability to conduct such in-depth research is a direct result of those efforts.

One of these volunteers is the late Elizabeth M. McAuliffe. Elizabeth M. McAuliffe passed away on April 14, 2023 at the age of 97.

Elizabeth was an integral part of our organization and volunteered from 1991 to 2001. During that time she helped create and maintain a biographical index of Lawrencians through the years. We use this index daily when conducting genealogical and other research. Elizabeth also helped organize and catalogue collections and preserve them so that they would be available for future researchers.

She is pictured below, at center, at her June 26, 2001 retirement luncheon at Sweet Basil Restaurant in Andover, MA. Former ICA volunteers Margaret Healey (left) and Marie Leone (right) are picture as well. *May she rest in peace*.



# Looking Ahead to 2024 With Gratitude

Lawrence History Center is lucky to have such a strong foundation of passionate, generous, and dedicated supporters. It is thanks to all of you that I have so many good things to highlight this year. Stay tuned for a terrific 2024 as we continue to collect, preserve, share, and animate the history and heritage of Lawrence and its people!



The Lawrence History Center continues to digitize its collections to share through our website, social media outlets, Vimeo, YouTube, OCLC WorldCat, Internet Archive, Digital Commonwealth, and the DPLA—Digital Public Library of America. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we gained an even greater appreciation for the efforts we have made to make our collections accessible online. It has allowed us to engage our community and to provide a myriad of resources for teachers (critical for remote learning) and researchers.

# www.lawrencehistory.org/resources



The Friends of the Lawrence Heritage State Park and community partners, including Lawrence History Center, welcomed over 100 visitors to the Exhibit Opening & Reception for the bilingual "Somos Latinos: Our Journey to Lawrence and Beyond / Nuestro Viaje a Lawrence y Más" on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at the Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitor Center, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence. The exhibit was on display June 11, 2023 -July 31, 2023 and is now traveling in the region.

# The opening reception featured the following speakers:

- Sara Morin Barth, Director, Community Content Team
- Jim Beauchesne, Board President, Friends of the Lawrence Heritage State Park
- Ashley Rosario, Exhibit Graphic Designer, Elevated Thought
- Amita Jani Kiley, Collections Manager & Research Coordinator, Lawrence History Center
- Katherine Stevens, Director of Grants, Mass Humanities
- Keynote: Delia Durán-Clark, Principal, Esperanza Academy, Lawrence

## Other highlights:

- Guests had the opportunity to share their stories in the oral history sound booth (Thanks to Al Brandano of The Voice Library and Nicole Sabando, Exhibit Translation/Collections Assistant at the Lawrence History Center).
- Photography, objects, and ephemera from Puerto Rico of artist Destiny Medina were on the walls and in display cases.
- A display of three
   Asociacion Carnavalesca de
   Massachusetts costumes
   (on right), part of the
   Lawrence History Center
   collection, donated by
   Stelvyn Mirabal and family.
- Performance by Asociacion Carnavalesca de Massachusetts (right)
- Food provided by Cafe Azteca / El Taller

More information about the community content team, exhibit design, student interns, project support, and funders, please visit:

friendsoflawrenceheritage.org/ programs/somoslatinos/

This exhibit is sponsored by the Friends of the Lawrence Heritage State Park and created in partnership with the Lawrence community, the Lawrence History Center, and Nobis Project with funding from Mass Humanities and Mass Cultural Council through the Expand Massachusetts Stories initiative, the Lawrence Cultural Council, Catherine McCarthy Memorial Trust, The White Fund, the Nathaniel and Elizabeth P. Stevens Foundation, and the Rosman Family Fund of the Essex County Community Foundation.

Post World War II, the city of Lawrence was confronted with the impact of deindustrialization and suburbanization as its economic staple, the textile industry, left the city. After several decades of slower immigration, in the 1950s Latinos began to arrive and the economic and cultural reinvigoration in Lawrence began. This is our story.

Después del Segundo Guerra Mundial, la ciudad de Lawrence estaba confrontado los impactos de la desindustrialización y suburbanización por que su básico económico, la industria textil, dejo la ciudad. Despues de unosdecadas de immigración mas lento, Latinos comensaron a venir en los 1950s y comenzó la revitalización cultural y económica de Lawrence. Esta es nuestra historia.











[11]



Above: Sara Morin Barth with a photo of her 2 year old self becoming a U.S. Citizen in 1990 after being adopted from Guatemala. **Below and lower left:** Visitors enjoy the exhibit.







Above Top: Dalia Diaz and Nelson Butten Above: (back row) Nicole Sabando, Susan Grabski, Jim Beauchesne; (front row) Amita Kiley, Sara Morin Barth. Ashley Rosario.



LawrenceHistory.org

"Lawrence Student Writing Workshop: The Rising Loaves" is hosted by the Lawrence History Center, developed in collaboration with Andover Bread Loaf, and funded in part by the Essex County Community Foundation Greater Lawrence Summer Fund, the Charles G. Pringle Foundation, the Stearns and Russell Trusts, Rogers Family Foundation, and Andover Bread Loaf (Trustees of Phillips Academy).

















Andover Bread Loaf at Lawrence History Center

# THE RISING LOAVES 2023 LEAVING A LEGACY

# From the Program Co-Directors

Dear Families and Friends of Rising Loaves,

For three weeks (July 10 - 28, 2023) our students explored the theme of "Leaving a Legacy" and experienced the importance of preserving our great city's history in the Lawrence History Center archives. The writing in the 2023 Rising Loaves Anthology, a treasure of thoughts and ideas, represents only a small sample of all the writing and art our students created together this summer. Students filled their personal notebooks with poetry, short stories, drawings, and ideas that they will take with them forever.

"Leaving a Legacy" was a thoughtprovoking theme as we encouraged our
students to think about their own legacy. We
challenged them to think about how they
could make a difference for future generations
through their actions and words. Guest artists
and writers such as Harlym 125, T-Melon,
Nathan Baez, Nurylis Cintron, jayvie song, and
Edwin Santana inspired our students to value
and express their thoughts; during activity
time, volunteer and teacher Sheila Barry
taught some students to crochet while others
put their passion towards playing volleyball. All
students toured the Lawrence History Center
and learned about the early planning of

Lawrence by the Essex Company and viewed hidden vaults and archival documents with Kathy Flynn and Amita Kiley. Al Brandano of The Voice Library spoke to us about the importance of storytelling and recording the voices of our loved ones.

We visited the new exhibit, Somos
Latinos: Our Journey to Lawrence and Beyond,
at the Lawrence Heritage State Park with its
community content team director Sara Morin
Barth. In week two, UMass Lowell History
Professor Robert Forrant taught us about the
tragedy of the fall of Pemberton Mill in 1860
through the eyes of "The Ghost of
Pemberton." Students then walked over to the
site of the collapse and discussed who gets
remembered and why.

We took a field trip to the Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Academy to view the current exhibition of the work of Alison Elizabeth Taylor, *The Sum of It*. Inspired by the art they had seen, students created art using the technique of marquetry with Christine Jee, the Addison's Manager of School & Community Collaborations, the following day.

In week three, we held an Amazing Race! Students divided into teams and solved crosswords, followed maps, located historic buildings in downtown Lawrence, ate tostones at El Taller, and returned to home base to solve another puzzle that earned them a special treat -- ice cream!

Special thanks to our brilliant youth writing leaders -- Christian Pimentel, Gabrielle Anderson, Katerina Guerrero, and Francine Tshimbalanga – who led writing prompts and small group activities with our students with great talent and enthusiasm (pictured above, bottom left).

The final reading and the exhibition of student work on the last day was a day of celebration. There were fond farewells and promises to keep in touch. Our students were sad that the three weeks had flown by so quickly.

Until next year,

Lee Krishnan, Mary Guerrero & Susan Grabski

To view the Anthology, photos, and videos, please visit:

www.lawrencehistory.org/education/ summer/2023

[ 13 ] LawrenceHistory.org

# 2023 Eartha Dengler History Award Ceremony

in honor of

Pamela Yameen, Kathleen Flynn, Thomas Walsh & Robert Forrant









On Thursday, June 8, 2023, nearly 170 people gathered at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence to celebrate the Lawrence History Center's 45th anniversary and to honor key volunteers Pamela Yameen, Robert Forrant, Kathleen Flynn, and Thomas Walsh with the 2023 Eartha Dengler History Award!

Guests were welcomed by a historic slideshow, guitar playing by Richard Cavanaugh, and the beautiful singing of the Central Catholic Concert Choir, ending their performance with "Bread and Roses" for the honorees.

During the award ceremony, LHC executive director Susan Grabski emphasized that all four honorees are modest people, not positioning themselves, but rather positioning the organizations they care about for greater success. Because of their efforts collectively across 45 years, staff, students, supporters can proudly say they are a part of the Lawrence History Center.

### No One Person

With an array of talents, interests, and expertise, the collective and consistent contributions of these four individuals have helped propel the Lawrence History Center to its 45th year. From the early days, and across nearly five decades, they have embraced and enlivened Eartha's vision through their volunteer work — some inspired as children growing up in Lawrence's neighborhoods, building a sense of family and community: others drawn as educators and researchers by the richness of the immigrant stories and the impact Lawrence history has had on the nation; all with a strong commitment to service and to telling the story of Lawrence. As mentors, they inspire current Lawrencians and historians to continue to grow the archival collections and to preserve the voices of the immigrant city forever.

Grabski proceeded to share brief bios about each honoree, adding more personal sentiments, prior to introducing LHC board member Karen Van Welden-Herman to speak about Pamela Yameen, Lillian Beck to speak about her Aunt Kathy Flynn, Kevin Walsh to speak about his father Thomas Walsh, and Maritza Grooms to speak about 'her personal professor' Robert Forrant.

Claudia Dengler, daughter of its founder Eartha, presented the 2023 Eartha Dengler History Award to each of the honorees with three additional Dengler family members - Eartha's eldest daughter Anne Cowan and her daughters Melissa Cowan and Stacie Gray -- looking on.

Claudia reminded guests of Eartha's own words, voiced in 2013 one year before she passed:

"The story of Lawrence and its people is the story of America — of people pursuing a better life, of families taking care of each other, of hard work, of industry, and of freedom. It's a story that most of us share... the courage and fortitude of the people of Lawrence inspires me. When I started 'the Archives' I had a simple vision that the story of an American mill town and its people had to be captured and told. I am so thrilled to see how many share this vision... we have together collected, preserved, and shared the story of the remarkable people of this community."

- Eartha Dengler, 2013

After honorees were presented with and accepted their awards, Lawrence City Council President Marc Laplante presented each with Lawrence Flag pin.

The Lawrence History Center offers its profound gratitude to the honorees, their families, event sponsors and other contributors, friends, and many others whose contributions made the 2023 Eartha Dengler History Award Ceremony possible.

For a list of sponsors, event photos and video, please visit: https://www.lawrencehistory.org/dengler/2023/recap









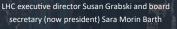














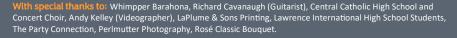




Joan Kulash and Ron Hilbink









© Perlmutter Photography



# Historic Preservation & Accessibility

The historic preservation, accessibility & overall upkeep of our home in the former Essex Company Offices and Yard is an investment in one of Lawrence's strongest cultural and historic institutions in the downtown corridor. The appearance of our facilities contributes strongly to the impression given to people both inside and outside the city, as well as to the cultural economy throughout the city.









# Looking Ahead

LHC is currently fundraising to address needed masonry work on the chimneys of our main building. With all the rain and extreme weather we've been having, the structures have been impacted (see left).

LHC is delighted to have matched an award of \$105,000 from the MCC Cultural Facilities Fund to address HVAC in our main office/archival storage building and two outer building collection storage areas.

Please stay tuned!

# Since 1992, the Lawrence

History Center has invested several hundred thousand dollars into the historic preservation, stabilization, and accessibility of our home in the former Essex Company Offices and Yard at 6 Essex Street in Lawrence - a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places built in 1882-3 that includes a main office building, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, stable, and warehouse.

This year, LHC addressed the warehouse bulkhead, carpenter shop windows, and landscaping (pictures on next page).







**ABOVE:** LHC was awarded an Essex Heritage Partnership Grant (\$2,000) and a Historic Preservation Matching Grant (\$2,250) from Preservation Massachusetts, in partnership with The 1772 Foundation, for the historic

preservation of the exterior bulkhead and sole entrance to the basement of the Essex Company Warehouse. Work was beautifully completed by Buddy Latham of Sylvan Property Management (pictured above center) at the end of 2022.

RIGHT: Buddy also began much needed work on preserving, repairing, re-glazing, and painting the windows of the Essex Company Carpenter Shop in August 2023.

**BELOW:** Thanks to a Future Leaders Grant from Essex Heritage, LHC was able to hire Abigail Latham to conduct much needed yardwork. The work was completed in August 2023.















[17] LawrenceHistory.org





Amita Kiley and Kathy Flynn toured the Stone Mill and learned about the ongoing redevelopment of the structure into housing. The tour was arranged by Alisa Augenstein of The Public Archaeology Laboratory, the architectural firm working on the project.



LHC board member Christian Nuñez and Florencia Rearte's dogs enjoy a 'pit stop' at 6 Essex Street while out for their evening stroll.

Create ad

Oct 21 - Nov 17, 2023



Lunches for the Lawrence History Center *Rising Loaves* program were provided at no charge through the Summer Meals program at Lawrence Public Schools. Pictured is Christine from the program. Students signed a card and gifted her flowers in thanks for all her hard work in providing lunches for them this summer.

Thank you, Christine!



Retired Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitor Services Supervisor Jim Beauchesne and former Park Supervisor Mike Mitchell reunite at the 2023 Eartha Dengler History Award Ceremony on June 8 at Central Catholic High School, Lawrence.



L-R (front row): Sara Morin Barth (President, Lawrence History Center), Ashley Rosario (Graphic Artist, Elevated Thought); L-R (back row): Annie Harris (Executive Director, ENHA), Jim Beauchesne (President, Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park), Susan Grabski (Executive Director, Lawrence History Center), David Read (President, ENHA)

Lawrence History Center is honored to have received an Essex National Heritage Area "Pioneer in Partnership" Award, along with our partners the Friends of the Lawrence Heritage State Park, Elevated Thought, and the Lawrence community for our work on the exhibit, Somos Latinos: Our Journey to Lawrence & Beyond /Nuestro Viaje a Lawrence y Más. Please see page 11 for more about the project.

More information about the award may be found at: https://www.lawrencehistory.org/awards/pip2023

The Essex Heritage Fall Annual Meeting was held at Meredith Farm in Topsfield on Thursday, October 12, 2023.



Amita Kiley and Sara Morin Barth were guests on The Sicilian Corner podcast hosted by Tom Zappala and Mike Lomazzo. They spoke about LHC and our mission, as well as Sara's project to document and celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Feast of the Three Saints with the project 100 Stories for 100 Years: Collecting Centennial Memories of the Feast of the Three Saints.





This photograph of Lawton's was taken by Lawrence History Center volunteer Rick Wetmore in August 2008, two years before the beloved hot dog stand closed. The post on June 26, 2023 garnered 1.3K reactions, 286 comments, 149 shares and reached 39.5K people!



Insights

☐ Last 28 days ▼

On September 23, 2023, the Lawrence History Center held its 45th Annual Meeting and Open House. LHC board treasurer Mark Svendsen presided over the meeting at which Mark Cutler became immediate past president, Sara Morin Barth was installed as LHC board president, Andy Kelley moved into the LHC board vice president role, Karen Van Welden Herman took on the role of LHC board secretary, and one new board member -- Stelvyn Mirabal -- was elected by the membership to his first three year term. The meeting and open house marks 45 years since LHC was founded and took place in the Essex Company Stable, part of the Essex Company Office & Yard, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

More about the meeting at https://www.lawrencehistory.org/ press/09252023









COVID Conversations: Voices from Lawrence & Lowell, Massachusetts (Loom Press) Publication date: 01/02/2023

Paperback, \$20.00 at https://www.lawrencehistory.org/onlinestore Co-edited by Susan Grabski, Amita Kiley, and Susan Tripathy

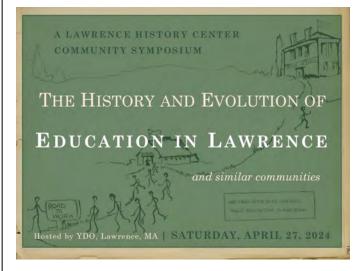
Interviews with people in Lawrence and Lowell, Massachusetts who experienced the sickness and pandemic living restrictions of Covid-19 in 2020 and 2021, plus diary excerpts from residents who reported on their daily fears, hopes, and challenges.

A partnership project of Lawrence History Center and UMass Lowell, with contributions of Phillips Academy Andover.

The Book Event on March 9, 2023 included Lawrence-based narrators Bianca Anonas, Sara Morin Barth, Tom Coppinger, Vilma Martínez-Dominguez, and Dr. Marianela Rivera. Cover and interior layout designer Ashley Rosario also shared.

View the Book Event at: https://vimeo.com/807378059

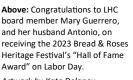




The Lawrence History Center is delighted to announce its sixth community symposium, "The History and Evolution of Education in Lawrence and Similar Communities," to be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at Youth Development Organization (YDO)'s location at 15 Union Street, Lawrence, MA. This symposium is designed for exploration and dialogue, thinking broadly about the history and evolution of education in the city of Lawrence through the multi-disciplinary lens of the humanities. The day-long effort will focus on the topic of education in Lawrence (and similar communities) from its founding as a town in 1847 to the present day.

The Call for Participation (CFP) was created with community input and may be viewed here: https://www.lawrencehistory.org/education/symposium/2024/cfp





Artwork by Kate Delaney



Above: Our gratitude goes to the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the Lawrence History Center in the Hospitality and Tourism category (along with Benson's Homemade Ice Cream!) at their Annual Small Business Recognition Awards Breakfast on Friday, June 9, 2023!

"... very much a part of the 'creative economy', its archival collections and events garner interest locally, regionally, nationally, and even internationally bringing people into Lawrence's downtown core to explore LHC's home in the historic the former Essex Company and Yard as well as the multitude of businesses and cultural resources that the city has to offer tourists."

Below: Our heartfelt thanks to friend Cindy Parnagian, owner of The Party Connection, on her well-earned retirement! Cindy (pictured with Amita Kiley at the 2023 Eartha Dengler Award Ceremony and on bottom right enjoying her retirement) has catered LHC events for decades. She and her team (and her food!) will be missed!





[19] LawrenceHistory.org



# May 1, 2022-April 30, 2023

We thank our generous supporters for sharing our vision and for supporting our efforts through membership, outright gifts, planned giving, memorial contributions, employer matching gifts, annual appeal donations, grant funding, and event sponsorship.

## \$50,000 and above

Nathaniel and Elizabeth P. Stevens Foundation William M. Wood Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee

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Abbot and Dorothy H. Stevens Foundation Massachusetts Cultural Council

# \$10,000 - \$24,999

Essex National Heritage Area Margaret Collins Charitable Foundation Rosman Family Fund of the Essex County Community

#### \$2.500 - \$9.999

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<sup>\*</sup> Includes gift made in memory of Amelia Stundza \*\* Includes gift made in memory of Helen Sapuppo

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# In-Kind Support

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Fitzgibbons, Janice





#### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

APRIL 30, 2023 AND 2022

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current Assets:		
Cash	249,926	185,072
Accounts Receivable	870	-
Inventory	4,219	3,835
Prepaid Insurance	3,813	<u>3,585</u>
Total Current Assets	258.828	192,492
Property and Equipment		
Building and Improvements	792,283	765,058
Land	64,500	64,500
Equipment	121,294	115,280
Works of Art	6,000	6,000
	984,077	950,838
<u>Less:</u> Accumulated Depreciation	(413,816)	(381,973)
Net Property and Equipment		
Investments	<u>151,540</u>	<u>152,059</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>980,629</u>	<u>913,416</u>
LIABILITITES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accrued Payroll	5,753	12,209
Accrued Payroll Taxes	1,444	1,124
Total Current Liabilities	7,197	13,333
Net Assets:		
With Donor Restrictions	64,000	-
Without Donor Restrictions	909,432	900,083
Total Net Assets	<u>973,432</u>	900,083
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>980,629</u>	<u>913,416</u>

J.H. Horne office on Blanchard Street in South Lawrence, March 15, 1918

Ways to Give

Please consider supporting the Immigrant City Archives, Inc., dba Lawrence History Center by contributing in one or more of the following ways:

Outright Gifts by Check, Credit		Facebook Fundraisers
Card, Paypal Giving Fund, or		Stock Donations
Cash		Planned Gifts/Bequests
Recurring Monthly Payments by		Event Sponsorship
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For more information, please visit www.lawrencehistory.org/support or contact Susan Grabski at director@lawrencehistory.org, 978-686-9230

All gifts and contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law.

[21] LawrenceHistory.org

# Volunteers, Interns & Advisors











Lawrence History Center gratefully acknowledges our volunteers, interns, and advisors without whose time, talent, and energy we would not be able to care for and preserve our collections, assist researchers, review symposium proposals, publish books, host events, or engage our community as effectively as we do.

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<sup>\*</sup> We are also grateful for our terrific volunteer board of directors for their energy, knowledge, and vision—without which we would not be able to carry out our mission to collect, preserve, share, and animate the history and heritage of Lawrence, Massachusetts and its people.





Founded in 1978 as the Immigrant City Archives, the mission of the Lawrence History Center is to collect, preserve, share, and animate the history and heritage of Lawrence, Massachusetts and its people.

Since 1992, the former Essex Company Offices and Yard at 6 Essex Street in Lawrence—a site built in 1882-3 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places—has been its home.

