ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



The Lawrence History Center gratefully acknowledges our volunteers 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.

We are also grateful for our terrific volunteer board of directors (listed opposite) 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.

VOLŬNTEERS

rank you t





Above: Kathy Flynn, Rick Wetmore, Gene McCarthy, Mary Morris Pannos, Marilyn Preeman, Amita Kiley (front) Left: Tom Walsh

Jessica Andors Dexter Arnold Llana Barber Jim Beauchesne Jaden Belizaire Joseph G. Bella Matt Bigham James Blatchford Marie Boyd Betsy Brien Monica Bruni Kirstin Clarke Vilma Martinez-Dominguez Syhia Eastman W. Dean Eastman Wendy Estrella Marilyn Freeman

Kathleen S. Flynn Sarah Gatzke Halina Grabski Mary Jo Griffin Quin Gonell Florentina Gutierrez Kristen Harol Armand M. Hyatt, Esg. Karen Ruebel Hyatt Fr. Martin Hyatt Joan Kelley Lawrence International High School Students Lawrence Heritage State Park Staff Marc Laplante Natasha LeDoux

Kathi Levine **Christine Lewis Robert Lussier** Yuliza Maza Eugene McCarthy Sarah McDermott Amanda McKenna Christopher J. Medeiros David Meehan Michael W. Morris, Jr. Marianne Paley Nadel Austin O'Leary Mary Morris Pannos Steven Perlmutter Clarisse Poirier Brianne N. Puls Andrew Ribaudo

Mayor Daniel Rivera Shantielle Robles Matt Russell **Bridget Shaheen** Marcia Sharp Brian Sheehy Kenneth Shute Gary Sidell Jurg Siegenthaler Linda Siegenthaler Jonas Stundzia Lisa Torrisi **Bill Traynor** Dorothy Truman Tom Walsh **Rick Wetmore** Pamela Yameen

ON THE COVER: Summer 2021 Rising Loaves students and writing leaders Kaylin, Katerina, and Brielle (photo courtesy of Phillips Academy); ABOVE: Essex Company Yard (Carpenter Shop, Blacksmith Ship, Stable, Warehouse), September 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2020 –2021

Glennys Sáncł

<u>ra Morin Barth</u>

Immediate Past Pres Kathleen Curry

ors

ahona Anil "Nilly" DaCosta **Angell Pascual Flores Robert Forrant** Mary Guerrero Mike Hearn Karen Van Welden-Herman Andy Kelley Michael Morris, Jr. Esq Ellen Minzner Jineyda Tapia

Board Member Emeritus Chet Sidell (1941-2018)

Honorary Board Member Claudia Dengler Founder Eartha Dengler

STAFF

Executive Director Susan Grabski

Collections Manager & Research Coordinator Amita Kiley

Head Researcher (Volunteer) Kathy Flynn

Lawrence History Center

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- www.lawrencehistory.org
- @lawrencehistory
- @lawrence_history_center





Above: The LHC board of directors and staff at a strategic planning retreat on December 4, 2021 at beautiful Abbot Hall, Abbot Academy Campus, Andover (p.18).

from the director

by Susan Grabski, Executive Director

Dear LHC Community,

After having been closed to the public since March 14, 2020 due to the pandemic, I am happy to report that, on September 25, 2021 at our 43rd Annual Meeting and 'Re-Opening' Open House, we officially resumed normal business hours. We are now open Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM and on Saturday by appointment and it's good to be back!

I am very proud of how the organization has navigated the pandemic and of its ability to stay engaged with Lawrencians, near and far, through the provision of digital content (please see page 8), virtual and hybrid programming, ongoing collection donations and research activities (please see page 4), and the historic preservation and increasing accessibility of the Essex Company Offices and Yard, our home at 6 Essex Street (please see page 9).

Across the last 18+ months or so we have travelled over, under, sideways, and through on the way from closure to 2022. From April 2020 to October 2021, thanks to COVID relief-related public dollars from a variety of sources, we were able to secure nearly \$90,000 in critical funding support that has allowed us to not only stay afloat, but to thrive.

While on-site visitation was understandably down, our volunteers logged over 900 service hours and our research team fielded 150+/- requests on a rich variety of subjects, locally and from around the world. On social media, our Facebook followers grew 67% from 3,545 to 5,926 and our Instagram followers grew 141% from 430 to 1,037. This increased audience allowed us to reach and engage with thousands outside our geographic area.

Some highlights:

LL.

On May 1, 2021, LHC held its 5th community symposium since 2012. The event focused on Public Safety in Lawrence and where that fits in the broader telling of history in the United States (please see page 10).

Our placed-based summer program—The Rising Loaves- for middle school students went hybrid, which meant we had the best of both worlds (please see page 12).

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, after having to postpone the event for 17 months, over 330 people gathered at the 'sold out' 2020-2021 Eartha Dengler History Award Ceremony to honor Armand M. Hyatt (please see page 14).



On September 25, 2021, LHC board president Mark Cutler presided over the 43rd Annual Meeting at which two new board members -- Brian Sheehy and Dr. Ellan Spero -were elected by the membership to serve their first three year terms, 2021-2024. Board directors renewing for new

> "I think Lawrence history should be a subject at all Lawrence schools. Thanks to Lawrence History Center for all you do ... I'm falling in love with Lawrence again."

> > ~ Stelvyn Mirabal (Comment on LHC Facebook post on November 9, 2021)

three-year terms includes Mark Svendsen (treasurer), Kathleen Curry; Anil "Nilly" DaCosta, and Ellen Minzner. To learn more about our full 16 member board, please visit www.lawrencehistory.org/about/board.

The 'Re-Opening' Open House also included a community conversation, "Out of the Ashes, a Parish Community Rebuilds," led by LHC board secretary Sara Morin Barth and lecture, "Influenza 1918: What Does History Teach Us About Crisis and Change?" by LHC board member Professor Robert Forrant. Richard Wright conducted a blacksmithing demonstration in the Essex Company Blacksmith Shop all day. All aspects were part of Essex Heritage Trails & Sails Weekends and were recorded thanks to support from a Digital Capacity Grant from Mass Humanities and are available on our web site.

Looking ahead, the LHC board of directors have undertaken a new strategic planning process (pictures from the board/ staff retreat on left), with the support of Community InRoads. We are excited about the course we are charting for the next three years 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.

We hope to see you very soon at 6 Essex Street!

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RESEAR CHING LAWRENCE HISTORY

INSIDE THE COLLECTION



by Amita Kiley Collections Manager & Research Coordinator

What an exciting year for the Lawrence History Center! Staff, volunteers, and interns once again filled our headquarters with preservation, exploration, discovery, and celebration of our city's history. Researchers paged through City Directories, handwritten ledgers, and scrapbooks to learn about the past. Donors graced our doorstep with boxes of family treasures to donate. And we shared our mission—to collect, preserve, share, and animate the history and heritage of Lawrence, Massachusetts and its people through TV appearances, community engagement, new partnerships, and participation in conferences. Please read on to learn about the year's highlights.

After spending so much time away from our facility in 2020, this year was a welcome change. There is a magic that happens when people who love and care for Lawrence can gather together and share that passion. The magic is enhanced when we can bring new faces into the mix. This year, we welcomed a record number of interns to conduct directed studies and other research activity in the archive. We hosted:

- Five students from UMass Lowell's *Intro to Archives* class. The students completed over 60 hours of work on a variety of projects including organizing the *Essex County Jail Records Collection* and cataloging books and photographs.
- Six students from UMass Lowell's History and English Departments, Middlesex Community College, and Mitchell College in CT, for semester long internships/directed studies spent transcribing oral histories, processing collections including *The Everett Marshall Papers* and our Jewish Collection, and analyzing data found in the *Essex County Jail Records Collection*.
- A Lawrence High School student who cataloged scrapbooks and assisted with other preservation activities.

We grew our team of regular, day to day volunteers from 9 to 14. These volunteers are vital to the mission of LHC and keeping the archive going. Here are just some of the activities they've worked on this year: Betsy Brien and Marie Boyd worked with the *Essex County Jail Records Collection*. Tom Walsh and Shantielle Robles (pictured on opposite page on left) processed a large portion of the *American Woolen Company Collection*. Matt Bigham, Marilyn Freeman, Gene McCarthy, and Rick Wetmore processed new photograph donations, entered them into the database, and organized the storage of the

overall collection. Monica Bruni (below) created databases for our newspaper clippings collection. James Blatchford and Kathi Levine processed scrapbooks and Kathi also began work on the *Diaries of William Madison Wood*. Kirstin Clarke transcribed interviews from our Oral History Collection. Mary Pannos cataloged newly donated books and processed the *Merrimack Valley People for Peace Collection*. Kathy Flynn answered research requests, oversaw volunteers working on jail records, and helped manage intern and student projects.

We are grateful that we have so many hands to help with the nearly 100 donations that come in annually. These donations include photographs, family histories, publications, promotional items from Lawrence businesses, books, tools used in Lawrence industry, and even such personal items as baby shoes and a cradle, and a wedding dress. We received some large scale and rare collections this year including:



30

From Feby 14. 1910 to March 20# 1910

Costumes handmade in the Dominican Republic (pictured on



31 Man Whook Draing from Mench so 1915 to April 12th 1915 indu

right) used for various celebrations in Lawrence including parades commemorating Dominican Independence Day and the Semana Hispana celebrations. They were donated by Stelvyn Mirabal, head of The Asociación Carnavalesca de Massachusetts, in memory of his father Rafael Mirabal. According to Stelvyn:

"The purpose of Carnaval is both to celebrate Dominican Republic's culture and history and to share this rich tradition with other cultures and peoples. The

Carnaval events are an interactive and joyous expression of cultural identity and welcoming warmth, featuring music as well as dancing by performers and spectators alike, with the performers of the Asociación arrayed in intricate, colorful traditional costumes and masks that reflect the Dominican Republic's rich mix of indigenous and European cultures. Since the year 2000, the Asociación has been preserving and promoting the Dominican Carnaval tradition through performances around eastern Massachusetts."

The importance of adding these costumes to the LHC archives is to document the people of Lawrence, and the cultures and traditions that are important to them. Years from now, researchers will marvel at how Dominican heritage was celebrated in the city in 2021.

The diaries of William Madison Wood (picture above center), President of the American Woolen Company, donated by the Wood Family. The diaries are dated from August 17, 1913 – July 22, 1923 and consist of nearly 7,000 entries. In 2018, The Wood Family donated the records of the American Woolen Company to LHC. These diaries are an extraordinary counterpart to those



records, and combined, this material results in a rich and in-depth collection on Lawrence's role as the woolen capital of the world during the period, and all the factors that made it so.

- Two hundred eighty six city of Lawrence Payroll Ledgers from 1914 – 1980s, donated by the city of Lawrence via the Lawrence Public Library. These ledgers contain significant information on employment in the city through a long stretch of history, including both World Wars. The ledgers fit right in with our other city of Lawrence ledgers regarding the Board of Health, Water Department, and even Dog Licensing.
- We are in the beginning stages of welcoming the *Joe Bella Collection* into our archives. Joe is a local historian, former LHC Board member, 2017 Eartha Dengler History award recipient, and

avid collector of all things Lawrence. Thus far, Joe has donated the sign from Lawton's Famous Frankfurters, the iconic Lawrence establishment on the corner of Canal and South Broadway; a 14 ½ foot printed canvas advertising James Kyrle Mac Curdy's play, "The Yankee Doodle Detective", which was performed at the Lawrence Opera House in 1909; and the Arabic newspaper al-Fajr (The Dawn, pictured below) 1921-1922, published in Lawrence and the only known printed copy in existence.



In addition to learning about the new donations that come through our doors, we strive to understand better the material we already have. The more we know, the better and more widely we can make it available. We have a rich archive on the history of the Lebanese community in Lawrence, made up of photographs, oral histories, and publications. Included in this material are books written in Arabic that we haven't yet fully explored, but they remained in our archives because we knew they were historically significant and likely vital to the telling of the area's Lebanese history. We shared these books with Stacy Fahrentold, U.C. Davis associate professor, author, and historian of Middle Eastern migrations. She is writing a book about Syrian labor migration to New England, and the politics of ethnic mutual aid societies within the Lebanese immigrant communities and describes her research below:

"At LHC, I've worked with collections relating to Arab American textile workers and their mutual aid associations; this work will help me write a chapter on how mutual aid societies served as adjuncts to the labor movement--sort of beside more formal labor unions and coordinating among Syrian immigrants in multiple mill towns at once."

As a part of her own Lawrence related research, Professor Fahrenthold indexed our rare Arabiclanguage books. According to her:

"They originated in private family collections and many of them bear the bookplates/names of their original owners, dating between the 1880s and 1950s. A couple of them illustrate the place of the Lawrence Arab American community in the intellectual life of the Lebanese diaspora."



Our archives encompass far more than paper and books. In our Essex Company Collection we hold an array of tools in our Blacksmith Shop and Carpenter Shop that were used by Essex Company workers, as well as a set of instruments that have yet to be identified by LHC. Some of these mystery instruments are upwards of 10 feet in length, and housed in custom built cases (sample pictured below left). Over the years, we've photographed and catalogued them, but their use remained unknown. This year, MIT Professors and Station1 co-founders Christine Ortiz and Ellan Spero (also a new LHC board member) spent a significant amount of time examining these instruments in tandem with the Essex Company Collection engineering records consisting of over 100 handwritten notebooks/fieldbooks. Assisted by LHC head researcher Kathy Flynn and her expertise with the Essex Company Collection, professors Spero and Ortiz began the process of trying to learn more about these instruments asking When were they made? Who used them and why? As we often say, research is never quite finished and there always seems to be more to learn. We are excited to be on this journey of discovery regarding this unique collection and look forward to what our scholars uncover.

Professors Spero and Ortiz brought the engineering feats of the Essex Company to South America in their article "Navigating Dimensions across Materials and History: Scale as a Lens to Understand Dynamic and Cumulative Sociotechnical Relationships", published in Diseña, an English and Spanish peer-reviewed, biannual, and bilingual publication by the Escuela de Diseño of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. *Diseña* promotes research in all areas of design. Its specific aim is to promote critical thought about methodologies, methods, practices, and tools of research and project work. Professors Spero and Ortiz incorporated many photographs and aspects of the LHC archives their work.

Research is such an important part of our mission that our longtime supporters and volunteers, W. Dean and Sy Eastman have established a research fellowship, *The W. Dean and Sy Eastman Student Research Fellowship at Lawrence History Center*. The fellowship will be awarded to a high school or college student to conduct research (either a suggested project or one proposed by the fellow) that will be of mutual benefit to LHC and the fellow. This year's inaugural recipient is UMass Lowell Honors student Sarah Elizabeth McDermott. Sarah studied the connection between the LHC's Essex *County Jail Records (ECJR)* and the Strike of 1912. Records from 1910-1912 were sorted, organized, and imported into a database. In her analysis, Sarah uncovered groundbreaking information regarding the newly arrived immigrant women jailed during the children's exodus. Ultimately, she hopes the findings serve as a call to action to to use the ECJR as a tool to better understand history.

We continued to field research requests from local individuals,

families, and organizations such as Addison Gallery of American Art, city of Lawrence, *The Eagle Tribune*, Bread and Roses Heritage Committee, Bread and Roses (community kitchen), Diamond Spring Garden Apartment, Elevated Thought, Essex Heritage, International Book Fair of Lawrence, Lawrence CommunityWorks , Lawrence General Hospital, Lawrence Historic Commission, Lawrence Partnership, Lawrence Public Library, Lupoli Companies, Metropolitan Waterworks Museum (Boston), Station1, Temple Emanuel (Andover, MA), Tsongas Industrial History Center, Townsend Historical Society, U -Haul of Eastern MA, U.S.S. Arizona Mall Memorial at the University of Arizona, VHB, Inc. (Environmental Scientists), and a number of schools, colleges and universities, both nationally and internationally.

One of our favorite experiences is when we can provide a researcher with a deeply personal connection to their family's history. These are just a few times that it happened this year:

We provided a handwritten family history to a researcher in NY. Her response:

"This is AMAZING! My mom always said that my grandfather had beautiful handwriting, and that's proven here. You've also attached an essay written by my aunt (whom I never met--she died in her 20s) and another by my mom, as well as my mom's grammar school diploma. I can't wait to share all of this with my family. Thank you so much! I can't tell you how much this means to me."

A researcher found out that we had a picture of her grandmother as a Lawrence High School senior and we sent her a scan of the picture. Her response:

"Thank you SO much. I opened this late last night and my eyes filled with happy tears...So great that some of my family's items are being kept safe at the history center. Thanks for all that you do. And thank you for the reunion, of sorts, with Grandma!"

We've been able to share photos of a researcher's long gone family business, and he said:

"These photos have meant so much to my family."

Our international reach continued as we worked with:

• A genealogist in Dubai, United Arab Emirates who sought information about his grandfather who immigrated to Lawrence







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<image>

from Lebanon (then Syria) in 1915.

- A researcher in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, who we helped discover a previously unknown side of his family in Lawrence.
- A family historian in Buenos Aires, Argentina who asked if we had pictures of his great uncle, a prominent local businessman, and information on Jewish life in Lawrence at that time. We had the photos he needed as well as some terrific digitized material about Jewish life in Lawrence that was very helpful to him.
- Grazia Messina, the scientific director of the Museo Etneo delle Migrazioni (Etna Museum of Emigrations), located in Giarre, a town in the province of Catania, Sicily, whose mission is to collect stories of Sicilian emigrants, to preserve their memory and to present their contribution to the history of Sicily and Italy. We provided dozens of digitized documents and connected Grazia's son, Fabrizio Rompineve, with locals in Saint Alfio Society so more personal research could be conducted. The final result is a published essay on Lawrence and its Sicilian immigration in the Italian journal Studi Storici Siciliani.

This year we were able to share our mission with a wide audience through TV appearances. In January, LHC board president Mark Cutler and I were interviewed by Champa Bilkawesh for her show *The Andover Chroniclers*. Our interview focused on LHC's history, mission, and current activities on documenting today's immigrants (above center).

The LHC story was also a focus of NBC Boston's 10 in Your Town series which spent the week highlighting historic and cultural gems in Lawrence (above right). Viewers of the program were allowed a peek inside our doors without having to leave their home. The show put the spotlight on the architectural highlights of our historic complex, including two of our vaults and cashier's office, as well as the artifacts we have which tell the immigrant story of Lawrence.

When it wasn't the people and headquarters of LHC on TV, it was our photographs. Images of tent city (the outdoor emergency hospital in Tower Hill set up to treat victims of the 1918 flu pandemic) were



featured prominently on CNN's special What the 1918 flu pandemic can teach us about coronavirus.

Volunteer Rick Wetmore created a video tour of Lawrence using historic postcards and another video highlighting ghost signs that are still visible on many Lawrence buildings (below left). We were delighted to be able to make our archives available in such a different and creative way.

We enjoyed wonderful new partnerships with donors of collection materials and researchers whom we worked with. We met Steve Stewart and his son Jonathan when they donated the tools of Ernest Stewart (Steve's grandfather) to LHC. Ernest was employed 49

years for the Boston & Maine RR, retiring as a Foreman out of Lawrence. Ernest and his wife Mary raised their family on 89 Emmet Street in Lawrence and both lived to be over 100 years of age before passing away the same year in 2006. During our visit we learned that Steve and Jonathan are active and experienced in the art of metal detecting and are part of local metal detecting groups like Mass Metal Detecting. The Stewarts (pictured on right) asked about metal detecting at LHC and we agreed. Steve and Jonathan always get



permission before doing any metal detecting and they leave the grounds exactly the way they found them. Actually, they leave them even better than they found them, as they pick up and dispose of trash that they find during their digs. Their goal is always to reunite people with pieces they lost or find a way to connect places with historical Some of the items found were keys, coins, a compact with make-up still inside, a pocket knife, a key hole latch, and a Model-T Ford hub cap.

Another new partner, Erin E. Moulton, is an author and the New Hampshire Room Coordinator at the Derry Public Library. We worked with Erin on her project *Soulspun Kitchen*, where Erin makes antique and vintage recipes and then tracks the woman who wrote them. To find this recipe, Erin explored dozens of cookbooks in the LHC library before finding the one - Abalon Haddad's Ghorabie, found in the *International Institute Cookbook* (1938 edition) out of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Erin (as part of the Derry Public Library) and I partnered up with the Robert Frost Foundation to present a Zoom event titled, "A Local

A Local Look at Robert Frost

Amita Kiley Collections Manager & Research Coordinator

October 5, 2021



Look at Robert Frost". During my portion I shared items from the LHC archives pertaining to Frost, and talked about research that one could conduct about the Frost family.

A Local Look at Robert Frost

We also continued partnerships with Adelante students at the Lawrence YMCA and students who participated in the Rising Loaves, the afterschool program for middle school students (an extension of our summer writers workshop and a partnership with Andover Bread Loaf). I met with these groups on Zoom to give virtual tours of the LHC archives and support monthly writing workshops with primary sources from the collection.

Our partnership with Essex Heritage continued when we presented at their Regional Education Forum on the topic, "When Place-based Education Loses Its Place", and we continue to offer vital support for their series of *Teaching Hidden Histories* workshops.

Kathy Flynn and I presented to the 2021 Station1 Frontiers Fellowship education, research, and internship program on sociallydirected science and technology, with a presentation on Lawrence history and archives entitled *Critical Review & Understand 2: Embedded Social Structures of Technological Systems.*



I presented at the virtual MA History Conference along with Robert Forrant, Mark Cutler, and Brian Sheehy on a panel entitled, *Unceasing Access: Research and Collection Development During Covid-*19. I was the guest speak at a Rotary Club meeting and I've continued to take advantage of online workshops geared toward preservation, archives and local history offered by Northeast Document Conservation Center, MA History Alliance-Conversations on the Common, Historic New England, The White Fund, North Andover Historical Society, Tsongas Industrial History Center, Public Health Museum, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Massachusetts Library Systems Symposium.

Many years ago we changed our name from Immigrant City Archives to Lawrence History Center to better reflect our activities and our mission. We are an archive at our core and we always will be. But we are more than that.

We are a center; a hub of history-related activity and community pride. A place where people come together, bring history to life, and make connections between the past and the present. Our founder, Eartha Dengler, began the organization back in 1978 when she realized how many immigrants like herself needed a place that would listen to their story and preserve their memories. Thanks to a team of loyal and passionate supporters, donors, and volunteers... we are that place!

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Our Fello Arturo Giovannitt

DIGITAL AND

TEACHER



The Lawrence History Center continues to digitize its collections to share through our website, social media outlets, OCLC WorldCat, Internet Archive, Digital Commonwealth, and the DPLA—Digital Public Library of America. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we gained an even greater appreciation for the efforts we have made to make our collections accessible online—to engage our community and to provide a myriad of resources for teachers (critical for remote learning) and researchers.

www.lawrencehistory.org/resources

historic PRESERVATION 6 essex street

The **historic preservation** and **accessibility** 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 care and upkeep 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.



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IN THE STRUGGLE OF TWENTY FIVE XTILE WORKERS WHOSE WAGES IX DOLLARS PER WEEK.



w Workers i & Joseph J. Ettor 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 1883 that includes a main office building, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, stable, and warehouse.

While closed to the public due to the pandemic, LHC was able to complete the following projects:

Painting of Exterior Structures in the Courtyard

Phase II work included painting/preserving the perimeter wall metal caps, warehouse doors, stable and forge doors. The repair and preservation of the warehouse bulkhead is next on the list of needed exterior projects.

Elevator Project

Thanks to many partners, a "Certificate For Use of Elevator" for the new elevator in our main building was issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on January 15, 2021.* On right, young Halina Grabski is shown taking her first ride to the second floor!

Projects in motion for 2022 include:

The city of Lawrence, through the CDBG program, has awarded \$5,000 toward the conversion of our current men's and women's bathrooms (each with 2 stalls) into 2 handicap accessible, single stall, gender neutral bathrooms in our main building. We plan to complete the project in the first half of 2022.

We will be seeking funding for the installation of a new HVAC system in our main building to replace current systems that include an inefficient central one-zone boiler, window AC units, and a lack of ventilation and humidity control. This effort will provide climate controlled spaces to better preserve our collections as well as provide safer air quality for staff, volunteers, and visitors.

* The elevator project was made possible through of funding from MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund and match dollars awarded by the William Wood Foundation, the Margaret M. Collins Charitable Trust, Essex Heritage, Enel Green Power, CDBG, individual donors Gerald Williamson and Phyllis Tyler, and the Clifford S. Wrigley bequest.



A LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM PUBLIC SAFETY in lawrence of the symposium

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021 | VIRTUAL





On May 1, 2021, LHC held its 5th

community symposium since 2012. The event focused on Public Safety in Lawrence and was held using the virtual conference app Whova. During the day, we looked back at the history of

Lawrence's response to crisis – be it natural and man-made disasters, labor strikes, protests, racial discrimination, economic upheaval, living and working conditions – and where that fits in the broader telling of history in the United States.

...

COVID-19 and the death of George Floyd showed us that we are in a moment of crisis both for public health and for public safety. So what does public safety really look like to residents of Lawrence historically and now in the shadow of the Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions, during a pandemic, in an era of extreme health disparities based on race and income? What does public safety really look like in the context of racialized police killings, in the context of the widespread criminalization of immigrants? What would we all need to truly feel "safe" in the current moment? And what insight can we gain from the past?

We had 130 registrants and 39 presenters and moderators. The keynote address, *From the Politics of Safety to Equal Protection for All*, was presented by Johanna Fernández, Associate Professor, Department of History, Baruch College, City University of New York.*

Other sessions included:

- Applying the Science of Child Development to Improve Public Safety in Lawrence
- There But for the Workers: Stories of Tragedy and Triumph [Pemberton Mill Collapse (1860)/Triangle Shirtwaist Fire (1911)] *
- Homelessness and the Covid-19 Pandemic: How Responding To Our Most Vulnerable Helps Us All
- A Visual Overview of the History of Public Safety in Lawrence, Massachusetts ** [Created by Lawrence History Center]
- Criminal Justice—On the Ground, In Policy and Practice, and in Education
- The Community Responds to COVID-19
- Documenting Stories of Justice and Injustices in our Communities
- "Lost in Lawrence" Photovoice Project [Groundwork Lawrence Green Team]
- "The Boiler Project" Revisited: What Does Safety and Justice Look Like in Lawrence Today (*post Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions in September 2018*)? * [Led by Elevated Thought]
- Archival Corner: Resources Pertaining to Public Safety in Lawrence, Massachusetts ** [Created by Lawrence History Center]

To view the recorded sessions and for more information about speakers and moderators, please visit:

www.lawrencehistory.org/education/symposium/2021

 $\ensuremath{^*}$ This session was supported by a grant from the Bridge Street Fund, a special initiative of Mass Humanities

** This video was supported by a Digital Capacity Grant from Mass Humanities

The symposium was also sponsored in part by the Charles G. Pringle foundation and the Catherine McCarthy Memorial Trust Fund.





Some feedback from participants:

"What a great, multidimensional look at the history of public safety and community in Lawrence! Thanks for bringing together all the talent and the intellectualism, both in the presenters as well as in the attendees. This was a great opportunity for us all to come together and engage in critical thought."

"I really appreciated hearing lived experience from the presenters that made the subjects even more powerful. I thought the subjects of each presentation related well to each other."

"Loved the community feel and participation from community members."



A Visual Overview of the History of Public Safety in Lawrence, Massachusetts 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM May 1, 2021







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RISING LOAVES 2021 anthology "OUR STRENGTH"















L to R: Summer 2021 Rising Loaves students and writing leaders on the Essex Company Carpenter Shop stairs; student on the final day of the program diving into Bread and Roses, Too by Katherine Paterson (gifted to all students on the final day); student and writing leader James Valentin-Nora

This year, **The Rising Loaves** summer program for middle school students went hybrid, which meant we had the best of both worlds. From July 9—July 30, we had guest speakers join us virtually from around our country and the world. But we also met with each other in person at the Lawrence History Center to walk around our city, visit the Addison Gallery, and share our final reading.

Our theme this year was **"Our Strength".** We considered our strength as our ability to cope, to adapt, to self-reflect and share. Strength, also, was our history, our many cultures and our community.

Over the three weeks we wrote together, discussed our ideas, learned from poets and teachers. Also, each week we opened mystery envelopes (example on right) to help us connect while in a virtual setting and to remind us to find the adventure in the work we do each day.

Here are some examples of the summer activities

- DO NOT OPEN UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 12!
- Week 1: We wrote about the one quality we think defines us with Lee Krishnan, presenting from Mumbai, India. We wrote about our theory of everything and superpowers with Anthony Morales. We took a virtual tour of the Lawrence History Center with Amita Kiley and we discussed who would ultimately view "us as history". On Friday, we took a History Discovery Walk through Lawrence looking for the past in the buildings around us (on left). We met with Jessica Martinez (TDI-Transformative Development Initiative Fellow) at 238 Essex Street in the former Bay State Merchants National Bank, a space that has been left unused for decades, but that has been transformed into *Imagina Essex*.
- Week 2: From Arizona, Ceci Lewis helped us write stories using our lived experiences to create characters. Nurilys Cintron inspired us to think about the elements of the Earth and revolutions. Poet Harlym 125 inspired us with his positive energy, music, and poetry, and we wrote about home and finished with Haikus. On Thursday, Lou Bernieri read a Samika poem and we wrote about an important place to us. Finally, on Friday, we visited the Addison Gallery where we looked at the exhibit "Seeing Things in Things" by Mel Kendrick and wrote with Christine Jee.
- Week 3: Ummi Modeste (bottom left) shared the book *Just Like Me* and we wrote using the poetry from the book to inspire us. Y-Binh Nguyen, Milly Joseph and Gladys Gitau spoke to us about their Brick Literary Magazine and encouraged us to write and submit work. Dariana Guerrero (on left) asked us to write about food which got everyone talking (and hungry!), as well as about body positivity.

Our gratitude goes to our program co-directors Mary Guerrero and Jackie Schierembergg, and our writing leaders James-Valentin Mora, Christian Pimentel, Gabrielle Anderson, Katerina Guerrero, Serena Lee, Janie Tompkins, and Francina Tshimbalanga for sharing their talents with our students!

To view the Anthology, photos, and videos, please visit: http://www.lawrencehistory.org/education/summer/2021

"Lawrence Student Writing Workshop: The Rising Loaves" is hosted (hybrid of virtual and in-person in 2021) 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, W. Dean and Sy Eastman, the Stearns and Russell Trusts, Rogers Family Foundation, and Andover Bread Loaf. Summer 2021 Rising Loaves students and writing leaders busy on the final day of the program at the Lawrence History Center (photo courtesy of Phillips Academy)

REATLES



in honor of ARMAND M. HYATT



On Thursday, September 9, 2021, over 330 people gathered at the 'sold out' 2020-2021 Eartha Dengler History Award Ceremony to honor Armand M. Hyatt.

The event was hosted by the Nunez family in the former Cardinal Shoe building at 468 S Canal Street. Speakers included Jess Andors and Bill Traynor (LCW-Lawrence CommunityWorks), Bridget Shaheen (retired director of Lazarus House), Fr. Martin Hyatt (St Basil), Claudia Dengler, Gary Sidell, and Mark Cutler presented the gifts to Armand, including a donation to the scholarship established in Armand's name at LCW to support a college bound Lawrence student. It was a beautiful evening celebrating an even more beautiful man—filled with love as speakers highlighted the core themes of Armand's life:



faith - family - service

Son of a founding member of Lazarus House Ministries, Armand Hyatt is at once an attorney, community advocate, musician, poet, mentor, and surfer. And he is, above all, a leader who has used his prodigious talents to bring Lawrence CommunityWorks into existence, and to benefit Lawrence and nearby communities in countless other ways for decades. Armand's love of family is unmistakable. So are his generous spirit, his infectious optimism, and his powerful faith in God. These qualities are there for all to see and learn from, be they pro bono clients of his law firm, young people he coaches and mentors, fellow musicians with the Wobblies, residents of Heritage Common, or the many others across all walks of life who are blessed by his daily civic and faith-driven life of service.

















Our sincere gratitude to Armand and his family, our host committee, our event sponsors, our volunteers, photographers Robert Lussier and Steven Perlmutter, videographer Andy Kelley, caterer The Party Connection, musicians The Wobblies, and our gracious hosts, the Nunez family.

More information, including a list of sponsors, video and photos, may be found at: www.lawrencehistory.org/dengler/2020-2021/photosandvideo

Left: Armand Hyatt and family. Above (L to R): LHC director Susan Grabski; Maggie Super Church, Tamar Kotelchuck, Lisa Torrisi, Juan Bonilla, Bill Traynor, Jessica Andors; The Wobblies; Fr. Martin Hyatt; Bridget Shaheen; LHC board president Mark Cutler presenting the award to Armand; LHC founder Eartha Dengler's daughter Claudia Dengler presenting one of the gifts to Armand; Wendy Estrella, Esq., Damarys and Alberto Nunez (hosts), Zoila Gomez, Esq., Jesus Suriel (Enterprise Bank), Jose Estrella; Lisa Torrisi, Chad Montrie, Juan Bonilla, Kristen Harol; Armand Hyatt accepting the Award; Armand playing the harmonica with fellow Wobblies; Olivia and Eddie Rosa, Lesly Melendez, Lauren Klingler.

OUR SUPPORTERS May 1, 2020—April 30, 2021

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.

\$25,000 and Above

Massachusetts Cultural Council Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund Abbot and Dorothy H. Stevens Foundation William M. Wood Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee

\$10,000 - \$24,999

City of Lawrence, CDBG Rosman Family Fund of the Essex County Community Foundation Anonymous °

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\$50 — \$99

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In-Kind Support

Community InRoads Lawrence Heritage State Park Nunez Family

° Stock Donation

* Gift made in memory of Matilda Stundza

** Gift made in memory of Chester Dwulet

FINANCIAL



Immigrant City Archives, Inc., dba Lawrence History Center, is a private, not-forprofit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our approved annual **operating budget for fy2021 was \$207,000** with an additional \$140,000+/- in capital expenses for historic preservation of and accessibility to our facilities. **Our Revenues and Other Support** as of 4/30/2021 were **\$394,146 (Contributed Support: \$285,627; Earned and Other Revenue: \$74,802)**, including \$33,817 with donor restrictions (*in-kind donations*). **Total expenses were \$257,749**. Reviewed Financial Statements for the Years Ending April 30, 2021 and 2020 were prepared by *Kenneth J. Plumb, Jr., C.P.A.,* Plumb and Pierce. It was his conclusion that, based on the review, he is not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



INVESTMENTS

as of April 30, 2021

Fair Value Measurements

Mutual Funds: \$81,250

Exchange traded equity products: \$69,195

Total Investments: \$150,445







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 Card, Paypal Giving Fund, or Cash
- Recurring Monthly Payments by Credit Card
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Honor and Memorial Gifts
- Facebook Fundraisers
- Stock Donations
- Planned Gifts/Bequests
- Event Sponsorship
- Membership
- AmazonSmile Purchases

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.



You're invited to

ANNUAL MEETING and "Re-opening **OPEN HOUSE**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM







Richard Wright with a young, curious visitor.



Above: Stelvyn Mirabal (right) and his son Leonardo

Stelvyn Mirabal, head of The Asociación Carnavalesca de Massachusetts, donated three suits and masks, handmade from the Dominican Republic. and used for various celebrations, including parades commemorating the Independence Day and the Semana Hispana celebrations in the North Common each year. The donation was made in memory of Stelvyn's father. Rafael Mirabal.



Lawrence WWI Project Map: WALK. BIKE. DRIVE.

Thirty six Lawrence, Massachusetts residents received official recognition with a bridge, park, pool, street corner, or a building for their deaths in WW1. The Lawrence WWI Project, led by City Councilor Marc Laplante, along with LHC and Lawrence illustrator Kate Delaney, created a map of the sites that honor the soldiers. The map is designed for people to walk, bike, or drive to the sites and will be available for FREE at Lawrence City Hall, the Lawrence Heritage State Park, the Lawrence History Center, Lawrence Public Library, the Lawrence Senior Center, and other locations to be determined. Visit this link to learn more about the Lawrence WWI Project and to see and download the new map: www.lawrencehistory.org/Lawrence-WWI-Project

The project was supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency





LHC director Susan Grabski and volunteer

Kathy Flynn, along with retired Lawrence

L to R: Annual Meeting presenters LHC board secretary Sara Morin Barth, Blacksmith Richard Wright, Professor Robert Forrant (pictured in front of the Essex Company Blacksmith Shop).



The Lawrence History Center board of directors and staff held a strategic planning retreat on December 4, 2021 at beautiful Abbot Hall, hosted by board president Mark Cutler, faculty at Phillips Academy. We heard from everyone in the group as we celebrated the success of the last three years and chartered the course for the next three and beyond. The main areas of focus were education & outreach, archival collections, and the historic preservation and accessibility of 6 Essex Street. New board member Ellan Spero had this to say,

"It was such a pleasure today—great ideas, energy and dedication in the group."

The session was facilitated by Community InRoads volunteer Leslie Levenson. Our sincere thanks to her as well as Community InRoads staff Lysbeth Noyes and Joan Kulash for supporting nonprofits with such critical pro bono services.





L-R: Esperanza Academy students taking part in a photo walk with photographers Robert Lussier and Steven Perlmutter, Rising Loaves students and writing leaders representing the program for Essex Heritage's Park for Every Classroom program.

On April 27, 2021, the Lawrence History Center lost a dear friend: Joe Manning. When we commemorated the centennial anniversary of the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike, we had the pleasure of working with Joe to bring his exhibit. The Lewis Hine Project: Stories of the Lawrence Children, to the Everett Mill. Joe is pictured on the right at the opening reception for the exhibit on April 14, 2012.





Marine Corps Sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo, 25, of Lawrence was screening women and children at the Abbey Gate of the Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan when she died on Thursday, August 26, 2021 along with her 9 Marine Brothers, 1 Marine Sister, 1 US Navy Corpsman and US Army soldier from a terrorist attack.

LHC thanks her for her service. May she rest in peace.



WHERE ARE THE

WORKERS?

A group of women who work together in the Ayer Mill Mending Room, 1909 Lawrence, Massachusetts

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 1883 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places—has been its home.

