



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Gordon L. Grosscup  
Museum of Anthropology

Detroit, Michigan



WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY



2024

# Annual Report

# Mission

As a component of the Department of Anthropology, the Gordon L. Grosscup Museum of Anthropology (GLGMA) at Wayne State University exists to train and actively involve University students in the activities of preservation, research, interpretation, and exhibition of material culture for the benefit and enrichment of the local and university communities. As a Museum of Anthropology, its central mission is to inspire a broader understanding and appreciation of the ethnic diversity and cultural heritage of our region and our world. The museum's educational, interpretative and research missions are grounded in collections-based scholarship and the stewardship of its archaeological and ethnographic collections.

# Overview

The Grosscup Museum was established as the Anthropology Museum at Wayne State University in 1958. Founder Arnold Pilling (1926-1994) served as the first director and was joined by Gordon Grosscup (1927-2021) as curator in 1964. Pilling and Grosscup carried out significant archeological excavations in Detroit, helping to establish the new field of historical archeology. The museum has occupied various spaces during its 67-year history but now resides on Cass Avenue in the historic Old Main building (est. 1896).

# Museum Holdings

The museum comprises 21 rooms housing over 540,000 objects, with a selection of items always on display in the front hall of Old Main. The collections focus on the archaeology of Detroit and Southeast Michigan, ethnographic examples from around the world, comparative collections of ceramics, buttons, and other items commonly found in regional archaeological contexts, and an anthropology library of over 8,000 volumes.



## Location

“Old Main”

Wayne State University

4841 Cass Avenue

Detroit, Michigan

Floors 00 and 01 (Gallery in 1227)

# Installations and Exhibitions

## Hallway Display

The cases on the first floor of Old Main are used for displaying significant aspects of the GLGMA under the topics: “Museum History,” “Archaeological Collections,” “Comparative Collections,” and “Ethnographic Collections.” You can find these cases outside of room 1114. The museum will continue to rotate relevant items from the collection into each section over the coming years.



# Main gallery

October 12, 2023 -  
February 19, 2024

“Exiled to Motown: The Japanese American Community in Detroit,” a loan exhibition created by the Japanese American Citizens League of Detroit was presented in cooperation with the Detroit Historical Museum. The exhibit explored Detroit’s history through the perspective of the Japanese American community. Objects loaned by the Wayne State University Art Collection supplemented the exhibition.

Events held in association with this exhibit included an opening reception, College of Arts and Sciences Family Alumni Day, Noel Night, and a screening of the documentary *Amache Rose*, followed by a question-and-answer session with Director Billy Kanaly and Carlene Tanigoshi Tinker, an Amache incarceration camp survivor.



## Exhibitions and Installations



March 22, 2024 – December 15, 2024

“The Art of the Drink,” curated by GLGMA director Andrew Maske, explored material culture related to the creation and consumption of grain-based alcoholic beverages in a variety of areas around the world, including the Americas, Europe, Africa, and East Asia. A special section, including a re-created speakeasy tunnel (left), focused on the impact of Prohibition on Detroit.



Objects in the Grosscup Museum collection were augmented with works loaned by the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, the Hamtramck Historical Museum, the Pucker Gallery, Boston, HopCat, the Detroit Yacht Club, and local private collections.

# Public and University Engagement

The GLGMA engages the public beyond the gallery, conducting off-site events.

On September 24th the museum participated in the Detroit cultural center's Educator's Night - engaging K-12 teachers at the Michigan Science Center and telling them about our programs.

On October 5th, the museum participated in Michigan Archaeology Day in Lansing (below). Three museum staff members and a volunteer traveled to the Michigan History Center to showcase the museum's bottle collection alongside research by undergraduate student Amanda Stockton on bottles recovered from the Gass Saloon archaeological site in Hamtramck.



# Museum Visitor Totals

As the museum increases in scope and influence, so does the number of annual visitors. The focus of recent exhibits has been greater collaboration with other institutions, scholars, and members of the community, serving and embracing more people than ever.

- Exhibition - “Exiled to Motown”: 1,325 visitors (25 off-site)
- Exhibition - “The Art of the Drink”: 1,835 visitors
- 2024 Year Total: 2,198 visitors





# WSU Class Visits and Lab Use

Faculty are encouraged to work with museum staff to develop their own class activities for upcoming exhibitions.

Gallery visits by course:

Introduction to Anthropology (ANT 1110)

Introduction to Biological Anthropology (ANT 2110, extra credit)

Introduction to Forensic Anthropology & Human Rights (ANT 2130, extra credit)

Lost Cities & Ancient Civilizations (ANT 2200)

Introduction to Interactivity in Graphic Arts (AGD 3260)

Other class/museum engagement:

- Understanding Africa: Past, Present and Future (ANT 3520): Students examined objects from the African collections to explore issues around collecting and museum acquisitions. Tours to the African collection room were also conducted to show storage procedures.
- Museum Studies (ANT 5600): Students accessioned a donation to learn how to efficiently describe objects and research the provenance of items based on donors' descriptions, and to learn the museum's registration procedures. They also learned how to use museum collection databases, such as PastPerfect, with a demonstration done by Associate Director McCullen.
- Field Work in Archaeology of the Americas (ANT 5280): Students used the lab to sort and clean artifacts from the Ukrainian Catholic Church site and other building locations they excavated at in Hamtramck.



# High School Visits

Two high school groups, one from Indiana and one from Mercy High School, Farmington Hills, visited the “Exiled to Motown” exhibit. The museum staff welcome visits by high school classes and can provide custom tours with advance notice.



# Events

## Amache Rose Film Screening | January 26, 2024

The Museum hosting a free screening of the documentary Amache Rose in the auditorium of Wayne State’s Prentis Building, designed by Japanese American architect Minoru Yamasaki.

## Japanese Tea Ceremony Presentation | February 19, 2024

Dr. Maske introduced community members and students to the etiquette of making and drinking matcha tea to commemorate the Japanese Day of Remembrance.

# Events

### Bring Your Child to Work Day | March 25, 2024

The museum welcomed our youngest Warriors to campus with their parents as they painted plaster-of-Paris objects like the *Frankie the Dachshund* statue in our exhibit.

### University Backyard Bash | August 24, 2024

To kick off the semester, the College of Education, the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences jointly hosted a “Backyard Bash,” outside Old Main, providing an opportunity for students and faculty to mingle. The museum gallery was open for visitors to tour the “Art of the Drink” exhibit.

### Noel Night | December 7, 2024

Over the five-hour event, the museum welcomed 994 visitors. An ad hoc ensemble from the Music Department provided 1920s-style jazz and Christmas tunes. The Anthropology Learning Community, the Anthropology Graduate Student Organization (AGSO), Preservation Detroit, and the Michigan Archaeology Society held engagement tables in conjunction with the museum’s activities.

### Michigan Archaeological Society Curation Nights

Held in the lab and library, the museum has collaborated with MAS to invite volunteers to inventory and photograph selected collections.

### Anthropology End-of-Term Celebrations

Traditionally held in the hallway outside of the museum, this year the gathering took place on December 11, bringing together department members, graduates, and alumni. The culminating celebration for the 2024-25 academic year will be held on April 21, 2025.

### Coffee Hour

On a specific day each month (usually the 2nd Tuesday) students, alumni, faculty, and community members are welcome to gather in the Anthropology library across from the gallery to discuss current events related to Anthropology. The number of attendees varies but is generally 5-15 people.

# “First Fridays” lectures

Dr. Felicia George | February 2, 2024

The PhD alumnus presented a talk on his new book, *When Detroit Played The Numbers*.

Continuing Engagements in Anthropology | March 1, 2024

Three alumni of the WSU PhD program in Anthropology, Dr. Angela Guy-Lee, Dr. Renady Hightower, and Dr. Gwendolyn Norman, engaged in a panel discussion moderated by Professor Andrea Sankar.

Dr. Daniel Harrison | September 6, 2024

The PhD alumnus presented a talk on his new book, *Michigan's Venice: The Transformation of the St. Clair Maritime Landscape, 1640-2000*.

Dr. Tom Killion | October 4, 2024

Professor of Anthropology, Dr. Tom Killion presented information on his recent research, entitled, “The Gardens of Alpuente: Village Vegetables and Resilient Farming in the Western Highlands of Valencia, Spain.”

Other First Friday talks were held elsewhere due to the seating constraints of the museum's library.

# Professional Collaboration

As a museum located in the middle of Detroit’s Cultural District, the GLGMA values its relationships with nearby museums and seeks to expand and deepen those connections.

- The “Exiled To Motown” exhibition was mounted in collaboration with the Detroit Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Detroit Historical Museum, who generated most of the content and 2D display elements. Additional materials were loaned by the Wayne State University Art Collection. The exhibition may be the first full loan exhibition ever presented at GLGMA.
- Director Andrew Maske continues to build contacts with area museums and cultural institutions as locations of internships for students pursuing WSU’s Graduate Certificate in Museum Practice. Among the new relationships developed over the past year are those with the Motown Museum, the Dearborn Historical Museum, the Cranbrook Science Museum, and the Eastside Community Network.
- Yaniel Vazquez Taset and Erikka Moncayo Moreno (Universidad Yachaytech) visited to learn about our museum organization and other local museums in collaboration with Dr. Tamara Bray of our museum committee. This visit was supported by a grant they received from the US Embassy in Ecuador.
- Loans from multiple sources were negotiated for the “Art of the Drink” exhibition, including the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology at the University of Michigan, the Reuther Library, the Hamtramck Historical Museum, the Detroit Yacht Club, the Pucker Gallery, Boston, HopCat Detroit, and private lenders.
- The museum coordinates with preservation staff at the city and state levels, as well as with colleagues in locally active Cultural Resource Management firms.
- The museum gained a connection with another WSU museum in the Department of Mortuary Science as they evaluated some of our comparative items related to burial practices.

# Outreach and Promotion

## Social Media and Web

Megan McCullen coordinated social media posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The museum continues to use Facebook and Instagram, and to a lesser extent X/Twitter, to engage the public about activities, events, and exhibitions. Those who are interested are encouraged to follow the museum on social media to find out the most current information on exhibitions and events!



**327 followers**

@WSUGrosscupMuseum



**471 followers**

@GrosscupMuseum



**427 followers**

@WSU\_Grosscup\_Museum

# Branded goods

The museum's branded shirts, beanies, and mechanical pencils are popular with volunteers and visitors. They have been featured as prizes at Anthropology-related student events such as the undergraduate Anthropology Learning Community's Game Night, held in collaboration with the History and Sociology Clubs.

Our reasonably-priced museum goods are available for purchase!

Contact the museum by email, [GrosscupMuseum@wayne.edu](mailto:GrosscupMuseum@wayne.edu), to find out how to get yours.



# Collections

The museum's collection exceeds 540,000 objects, most of which are archaeological items recovered from and related to sites in Greater Detroit and Southeast Michigan. The remainder consists of ethnographic collections from around the globe, taxidermy specimens, and various types of documentation.

## Acquisitions

### Archaeological Deposits via Cultural Resource Management Firms

Collaborations with professional archaeologists continue as the transfer of locally excavated collections to the museum increases.

Archaeological Collections from Cultural Resource Management (CRM) firms such as Mannik and Smith and Chronicle Heritage have been accessions to the museum's collections as the GLGMA continues to serve as an archaeological repository for collections from Metro Detroit. These project locations were within Wayne County and Oakland County and include sites from North Corktown, Rosa Parks Boulevard, and the Douglass Homes location, among others.

These objects were cataloged by these firms using WSU Catalog numbers, facilitating the importation of data into the museum's catalog system.



## Collections

### Private Donations

- Dr. Mary DuRocher donated 2 applique banners. These banners were acquired from Benin, West Africa.
- In December 2024, the Grosscup Museum Committee voted to purchase three Zulu beer pots that were displayed in the 'Art of the Drink' exhibition (below) from the Pucker Gallery, Boston. Beer pots, once ubiquitous in the KwaZulu Natal region of South Africa, have become increasingly rare since the 1990s, and the museum is pleased to have acquired three outstanding examples.



# Work on Collections

## Cataloguing and Inventorying

Fort Wayne and Fort Lernoult collections —With oversight from our Graduate Research Assistants, Olivia Evans and Gabriella Lloyd, volunteers have inventoried, reboxed and organized many artifacts within the Fort Wayne collection. Graduate students Ana Saenz, Matthew Michalski, Joseph Senk, and Carson Manfred, along with undergraduate Celia Alcalá, worked to inventory, rebox and organize the Fort Lernoult collection through funding from a WSU Division of Research Innovation Arts & Humanities Grant. New shelving, boxes and storage cabinets were also purchased to house both of these collections more compactly, which makes the most interesting and diagnostic items readily available.

Waterman Australian collection —During the summer of 2024, Sakina Dawson worked on the Australian collection which belonged to Dr. Richard Waterman, an ethnomusicologist and former chair of the WSU Department of Anthropology. Approximately 40 objects were inventoried, photographed, and stored within our new storage cabinets.

## NAGPRA

In fall 2022 the museum opened discussions with the Wyandot Nation of Oklahoma in efforts to repatriate remains recovered at the Gibraltar site in Wayne County. With the efforts of Dr. Jaymelee Kim and her graduate student Ericka Pica, progress had been made this year with materials and new connections.

Graduate student Cassie Anderson has also worked with Dr. Kim to inventory non-NAGPRA cemetery collections that will be returned.

## Collections

### Research

Femme Beings — Graduate students Sarah Pounders and Ana Saenz, Julie Julison, and Mozelle Bowers are using collections to highlight untold histories of female sex workers in the city of Detroit between 1830 and 1930. This project members were awarded NEH Deep Mapping Institute Fellowships in December 2024.

To learn more about the project, visit the website here:



Doctoral Student Miriam Entin (CUNY) came to campus for a week to examine artifacts in our collection from the Hastings Street neighborhood, an early 20th century Jewish neighborhood.

Professor John Chenoweth (University of Michigan-Dearborn) used artifacts from our collection to test computer software he is developing with his students. This collaboration is ongoing.

GLGMA director Andrew Maske visited the Amache incarceration camp site in southeast Colorado and attended the annual pilgrimage for survivors and descendants at which the camp location was designated a National Historic Site. Thereafter, he published the online article “Healing Injustice On The Plains” on the *History Colorado* website. This work grew out of the 2023-24 exhibition “Exiled To Motown: The Japanese American Community in Detroit.”

You can read the article here:



Dr. Maske also continued his work on the distribution of utilitarian ceramics in early modern Japan with a trip across the Pacific to visit museum, university, and cultural property repositories in central and southwestern Japan.

# Electronic Database Upgrade

In Fall 2024, the museum made progress with the electronic database PastPerfect, moving to use the most recent web-based version of this platform. With the help of Mel Mills, senior digital strategist in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the museum has launched a public website to showcase a number of artifacts within the collections. We will continue to add more objects to the website moving forward.

You can view these collections here:



# Facilities

## Overview

The museum includes a gallery, a laboratory of two rooms, ten collections storage rooms (six of which make up the basement component), a display/collections supply storage room, an archive, a library, an equipment closet, three faculty offices, an exhibit loan storage area, one office suite for museum staff, a graduate student office, and a hallway exhibit case accessible through Old Main Room 1114.

## Improvements

Efforts are underway to improve the museum facilities, particularly storage areas and the gallery. There are two principal reasons for this: 1) to improve conditions for the preservation of the museum's collection of artifacts, and 2) to reach a standard that will enable the museum to host more traveling exhibitions.

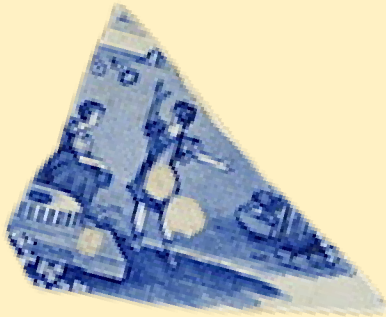
### Museum Office Suite

The unoccupied room in the Museum Office Suite that was temporarily designated as a meeting and break room has been reallocated as a storage room for loans and other artifacts in transition between storage and display. The entrance area to the suite continues to serve as an informal seating area where students can meet with staff or wait while other spaces are being used.

### Furniture and Equipment

The museum has made improvements to storage by installing new large storage cabinets and metal rolling carts and moving objects to those spaces to take down wooden storage shelves. Within the Fort Collections storage room, all wooden shelves have been removed and were replaced with metal rolling carts and two medium-sized storage cabinets. Additionally, one large storage cabinet has been installed in our Ethnographic and Comparative Collections room to house the Waterman Australian Collection and portions of the Grosscup Ceramic Collection, among other objects.

The museum continues to explore ways to upgrade and stabilize climate control and lighting in the museum gallery. It currently uses the same HVAC system that services classrooms and other spaces in Old Main, supplemented with a portable air purifier. Lighting consists of overhead fluorescent bulbs, plus LED lighting in three of the older cases. Light levels in most areas of the gallery far exceed the preferred limits for light-sensitive artifacts, with some sources also emitting UV light, which can be harmful. Exterior ambient light also enters through the windows, which are shaded, but not sealed. Donors in last year's Giving Day provided funds to be used to reduce the UV light from the overhead lighting. These light covers are at the museum and will be installed this year.



# Challenges and Goals

Because the GLGMA occupies more than twenty separate rooms in Old Main, there are significant and ongoing challenges to maintaining those spaces so that the collections and equipment housed there remain in optimal condition. Moreover, the museum seeks to improve and upgrade its record-keeping, storage, and display capabilities to ensure that the institution provides better protection of accessioned objects, more resources for Wayne State students, and more engaging experiences for gallery visitors.

## Access and Security

Museum staff are in ongoing conversations with University Facilities staff about improving security of lab, gallery, and storage spaces, and anticipate development of a plan during the next year.



# Volunteers

Student volunteers provide valuable support for the museum in keeping the gallery open during the academic year, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Friday evenings 5 - 8 p.m. Student volunteers also assist with events and outreach, including Michigan Archaeology Day and Noel Night. Students also assist in the museum's lab once a week to sort through archaeological collections with our graduate assistant.

To provide professional development for volunteers, the museum has hosted volunteer field trips to neighboring museums in the area, including the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Historical Society's Collection Resource Center, Fort Wayne, and the WSU Mortuary Science Museum.

## Thank You

Zayna Alanisi  
Brenna Austin  
Gavin Baltes  
Joy Barksdale  
Matthew Bedard  
Lia Berigan  
Jacob Bloom  
Kenna Booher  
Carolyn Campbell  
Lindsey Craig  
Leah Cunningham  
Linda Darga  
Karen Davis  
Sakina Dawson  
Bronwen Dingemann

Caleb Douglas  
Phillip Fogle  
Megan Garret  
Miranda Grant  
Brandon Graves  
Aishlyn Hernandez  
Zyk Hlavacek  
Callum Johnston  
Julie Julison  
Aurora Rose Kaptur  
Claire Kussinen  
Joseph Loeffler  
Rishabh Raman

Alina Ramirez  
Ava Rea  
Gwenyth Richards  
Emily Rockhold  
Rebecca Rymski  
Omar Saad  
Juniper Schrage  
Zoya Jan Shariff  
Alicia Shiff

Kim Shay  
Inger Sundell-Ranby  
Mercury Talbot  
Alexander Tomaszewski  
Lexi Tuley  
Morgan Walter  
Holly Watson  
Emerson Wierda  
Mira Yung







# Finances

## Funding

For much of its first sixty years, the anthropology museum operated on donated time and materials supplemented by occasional grants and ad hoc funds provided by Professor Gordon Grosscup and others. In 2016, Professor Grosscup established a Museum of Anthropology Fund to support the creation of special exhibitions in the museum.

Since 2022, the museum has received a small annual sum from the university for operating expenses.

When he passed away in 2021, Professor Gordon Grosscup left a bequest from his estate to his namesake museum. An announcement regarding the bequest will be made once the arrangements for its disbursement are finalized, which should be in 2025.

This year the museum wrapped up work funded by the WSU Division of Research & Innovation's Arts & Humanities grant. This funding allowed us to purchase improved collections storage materials for Fort Wayne and Fort Lernoult collections, and to support several students that organized, inventoried and rebagged/reboxed objects that have been stored in less-than-ideal conditions since their excavations from the 1960s-1980s.

# Scholarships

Two student scholarship funds are awarded annually by selection of the museum staff and Museum Committee faculty.

The Alan Hugley Endowed Scholarship Award is given to students for their outstanding efforts as museum volunteers. The 2024 year's recipients were Emily Rockhold, Sakina Dawson, Aurora Kaptur and Emerson Wierda.

The Coleman "Steve" Demeter Endowed Graduate Scholarship is awarded to outstanding MA students in historical archaeology that work on research with collections. The 2024 recipient was Masters student Sarah Pounders.

Sakina Dawson, recipient of the Hugley Award



# Private Donations

On Wayne State Giving Day 2024, \$1360 was donated by numerous contributors for the purchase of UV-protective material to cover light bulbs and windows in the museum gallery. The museum thanks all contributors for their kind generosity.

## Play a Part!

The Gordon L. Grosscup Museum of Anthropology welcomes contributions to help fulfill our mission and achieve our goals. You can also donate to the Hugley or Demeter awards as a write-in as well.

To donate to the museum: Go to the link below and select “Dr. Gordon L. Grosscup Museum of Anthropology Exhibit Fund” from the drop-down box.

To donate to one of the award funds select “Other” from the drop down box and you will be allowed to write in “Hugley Award” or “Demeter Award” and the money will be deposited in the correct account.

[go.wayne.edu/give-anthromuseum](https://go.wayne.edu/give-anthromuseum)



# Staff

## Director

Andrew L. Maske

## Associate Director

Megan McCullen

## Graduate Research Assistant

Gabriela Perez Lloyd (2023-2024)

Olivia Evans (2024-2025)

## Undergraduate Museum Assistant

Caleb Douglas (2023-2024)

Celia Alcala (2024-2025)

## Museum Committee

Tamara Bray, Thomas Killion, Jaymelee Kim, Krysta Ryzewski (ex-officio)

Professor Maske is jointly appointed in Museum Studies/Anthropology and supervises the Graduate Certificate in Museum Practice. Dr. McCullen is also Director of the University Planetarium. The GRA is a funded graduate position in Anthropology. The Museum Committee is composed of Anthropology Department faculty specializing in Archaeology and Biological Anthropology, and consults on museum operations and priorities.

The museum lacks its own support staff but is grateful to Anthropology/Criminal Justice employees Harmony Durden and Blake Pierce, who assist with budgets, procurement, and university logistics, as well as newly hired departmental events specialist Jayme Brown.



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