

# MOST

## [The Bridge]

Fall 2020

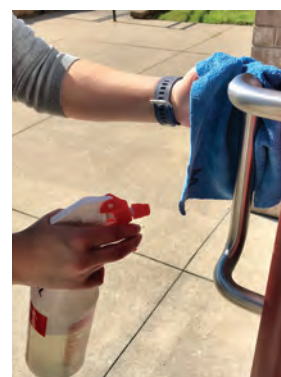
## COVID-19 and how it's changed us



When the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library temporarily closed its doors on March 17, no one knew nearly three months would pass before they opened again.

Not that the months our building was shuttered were quiet. As the needs of our community changed, so did the NCSML. We were no longer able to welcome visitors to our exhibits, so we shared virtual tours. We could not see our members face-to-face, so we checked in with everyone by phone. We had to cancel numerous events and programs, but made up for the loss by introducing online Czech cooking classes, Czech and Slovak language classes, and social media museum challenges tied to NCSML's *A Century of Robots: From Čapek to Now* exhibit.

"As a cultural and history institution, we always talk about 'creating history,'" NCSML President and CEO Dr. Cecilia Rokusek says. "We certainly did that, calling all members, updating our extensive online database, sharing content on the NCSML's social media platforms, and creating our reopening protocol."



That has not ended, even after the NCSML reopened to "the new normal" in mid-June.

"As we welcome members and guests back, we continue to 'create history' with an expanded online presence for programs, events, and exhibits," Rokusek says. "Already we have had virtual lessons for children learning at home, a socially distant book signing, and webinars with professionals in the U.S. and those in the Czech and Slovak Republics."

COVID-19, continued on page 6

Thank you for your support of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

# NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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from the Cultural Enrichment Partnership  
Program administered by the Iowa  
Department of Cultural Affairs.*



## OUR MISSION

The NCSML preserves, presents, and transcends unique stories of Czech and Slovak history and culture through innovative experiences and active engagement to reach cross-cultural audiences locally, nationally, and internationally.

## OUR VISION

The NCSML is an innovative leader in lifelong learning, community building, and cultural connections. We encourage self-discovery for all ages so that the stories of freedom, identity, family, and community will live on for future generations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BrewNost

**September 23 - October 2**

For the first time in 16 years, our amazing BrewNost Festival is going from In-Person to 'Special Edition.' Visit the back cover for more details.

### Free First Saturdays for Students

**October 3 & November 7**

Students of all ages (preschool through college) are invited to visit the NCSML's exhibits for free on the first Saturday of each month. College students must bring a current school ID card. Presented by: United Fire Group.

### Hubert's Night Owls

**October 18 & December 13**

Hubert the Hedgehog is not always a fan of noise and distractions, so we're staying open late for families and community members with special needs. We will offer fewer distractions in our exhibits for a more sensory-friendly experience.

### Old World Christmas Market

**December 5 & 6, 12 & 13**

We are thrilled to announce that one of our most popular events will return in 2020, but like everything else, it will look different this year. We hope you will join us for our 11th year of making spirits bright! Details to be announced soon.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, events are subject to change.

Visit [ncsml.org](http://ncsml.org) for the latest information.







## FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

*Dear Members & Cherished Supporters,*

I have always embraced change as an opportunity to review the past and examine the present as you prepare for the future, but never did I imagine the kind of change our global society has been experiencing the past eight months! As a former public health professional who taught medical students disaster and emergency preparedness and response, I never thought that a pandemic of this magnitude would be a reality with the kind of personal, economical, and societal impact we are experiencing with COVID-19.

On March 17, your NCSML closed its doors to the public in response to COVID-19, and the recommendations of the CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health. Although we were closed to the public, our work was ongoing, but in a new and pivoted manner. We immediately enacted the Incident Command System (ICS). This meant that five of us came to work each day (our VP of Development and Marketing, our VP of Operations, our Chief Fiscal Officer, our Facilities Director, and me). The rest of the NCSML staff worked from home. We focused on new and innovative online programs, webinars, increased social media, virtual exhibit tours, and most importantly, calling each of our members to “check in” to make sure that they were safe and well. As we called everyone, we were able to update our database, a long overdue project. We ALSO worked on future planning in light of all the unknowns and timeline uncertainties, developing a reopening plan to help assure the safety of staff, volunteers, and all visitors.

On June 15, we were ready to reopen for our members. A week later, we opened to the public. As we reopened, we not only implemented a solid health and safety protocol for everyone, we also implemented a new functional reorganization for the NCSML. This was a result of all the planning during the shutdown and the realization that museum culture will change. We needed to focus on being the national “epicenter” and “cultural hub” for Czechs and Slovaks throughout the U.S. while maintaining a sound financial base for the future. We have a new department, Innovation and Outreach, that will encompass our variety of virtual and live programs, and education initiatives of all ages. We also combined our Visitor and Volunteer Services into one department with the Museum Store.

These unprecedented times are challenging for everyone. We have had to cancel all of our major events, including the annual gala and the opening of major exhibits. Because of social distancing guidelines, our daily attendance has reduced by 65%. Despite these challenges, with our new reorganization, we will be here for you with virtual programs, live exhibits, and socially distanced events.

Please stay safe, well, and practice prevention. We will be strong for you and for our future. As always, we appreciate your support. We cannot do what we do without you.

*Děkuju! Děkujem! Thank you!*



## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

When I was named chair of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's Board of Trustees, I said preserving the history of the institution would be one of my main priorities. I never imagined that a few short months later, we would instead be making history.

Due to COVID-19, the Board of Trustees approved a plan in March to temporarily close the Museum. At the time, we thought this closure might last a month or two, but no one fully imagined the enduring impact.

Although our doors are open, we are still feeling the impact of this global pandemic. We have fewer visitors and many events had to be canceled or reimagined as an online offering. Still, rather than focus on what we lost, we choose to look at what we have gained.

We now know we have the technological capability and expertise as a national cultural museum to share our programs with a global audience, as evidenced by our International Lunch & Learn webinars. Further, when summer events like Houby Days and Summer Family Free Day had to be canceled, the Museum found new ways to engage members, such as Dr. Cecilia Rokusek's Facebook Live Story Hour, which garnered more than 3,000 views. This technology transition has been challenging, but the staff has fully embraced it and is blazing new and creative ways to bring the Museum and Library to you and to your home.

In order to keep this momentum going, we need your help. Many events that generated financial support for the NCSML will not take place this year. We have been the grateful recipients of donations from our members and community, but one way we all can continue to help the NCSML to grow our membership. That is why all board members have accepted the challenge to recruit new members, and why I'm asking you to do the same by increasing your level of support, recruiting new members and even by giving a NCSML membership as a gift.

Giving the gift of a NCSML membership allows you to share the fun of discoveries with friends and family, and to give something of greater value that can never be outgrown or go out of style. Giving a membership brings the diverse programs of the Museum to someone special while helping to ensure the NCSML's legacy for future generations.

*continued on page 5*

# MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



## Tony Golobic

Tony Golobic, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GreatAmerica Financial Services, has been involved in equipment financing since 1971. Tony earned his M.B.A. degree in Finance from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and a

B.S.B.A. degree in Accounting from Roosevelt University. Tony is a member of the Boards of the Iowa College Foundation, Mercy Medical Center, and Admiralty Holding, Inc. Tony is a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam.



## Bruce Hamous

Bruce Hamous is a Cedar Rapids native with 100% Czech heritage. Bruce attended Iowa State University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture. Now retired, he practiced architecture in Cedar Rapids for more than 40 years. He is the founder

of Sunshine Sustainable Design, co-founder of the Eastern Iowa Branch of the US Green Building Council, and is an adjunct faculty member of Kirkwood Community College. Bruce and his wife Barbara have three grown children and three grandchildren. His parents, Don and Irene Hamous, are the last surviving life members of the NCSML.



## Dr. Martin Izakovic

Born in Slovakia, Dr. Martin Izakovic completed his medical training at Comenius University in Bratislava, then moved to the United States to complete a residency in internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Izakovic is an Internal Medicine Physi-

cian-Hospitalist at Mercy Iowa City. He holds teaching appointments as Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine, and St. Elizabeth University College of Public Health. Dr. Izakovic co-founded Slovak-American Medical Experts Exchange Program, sponsored by the United States Embassy and Comenius University School of Medicine in Bratislava, Slovakia. From 2016 until 2018, Dr. Izakovic served as an Advisor to the Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic.



## Josh Moore

Josh Moore serves as Senior Vice President of Commercial Banking, and is the Commercial Real Estate Manager at Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust. He obtained an economics degree from Penn State University and MBA from the University of Iowa.

Josh has been married to his wife, Tami, for 23 years and they have two children: Hunter and Spencer.



## Miriam Potocky, Ph.D.

Dr. Potocky was born in Prague. She came to the U.S. as a young child with her family following the 1968 Soviet invasion. She is a professor of social work at Florida International University in Miami and a senior research associate with the International

Rescue Committee. Dr. Potocky is the author of more than 80 publications spanning academic works, memoir, and fiction. She is married to proud third-generation Slovak David Rafaidus.



## Sharon Schweitzer, JD

Dr. Schweitzer is a second-generation Czech whose maternal grandparents emigrated to the U.S. in 1914. She is the great-great niece of artists Joža and Franta Uprka. She is an interculturalist, entrepreneur, attorney, and the founder of Access

to Culture, a corporate training, organizational management, and global leadership consultancy based in Austin, Texas. Her best-selling book, *Access to Asia*, has received high praise and accolades, a Kirkus Star, and was named to Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2015. She lives in Austin with her husband of 25 years, John, and their golden retriever Toffee.



## Bob Vancura

Bob was involved in the construction of 675 homes in the Cedar Rapids area before retiring 5 years ago. Bob has a Bachelor's of Science in Logistics and Industrial Engineering from Iowa State University, and a Master's Degree in Finance from

the University of Iowa. He has served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He is widowed with two grandchildren who both reside in Cedar Rapids.



## Chad Zenisek, JD

Chad Zenisek is Corporate Counsel for UFG Insurance, a publicly traded property and casualty insurance company headquartered in Cedar Rapids. He is a graduate of Coe College and the University of Iowa College of Law.



*Below we recognize gifts received in memory of loved ones lost  
Please know that your gifts preserve their memory at the NCSML.*

**January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020**

Rev. Dr. Gary M Arp  
Gloria Barber  
Shirley Brosh  
Richard Dobrovolsky  
Barbara Gibian  
Agnes Hejna  
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Cheryl Hovorka  
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Wayne Miller  
Susie Moran  
Don Musil  
Marjorie Pace  
Daniel Milo Parobek  
Leonard Ruzicka  
Marjorie Skotvold  
Beverly "Jo" Sorensen  
Sally Stejskal  
Stanley Straka  
Sara Vancura  
Dorothy Votroubek  
Marie Withey  
Merril Woosley

**IN  
MEMORIAM**

## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR continued from page 3

### All members enjoy the following year-round benefits:



**1** Unlimited admission to the NCSML

Invitation to members-only events

**2**



**3**

A one-time 20% off coupon to the Museum Store and a 10% discount year-round, including online

Free enrollment in Time Travelers Program with benefits at more than 100 museums in 42 states

**4**



**5** Free subscription to Slovo, the NCSML's biannual scholarly journal

Mailed copy of MOST, the NCSML's biannual newsletter

**6**



Additional benefits at the Contributing Member and Sustaining Member levels include a Smithsonian Affiliate Membership and a North American Reciprocal Museums Membership, which is a network over 1,178 museums, galleries, botanical gardens and zoos across the United States, Canada, Bermuda and Mexico. So, as we use technology to find new ways to bring the Museum to you, we are also providing you national and international access to a mosaic of museums that you can access where ever you live or go. You can purchase your gift membership at the Front Desk, call 319-362-8500, or visit [www.ncsml.org/support/membership](http://www.ncsml.org/support/membership)

COVID-19 pushed us to think outside the box, to take what we know and adapt it to fit this new normal. I am proud of our response and I know as the months pass, our dedicated NCSML staff, board members, and volunteers will continue to make your Museum and Library a place of history, learning, growth, and exploration. We hope, in turn, you will continue to support your NCSML.

Steve Michalick

## MUSEUM EXHIBITS



### In Her Father's Eyes: A Slovak Childhood in the Shadow of the Holocaust

September 1 - November 8, 2020

Skala Bartizal Library

This moving exhibit documents the short life of Kitty Weichherz, a Czechoslovakian girl born in the same year as Anne Frank. Told through the eyes of her surviving father, Kitty's story paints a portrait of a young girl's innocence in the face of increasing anti-Jewish sentiment on the eve of World War II. The touching story of just one girl, one family, emphasizes the humanity of millions just like Kitty who were lost in this tragic war.

### Formed in Fire: The Joyce Anderson Glass Collection

October 25 - April 11, 2021, Petrik Gallery

Joyce Anderson has been collecting fine Czech pieces for a lifetime, and the NCSML is the fortunate recipient of many stunning examples of glass and porcelain. The exhibit will feature exquisite Moser vases featuring enameled oak leaves and insects, and glass jewels. Amphora pottery with arts and crafts motifs will also be on display. Royal Dux porcelain, formed into intricate figures and whimsical animals, is a major element of the collection. Perfume bottles, vanity glass, animal figurines, and wine sets round out the exhibit. Visitors will also have the opportunity to see video footage of work at various Czech glass houses, and will gain an understanding of how sand and clay are almost magically manipulated to become works of art.

### Stitching History From the Holocaust

November 21 - March 21, 2021

Smith Gallery

An original exhibit by Jewish Museum Milwaukee, *Stitching History From the Holocaust* uses the narrative of one couple to explore the Holocaust by bringing to life the innovative dress designs of Hedy Strnad. Hedy and her husband Paul originally sent these designs to Paul's cousins in America as part of their effort to escape Prague in 1939. That effort ultimately failed, and these beautiful dresses serve not only as a unique memorial for a lost talent, but also as a touchstone for discussion of the human cost of the Holocaust and the plight of refugee populations.

## COVID-19, continued from cover

In many ways, the NCSML's response to COVID-19 mirrored our response to the flood of 2008. Once again, an instance beyond our control took our building away from us and, just like before, we continued to share the resources we could with our community. The long-term financial effects of the global pandemic, however, are worse. On International Museum Day, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) confirmed that more than 85,000 institutions closed their doors because of the coronavirus, with some 13% questioning if they will have the funds to reopen.

When we closed our doors to the public, it meant no visitors, no exhibit openings, no member events, no education programs, no family programs, and no fundraising galas or community events. Even now, our attendance numbers are not where they were before March and we struggle to plan future events, unsure of what the future of COVID-19 will bring. The safety, health, and well-being of our members, visitors, volunteers, and staff remains our top priority. Museums celebrate history. They are cornerstones of education and places of inspiration. Museums bring people together, expand horizons, and provide reflection. At a time when our world is coping with a pandemic, it is important than ever for us to keep serving our community.

As we navigate the remaining months of 2020, we will use the information we have to make the best decisions we can regarding big events, like our Preciosa Gala in 2021, as well as smaller programs, like History on Tap. We will continue to introduce more online offerings, as well as introduce some in-person events, albeit with smaller attendance numbers. We recently made the decision to postpone *Treasures of Slovakia: One Thousand Years of History* until May of 2021 so that those who wish to travel to see the exhibit will be able to do so.

Just as we completed this issue of MOST, a historic derecho tore through Cedar Rapids on August 10, causing major damage to the city. We remain "Iowa Strong" as we rebuild our community.

## WHERE TO FIND US ONLINE:



[www.facebook.com/czechslovakmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/czechslovakmuseum)



[www.instagram.com/nationalczechslovakmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/nationalczechslovakmuseum)



[twitter.com/NCSML](https://twitter.com/NCSML)



[www.youtube.com/user/CzechSlovakMuseum](https://www.youtube.com/user/CzechSlovakMuseum)



Podcast: [soundcloud.com/ncsml](https://soundcloud.com/ncsml)





## NCSML Requests Community Assistance to Document Covid-19 Experiences

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library recognizes that we are living in a pivotal moment of history. As a cultural museum that uses stories and events from the past to better understand the present and prepare for the future, the NCSML will document how families are dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is so important for us to capture these stories, artifacts, and memorabilia from this pandemic so that future generations can learn from this moment in time," NCSML President and CEO Dr. Cecilia Rokusek says. "We can take these rich stories, discuss them, share them, and even compare them to the stories of survival from our immigrants of all backgrounds."

To do this, the NCSML needs your help. We encourage families to contribute their stories about how they are coping with Covid-19 today and to have intergenerational family conversations where mature adults share their life experiences concerning their own health-related experiences with younger generations.

"Basically what we'll be doing is collecting these stories," NCSML Library Director Dave Muhlena says. "It could be an electronic submission of people's personal stories after talking amongst themselves as a family, or taking pictures of themselves wearing masks or creating masks."

Items the public can submit to this project include written stories, photos, video or audio recordings, and physical items, such as artwork created during the pandemic of business signage. Please do not send used face masks.

**For more information contact:**

**Dave Muhlena**

*Library Director*

[dmuhlena@ncsml.org](mailto:dmuhlena@ncsml.org)

**Or fill out the NCSML Covid-19 Stories Submission Form at:**

[www.ncsml.org/covid-19-stories](http://www.ncsml.org/covid-19-stories)



## New Release: NCSML Activity Book

Over the years, NCSML staff have created programs and activities designed to span generations, resulting in opportunities for families to come together and share with one another. Our dedication to making learning creative and fun for all ages continues with the publication of our first *NCSML Czech & Slovak Activity Book*.

Comprised of some of our favorite activities from past programs, as well as some new, the book shares information about Czech and Slovak history, people, and culture, while also encouraging cross-cultural connections. The book begins with the introduction of Hubert the Hedgehog, our family program mascot. Hedgehogs are native wild animals in Europe; you can find them running all over the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In this book, Hubert is content to act like a guide as he shares information, games, coloring pages, and other activities with the reader.

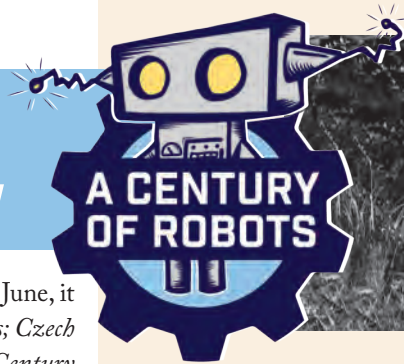
"I hope this book will be utilized by people from all backgrounds and places," Sarah Henderson, the NCSML's Associate Director of Lifelong Learning, says. "At the NCSML, we believe that all cultures can teach us something new about ourselves and our own experiences." The *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library Activity Book* is available for purchase at the Museum Store for \$10.





## EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHT

# From Čapek to Now



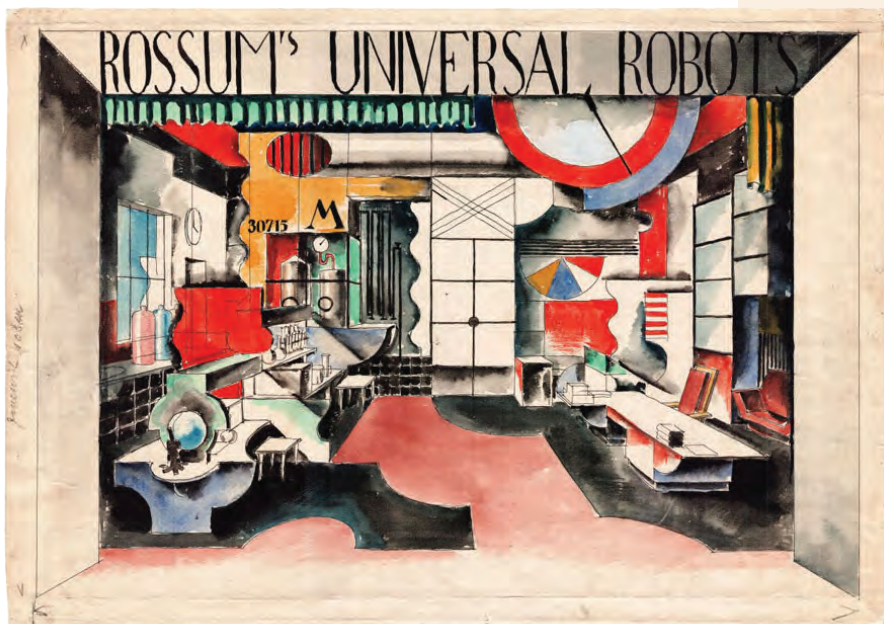
When the NCSML re-opened its doors to the public in June, it also welcomed three new exhibits: *Artists as Activists*; *Czech Heroines: Prominent Czech Women Past and Present*; and *A Century of Robots: From Čapek to Now*. Robots might not be the first thing people think of when visiting a cultural heritage museum, but it's possible the word robot might not even exist had it not been for Czech writer Karel Čapek and his brother, Josef.

Karel is the author of the 1920 play *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)*. *R.U.R.* tells the story of a company using the latest biology, chemistry and physiology to mass-produce workers who "lack nothing but a soul." It was in this play that the word robot was first used to denote an artificial humanoid. However, while it was Karel's work that introduced the word robot to the world, his younger brother Josef who invented it.

### About the exhibit

Visitors will gain an appreciation for Karel Čapek's life and work, while learning about the connection between a Czech author and one of the most fascinating technical revolutions of the 20th century. A selection of toy robots and robot-inspired collectibles from television and movies are featured, as well as historic items on loan from Collins Aerospace, and two interactive art pieces made by Metro STEAM Academy students at Metro High School.

*A Century of Robots: From Čapek to Now* is on display in the Smith Gallery through October 25.



According to an interview with Karel, in early drafts of his play, he named these creatures labori, after the Latin root for labor. He worried, though, that the term sounded too "bookish." When he spoke to his brother about his dilemma, Josef said to call them robots. Robot is drawn from an old Church Slavonic word, robota, for "servitude," "forced labor" or "drudgery." The word, which also has cognates in German, Russian, Polish and Czech, was a product of the central European system of serfdom.

Karel and Josef Čapek were extremely close, often collaborating on projects. While Josef was best known as a painter, he was also a noted writer and poet. The brothers weren't afraid to use their work to criticize National Socialism, and oppose fascism and communism. This, coupled with their campaigns for free expression, made them enemies of the Nazi Gestapo.

After the Germans invaded Czechoslovakia, Nazi agents went to the Čapek family house in Prague to arrest Karel, only to discover he had died of pneumonia on December 25, 1938. Josef was arrested and eventually died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. His remains were never found. Karel Čapek and his wife are buried at the Vyšehrad cemetery in Prague. The inscription on the tombstone reads: "Here would have been buried Josef Čapek, painter and poet. Grave far away."



ROSSUM'S-UNIVERSAL-ROBOTS-  
DRAWING-BEDŘICH-FEUERSTEIN



# Online Artifacts Collection Brings NCSML to You

During the coronavirus lockdown, there is a weekly friendly competition amongst museums on Twitter called #CURATOR-BATTLE.

This series was launched by the Yorkshire Museum as a way to connect institutions. For several months, the museum, located in York, England, announced a new challenge category on Twitter, asking their fellow organizations to share images from their collections that best met the weekly contest. Categories ranged from #creepiestobject and #bestdog to #tremendoustransport and #fancyfootwear.



The NCSML played along several times, often using images from our Online Artifacts Collection. For example, the photo of a hand-painted amphora vase featuring two lions sitting on their hind legs, touching the vase with their front paws and little noses, was our entry for #bestcat. A glass decanter set from Bohemia, dated between 1840-1860, was our #bestbling entry. Participating in #CURATOR-BATTLE resulted in increased followers on NCSML's Twitter account, as well as more visitors to the Online Artifacts Collection.

## Online Artifacts Collection

The NCSML Online Artifacts Collection contains more than 4,000 objects donated to and preserved by the Museum since the 1970s. The database is a work in progress as we continue to add photos and information.

Explore more here: [ncsml.emuseum.com/collections](https://ncsml.emuseum.com/collections)



UNTITLED, 1941, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Each year, the NCSML receives countless inquiries about its artifacts from donors, members of craft and ethnic clubs, students, and many others. Of the more than 17,000 objects in the collection, less than 5% are on display at any given time due to exhibit requirements, space constraints and exposure limitations.

In 2014, the NCSML made the decision to give this collection an online presence, making it available to people all over the world. Thanks to the generous support from the Program Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and Don and Irene Naxera Hamous, the database launched two years later. Today, the Online Artifacts Collection contains photos of nearly 4,000 objects.

"We know not everyone can come to the museum and see our wonderful collection," Collections Manager Tricia Bender says. "The Online Artifacts Collection gives everyone an opportunity to see these beautiful items, and connect to Czech and Slovak history and culture. My dream for it is to be an educational resource someday. I would love for the online collection to be a tool that prompts activities and discussion for students worldwide."

Please note that if you have Czech or Slovak artifacts, consider donating them to the NCSML where they will be preserved for all generations.







# Heritage Garden flourishes with new mission



Since 2015, the NCSML's Heritage Garden has served as a connection to Czech and Slovak tradition by telling the story of the immigrants who brought seeds from their homelands to the United States.

Initially started as an extension of the Museum's education program, the garden has served as a hands-on agriculture lesson for area students. When the garden was fruitful, the produce was used for various programs, including cooking classes. When it was not, staff transitioned plans to a teachable moment about the challenges their ancestors faced at a time when gardening was essential, not a hobby. This year, the Heritage Garden has returned to its roots by focusing on the necessity of feeding others, thanks to a new collaboration with Feed Iowa First.

Feed Iowa First is a nonprofit organization that partners with businesses, faith organizations, farmers, and volunteers to combat food insecurity by growing food and farmers. Since its founding in 2011, Feed Iowa First has donated 200,000 pounds of produce to those in need in Linn County.

"We are so grateful for everything that Feed Iowa First does for our community and I'm pleased that the NCSML gets to be part of their mission with our Heritage Garden," Teresa Stenstrup, NCSML's Director of Innovation and Outreach, says. "The surrounding community of Linn County is so important to us and has always been there for the NCSML. It's nice to be able to give back and reciprocate that support through Feed Iowa First."

The NCSML is Feed Iowa First's second cultural site to join as a growing partner, with volunteers planting cabbage, radish, green beans, and tomatoes in the Heritage Garden. Dill and zinnias were added for color, texture and pollinators. Plans to plant specific varieties with roots in Czech and Slovak heritage had to be scrapped because of the pandemic, but Feed Iowa First Executive Director Carter Oswood hopes that will be remedied next year. Oswood recently returned to Cedar Rapids after living in the Czech Republic and is excited to acquire heirloom seeds for next season's garden.

"Though the NCSML space is only 22 feet in diameter, if treated correctly it will yield quite a bit of produce that will be distributed to those in need in our county while providing opportunities to share stories of Czech and Slovak culture and history," Oswood says.

The Heritage Garden is harvested weekly. The Fresh Revolution Veggie Van distributes to area food pantries, and directly into neighborhoods where public transportation is lacking and the need for access to fresh produce is high. It is distributed at zero-cost, and anyone is encouraged to come.



# Book Your Next Event with Us

The NCSML is the ideal setting for corporate events, meetings, or social events. Whatever the occasion, we can assist in making it amazing. We know that COVID-19 has made gatherings more challenging, but our Event Services department has worked diligently to update cleaning procedures and ensure that all guests are safe when attending an event.



## WFLA/ZCBJ Heritage Hall

The decor is art nouveau inspired and holds up to 200 seated at round tables or 240 seated in theater style rows. The hall has state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment and internet access. The hall can be divided into two rooms, if needed.



## Naxera Terrace

The Terrace has a wonderful view of the Cedar River and Museum garden area, making it ideal for cocktail receptions or outdoor weddings. The terrace can seat up to 200 guests and has beautiful outdoor lighting to create the perfect atmosphere. We also have an outdoor Amphitheater and Clock Tower Garden if you're looking for a unique outdoor ceremony.

All rental spaces include complimentary indoor and outdoor parking, handicap accessibility, tables and chairs, and full setup and tear down. A full-service bar with bartenders can be added to any rental agreement, as well as discounted admission to the galleries. Wedding party dressing rooms are provided for on-site ceremonies. Also included in the rental fee are experienced coordinators

during every step of your event, start to finish. We never charge sales tax, fees, or automatic gratuity to any rental!



## Rozek Grand Hall

With views of our elegant chandelier and high ceilings, this area is an ideal setting for an unforgettable celebration. This space can accommodate up to 180 guests.

## Hemphill Theater\*

Whether your plans involve a business seminar or a social gathering, the theater can accommodate your guests in comfort. The theater has 51 permanently affixed seats, plus room for wheelchairs, making it ideal for presentations and film screenings. \*This space is currently unavailable because of COVID-19 restrictions.



**Schedule a tour with our Event Services staff today!**

### Weddings & social events:

**Naomi Engelken**

Director of Event Services

nengelken@ncsml.org

### Corporate & non-profit events:

**Hannah Miller**

Meeting & Event Manager

hmiller@ncsml.org

## MUSEUM STORE



Newly published - *Warhol* by Blake Gopnik. The definitive biography of a fascinating and paradoxical figure, one of the most influential artists of his—or any—age. Wide-ranging and immersive, Warhol gives us the most robust and intricate picture to date of a man and an artist who consistently defied easy categorization and whose life and work continue to profoundly affect our culture and society today.



Artist Karen Bystedt, whose 1982 photograph of Warhol is included in the *Warhol* biography, launched her 'Lost Warhols' project in 2011. Bystedt invited contemporary street and fine artists to interpret her painstakingly restored images of Andy Warhol in their own artistic language, co-creating mixed media artwork, thus conceptualizing a series of collaborations that would represent community and pay homage to the mixed media form so inextricably associated with the legacy of Warhol. 'The Gamechanger' by Brayden Bugazzi is beautifully reproduced on this silk scarf.



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