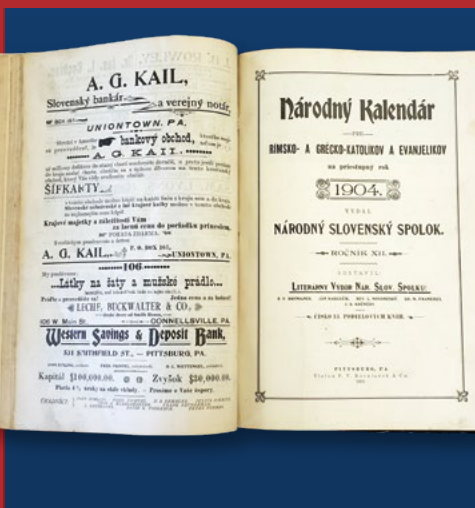
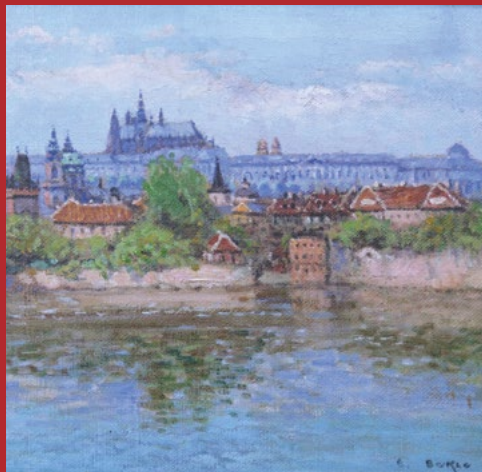


Celebrate our PAST to Create our FUTURE



In 2021-2022, NCSML

- Reached more than 200,000 people, in person and online
- Welcomed 15,000 people to a wide variety of programs
- Worked with volunteers who gave a total of 9,189 hours
- Shared 21 temporary exhibits
- Welcomed 40,000 people to events hosted at the Museum and in the community, local and nationwide
- Led school tours daily to reach over 5,000 students
- Sent 16 traveling exhibits to 26 sites nationally
- Hosted 19 interns and graduate scholars
- Expanded our National Czech and Slovak Cooking School
- Taught Czech Language Courses throughout the year
- Expanded the Music, Lecture and Community Engagement Series



MISSION

NCSML engages the global community with unique Czech, Slovak, and American stories to inspire individuals with universal themes of culture, freedom, democracy, and immigration. *May 2023*

OFFICERS (2021-2022)

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 Josh Moore, *1st Vice President*
 Dr. Sharon Schweitzer, *2nd Vice President*
 Lee Freeman, *Secretary*
 Ron Detweiler, *Treasurer*
 George Drost, *Immediate Past Chair*

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 Marica Vilcek
 The Honorable Michael Zantovsky
 In memoriam and fond remembrance,
 Dr. Madeline Albright

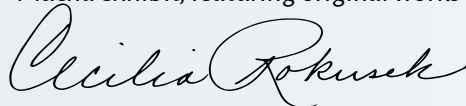
NCSML is funded in part by a grant from the Cultural Leadership Partnership Program administered by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, is a Smithsonian Affiliate, and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Dear friends of NCSML,

We are so happy to be able to present to you our combined 2021 and 2022 annual report as we "Celebrate the Past to Create Our Future." Given that we were still in somewhat of a post-pandemic phase, we decided to wait and combine two years. Hopefully we will not have to do that again. I am indeed proud and grateful to all who have really made this national icon in Cedar Rapids so great. Each and every member and donor has worked to assure that we are here to greet thousands of people annually (in person and virtually), for our truly outstanding exhibits, unique programs for all ages, and fun-filled events that celebrate our culture for all to enjoy. We could not do all we do without YOU. The future is ours to embrace and create, but your support allows us to have the vision and dedication to make sure we do all we can for our community, our region, our state, our nation, and our world. We are thrilled that the vision of our founders paved the way for us to have our doors opened to all and to be a cultural hub for all who live in and visit Cedar Rapids, IA. It is not an easy task to operate an institution like ours with growing cost and ongoing maintenance issues to assure we are in the best of operations. With the dedicated staff, committed Board of Trustees, members, volunteers, and valued donors we are looking to a bright future. I am thrilled to share with you that we have members from all 50 states and nine countries from throughout the world. As I write this message, I can report that we are approaching pre-pandemic levels for attendance and program participation. Our digital world is growing too, with thousands of new participants on our social media and in our virtual programs in music, cooking, and in our lectures series. Our student involvement has grown significantly with students from all age groups from pre-K through university. Our interns are coming from both U.S. colleges and universities from the Czech and Slovak Republics.

You are truly helping us create a strong imprint to radiate our Czech and Slovak American stories now and in the future. Our legacies that we leave for future generations live on. NCSML has truly taken a leap into the future. In spite of a global pandemic and a long post-pandemic period, we never stopped. We were always focused on creating that long-term future. Thanks to you, we did it and are committed more than ever to do this in the future. We must celebrate what we have done and we must create the future for all generations and all people to come and enjoy this beautiful national museum and library that is in the heart of America. Our ancestors from all cultural backgrounds came here to live. We must preserve their history and memories for all. Thank you so much. *Dekuji! Dakujem!*

Please come and see us often. Remember our *Brilliant Bohemian Garnets Exhibit* from the Prague National Museum will be at NCSML until January 14, 2024. Later in the year, a Mucha exhibit, featuring original works by Alfonse Mucha.



Dr. Cecilia Rokusek
 President and CEO
 National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library



In 2021–22, NCSML Hosted 21 Temporary Exhibits

Building a National Museum: The History of Us
MARCH 20 – JULY 24, 2021

Good Idea Slovakia
SEPT. 19, 2020 – JAN. 31, 2021

Formed in Fire, The Joyce Anderson Glass Collection
OCT. 23, 2020 – AUG. 29, 2021

Stitching History

From the Holocaust
NOV. 21, 2020 – MARCH 21, 2021

Grant of Prague
FEB. 20 – APRIL 25, 2021

Gridiron Champs: George Halas & the Chicago Bears
MARCH 19 – NOV. 6, 2022

The Bias Inside Us
APRIL 17 – MAY 16, 2021

Moravian Glory: Preserving Our Brilliance
MAY 14 – SEPT. 6, 2021

How the Other Half Lives: Jacob A. Riis
JUNE 16 – AUG. 11, 2021

Education For All: The Legacy of J. A. Comenius
JULY 30 – DEC. 31, 2021

Crowning Glory: A Feast of Slovak & Moravian Headdresses
AUG. 28, 2021 – FEB. 27, 2022

Vincent Hložník: Between War and Dream
SEPT. 11, 2021 – JAN. 31, 2022

Treasures of Slovakia
SEPT. 18, 2021 – MAR. 20, 2022

Amazing Athletes
FEB. 12 – SEPT. 18, 2022

Czech Innovation Expo
APR. 9 – JUNE 26, 2022

Truth, Love, and Loyalty
JUNE 11 – JULY 31, 2022

Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II
JULY 23 – OCT. 2, 2022

The Second Life of Vendulka V
AUG. 12 – DEC. 31, 2022

Sokol Local Guard
SEPT. 25 – DEC. 31, 2022

Magic and Mystery: Mardi Gras and Carnival Traditions
OCT. 29, 2022 – MARCH 19, 2023

Memoryscape
DEC. 3, 2022 – MAY 6, 2023

Online Collection

2022

2021

■ Artifacts photographed and posted	1,500	1,100
■ Pages/artifacts viewed	49,502	34,595

**30%
INCREASE**

Artifact Donations and Acquisitions

2022

2021

■ Artifacts donated, including a marionette theater	944	899
and several marionettes, two family trunks, and a fur coat and hat (in 2022); 10 new Kroje and two Military Uniforms in 2021.		

By the Numbers

2022

2021

■ Library visitors	1,742	1,209
■ Library reference questions answered	400	328
■ Donated library items acquired.....	2,625	2,932
■ Items cataloged	538	433
■ Online cataloged items	13,283	12,747
■ Hours contributed by library volunteers	561	176

Thanks to grant funding received from the Historical Resource Development Program, the library was able to digitize/microfilm 59,041 pages of publications. Additionally, an inventory of NCSML's collection of 78 RPM records was completed.

Increased Reach

The library hosted several researchers/academics in 2022 including Jakub Ketman, graduate student at Palacký University, who conducted original research about attitudes of Czech-American Roman Catholics towards an independent Czechoslovak nation throughout the WWI era using Czech-American Roman Catholic periodicals held by NCSML.

Paul Soderdahl, librarian at the University of Iowa Libraries, digitized two Slovak-American periodicals (*MOST* and *Slovakia*) held by NCSML and uploaded them to a digital site he has created.



The Bias Inside Us

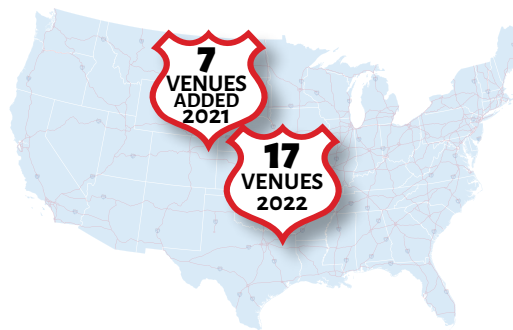
A TRAVELING EXHIBITION FROM THE SMITHSONIAN



Treasures of Slovakia

FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN BRATISLAVA





Traveling Exhibits Reach New Audiences

In 2021, NCSML added a new exhibit on Czechs in the Midwest. It was placed in the Czech Consulate in Chicago. Other traveling exhibits were sent to venues in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Texas. Seven exhibits were also displayed in assisted living facilities in the community.



Amazing Athletes and *Planting Roots* were added to our traveling exhibit collection in 2022. 17 venues across the U.S. requested and received NCSML traveling exhibits, the most ever! Venues were located in California, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.



International Delegations

In 2022, NCSML welcomed three international delegations sponsored by Friendship Force Iowa and Global Ties Iowa. A group of seven history professionals from Bangladesh met with NCSML's Lifelong Learning Specialist to discuss the future of historical education. Ten law enforcement professionals hailing from the Czech Republic and Slovakia toured the facility. A few described their attendance in Wenceslas Square for the Velvet Revolution of 1989. NCSML also welcomed 10 Albanian students who were visiting the U.S. on a two-week trip. The students were eager to learn more about the States' interpretation of Eastern European history.

Innovation and Outreach

In 2022, NCSML participated in the Linn County Fair, Kirkwood Multicultural Fair, the Mount Mercy Multicultural Fair, and Junior Achievement Career Inspire. In addition, NCSML hosted eight meet-and-greets in Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. We attended 12 Czech and Slovak festivals in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

International Outreach and Educational Collaboratives

- Palacký University Olomouc — exciting new affiliation established in 2021
- Charles University Prague
- Comenius University-Bratislava
- Masaryk University Brno
- Janáček Academy of Music and Performance Brno

Internships and Job Shadows

Lily Kisling, a public history student at University of Northern Iowa, and students from Metro High School helped prepare activities, assemble artifacts from the education collection, and designed a Mardi Gras float for the *Magic and Mystery: Mardi Gras and Carnival Traditions*.

Twelve students from Iowa BIG, six students from the various local high schools, two Coe College international students, and one Mount Mercy University student shadowed NCSML's Lifelong Learning Specialist to learn more about working in the museum field and NCSML's role in the preservation of international heritage, and historical interpretation.

Smithsonian Interns

Miriam Madriz joined NCSML in summer 2022 as a Smithsonian Leadership for Change intern. During the eight-week period (six remote and two on site), Miriam spent time researching and attending video lectures about poverty, media impact, curating a diverse museum and exhibits, and preserving culture.

As a benefit of the museum's affiliation, the Smithsonian fully funds the internship. Even more dramatic is the museum's broadened network as relationships are created with up-and-coming professionals in the field. NCSML is welcoming four more Smithsonian interns in 2022-23.



Miriam Madriz, 2022 Smithsonian Intern.

NCSML Continues to Provide Unique Education Programs

In 2022, the **Righting a Wrong Scholars Panel** complemented the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, *Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II*. NCSML brought together three scholars to discuss the historic events that led to Executive Order 9066, the Asian American experience, and how the topic relates to current events.

NCSML also welcomed back historian **Mark Stoffer Hunter** and his series of historic walking tours of Czech Village and New Bohemia. In the fall, NCSML featured author **Michele Patrick** to discuss her book *Haunted Prague*. The book features ghost stories from the dark corners of Prague's Jewish Quarter.

In addition to these amazing educational opportunities, throughout the year NCSML welcomed musical talent from around the world. **Martina Bárta** and **Francesco Pollon** performed *My Kind of Christmas* and the **McKinley Middle School Orchestra** brought holiday cheer to NCSML's patrons during the Old World Christmas Market.

In 2022, **Chef Tom Slepicka** once again shared his amazing culinary knowledge with students in the **National Cooking School**. This year, students learned how to make stuffed peppers with tomato sauce and rice, dill sauce with hard-boiled eggs and bread dumplings, sweet Czech braided bread, and Kapustnica, to name a few delicious recipes.

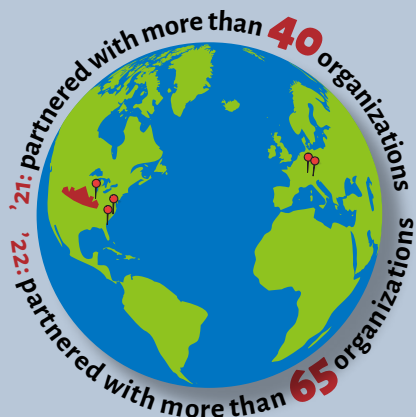
Music and Lecture Series

Working with the Czech Center in New York, NCSML was able to host amazing musical talent from the Czech Republic. Artists included Ester Pavlů, mezzo soprano of the Prague Opera. She appeared at NCSML twice during the 2021-'22 seasons. Other artists included Harařica — an eight-piece cimbál band from Moravia. Also performing at NCSML were Katelyn Bouska, pianist; Francesco Pollon, pianist; and jazz singer Martina Bárta. Also: Dolněmčanka, a brass band from the Czech Republic; professional mimists from Prague, classical guitarists Vladislav Blaha and Tanja Drobysh from Brno, Czech Republic; Prague Opera soprano Kristýna Kůstková; and Jozef Ivaska, contemporary singer.

Highlights of our Lecture Series in 2021-'22: *History of Czechs in Iowa and the Midwest* by Dr. Martin Nekola; *Transatlantic Battlefront: How the Exiled Czech Comic Duo Vockovec and Werich Continued Resistance in Nazi Occupation Via Radio; Impacts of Current Events in Ukraine to the Czech and Slovak Republic* by Darya Bodrava; *Czech and Slovak Headdresses* by Helene Baines Cincebeaux; *Egg Decorating* by Marj Nejd; *Haunted Prague*, a book and author presentation by Michele Patrick; *The Czech Republic, European Union and The Rise of Populism* by Dr. Martin Nekola.

Bringing Programs from Around the World

In 2021, we partnered with over 40 organizations in Cedar Rapids, Washington, D.C., Chicago, New York, Prague, and Bratislava to bring a variety of programs to the museum. In 2022, that number grew to 65. A strong partnership has been built with Moravská Krása (Moravian Glory) in Breclav, in southern Moravia. Through these partnerships, collaborative, shared programs, exhibits, and educational initiatives have been developed, including week-long Moravian folk art classes to be taught each summer at NCSML.



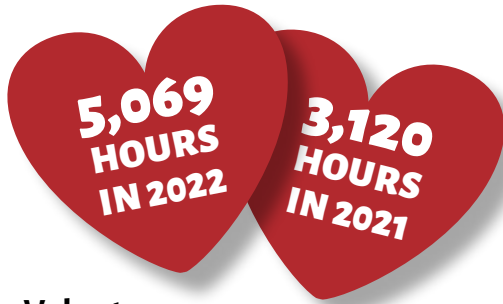
Chef Tom Slepicka



Ester Pavlů: December 10, 2021



Harařica Cimbál Band: February 7, 2022



Volunteers

Volunteers play a critical role in the sustainability and operations of NCSML. In 2022, 483 dedicated volunteers provided 5,069 total hours of service. In 2021, 164 volunteers — *in spite of the pandemic* — provided 3,120 hours. An increase of more than 1,700 hours!



Volunteer Opportunities at NCSML

Throughout the year, NCSML offers volunteer experiences for numerous important community events such as festivals, holiday markets, educational programs, and musical programs. Some volunteers prefer a regular schedule, while others take advantage of flexible scheduling. Training is provided for all roles, which include:

- Immigrant Home Tour Guide
- Grand Hall Host
- Gallery Attendant
- Museum Store Assistant
- School Tour Docent
- Administrative/Development Assistant

NCSML is a fun and welcoming community that prizes its volunteers. Whether a one-time commitment to help with an event, concert, or workshop that piques an interest, or a regularly scheduled longer-term commitment, NCSML offers an engaging place for enrichment, growth, and discovery.

NCSML's volunteer coordinator can be reached at 319-362-8500; volunteer@ncsml.org; or NCSML.org/volunteer.



BrewNost

The Midwest's premier international beer festival welcomed almost 400 friends (2022) and 351 (2021) from Iowa and around the country, as they enjoyed food, beer, and spirits from a wide variety of vendors. In 2022, Nick Davies led a spirited auction for a range of great prizes, including trips to Bohemia and Slovakia. Doug Wagner, morning drivetime host on 600 WMT, served as emcee, on a night of great food, music, and fun.



Exhibit Opening, 2022

Members-Only Events

At one such event on October 28, 2022, NCSML welcomed 35 members to a private event marking the opening of *Magic and Mystery: Mardi Gras and Carnival Traditions* exhibit. The exhibit illustrated, in colorful fashion, the relationship between pre-Lenten traditions in the United States, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. Guests enjoyed delicious seafood gumbo and king cake, along with suitable libations.



20%
INCREASE
GUESTS
SERVED

BY THE NUMBERS

Event Services Rentals	2022	2021
Events hosted	130	142
Number of guests served.....	10,000	8,056

Our superb meeting facilities hosted corporate meetings, weddings, birthdays, reunions, and other family milestones.

6%
INCREASE
ADMISSIONS

President's Society Gala

Bowing to Covid safety protocols, there was no gala in 2021. On May 7, 2022, WFLA Banquet Hall welcomed 153 guests to celebrate the second annual Preciosa Gala, a sold-out event. With the theme "Rising Above for Our Bright Future," Gary Rozek was honored for his outstanding leadership, philanthropy, dedication to community, and commitment to preservation of his cultural ancestry in a free and democratic society.

Museum and Store Visitors	2022	2021
Museum visitors (6% increase).....	10,338	9,757
School tour admissions (including students, teachers, and chaperons).....	1,210	—
Total admissions	11,548	9,757

Through the two-year period, our partnership with the community continued at strength, with special pre-paid admission programs arranged for Alliant Energy, City of Cedar Rapids, and Collins Aerospace.

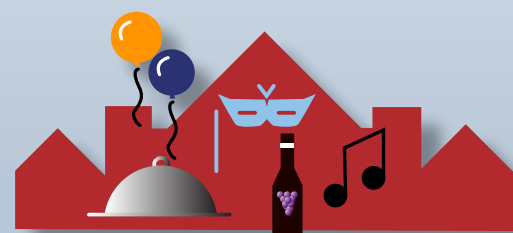
In 2022, underscoring our commitment to providing the latest in quality Czech and Slovak merchandise, our Museum Store Director added 50 new vendors across the two countries, as well as several new U.S. vendors. We participated in a sold-out Christmas Market at the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C.



Master Czech Folk Artist Marj Nejdí personalizes her custom-designed ornaments at the Old World Christmas Market, 2022

Old World Christmas Market

Once again a great success, the Old World Christmas Market welcomed almost 3,800 visitors across December 3 and 4, 2022, and 2,300 guests in 2021. No fewer than 20 vendors offered a range of lovely gifts, set against a festive background of storytelling, puppetry, holiday music, children's activities, delicious food, and of course Marj Nejdí's customized ornaments — a celebration of Czech and Slovak Christmas traditions.





Documenting the Czech and Slovak Experience

The importance of your artifacts, contributions, stories — written and oral — and Czech, Slovak, or Rusynian memorabilia help build our future as we continue to tell and preserve the Czech and Slovak American stories. As the only national Czech and Slovak museum and library in North America, it is so important to preserve.

Contact us

For any book, paper or related contributions, contact Dave Muhlena (DMuhlena@ncsml.org or 319-362-8500 ext. 120).

For Czech, Slovak or Rusynian artifact contributions, contact Stefanie Kohn (Skohn@ncsml.org or 319-362-8500 ext. 208).



NATIONAL
CZECH &
SLOVAK
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday - Saturday, 9:30 AM - 4 PM;
Sunday, 12 - 4 PM

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday, 9:30 AM - 4 PM
Appointments recommended for research.

1400 Inspiration Place SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
319-362-8500
ncsml.org



CzechSlovakMuseum



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NCSML



CzechSlovakMuseum