

# FY21 Annual Report

Denmos Museum Center at Northwestern Michigan College



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## Table of Contents

From the Director	... page 2
About Us	... page 3
Accreditation	... page 4
Assessment	... page 6
Exhibitions	... page 7
Programs	... page 15
Collections	... page 19
Administration	... page 21

The Dennos Museum Center is a proud member of the following organizations:



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Cover Image: NMC Police Academy Cadets at the Dennos, fall 2020

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## From the Director

Dear friends and colleagues:

I do a lot of writing in my profession. Whether it's grant applications, press releases, or accreditation reviews for other museums, the written word is a critical part of my personal and professional life.

Yet, writing a synopsis of the events that transpired between July 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021 seems an impossible task. Consider all that we have endured and born witness to in the past year: a global pandemic, a global recovery, political turmoil, and racial reckoning that has touched the lives and hearts of so many. It is all, indeed, difficult to put into words.



Instead, I want to write and express my thanks for all that we have accomplished together this past year to keep our community's museum moving forward in a sustainable and relevant way:

- Thank you to our members who believed in the Dennos Museum Center and renewed their memberships, even when physical access was limited.
- Thank you to our community partners and friends who believed in the power of collective partnership to see us all through to the other side.
- Thank you to our visitors who took time to stop by and enjoy one of the most diverse exhibition schedules at the Dennos to date in celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Thank you to our major supporters who champion in the transformative power of museums as a public good for all who walk through the door.

Because of you and your support, we have accomplished tremendous things this year despite all of the challenges we faced. The museum earned Smithsonian Affiliate status, completed its first Museum Assessment Program review through the American Alliance of Museums, and celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 6, 2021 with 12 exhibitions during the past year.

And because of you, I know the Dennos Museum Center has so much to look forward to over the next 30 years. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig R. Hadley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Craig R. Hadley  
Executive Director and Chief Curator

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## About Us

### Mission

The Dennon Museum Center builds community, sparks conversation, and inspires change for audiences of all ages through its exhibitions, programs, and the collection and preservation of art.

Approved by the NMC Board of Trustees  
July 26, 2021

### Vision

We will build one of the finest community college museum programs in the nation, providing access to high quality teaching and learning opportunities for our campus and community audiences.

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# A YEAR OF TRANSITION AND CHANGE

1. 15+ new policies and procedures.
2. Two new committees: collections and exhibitions.
3. Refining collections (deaccession).
4. 50+ virtual programs and partnerships amidst COVID-19.
5. Budget streamlining and reduction.
6. Staffing realignments to meet operational needs.
7. Our first federal grant awards from NEH and IMLS for collections care.
8. Smithsonian Affiliate status awarded.
9. Low cost facility improvements for exhibit prep and collections storage.
10. Data collection and sharing with NMC Foundation.
11. Improved front of house operations and new store inventory/website.
12. Expanded NMC partnerships: ELI, EES, Police Academy, Humanities, Art.
13. Improved facilities PM and OSHA training for staff.
14. **Our first external review through the Museum Assessment Program (MAP).**



**Overview**

Since fall of 2019, the Denno Museum Center has pursued a path that will eventually lead to first-time accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. “As the museum field’s mark of distinction since 1971, accreditation offers high profile, peer-based validation of your museum’s operations and impact. Accreditation increases your museum’s credibility and value to funders, policy makers, insurers, community and peers. Accreditation is a powerful tool to leverage change and helps facilitate loans between institutions.”

**Denno Museum Center Accreditation Timeline**

The following table provides an overview of the process outlined by DMC staff to competitively position the museum for accreditation. Given the rigorous nature of the review process, fewer than 4% of the nation’s 33,000 museums are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Pre-2019:	AAM Membership
Fall 2019:	Pledge of Excellence
Spring 2020:	Board approval: collections management policy and code of ethics
Summer 2020:	Museum Assessment Program Peer Review #1
Spring 2021:	Smithsonian Affiliate status awarded to DMC
<b>Summer 2021:</b>	<b>Board approval: mission, statement of permanence, strategic plan</b>
Fall 2021:	Core Documents Verification
2023:	Museum Assessment Program Peer Review #2
2025-26:	Application for Accreditation 2-Day Site Review AAM Commission Review Accreditation Award / Table / Denial

As outlined in the table above, the current FY22 request to the Board of Trustees requires review and approval of the Denno Museum Center’s mission statement, statement of permanence, and strategic plan. Once these three documents have been approved, the Denno Museum Center is eligible to submit the required documents for “Core Documents Verification” to the American Alliance of Museums. Review and approval of these documents is a prerequisite to application for accreditation.

# Accreditation: How Do We Get There?

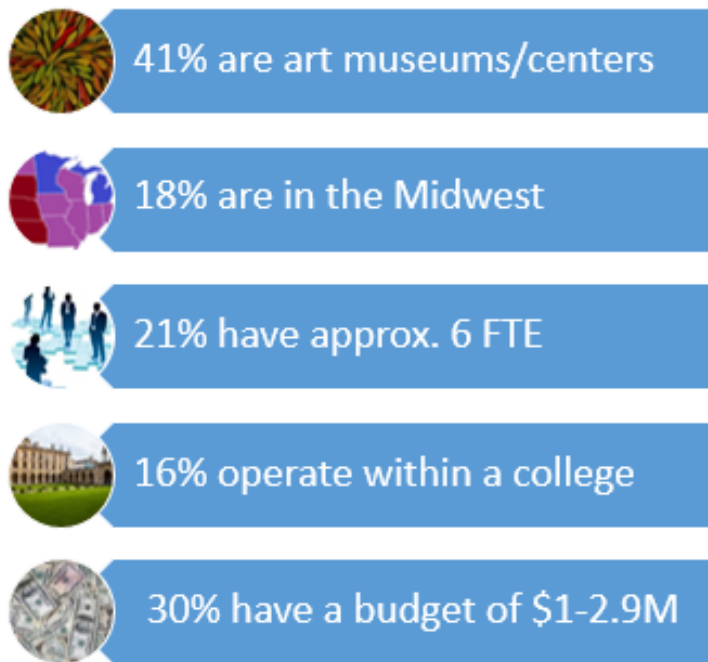
## The Continuum of Excellence

Supporting and celebrating your museum's commitment to standards



## Who is Accredited?

Of the nation's  
**33,000**  
museums  
nationwide,  
only **5%** are  
accredited:







## Museum Assessment Program

### About MAP

Since its inception in 1981, the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) has helped more than 5,000 small and mid-sized museums of all types strengthen operations, plan for the future, and meet standards.

Through a one-year process of self-assessment, institutional activities, and consultative peer review with a site visit and recommendations, your museum emerges with:

- Greater alignment of activities, mission, and resources
- Analysis of its strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities
- Prioritized roadmap for improving operations and meeting standards
- Practices benchmarked to standards
- Enhanced credibility with potential funders and donors
- Improved communications between staff, board, and other constituents
- Expert advice, recommendations, and resources
- Increased capacity for strategic planning
- Preparation for core document verification, accreditation or reaccreditation

### Highlights from Our MAP Reviewer:

I found the Denmos to be a **multi-faceted, strong** institution; yet ... the attainment of **accreditation**, this institution will be *truly great!*

I witnessed strong **alliances** between [DMC and NMC]; these individuals share a common trust, understanding, and desire to advance the DMC.

A larger **endowment** will mean **improved sustainability** and amplified capacity for creative exhibitions, instruction, programs, and partnerships.

In the Mission statement review, acknowledge your **collections stewardship** obligations

Linda Steigleder, former CEO  
Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, MA



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## Exhibitions Temporary



### RESILIENCE: AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

**SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6, 2021 - AUGUST 15, 2021**

*Resilience: African American Artists as Agents of Change* presents outstanding works of art by artists who have enlightened and uplifted America in countless ways. The exhibition honors aspects of African American history and culture and its contributions to all of America, highlighting a select group of artists who use art as an indispensable tool for social commentary and change.

-Curated by Belinda Tate, Executive Director, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.



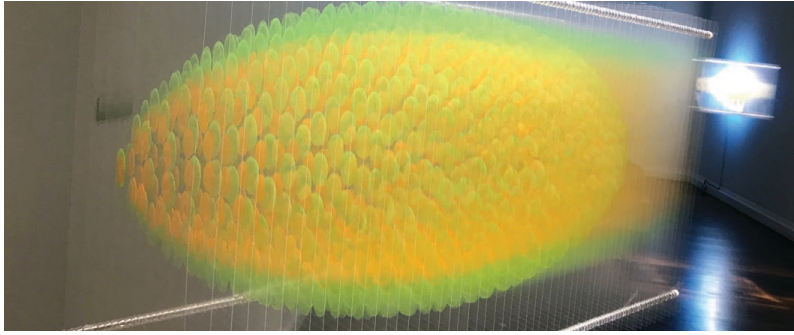
### RUFUS SNODDY: DISAPPEARING MAN

**SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6, 2021 — AUGUST 21, 2021**

The *Disappearing Man* work presents itself as a symbolic clarion call. It evokes a personal narrative of concern for future human existence. I utilize an array of generic, wide-eyed, naïve appearing, repetitive portraits of man. Like artists from the past, I am reflecting a contemporary narrative of social and cultural concern. These narratives often reach beyond bucolic settings and idealized versions of the world we inhabit into sobering, darker spaces. Picasso's *Guernica* (1937), arguably one of his most significant paintings, is an example of the latter. Not only was it a statement about the brutality of the Nazi regime and the tragedies and suffering of wars, but also an anti-war sentiment and symbol of peace.

Image: Rufus Snoddy, *Disappearing Man, Brown-2020*. 2020, Acrylic on canvas, wood, and metal, 58 x 57 x 2 in.





## RUSSELL PRATHER: AND THE HEART IS PLEASED BY ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER

**SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6, 2021 — AUGUST 15, 2021**

Russell Prather makes visually volatile renderings of simple forms and ordinary objects from layers of transparent and translucent media. He creates these layers using both additive and subtractive methods: painting tinted acrylic medium onto sheets of transparent polyester film, or cutting out shapes from sheets of insect screening and other materials. He then aligns these layers on metal rods and suspends them from the ceiling, or stretches them on aluminum screen frames that he mounts on light boxes that sit on the floor.

Image: Russell Prather, *Blimp*. Tinted acrylic medium on layers of polyester film, 14 x 11 x 29.5 in.



## TOM PARISH: AN AMERICAN IN VENICE

**SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6, 2021 — AUGUST 15, 2021**

Tom Parish (American, 1933 - 2018) committed his life to painting the essence of Venice. Inspired by shimmering canals and architectural beauty of Italy's Serenissima (the old serene one), his stylized realist paintings are constructed from blocks of sturdy modernist color. The shimmer of rolling water, depths of captivating linear vistas and the classicism of craft are elements moored to the heart of Parish's timeless imagery.

Image: Tom Parish, *Domenica Mattina*. 2018, Oil on canvas.



## THE CLYDE AND PATRICIA RISDON COLLECTION: TOK, ALASKA

**SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 9, 2021 — SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

During a visit to Alaska in 1995, Clyde was asked if he would donate a sled to Tok, Alaska, for their annual auction. We had both seen how much effort this small town put into sponsoring their race, and Clyde willingly obliged and donated a sled. In 1999, the wonderful people in the Town of Tok began sending us gifts, mostly beadwork made by Athabascans. Their generosity to our family continued throughout the years until 2018.



## VISUAL SUPPOSITIONS: RECENT CERAMIC WORK BY KEITH EKSTAM

**SCHEDULED FOR MAY 5, 2021 — MAY 28, 2021**

*I am committed to clay as my primary art making material for many reasons. It is simultaneously one of the most fragile art media, yet also one of the most permanent and enduring. The simple, direct act of working with clay in one's hands is the polar opposite of the complex, transformative nature of the kiln firing. I am certain that these opposing but vital characteristics are what drives me to choose this material.*

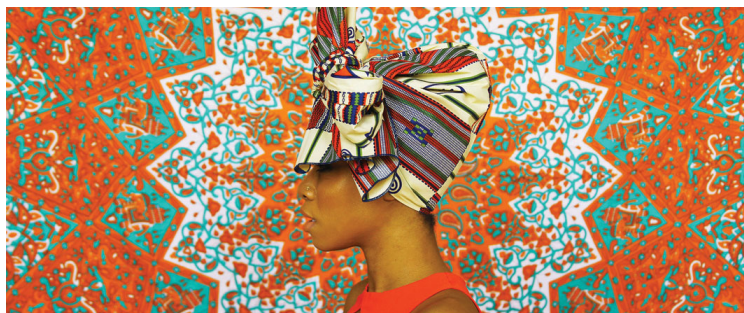
Image: Keith Ekstam, *Memory Trace*. 2016, Wood fired and low fired clay, assembled. Detail.



## NMC AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ART SHOW

APRIL 5, 2021 — APRIL 29, 2021

View 30 artworks by local students selected for the show in honor of the museum's 30th anniversary. View NMC fine arts students work from April 5th - 14th and high school student art from April 18th - 29th. Details to join the virtual receptions for each program will be available soon.



## DEX R. JONES: STORIED PORTRAITS

**SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2021 — MARCH 28, 2021**

Influenced by the cultural richness of his Caribbean heritage and Pan-African studies, Dexter R. Jones unwaveringly removes the veil of self-conscious inhibition by eliminating the preconceived sense of beauty and reveals its true splendor in its vulnerable state. Jones relentlessly pushes the characterization of beauty not often seen. Encompassing a mixture of texture, hues, flesh, and heavy contrast in his editorial photography, his expertise in justly capturing women of vast shades is indicative from his strong matriarchal upbringing. The Brooklyn, NY born photographer utilizes seductive colors and endearing honesty to surpass what is superficial and create a mood that highlights what is his reality. Jones is driven by an infectious passion that is distinctly exposed in the strong subjects he portrays. That desire is translated in the regality of his images.

Top Image: Dex R. Jones, *Wrap Goddess*, 2016. Digital SLR image on canvas, 40 x 60 in. detail.



## BLOW UP II: INFLATABLE CONTEMPORARY ART

**SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2021 — MAY 16, 2021**

*BLOW UP II: Inflatable Contemporary Art* explores the imaginative ways that air is used as a tool to create large-scale sculptures. The artists in *BLOW UP II* translate everyday materials and imagery into larger-than-life, yet nearly lighter-than-air art that is rich with meaning, resulting in a wide array of works that are figurative, conceptual, and abstract. Inflatable works are often initially regarded as whimsical or humorous, yet they can contain serious critiques of pop-culture, social norms and the politics of space. *BLOW UP II* explores the complex relationship between the familiarity of the material combined with serious commentary, creating a dialogue around reinterpretation.

NOTE: This is an indoor exhibition. Masks are required for everyone who enters the museum.



## MICHIGAN MODERN: AN ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 — JANUARY 31, 2021**

This exhibit celebrates Michigan's incredible modern architectural design history from 1928 through 2012. It comprises over 50 photographs by James Haefner primarily for the State Historic Preservation Office as part of their Michigan Modern Project and featured in the book by State Historic Preservation Officer Brian Conway titled *Michigan Modern: An Architectural Legacy*. Several additional photographs from Mr. Haefner's archives are included. The buildings photographed were selected to represent the best modern architecture in all areas of the state focusing on the work of Michigan architects as well as internationally known architects who completed commissions in Michigan.





## MATHIAS J. ALTEN: AN ARTIST AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 — JANUARY 31, 2021

The German-born American artist, Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) immigrated to the United States in 1889 at the age of seventeen. His family settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a premier furniture-manufacturing center and desired location for immigrants in the late-nineteenth century. Here, amidst a rapidly changing world, Alten went on to establish a family, home and studio for the entirety of his career.

Image: Mathias J. Alten, "Hauling the Boulder." 1910, Oil on canvas. From the collection of the GVSU Art Gallery.



## 2020 ANNUAL CAPE DORSET PRINT COLLECTION

**OCTOBER 5, 2020 — NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

We are thrilled to present a preview of this year's annual Cape Dorset print collection. Comprised of thirty prints, the collection showcases a diverse selection of stonecuts, lithographs, and etching & aquatints by Kinngait's extraordinary artists. See works by print collection veterans as well as younger generation artists featured for the first time.

Come visit the 2020 collection in person at the Dennon Museum Center on opening day, **October 5th at 11:00 a.m.**, in the Sculpture Court. Reservation requests can be made while you're at the museum or submitted online at that time. Please understand that prints are limited and reservations will be taken on a first come first serve basis only beginning at the specified date and time.



## GENERAL COLLECTIONS



The Denmos Museum Center houses a collection of more than 2,600 works of art. Approximately 1,600 objects are prints, sculptures, and other artworks made by the Inuit people of the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, and Alaska. The remainder of the collection includes a diverse array of painting, sculpture, prints, and photography. Significant holdings include contemporary works by Michigan artists, 19th and 20th century American and European graphic art, 18th and 19th century Japanese prints, and 20th century Great Lakes Indian and Canadian Indian art.

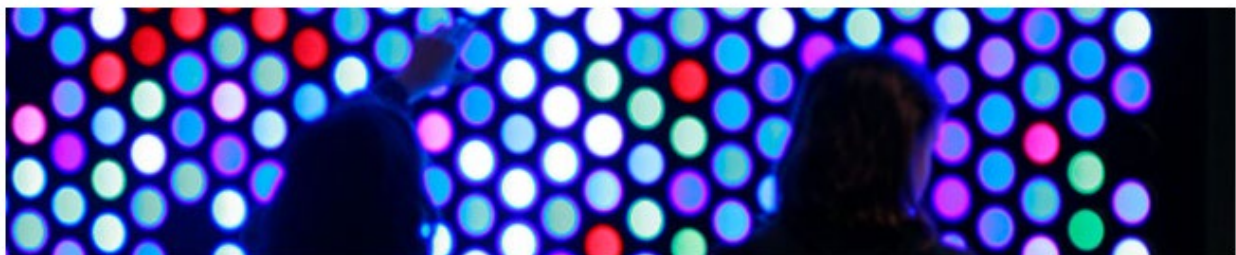
## INUIT ART GALLERIES AT THE DENNOS MUSEUM CENTER



Since 1991, the Denmos Museum Center's core collection of Inuit art has been on permanent exhibit. The Power Family Inuit Gallery, named in 1995 for their generous support of Inuit art and the Denmos Museum Center's collection, has welcomed thousands of visitors to view, explore, and discuss contemporary Inuit art. The Inuit art collection has also played a pivotal role in K-12 programming in the region, providing local students with primary source perspectives of life in the Canadian Arctic.

With the opening of the Barbara & Dudley Smith Wing for Inuit Art in 2018, this unique collection has more space for exhibition, education, and engaging programs. Thanks to the generous support of the Smiths and others, the Denmos Museum Center will continue to be a leading institution for the celebration of Inuit art and culture in the United States.

## DISCOVERY GALLERY



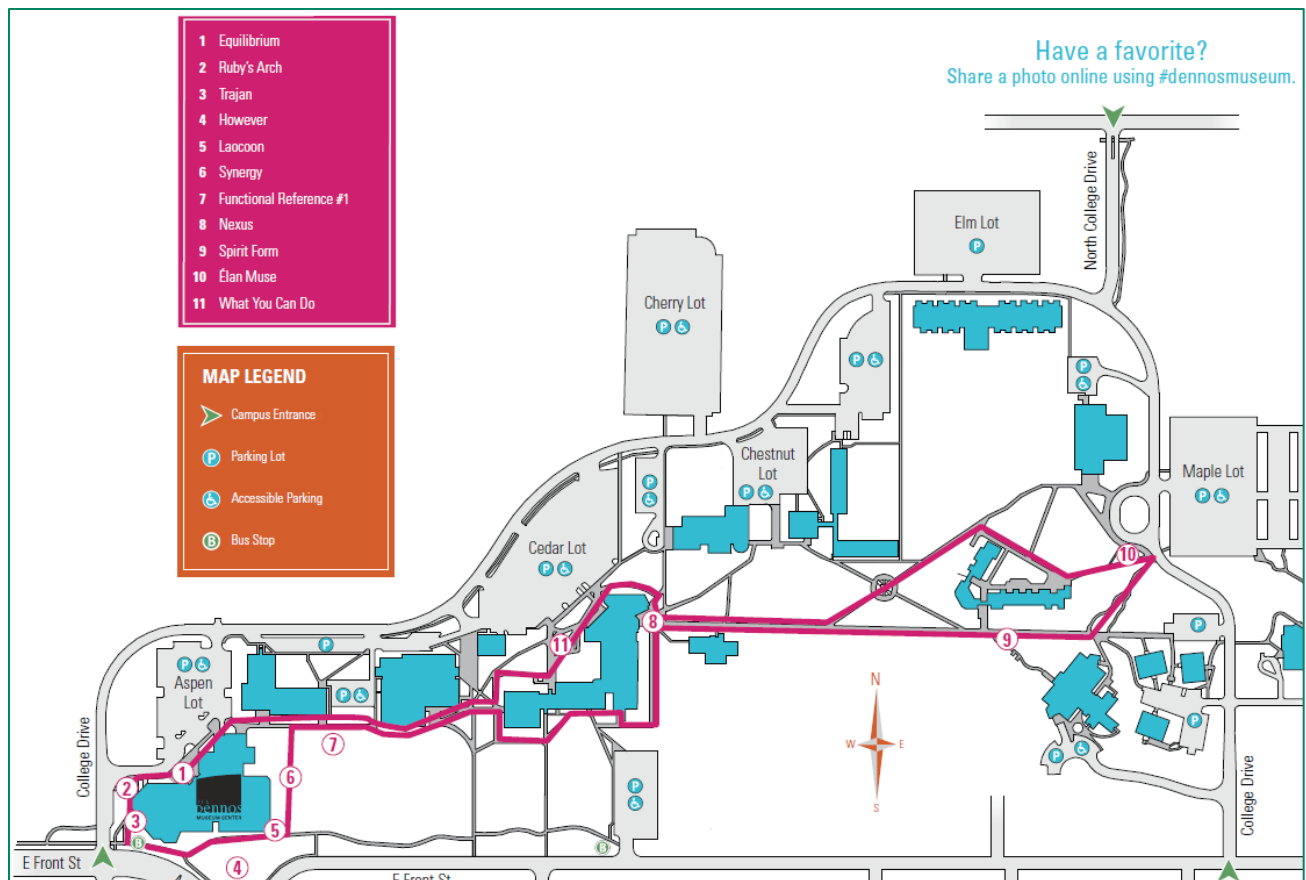
The Denmos Museum Center's Thomas A. Rutkowski Discovery Gallery offers "hands on" interactive experiences related to the arts and sciences for children and adults. The recent re-installation of the Gallery in 2018 focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM).

# OUTDOOR SCULPTURES



You can continue exploring the arts through the campus at [Northwestern Michigan College](#), thanks to the development of a major collection of outdoor sculptures. These unique, thought-provoking sculptures are located in the immediate Dennis Museum Center area as well as throughout the college's campuses.

Primarily focused on works by noted Michigan sculptors, the collection also includes works by artists of international stature. Learn more about these gifted artists and their outdoor works by clicking on the links below. [Click here](#) for the pdf version of the map.



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## **Programs** **Engagement**

The Dennis Museum Center presented 26 distinct programs during FY21. Ranging from virtual conversations with artists from as far away as Iceland, to “Live and Local” concerts presented in partnership with the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, the museum offered programs for audiences of all ages, many of which were free to the public.



### **The Art Of: Jean Larson**

Sep 2, 2020, 10:30 AM



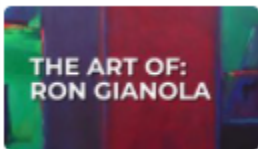
### **The Art Of: Sally Rogers**

Sep 9, 2020, 10:30 AM



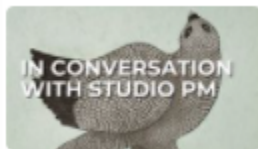
### **Artists in the Studio with Paul Welch and Craig Hadley**

Sep 23, 2020, 10:30 AM



### **The Art Of: Ron Gianola**

Sep 30, 2020, 10:30 AM



### **The 2020 Dorset Print Collection: In Conversation with Studio PM**

Oct 7, 2020, 10:30 AM



### **Live & Local with Seth Bernard**

Oct 8, 2020, 7:00 PM



### **Panel Discussion: Meditation for Well- Being & Resilience**

Oct 14, 2020, 10:30 AM



### **Live & Local with Blake Elliot**

Oct 15, 2020, 7:00 PM





**Meditation Session with Mystical Arts of Tibet**

Oct 16, 2020, 10:30 AM



**Live & Local with Jordan Hamilton**

Oct 19, 2020, 7:00 PM



**Trick or Treat or Draw with Brianne Farley and Em Randall**

Oct 28, 2020, 12:00 PM



**Live & Local with Blair Miller**

Oct 29, 2020, 7:00 PM



**NMC Fall Summit: Global Issues, Local Impacts**

Oct 30, 2020, 9:30 AM



**JONATHAN SCOTT'S POWER TRIP - FREE VIRTUAL SCREENING**

Nov 12, 2020, 7:00 PM



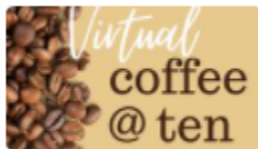
**MATHIAS J. ALTEN: IN CONVERSATION WITH CURATOR JOEL ZWART**

Nov 18, 2020, 6:30 PM



**Mini Holiday Artist Market**

23 Dates - Dec 1 - Dec 23, 2020



**Coffee@Ten with Craig Hadley**

Fri Jan 15, 10:00am



**Date Night with The Dennos**

Sun Feb 14, 7:00pm



**The Art Of: Nicole Banowetz**  
Thu Feb 25, 6:30pm



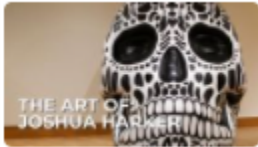
**The Art Of: Dex R. Jones**  
Thu Mar 4, 10:30am



**Windy City Line Up: Davy Knowles**  
Fri Mar 26, 7:00pm



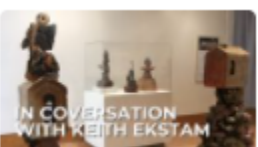
**Windy City Line Up: Toronzo Cannon**  
Fri Apr 9, 7:00pm



**The Art Of: Joshua Harker**  
Wed Apr 21, 10:30am



**Artists in Conversation: John Sauvé interviews Michael D. Hall**  
Sun Apr 25, 1:00pm



**In Conversation with Keith Ekstam**  
Thu May 27, 10:30am



**SMITHSONIAN TIME CAPSULE: BEYOND STONEWALL**  
Dennos Museum Center  
3 Dates · Jun 16 - Jun 16



**Juneteenth Free Day**  
1410 W College Dr, Traverse City, MI 49686,  
United States  
Sat Jun 19, 11:00am



**The Art Of: Russell Prather**  
Thu Jun 24, 6:30pm



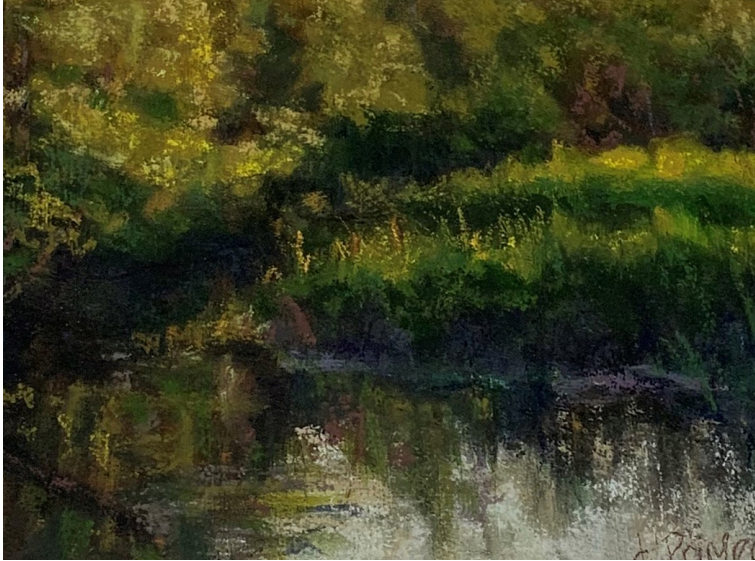
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**Programs**  
**Our Partners**



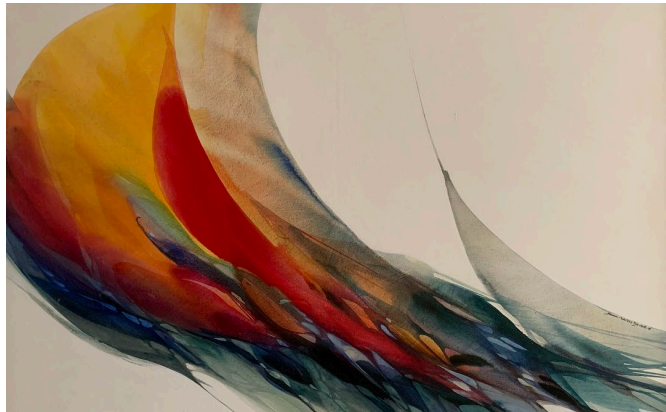
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## Collections New Acquisitions



Shalda Creek, 2013  
By: Josephine Primeau  
Pastel on paper

Untitled, 20<sup>th</sup> century  
By: Nelson Welch  
Oil on board



Run Before the Wind, 1980  
By: Madonna Walters Ballance  
Acrylic on canvas



Goat Festival and Spirits, 1990  
Peacock Inuit Art Collection  
Tempera painting on paper





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## Collections Preservation



Above: Carleton College intern Emma Korosei '21 inventoried and photographed Inuit works on paper for online access. Emma's internship included the first ever comprehensive inventory of the Inuit print collection.

### **Collections at-a-Glance:**

- **25** new electronic dataloggers and **2** HEPA vacuums were purchased with generous support from the National Endowment of Humanities to provide enhanced environmental care at the Denno Museum Center.
- **75+** new artworks added to the permanent art collection.
- **20% +** of the entire permanent collection was fully inventoried and photographed for the first time in 30 years.
- **5** new oversize shelving units were installed along with **1** oversize painting bin, alleviating overcrowding in collections storage units.



**Smithsonian**  
Affiliate Membership Program

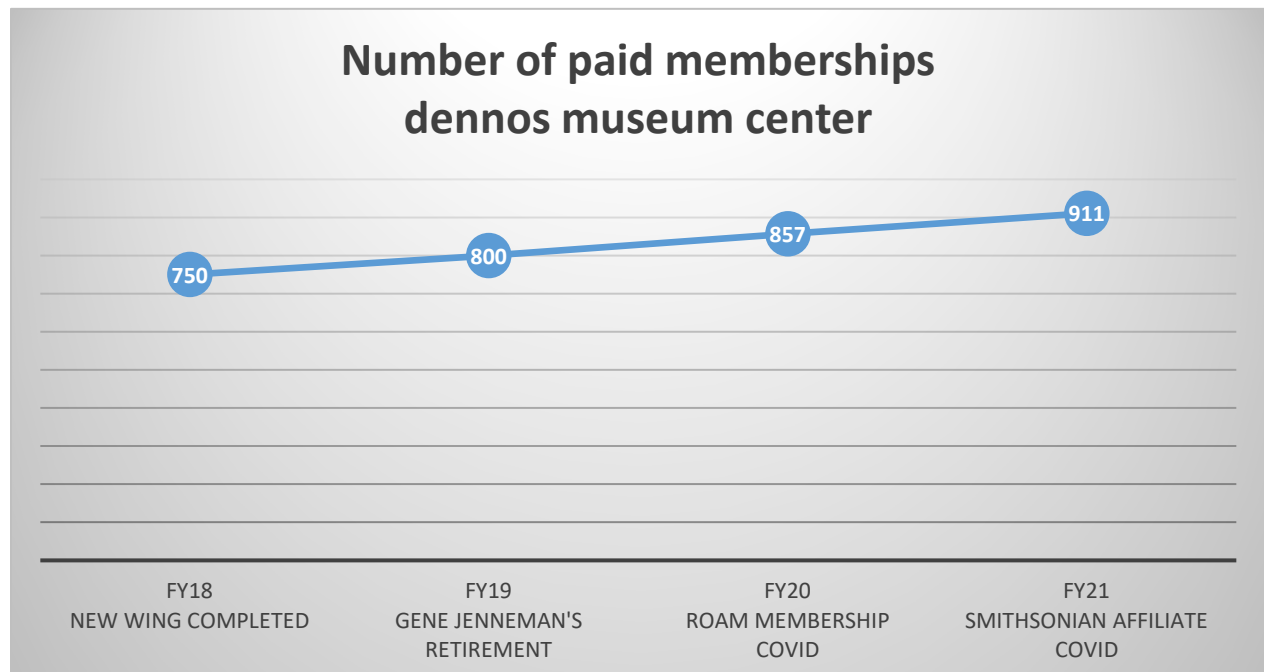
## Administration Membership

For the second year in a row, the Denno Museum Center introduced a new membership benefit. While FY20 saw the addition of a second reciprocal benefit to new and existing members through the Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums (ROAM), FY21 added Smithsonian membership benefits through the Smithsonian Affiliate program. This optional \$25 add-on comes with the following benefits:

- A one-year subscription to *Smithsonian Magazine* or *Air & Space Magazine* (six issues)
- A 10% discount on all Smithsonian Folkways Recordings
- Free admission to the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in New York, NY
- A personalized Smithsonian membership card
- A 10% discount on all IMAX tickets at the Smithsonian
- Online benefits from the Smithsonian with insider access to the Smithsonian and special opportunities
- Member Discount on *The Great Courses*
- Reciprocal Admission Benefits at *participating Smithsonian Affiliates\**



Although the pandemic created some disruptions in both renewal and timing, overall membership growth has been trending positive since FY18. The graph below summarizes the number of *active* memberships reported at the end of each fiscal year:



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## Administration Museum Store

### A Year in Review Nicole Zeiler, Store Manager

The Dennon Museum Store showcases a unique assortment of art-inspired objects that reflect the Museum's collections as well as current exhibitions. We seek out fun and functional gifts and mementos with a focus on great design to inspire, engage and delight both visitors and members. Our ever-changing range of merchandise includes jewelry, accessories, decorative objects, toys, puzzles, cards, and books as well as works of art in different media handcrafted locally or from around the world. The store also features an extensive collection of Canadian Inuit carvings and gifts and hosts the much anticipated *Annual Cape Dorset Prints Release* each fall. Store purchases support the exhibitions and programs of the Dennon Museum Center.



Above: Selections from the store's Inuit hardstone carvings.

At left: Crafts and ornaments from the 2020 Holiday Artist Market.

Below: New for 2021: Custom-made ceramic mugs featuring the Dennon logo.







A completely reimagined Holiday Artist Market featured many firsts in 2020: a brand new online shopping experience through Square, curbside pickup, nationwide shipping, and more. Under Nicole's leadership, the Holiday Artist Market adjusted to the unique challenges presented by COVID-19 restrictions, yet still afforded artists and holiday shoppers the opportunity to make the best of a challenging holiday season.

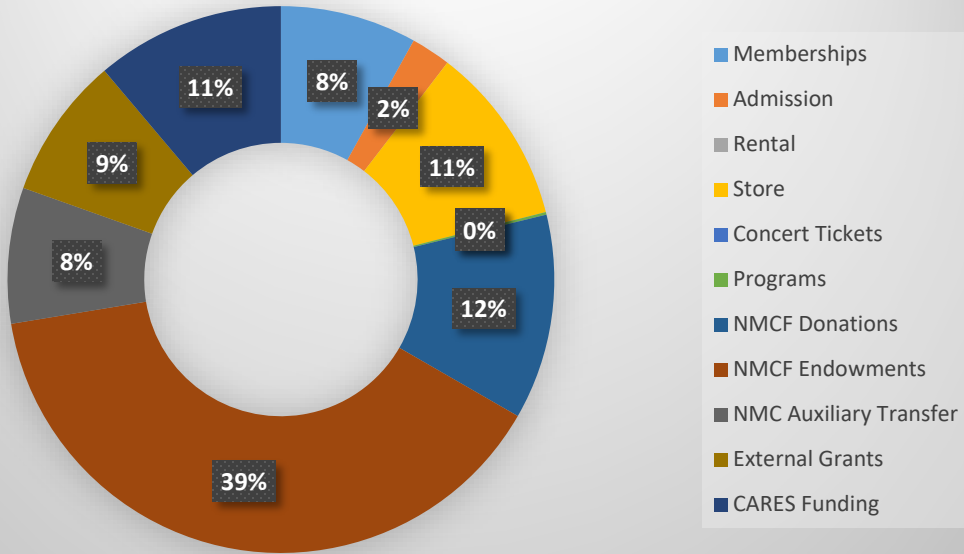
**DENNOS MUSEUM**

**HOLIDAY ARTIST MARKET**

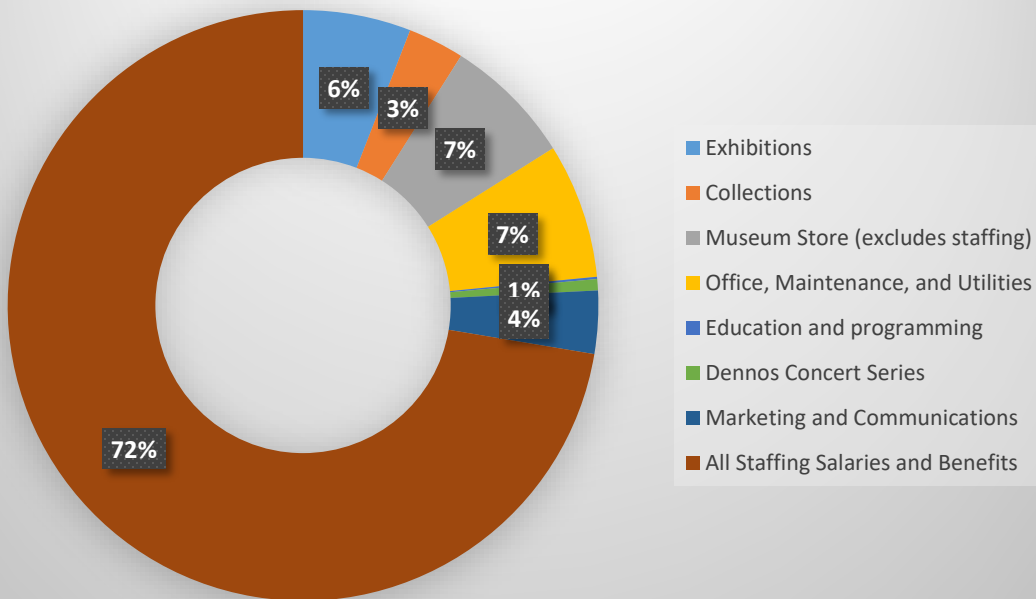
# Administration

## Income & Expense

### FY21 Income by Category



### FY21 Expenses by Category



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## Administration Endowments & Grants

### Northwestern Michigan College

- Dennon Museum Center Operating Endowment
- Dennon Museum Center Osterlin Endowment for Performance
- Guyot Scholarship Endowment for Arts
- Linda O'Meara Fund for Arts Education
- Marion Talbot Fund
- NMC Experiential Learning Institute
- The Robert T. and Ruth Haidt Hughes Memorial Endowment
- The Robert T. Hughes Family Trust for Performance
- Wayne and Geraldine Cowell Dennon Museum Center Endowment

### External Sponsorships & Grants



### With Media Support Provided By





Denmos Museum Center  
Northwestern Michigan College  
1701 East Front Street  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
[dmc@nmc.edu](mailto:dmc@nmc.edu)