

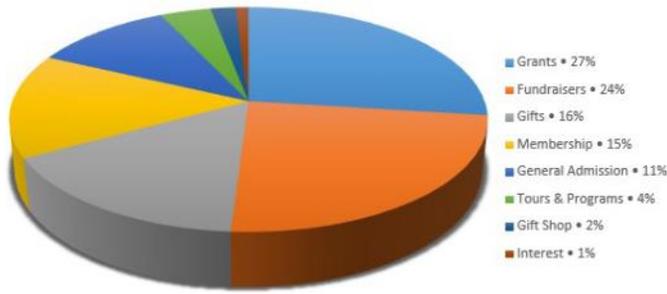
A M E L I A I S L A N D
MUSEUM OF HISTORY



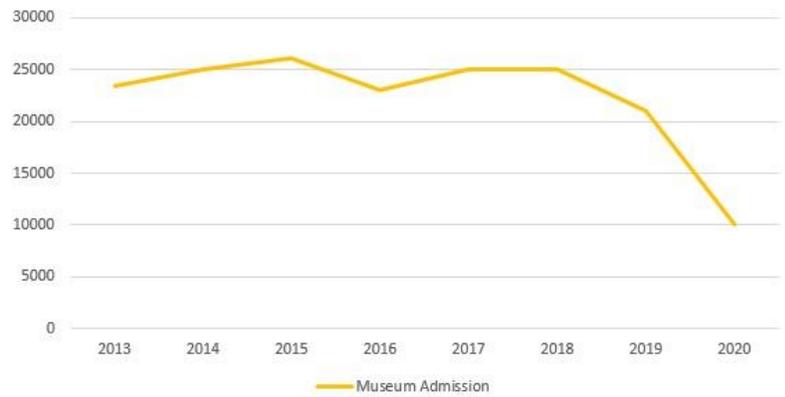
Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY

Revenues



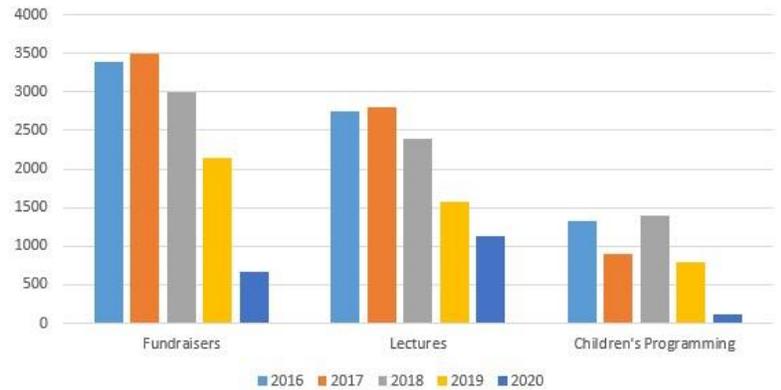
Museum Admission



Expenses



Program Attendance



AMELIA ISLAND MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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Joshua Whitfield, Curator

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Jennifer England, Media & Operations Manager

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Ronda Outler, Archivist

Brenda Brubeck, Outside Tours

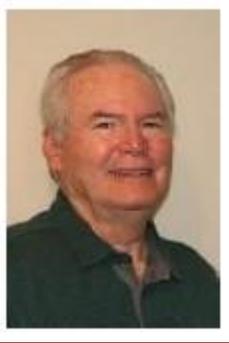
Christopher Collins, Operations Assistant

Address

233 South 3rd Street

Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

In bringing alive the past, the Amelia Island Museum of History preserves, protects, and promotes the unique history of Amelia Island and its surrounding area for a diverse community of residents.



CHAIR
Rob Hull

What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time Susan Martin was making preparation to hand over the gavel to me at our upcoming 2020 Annual Meeting only to find everything come to a screeching halt in March. Our meeting was cancelled, the Museum closed, and everyone was stuck in a time warp, wondering what would happen next. Amazingly, after allowing things to settle down, the Museum began to move forward, slowly at first, but more quickly as we learned to cope. While turning the gavel to me in May, Susan (with much support from Phyllis and her outstanding staff) continued her efforts to obtain donations for our Capital Campaign, culminating with a \$100,000 donation from Nassau County. Also, in June the Museum reopened for three days a week which expanded to five days by October. Our Brown Bag Lunch and 3rd on 3rd programs were broadcasted through Twitch, making the lectures and presentations available to our members and the rest of the community to watch from

home even once they began in-person again. In November, thanks to Phyllis's diligence and the support of the Board of Trustees, the County Commissioners agreed to our request to transfer title of the property on which the Museum is located to the Museum. (Prior to that time the Museum rented the property for \$1.00/year.) With title transfer complete, major repair work was undertaken to the building to ensure its integrity and the safety of the new exhibits which are currently being installed. So, as you can see, while we still have not fully recovered, we have taken a number of actions over the past year to put the Museum on a firmer foundation for fulfilling its goal of bringing alive the history of Amelia Island.

Our current situation could not have been achieved without the commitment of Phyllis and her dedicated staff. They are the backbone of the Museum, ensuring that the Museum continues to perform its mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting the history of Amelia Island. And, I would like to extend a special "thank you" to those volunteers who came forward over the past year to help the Museum keep its doors open and prepare us for the future. These individuals, whether a greeter, a docent, a tour guide, or a volunteer who helped paint, clean, or move exhibits and artifacts, increased their exposure to Covid-19 while at the Museum, and warrant our appreciation and respect. Finally, I want to thank both the old and new members of the Museum. Thanks to all of you who renewed your membership even though you knew access to the Museum would be limited during the past year. And a warm welcome and special thanks to the new members who were willing to join during these troubling times.

The Amelia Island Museum of History is a special organization filled with a deeply committed staff, a dedicated team of volunteers, and an army of supporters who believe in the value of preserving the fascinating history of this tiny island we call Amelia. Thank you all for allowing me to play a role during this exciting transition from our historic past into the unknown future.

Rob Hull
Board Chair



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Phyllis Davis

**Thank you to our members, donors, volunteers,
board, and staff for your support.**



**"Renovating not only restores the house, but restores the story
of the home and the neighborhood."**

- Unknown

2020 Report from the Archivist



2020 was a challenging year for the library. January and February boasted 73 hours and 58.5 hours respectively for our fully engaged volunteers. March brought closure of the Museum, eliminating all activities for the archives. June ushered in opportunities to return things to normal as guidelines were established for operation of the facility. A new Archivist was added to the staff in July and volunteers expressed a renewed interest in getting back to work.

The Museum received a grant to document the impact of the pandemic on the community. This was implemented through extensive interviews, capturing daily statistics of the virus' impact from the Nassau County webpage, gathering essays and questionnaires from school age children

and Council on Aging Program participants, and reviewing/documenting discussions on social media. Two interns were responsible for collection of these items and 57 separate record collections were added to the archives through their efforts.

Online resources became critical during this year. Efforts began to scan/digitize the Vertical Files System which is used frequently by library visitors. Volunteers began scanning biography folders and items of interest. This is a long term project which will make more of our resources available to the public from the comfort of their home.

Projects like Heritage Keepers and Veteran's History Project were also impacted as many interviewees did not feel comfortable leaving their homes during the pandemic. Interviewers worked with participants to find a comfort level and often performed interviews in homes and some over the internet. 13 interviews were conducted and archived throughout the year. Plans are underway to ramp up this effort in 2021.

Towards the end of the year, volunteers felt more comfortable visiting the library. In December, 45 volunteer hours were documented. Though this does not compare to previous numbers, the interest is still there and as vaccines are fully distributed, more of our regulars will return.

The total number of items/collections added to the catalog for 2020 was 303, and 230 items were accessioned. This brings us to 11,218 items/collections housed by the museum to ensure our rich local history is maintained.

Visit our online Resource Library and Archives at
<https://ameliaisland.pastperfectonline.com/>

Find us on the Web

www.ameliamuseum.org

FACEBOOK: Amelia Island Museum of History

TWITTER: AmeliaMuseum

INSTAGRAM: ameliamuseum

TWITCH: AmeliAISlandMuseumHistory

YOUTUBE: Amelia Island Museum of History

There are a variety of ways you can contribute to the Museum and its mission. Please join us in our journey.

Every gift to the Amelia Island Museum of History, whether of time, resources, or collections, enhances and expands the educational opportunities we offer.

Private Gifts are vital to the Museum's success and are tax-deductible. You can donate to help fund an exhibit, a children's program or even help towards our building renovations.

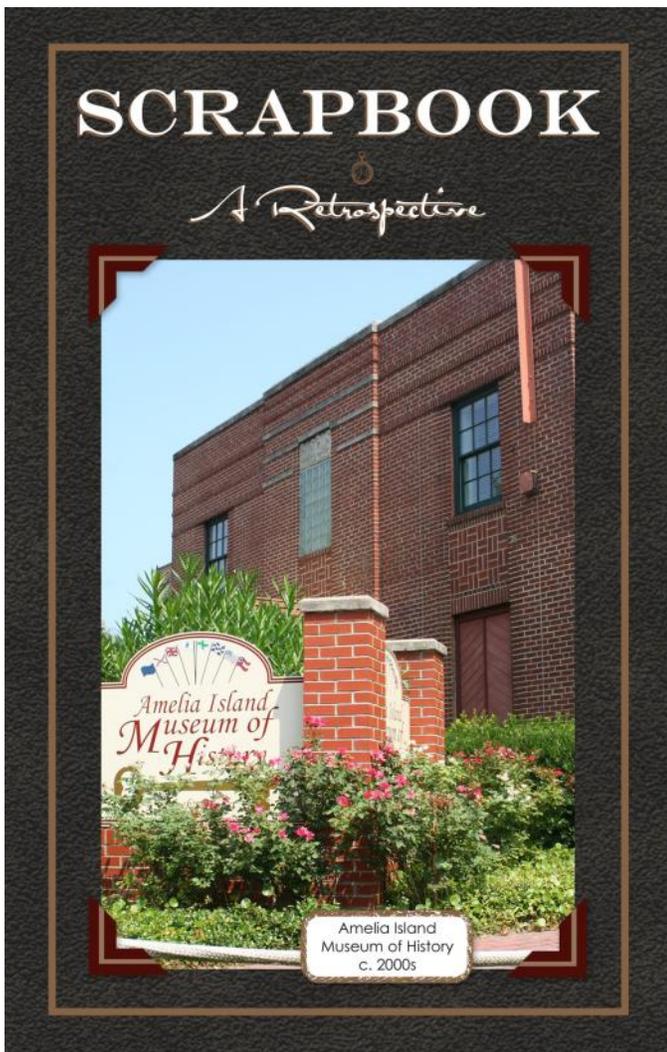
Membership funds are unrestricted and strengthen all of the Museum's programs including 3rd Friday on 3rd Street, Brown Bag Lunch, VHP, and Heritage Keepers.

Corporations and Businesses can demonstrate their commitment to the Museum by supporting a variety of programs and exhibits of their choice. We rely on businesses, like yours, to support our mission.

Volunteering is the cornerstone of all the Museum's activities and is an excellent way to meet people with like-minded interests. With only four full-time staff, we rely heavily on a dedicated corps of volunteers of all ages. Contact us to learn about the exciting opportunities awaiting you.

Fundraising efforts are among the largest and most heartfelt at the Museum, pulling together volunteers, members and the community at large. Our fundraisers offer many different ways to get involved, including planning, food & decorating committees.

A M E L I A I S L A N D
MUSEUM OF **HISTORY**



Exhibits and Programs

In 2020 we focused on the theme of Florida and Statehood. We started the year off hosting a traveling exhibit called *Florida Before Statehood*. The student-led exhibit, *Leaving America*, focused on the Civil War and Reconstruction. Due to shutting down, we decided to reopen their exhibit once we reopened in June 2020. To end the year, we had a retrospective exhibit called *Scrapbook* that featured materials from our past temporary exhibits. We received two Florida Humanities Council grants to participate in the FHC Speakers Series (which finished in the spring) and another to host Pedro Zepeda who carved the Seminole canoe that will go in as part of the new permanent exhibits. We started streaming our programs via Twitch in spring of 2020, and we plan to continue that service in future.

3RD ON 3RD LECTURE SERIES

- Erin Thursby - Florida Oranges: A Colorful History
- Dr. Ashley Preston - Mary Bethune Cookman
- Frank Ofeldt and David Roeser - The Last Battle of the War of 1812
- Exhibit Opening - Leaving America: Amelia Island in the Civil War and Reconstruction
- Joshua Whitfield and Peggy Bulger - Preserving Our Past: Oral History and Us
- Dr. Michael Butler - The Civil Rights Movement in Florida
- Ann Chinn, Marsha Dean Phelts, Jennifer Harrison and Joshua Whitfield - Juneteenth and the Middle Passage Marker Project
- The Family of Joan Bean - Heritage Keepers Project Interview
- Iliaria Thompson and Imani Phillips - COVID Oral History Project
- Exhibit Opening - Scrapbook: A Retrospective on the Museum and Exhibits
- Peggy Bulger - Stetson Kennedy
- Pedro Zepeda - Seminole Canoe Carving
- Marty Hylton - Fernandina's Old Town Spanish Plan: Revisiting Design Guidelines



Turning Tides: The Life and Times of Anna Kingsley - January 2020

BROWN BAG LUNCHEON

- Jane Phillips Collins - My Florida Ancestors
- Chip Kirkpatrick - Metal Detecting
- Joshua Whitfield - April Fools? Fraudsters and Con Men from MacGregor to Today
- James Thomas - A Young Mother's War: Octavia Bryant-Stephens, Family Life, and Death in Northern Florida during the Civil War
- Joshua Whitfield - Dice, Dominoes, and D&D: A History of Tabletop Gaming
- Joshua Whitfield - Outside the Box: In Sickness and Health
- Peggy Bulger - Every Island Has Its Own Songs
- Susan Martin - Kayaking the First Coast
- Greg Foster - Nassau County Emergency Services

EXHIBITS

- Florida Before Statehood
- High School Student Exhibit: American Civil War
- Retrospective Exhibit

SUMMER CAMP

Instead of our traditional in-person Summer Camp, the Museum opted to make a take home Boxed Summer Camp kit.



Boxed Camp - Summer 2020

AIMMH

www.ameliamuseum.org

annual report

Hours

Monday -Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sundays: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Free Friday Hours: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Location

233 S. 3rd St.
Historic Fernandina Beach,
Florida 32034

Contact

Phone - 904.261.7378

Fax - 904.261.9701

E-mail - info@ameliamuseum.org