



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, May 1, 2025
5:00 PM**

Mission Statement: The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. Minutes of April 3, 2024

4. New Business

A. Museum Board Collections Sub-committee appointments

5. Unfinished Business

A. Museum Board "What's Your Story?" Oral History Project-updates

B. Strategic Plan

- Finalize working objectives
- Measures

6. Communication and Reports

A. Director Report

B. Member comments

C. Public comments

7. Next Meeting: June 5, 2025

8. Adjournment

NOTICE: Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the city clerk's office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-3405 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. *APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MUSEUM BOARD MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT www.bhamgov.org.* City of Birmingham, 151 Martin, Birmingham, MI 48009; 248.530.1800. Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at the number (248) 530-1880, or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

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**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, April 3, 2025
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Mike Ableson, Kristy Barrett (Alternate), Judith Keefer
Marty Logue
Members Absent: Alexandra Harris, Pat Hughes, Eva Kirkman
Student Representative: Mercy Wisecup
Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairperson Logue. Members introduced themselves and welcomed Mercy Wisecup, the newly appointed student representative.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of March 6, 2025**

MOTION: by Ableson, seconded by Logue:

To approve the minutes of March 6, 2025.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Members discussed some of the potential interviewees they plan to approach and requested the Deed of Gift and Informed Consent forms. Museum Director Pielack will check in at each meeting to follow up on progress and/or questions going forward.

Having already approved strategic plan priorities, members reviewed the strategic plan at the **goal level:**

1. *Priority: Observe professional standards, ethics, and best practices for long-term preservation and care of the museum collection in the public trust (approved 3/6/2025).*

Goal: Maintain, preserve, and enhance the museum's collection of artifacts, archives, digital content and buildings to make these resources available to the public in accordance with established professional museum practice.

2. *Use the museum and its collection to encourage greater equity and inclusion and to humanize history for the benefit of the community (approved 3/6/2025).*

Goal: Utilize best practices to engage the whole community and encourage empathy and understanding of our diverse cultural and personal experience.

3. *Establish and strengthen collaborative relationships in the community to implement the museum's mission (approved 3/6/2025).*

Goal: Leverage collaborative relationships to expand the museum's sphere of influence and provide beneficial outcomes for the community.

MOTION: by Keefer, seconded by Ableson:

To approve the proposed goals as noted.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

The board continued to review the working objectives under each goal, with the following initial drafts:

1. *Priority: Observe professional standards, ethics, and best practices for long-term preservation and care of the museum collection in the public trust (approved 3/6/2025).*

Goal: Maintain, preserve, and enhance the museum's collection of artifacts, archives, digital content and buildings to make these resources available to the public in accordance with established professional museum practice (approved 4/3/2025).

Draft working objectives:

- **Improve museum collection's organization, storage, and environmental controls to protect and preserve the collection**
- **Improve efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility of collection object records and documentation**
- **Implement collections-related policies and procedures for collections management for its buildings, grounds, physical and digital materials**
- **Increase access to virtual exhibits, online materials, and digital access**
- **Enhance inclusivity of the collection**

2. *Use the museum and its collection to encourage greater equity and inclusion and to humanize history for the benefit of the community (approved 3/6/2025).*

Goal: Utilize best practices to engage the whole community and encourage empathy and understanding of our diverse cultural and personal experience (approved 4/3/2025).

Draft working objectives:

- **Develop exhibits and interpretive materials that facilitate engagement, relevance, and inclusion and offer multiple perspectives**
- **Utilize specialized outreach programs and presentations in off-site settings**
- **Investigate opportunities to enhance and expand virtual reach**

3. *Establish and strengthen collaborative relationships in the community to implement the museum's mission (approved 3/6/2025).*

Goal: Leverage collaborative relationships to expand the museum's sphere of influence and provide beneficial outcomes for the community (approved 4/3/2025).

Draft working objectives:

- **Develop programs and projects that integrate the museum's strategic priorities and support the City's internal and public-focused functions and services**
- **Pursue partnerships with local institutions that are aligned with the museum's mission**
- **Provide leadership and support to area organizations in developing and promoting local history**

Members briefly discussed the best way to gain public input for the museum's strategic plan, and agreed by consensus that a public electronic survey through Engage Birmingham as well as through the museum and city's website would be a good method. Creating survey items that assess our main priorities and associated objectives will help us assess how well our strategic plan's direction reflects the interest of the public.

Director Pielack provided members with copies of the museum's Goals, Objectives and Measures that are tracked annually for the City's annual proposed budget. Public budget hearings will take place April 26, or the proposed budget can be viewed online.

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack announced that she has been appointed to the Michigan Historical Commission and looks forward to support the museum through that role. She also gave updates to the fence and roofing projects, which should be completed before the next Museum Board meeting. A new volunteer brochure was distributed to the board that explains opportunities at the museum. There will be an article in the *Birmingham Eagle* about the new materials we've put together for teachers, and Caitlin will be interviewed.

Member Comments

Mr. Ableson was curious about the exciting find of old Eccentric newspapers from the 1880s in our collection. They were accepted for the collection many years ago but not catalogued, and so were unknown. As this is an ongoing issue, the museum regularly updates and corrects collection records and cataloguing issues as they are encountered.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:24 PM.



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
COLLECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, April 13, 2023
3:00 PM**

Mission Statement: *The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.*

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. New Business

A. Deaccession Report; Yearbook Preservation and Digitization

Proposed Action: Approve deaccession of unneeded yearbooks in collections to facilitate preservation and digitization

4. Next Meeting: TBD

5. Adjournment

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05-Apr-2023

Proposed Deaccession for Baldwin / Piper / Mapletonian Yearbooks

After a careful review of the entire collection of yearbooks held at the Birmingham Museum, it is recommended to deaccession 87 of the yearbooks for redundancy and/or poor condition.

A thorough survey was done to assess the quality of each yearbook and to determine its significance to Birmingham's history. Those of high quality and significance will be kept in the collections and preserved. Those of poor-quality or with mold contamination will be removed.

The deaccessioning of the redundant yearbooks will open storage space, permit digitization, and allow the Museum to properly preserve our permanent collections.

Donna Casaceli
Museum Specialist - Archivist

Deaccession Inventory Sheet



Date: March 30th, 2023

Descriptive Information (Collection/Grouping): Baldwin / Piper Yearbooks (page 1)

Staff: Justin Koch

Past Perfect/ Object ID #	Brief Description, dimensions, etc.	Comment: Reason for Deaccession
1989.75	1919, not signed	redundant / bad condition
1995.49.16	1919, not signed	redundant / bad condition
2003.12.1	1919, not signed	redundant / bad condition
2007.25.1	1919, Manley Bailey / Hanna family	" "
2003.12.38	1920, Eloise Carnahan	" "
2007.25.2	1920, Manley Bailey / Hanna family	redundant / bad condition
2003.12.39	1920, not signed	" "
1989.75.1	1921, not signed	" "
2007.25.3	1921, Manley Bailey / Hanna family	" "
2007.25.4	1921, not signed	" "
2003.12.40	1921, not signed	" "
1995.49.3.1	1922, not signed	" "
1987.14.1	1922, not signed	" "
1987.14	1922, not signed	" "
2007.25.6	1922, not signed	" "
1988.32.1	1922, Phyllis + Julia Myhrs	" "
2003.12.41	1922, Eloise Carnahan	" "
1989.75.2	1922, Florence Longeman	" "
2007.25.8	1923, Manley Bailey / Hanna family	redundant / bad condition
1995.49.4a	1923, not signed	" "
2003.12.42	1923, not signed	" "
1989.75	1923, not signed	" "
1987.14.2	1923, not signed	" "
1995.49.46	1923, not signed	" "
2007.25.9	1923, not signed	" "
2007.25.7	1923, Manley Bailey?	" "
2002.12.43	1924, not signed	" "
2007.25.11	1924, not signed	" "

Notes: Manley Bailey collected yearbooks and put his stamp inside - these are just a collection of several different yearbooks - many with mold.

2003.12 - donor collected - through yard sales, etc. several dozen yearbooks - many in poor or moldy condition

Deaccession Inventory Sheet



THE BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM

Date: March 30th, 2023

Descriptive Information (Collection/Grouping): Baldwinian/Piper Yearbooks (Page 2)

Staff: Justin Koch

Past Perfect/ Object ID #	Brief Description, dimensions, etc.	Comment: Reason for Deaccession
1989.75.3	1924, not signed	Redundant / bad condition
1989.75	1924, not signed	" "
2007.25.10	1924, not signed	" "
1988.32.3	1924, not signed	" "
2003.12.44	1925, not signed	" "
1989.75	1925, not signed	" "
2003.12.45	1925, not signed	" "
2007.25.13	1925, not signed	" "
2004.31.1	1925, not signed	" "
2003.12.47	1926, not signed	" "
2004.31.2	1926, not signed	" "
2007.25.14	1926, not signed	" "
1987.14.5	1926, not signed	" "
2003.12.46	1926, Dennis Root	" "
1989.75	1927, not signed	Redundant / bad condition
2008.12.49	1927, not signed	" "
2003.12.49	1927, not signed	" "
2007.25.15	1927, not signed	" "
1988.32.4	1927, not signed	" "
2004.31.3	1927, Katherine "Kelly" Hunt	" "
1987.14.6d	1927, Emily Leech Walker	" "
2003.12.50	1927, Gloriel Schwallie	" "
2002.93	1927, Mary Q. Johnson	" "
2007.25.16	1928, not signed	" "
2003.12.51	1928, not signed	" "
2005.08.2	1928,	" "
2007.25.17	1928, Manley Bailey	" "
2004.31.4	1928, Katherine "Kelly" Hunt	" "
1987.14	1928, Florence Ackertey	" "

Deaccession Inventory Sheet



Date: March 30th, 2023

Descriptive Information (Collection/Grouping): Baldwinian / Piper Yearbook (Page 3)

Staff: Justin Koch

Past Perfect/ Object ID #	Brief Description, dimensions, etc.	Comment: Reason for Deaccession
1988.32	1929, not signed	Redundant / Poor Condition
2006.16.1	1929, not signed	Redundant / Bad/Poor condition
2004.31.5	1929, Katherine "Kelly" Hunt	" "
2003.12.52	1929, Doris Root	" "
1987.14.7	1929, Florence Ackerley	" "
2003.12.54	1930, not signed	" "
2002.55.1	1930, Thomas Martindale	" "
2003.12.53	1930, Bennet Root	" "
1987.14	1930, Florence Ackerley	" "
2004.31.6	1930, Katherine "Kelly" Hunt	" "
2003.12.55	1931, not signed	" "
2002.55.2	1931, Thomas Martindale	" "
2003.12.56	1932, not signed	" "
2003.12.57	1932, Franklyn Whitney	" "
2003.12.29	1935, not signed	Redundant / Poor-Bad Condition
2005.34.1	1935, not signed	" "
2004.72.8	1936, not signed	" "
2003.12.30	1936, not signed	" "
1987.15	1936, Florence Ackerley	" "
2003.12.31	1937, not signed	" "
2004.72.9	1937, not signed	" "
1989.95.1	1938, not signed	" "
2004.67.1	1938, not signed	" "
2004.72.10	1938, Possibly Frank Postcity (see bookmarks)	" "
2003.12.4.4	1940, not signed	" "
2008.24.4	1945, not signed	" "
2017.0.1.3	1958, not signed	" "
2017.0.1.6	1964, not signed	" "



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
COLLECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, August 30, 2023
1:00 PM**

Mission Statement: *The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.*

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. New Business

A. Deaccession Report; Wong Family Request to Return Materials

Proposed Action: Approve deaccession of selected personal articles accessioned in 2022 and requested by the family to be returned to the family

4. Next Meeting: TBD

5. Adjournment

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Date: 08/18/2023

Proposed Deaccession for: 2020.37.1 - partial deaccession

Reason for Deaccession:

The accession 2020.37 is a collection of personal items once belonging to a family who resided in Birmingham. Several items that were part of the accession were unintentionally released by the family. The family has asked for the return of several of these personal items. All the information contained within the items requested have been digitized, making the physical materials redundant. In light of this redundancy, museum staff recommend the return of the requested items.

Museum Staff: Donna Casaceli

Title: Museum Specialist / Archivist

Object Deaccession Record



Object/Title: Family archive collection (partial) Object ID Number(s): 2020.37.1

Justification for deaccessioning:

- Out of scope
- Poor condition/loss of integrity
- Redundant
- Storage, display, or conservation needed exceed resources
- Non-legal possession
- Fake, forgery, or reproduction
- Enhancement of remaining collection

Remarks: Family has requested the return of several items that have been digitized due to unintentional donation of the original items.

Restrictions: None

Donor or IRS

[Signature] 8-18-2023

Signed: Museum Staff

Date

Approved by Museum Director (date) 8/18/2023

Reviewed by Collections Subcommittee (date) _____

Approved by Museum Board

Approved by City Commission (date) _____

Method of Disposition (if approved by City Commission)

Transferred Recipient: _____

Address: _____

Shipped via: _____ Picked up: _____ Date: _____

Sold Recipient: _____

Address: _____

Date sold: _____ Sale price: _____

Shipped via: _____ Picked up: _____ Date: _____

Destroyed Method: _____

Removal of object ID# (date) _____

PastPerfect, individual object, and deaccession records complete: (date) _____

Signed: (museum staff) _____ Signed: (Museum Director) _____

List of items to be deaccessioned:

1. Three photographs
2. High School diploma
3. Baby book (record of 1st year) and contents
4. Four personal letters/correspondence
5. Postcard invitation
6. Commencement book for graduation
7. Commencement announcement/invitation and contents
8. National Honor Society Patch for a jacket
9. Huckleberry Hound children's book

All original items have been digitized and separated. Copies of the originals have been placed back into the collection for reference.



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
COLLECTIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
556 W. Maple
Wednesday, August 30, 2023
1:00 PM**

Subcommittee Members Present: Judith Keefer, Jay Shell

Members Absent: Caroline Ashleigh

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack, Museum Specialist Donna Casaceli

Guests: None

There being no chair, the meeting was called to order by consensus at 1:00 PM.

New Business

Museum Specialist Casaceli and Museum Director Pielack summarized the proposed deaccession of a portion of materials from a family collection. The family requested the return of the items after they learned that the items were unintentionally donated to the museum. The requested items include photos and childhood mementoes, and as they have been digitized by the museum, are considered redundant and appropriate for return as requested.

MOTION: by Keefer, seconded by Shell:

To approve the recommended deaccession to return a portion of original items to the family.

VOTE: Yeas, 2
Nays, 0

The next meeting of the Collections Subcommittee of the Museum Board will be scheduled as needed. The meeting adjourned at 1:11 PM.

Objectives Worksheet for 2025 Strategic Plan, 5/5/2025

DEFINITIONS: The following definitions are used in this document:

Priorities: incorporate the values and general direction in the plan for the use of the museum's resources.

Goals: state where the museum will focus its energies over a particular timeframe and can be viewed objectively. They can be short or long term in nature and are not necessarily directly measurable, but are derived from the museum's priorities.

Objectives: Objectives are shorter-term milestones that support individual goals. Each goal has several tangible objectives that will move the museum toward reaching that goal. Objectives are concrete, measurable and focused on results.

Tasks/Strategies: Specific actions or steps that lead to the accomplishment of the objectives. They are action-oriented, short-term, and include specific "what, by when and by whom," components.

Approved Museum Strategic Plan priorities and objectives with proposed final objectives

1. Observe professional standards, ethics, and best practices for long-term preservation and care of the museum collection in the public trust.

Goal: Maintain, preserve, and enhance the museum's collection of artifacts, archives, digital content and buildings to make these resources available to the public in accordance with established professional museum practice.

Proposed objectives:

- *Improve museum collection's organization, storage, and environmental controls to protect and preserve the collection*
- *Improve efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility of collection object records and documentation*
- *Implement collections-related policies and procedures for collections management for its buildings, grounds, physical and digital materials*
- *Increase access to virtual exhibits, online materials, and digital access*
- *Enhance the inclusivity of the collection*

Measures:

- tracked Past Perfect records, reported annually
- Online activity and access data, reported annually
- FindAGrave digitized record updates, reported annually
- Museum Director reports and updates
- Collections Sub-committee activities and minutes

2. Use the museum and its collection to achieve greater equity and inclusion and to humanize history for the benefit of the community.

Goal: Utilize best practices to engage the whole community and encourage empathy and understanding of our diverse cultural and personal experience.

Proposed objectives:

- *Develop exhibits and interpretive materials that facilitate engagement, relevance, and inclusion and offer multiple perspectives*
- *Utilize specialized outreach programs and presentations in off-site settings*
- *Investigate opportunities to enhance and expand virtual reach*

Measures:

- Museum Director reports and updates
- Voluntary visitor survey data
- Offsite program attendance, reported annually

3. Establish and strengthen collaborative relationships in the community to implement the museum's mission.

Goal: Leverage collaborative relationships to expand the museum's sphere of influence and provide beneficial outcomes for the community.

Proposed objectives:

- *Develop programs and projects that integrate the museum's strategic priorities and support the City's internal and public-focused functions and services*
- *Pursue partnerships with local institutions that are aligned with the museum's mission*
- *Provide leadership and support to area organizations in developing and promoting local history*

Measures:

- Museum Director reports and updates
- Annual performance measures



MEMORANDUM

Birmingham Museum

DATE: March 7, 2025
TO: Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: RE: Update, FindAGrave Memorial Database for Greenwood Grave Sites at Birmingham Museum

FindAGrave.com is an online interactive database that is crowd-sourced and contains cemeteries and gravesites for access by the public. A gravesite in the database has its own electronic memorial managed by a memorial manager and hosted online. Data memorials can contain a range of information, including cemetery lot identification and location, biographical information, documents, links to other family members' graves, and photos of the marker.

The Birmingham Museum began managing Greenwood Cemetery's FindAGrave memorials in 2023. It now manages 3,105 of the memorials at Greenwood Cemetery. This has a number of advantages:

- The database is electronically maintained by *FindAGrave* (affiliated with Ancestry.com) as a third party, is recognized by the public and researchers, and is easy to use
- It's free to the user and does not use proprietary software or involve costs to the City, and is upgraded and stored by FindAGrave.com.
- The museum's management of the memorials allows us to make sure the information is accurate, consistent and follows standard practice for historical/archival materials with links to online documents and source material for further access by the public.

Public access to the database of *FindAGrave* memorials is available

- by searching the internet
- directly at *FindAGrave* <https://www.findagrave.com/user/profile/51355043>
- by a link from the Clerk's Office webpage at the City's website https://www.bhamgov.org/about_birmingham/city_departments/city_clerk/greenwood_cemetery/index.php
- by a link on the Museum's website https://www.bhamgov.org/about_birmingham/city_history/birmingham_museum/do_it_yourself.php

The public can contact the Birmingham Museum (contact information is available on each memorial) to request changes, add information or photos, seek additional information, or request that a memorial be transferred from the museum's management to a family member. Currently the museum receives communications regarding *FindAGrave* memorials once to twice per week on average via email, phone, or messaging from *FindAGrave*. The system is working efficiently

and we have received positive feedback from several members of the public. In some cases, family members have transferred their memorial management to the museum because they appreciate the efficient and professional way the museum is managing memorials. We believe this system is the most cost-effective and offers the best City-based public service available for the graves in Greenwood Cemetery.

The **FindAGrave Historic Memorial Oversight and Museum Management Policy** is available via the museum's website at

https://cms7files1.revize.com/birmingham/Document_Center/Birmingham%20Museum/research%20services/Museum%20Management%20Policy%20for%20FindAGrave%20Memorials.pdf

and through a link to the museum website at the Greenwood Cemetery page at the City Clerk's website.

FindAGrave memorial page at Greenwood Cemetery for Clyde Bookham. The memorial is one of almost 3200 managed by the Birmingham Museum in accordance with archival standards for accuracy, labeling and document sourcing. FindAGrave is extensively used by the public and genealogists doing family research. Through the museum's management of the digital content, we can assure that the information is accurate and properly sourced. The obituary was just uploaded from a recent donation to the Birmingham Museum of clipped obituaries from an unknown newspaper (probably the *Birmingham Eccentric*.)

findagrave.com/memorial/217002277/clyde-bookham/photo

MEMORIALS CEMETERIES FAMOUS CONTRIBUTE

Clyde Bookham

BIRTH 1871
Royal Oak, Oakland County, Michigan, USA

DEATH 19 Jan 1879 (aged 7-8)
Troy, Oakland County, Michigan, USA

BURIAL [Greenwood Cemetery](#)
Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan, USA [Show Map](#)


PLOT Section B, Lot 16A, Grave 4

MEMORIAL ID 217002277 · [View Source](#)


SHARE + SAVE TO SUGGEST EDITS -

MEMORIAL PHOTOS 5 FLOWERS 0


+ Add Photos + Request Photo * Flower Delivery




Added by: Katie Neal on 22 Sep 2022



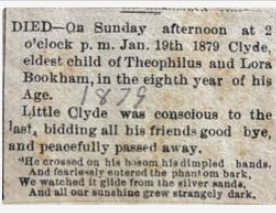
Added by: Katie Neal on 22 Sep 2022



Added by: Jacque on 01 Oct 2022



Added by: Katie Neal on 19 Dec 2022



Obituary found in scrapbook- newspaper source unknown - Birmingham Museum ... [Read More](#)

DIED—On Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock p. m. Jan. 19th 1879 Clyde, eldest child of Theophilus and Lora Bookham, in the eighth year of his Age. 879
Little Clyde was conscious to the last, bidding all his friends good bye, and peacefully passed away.
"He crossed on his bosom his dimpled hands,
And fearlessly entered the phantom bark,
We watched it glide from the silver sands,
And all our sunshine grew strangely dark."



DATE: May 1 2025
TO: Museum Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: Director Report

Museum Board Position Opening—The Museum Board position remains open at this time and will continue to be posted by the commission until filled. This position is for a regular member and expires in July of 2027.

Budget 2025-2026—Updates from budget meeting on April 26.

Allen House Repairs/Maintenance—Fence, roof repairs update and planned projects for 2025.

School Tours—We are about to begin our annual school tour program. We expect around 500 2nd grade students from 24 different classes at Beverly, Bingham Farms, Greenfield, Harlan, Pembroke, Pierce, Quarton, and West Maple Schools. This year, teachers received materials developed by museum staff with artifacts, photos, and other items from our collection to help teachers prepare students for their field trip in local history. We look forward to seeing these young historians at the Hunter House this year!

Programs-Projects-Presentations—Planning for America's 250th is ongoing and will focus on incorporating larger themes into our local history. The Underground Railroad traveling exhibit is currently in West Bloomfield, and will be moving to Brandon Library for May and June. Museum Director Pielack has been receiving requests to speak and gaining additional attention and donations to the project. Research is ongoing and thus far has identified almost 60 freedom seekers and abolitionists in Oakland County.

Podcast—The return of the podcast has been successful, with over 130 downloads in the first 30 days, including the Edward Crawford and Ruth Shain episodes as well as listeners finding other podcasts and listening to them. The story of Imri Fish is our all-time most popular podcast, with 150 to date.

May is Preservation Month—The museum is partnering with the Planning Department to help highlight local architect Wallace Frost, who built a number of homes in Birmingham from the 1920s to the 1950s. A number of the houses survive, and the City would like to call attention to his work and the benefits of preservation. The museum has some materials on Frost that will be shared to help document Frost and his work in Birmingham.

Welcome to Museum Student Intern—Ryleigh Corcoran will be joining the museum staff from late May through early July as part of her undergraduate requirements. Ryleigh will be learning about various museum operations and collections work

Collections—The museum recently received a wonderful donation of documents that was purchased at an estate sale. There is a 'museum elf' in our community who purchases old documents at estate sales and the like, and then goes through them and donates them to local archival collections. Our elf recently sent us a box of materials that included many clipped obituaries from the late 1870s-1880s that may be from the *Birmingham Eccentric* (none of which survive from the period).



(<https://www.candgnews.com/admin/articles/temp-image/ca36ede26adf3c2b5a8f31de387eac89.png>).

Birmingham Public Schools second graders go on a tour of the Birmingham Museum every year. While they are there, they visit the Hunter House in small groups.

Photo by Patricia O'Blenes

Second graders explore local history

By: Mary Genson (/reporterbio/Mary-Genson) | **Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle**

(<https://www.candgnews.com/newspaper/birminghambloomfieleagle>) | **Published April 15, 2025**

BIRMINGHAM — With the help of the Birmingham Museum, Birmingham Public Schools second graders will now be taught a more customized and engaging curriculum about local history. The museum has provided updated curriculum-based resource materials.

Local history has been integrated into the second-grade curriculum for years. The program was redesigned after the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance the experience for students.

During the tour, they spend time in small groups in the Hunter House, participate in a fun and interactive activity in the Allen House and go on a walking tour through Birmingham.



(<https://www.candgnews.com/admin/articles/temp-image/e07fecec447f580bd8699325f776ca2e.png>)

Sara Cibor, who is the curriculum coordinator, said this trip is always a highlight in May. The resources provided by museum staff help teachers prepare students for this field trip.

During the students' tour, they get to see original toys that were once used by people in Birmingham.

Photo by Patricia O'Blenes

"When students go to the museum, they're able to have some background knowledge and really connect with things that they've already learned about," Cibor said.

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While creating these free materials, Caitlin Donnelly, museum specialist, said museum staff took "a deep dive" into their collection and found ways to integrate their resources with the current curriculum for the second graders.

"We identified three main points from the social studies curriculum that we thought we could do a really good job with, and those were looking at geography and changes to the environment, diverse people and their contributions, and family life," Donnelly said.

They found eight to 10 periods of time from Birmingham's history that they thought would be engaging for second graders and provided maps, photos and objects from their collection.

"We wanted to give them more and better resources that are easy to access, easy to work in your curriculum plans and are tailored to the current curriculum," Donnelly said.

"The Birmingham historical staff is super collaborative and interested in connecting with the school," Cibor said. "I always appreciate that they are very eager to be partners, and they're willing to support us with whatever we might need in more ways beyond this."

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