



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Gordon L. Grosscup
Museum of Anthropology
Detroit, Michigan



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Mission



As a component of the Wayne State University Department of Anthropology, the Gordon L. Grosscup Museum of Anthropology (GLGMA) exists to train university students through participation 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, our 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 mission is grounded in collections-based scholarship and the stewardship of its archaeological and ethnographic resources.



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 65-year history but now resides on Cass Avenue in the historic Old Main building (1896).

The 2022-23 academic year brought significant changes to the GLGMA. For the first time in its history, the provost assigned recurring funding to the institution and its programs. As the university emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, expansions in staff and initiatives also took place, facilitated by the additional funding.

Exhibitions and Installations

Main gallery

Beginning in the 2022-23 academic year, the museum staff plans to mount two changing exhibitions each year in the museum gallery.

Continuing from 2021 – Feb.16, 2023 – **“From Allada to Detroit: Story Telling through Material Culture in the African Diaspora,”** a commemorative exhibit of works collected by the late Professor Guerin Montilus.

Sept. 20, 2022 – Feb. 16, 2023 – **“Talking Textiles: Fiber Arts of West Africa,”** an exhibit of African textile items from the collection of WSU alumnus Dr. Karen Davis.



March 23, 2023 – Sept. 15, 2023 – **“The Science of Culture,”** an installation demonstrating Anthropology as a STEM discipline, featuring research by anthropology faculty Barry Lyons, Randy Haas, Andrew Maske, and students from Tamara Bray’s Museum Studies class. Produced in part through funding from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

Hall cases



The front hall case on the first floor of Old Main is maintained by the museum. Graduate Research Assistant Carly Slank designed the exhibit on display from 2020 to 2022, which featured collection objects related to the themes “Subsistence Practices,” “Paleolithic Life,” “Industrialization,” and “Religious Worldviews,” components relevant to the museum’s 60th Anniversary exhibit, “The Secret Life of Things.”

In January 2023, a display focusing on significant aspects of the museum collections was installed, with sections outlining “Museum History,” “Archaeological Collections,” “Comparative Collections,” and “Ethnographic Collections.” Current plans are to maintain this layout for several years, rotating relevant items from the collection into each section every semester.



Engagement and outreach

The GLGMA engages the public both in the gallery and by participating in off-site events, including visits to school classrooms and special events statewide.

In 2022-23, the museum took part in Michigan Archaeology Day at the State History Center in Lansing and visited three 7th grade classes in Livonia public schools. The museum also hosted a presentation by alumnus Marcy O'Neil and her colleagues from West Africa at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. The museum engaged over 800 people off-site.

On Dec. 14 and 15, 2022, two middle and elementary school groups (Madison Elementary's JEDI club, and Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences 8th Grade) visited the museum to learn about African art and culture, including the "Talking Textiles" and "From Allada to Detroit" exhibitions.

Since "The Science of Culture" exhibition opened on March 23, 2023, a total of 446 visitors have visited the GLGMA.

The museum gallery hosts a range of WSU classes each year. In 2022-23, several instructors of Introduction to Anthropology brought their classes to the gallery. The anthropology class Understanding Africa visited as well. Two extra credit opportunities for courses in African American studies were also held in the museum gallery. These involved performances by The Florella Strings, which were held in conjunction with gallery talks by Dr. Karen Davis.

Events



Dr. Carolyn Campbell hosted musical performances in the gallery for students in her African American Studies classes.

Noel Night – December 3, 2022 – The Museum hosted 314 visitors. Entertainment included Haitian Drumming by Geraud Dimanche and a variety of kids’ activities. The Detroit chapter of the Michigan Archeology Society also set up a table to recruit new members.

- **CLAS Alumni Family Day, March 25, 2023** – Several families of alumni visited “The Science of Culture” exhibition.
- **STEM Day, Apr. 25, 2023** – The museum hosted 50 visitors. Middle school students learned about non-invasive techniques for studying museum objects and artifact conservation methods. DIA conservation scientist Dr. Christina Bisulca assisted.
- **Bring Your Child to Work Day, Apr. 27, 2023** – Staff and their children visited the exhibit and participated in making ‘rock art’ and reconstructing art tiles donated by Detroit’s historic Pewabic Pottery.
- **Anthropology Department End-of-Term Parties** – Resuming a custom from before the pandemic, these get-togethers were held in the Old Main hallway outside the museum on Dec. 13 and May 5, bringing together department members, graduates, and alumni.
- **Coffee Hour** – The museum hosts a monthly gathering in the library to which students, alumni, faculty and community members are welcome.



“First Fridays” lectures

Feb. 3, 2023 – Director Andrew Maske spoke via Zoom for the Anthropology Department series “First Fridays” about his research on Japanese entertainers known as geisha.

Apr. 7, 2023 – Dr. Michelle Jacobs, Associate Professor of Sociology, discussed her new book. This was the first in-person lecture in the series since the 2020-2023 pandemic. It was held in the Anthropology Library in the museum and was attended by 50 people.

Professional collaboration

- As a museum in the middle of Detroit’s Cultural District, GLGMA values its relationships with nearby cultural institutions. Detroit Institute of Arts Conservation Scientist, Dr. Christina Bisulca, kindly continued her informal consultations with the museum, answering questions about materials and processes used in objects in the GLGMA collection, such as our African mask that incorporates beeswax as an adhesive.
- In December 2022, Museum volunteers visited the Archives at the Detroit Institute of Arts for an introduction by Director Maria Ketchum and WSU Anthropology alumnus (Archivist) James Hanks.
- On Dec. 9 2022, Dr. Christian Greer of the Michigan Science Center held a seminar with multiple faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to discuss ways to expand science education.
- Director Andrew Maske is expanding contacts with area museums to support the new Graduate Certificate, including the required Museum Practicum course taught each year in spring/summer term.

Social media

Associate Director, Megan McCullen coordinated social media posts on [Facebook \(@WSUGrosscupMuseum\)](#), [Instagram \(@wsu_grosscup_museum\)](#), and [Twitter \(@GrosscupMuseum\)](#). These outlets are a good way to disseminate information about the museum's activities, but attempts to evaluate their effectiveness are ongoing. Staff are continuing to look for new and better ways to extend the museum's reach to the public.

Social media metrics

Facebook (@WSUGrosscupMuseum)

During the 2022-23 academic year, Facebook reached 2100 people had 313 followers, 762 page visits, and 32 new followers.

Instagram (@wsu_grosscup_museum)

During the 2022-23 academic year, Instagram reached 2700 people, had 349 followers, 358 profile visits, and 27 new followers.

Twitter (@GrosscupMuseum)

Currently has 491 followers.

Education

The museum acquired items to create several child activities for events and exhibition spaces. They included half-size skull models for the "Science of Culture" exhibit and tiles donated by Pewabic Pottery. Anthropology students also created a number of museum-related activities like tracking linguistic usage in Michigan of terms such as pop, soda, Coke, etc.



Branded goods

To promote the museum and its activities, the first GLGMA branded goods were created in 2022. The three categories of items were mechanical pencils inscribed “Grosscup Museum” in green on white, t-shirts with “Wayne State University, Grosscup Museum of Anthropology” and the museum logo in green on yellow, and winter beanies with pom poms in gray and black with “Grosscup Museum of Anthropology” embroidered in gold.

At present, these items are distributed to museum supporters and volunteers, but are also available for donations of \$1 each for pencils and \$10 each for hats and t-shirts. Distribution of these items increases the visibility of the museum, boosts morale among staff and volunteers, and augments the museum’s income. Currently, purchases can be made only in person at the museum. Depending on the popularity of these items, others may also be ordered in the future, with sales possibly routed through the university bookstore.





Collections

The Museum's collection exceeds 540,000 objects, the vast majority of which are archaeological items recovered from or related to sites in Metro Detroit and Southeast Michigan. The remainder consists of ethnographic collections from around the globe, taxidermy specimens, and various types of documentary materials.

Acquisitions

- Mariner's Inn Collection, Detroit, Michigan – Approximately 1200 archaeological artifacts excavated from this site by the cultural resource management firm Mannik & Smith were accepted May 16, 2023. This collection arrived already catalogued with GLGMA numbers and was moved directly into storage.
- Fort Wayne Collection, Detroit, Michigan – Approximately 350 archaeological artifacts excavated at historic Fort Wayne by the CRM firm Grey & Pape were accepted Jun. 8, 2023. These items were donated by the General Services Department of the City of Detroit and are in the process of being catalogued.
- Grosscup Collection of Comparative Ceramics – Ceramics filling ten banker boxes arrived at the museum on April 6, 2023. These pieces from Professor Grosscup's home were left to the museum already numbered and keyed to matching numbered cards that indicate the dates of makers' marks, design types, and provenance of acquisition.

Cataloguing

Work to catalogue and inventory objects in the collection this year focused primarily on three groups of objects: archaeological materials from Fort Lernoult/Fort Shelby, c. 1778-1826; archaeological materials from Fort Wayne Detroit, c. 1841-1976; and ceramics from the museum's comparative ceramics collection (18th-20th centuries). The fort collections are being prepared for an exhibition to be mounted during the 2026 Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) conference that will be held in Detroit. The comparative ceramics are being prepared for possible use in a future exhibition on ceramics and human culture.

Collections

Electronic database upgrade

The Museum has been engaged in negotiations to upgrade its electronic database PastPerfect from a computer-isolated system to one that can be accessed via the Internet, which would enable cataloguing work to be carried out in storage or edited remotely. It is hoped that an agreement can be worked out between WSU's legal team and the company, who have been at loggerheads for several years.

NAGPRA

(Repatriation of Native American Human Remains and Related Objects)

The Museum's Notice of Inventory Completion was submitted to the national NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) office in the summer of 2022 and was published in the National Register in the fall of 2022.

In August 2022, the remains of two individuals were returned to the University of Michigan NAGPRA office. These remains, from Point Pelee, Ontario, were loaned to WSU in the 1960s.

In fall 2022 the museum opened discussions with the Wyandot Nation of Oklahoma (the federally recognized Wyandot tribal representatives) in efforts to repatriate remains recovered at the Gibraltar site in Wayne County. This process is ongoing.



Facilities and infrastructure

Overview

The Museum includes a gallery, a two-room laboratory, ten collection 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, one office suite for museum staff, a graduate student office, and a hallway exhibit case located in the first floor hallway of Old Main.

The Museum gallery consists of one room of approximately 1500 square feet on the first floor of Old Main. Casework is mostly a combination of cases fabricated in-house and hand-me-downs from other institutions such as the nearby Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Historical Society. Climate control is part of the same system that services classrooms and other spaces in Old Main, plus a portable air purifier. Lighting consists of overhead florescent bulbs, plus LED lighting in three of the cases. Some exterior ambient light also enters through the windows, which are shaded but not sealed.

The museum also includes the Anthropology Library which contains over 8,000 volumes. Approximately 1,000 of these are artifact identification texts located in the laboratory, while the remainder of texts are housed in the museum library, and reflect an eclectic array of ethnographical materials, archaeological site reports, and anthropology-related texts to support student research.

Museum spaces are actively used by students throughout the year. The lab is used by various classes and research students each year, who access these spaces during the period of their coursework. The gallery is monitored by volunteer docents. The library is used for several Anthropology department seminars by the Learning Community, and the Anthropology Graduate Student Organization. Graduate students also often use this space as a study area.

Conservation assessment

In March 2022, a Conservation Assessment of the GLGMA, funded by an NEH Preservation Assistant Grant was conducted by Julie A. Reilly of the Intermuseum Conservation Association. The assessment's report determined that 97% of the collection records exist only in paper form, while 3% had been entered into the museum's database, PastPerfect. During the past year, the museum has begun to explore ways to address collections-related concerns raised in the forty-page report, including improving storage, updating record keeping, and rectifying conservation-related concerns in both storage and display areas.

Challenges and goals

Because the GLGMA occupies more than twenty separate rooms in Old Main, the challenges to maintaining those spaces so that the collections and equipment housed there remain in optimal condition are significant and ongoing. Beyond mere maintenance, the museum hopes 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.

Signage

As restrictions due to COVID-19 were eased and students returned to campus, it was recognized that very little signage existed in Old Main to direct visitors to the museum gallery. Ph.D. candidate Carly Slank designed and installed several signs around Old Main to increase visitor awareness of the museum and its location.

The Museum hosts or participates in numerous university and public events throughout the year. To attract attention to the museum and its activities and provide a durable and portable identifying landmark at large-scale events, Carly Slank also designed the museum's first pull-up banner first used in fall. The banners will be ready for use by fall semester 2023.

Improvements

Museum office suite

The Museum Office Suite is undergoing a transformation with the arrival of a second museum staff member (Maske). Old file cabinets, metal shelves, and hard copies of documents have been removed. The room that contained Professor Grosscup's clipping collection, two desks, and a typewriter is being transformed into a meeting and break room.

The refrigerator and coffee maker in the lab will be moved to the break room so that food can be kept away from artifacts. A table and six chairs also have been added, and the Museum Committee and the Archaeology Graduate Student Organization (AGSO) have begun to hold meetings there. The entrance area to the suite has been established as an informal seating area where students can meet with staff or wait while other spaces are being used.

Case lighting

Improvements to exhibit lighting have begun in response to recommendations from an external consultant in 2022. The fluorescent lights in the three large, lit cases in the gallery were replaced with LED lighting. The six halogen bulbs in the hallway case were also replaced with LED lights. UV protective film for gallery windows has been ordered but is temporarily unavailable, so installation will take place once delivery is received.

Facilities and Infrastructure



Furniture and equipment, new and old

Numerous pieces of furniture were received as part of founder Gordon Grosscup's estate, including desks, tables, a coat rack, some lamps, display cabinets and numerous barrister bookshelves. A humorous acquisition was a plastic falcon that Dr. Grosscup used as a scarecrow in his garden. The model was given to the CLAS PR office on the second floor of Old Main to educate the public about the falcons that live on a high ornamental balcony of Old Main. It has been dubbed "Gordy."

To make room for the newly acquired items, the museum spent a considerable sum on the removal of surplus equipment from its spaces this year. Over sixteen file cabinets and numerous unused tables, desks, chairs, and shelving systems were removed.

The museum's plotter printer for labels, posters, and other custom signage required repair, another significant expense.

Access and security

Efforts are ongoing to upgrade both key, card, and punch-code locks in Museum spaces. Adequate security is essential to obtaining permission for personal and institutional loans of objects and exhibitions. It is also important for limiting access to Museum spaces to only those students who have received approval for a specific period of time.

Water issues

Over the past year, the museum storage spaces suffered two leaks, one major and one minor. Unfortunately, these leaks resulted in damage to some of the objects stored in the affected areas. Rapid action to mitigate damage was complicated by labor shortages that affect availability of Facilities staff.

Efforts continued to relocate sensitive artifacts from storage areas that were impacted by flooding in 2021. Conversations are ongoing about the best ways to prepare for similar events in the future.

Museum personnel 2022-2023

Professor **Andrew Maske** was hired as director in August 2022. Trained in art history, specifically Asian ceramics, Professor Maske was Curator of Japanese Art at the Peabody Essex Museum from 1999-2005 and has contributed to exhibitions at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, the Denver Art Museum, the Seattle Art Museum, the Capital Museum, Beijing, the Fukuoka Art Museum, Japan, and others. He also directs the new WSU Graduate Certificate in Museum Practice which is housed in Anthropology.

Dr. **Megan McCullen**, a specialist in Michigan archaeology, transitioned to Associate Director after the hiring of Maske, retaining her role as Director of the Planetarium.

The Museum Committee consisted of: Professors **Tamara Bray**, **Tom Killion** (fall only), and **Randy Haas**, joined by Anthropology Chair **Krysta Ryzewski** as member ex-officio.

- M.A. student **John Cardinal** was the graduate research assistant for 2022-2023.
- Ph.D. candidate **Carly Slank** assisted the museum in her role as graduate teaching assistant in fall semester.
- M.A. student **Casey Carter** worked on making an inventory of the collections for the academic year.
- AGRAD student **Brittney Eastin** worked with collections cataloguing in winter term.
- M.A. student **Patrick Dear** worked on exhibit materials and exit evaluation with grant funds from MACC.
- Anthropology M.A. students **John Cardinal**, **Casey Carter**, and **Bryan Lamorena** and Archives M.A. student **Andrew Willhelme** were hired to process collections from Fort Wayne and Fort Lernoult through an OVPR Arts & Humanities grant in summer 2023.

The museum's support staff: **Harmony Durden** and **Uzma Khan**, with the latter replaced by **Blake Pierce** in fall 2022. These employees also support both the anthropology and criminal justice departments.

Remembrances



Museum namesake, curator, and emeritus professor **Gordon L. Grosscup** passed away on Nov. 9, 2021 at the age of 94. A memorial was held at Professor Grosscup's favorite watering hole, Traffic Jam & Snug, on May 6, 2022.



Anthropology Professor Emeritus **Guérin Montilus** passed away on Feb. 17, 2023 at the age of 90. He will be missed dearly by all in the museum who knew him. Tributes were given at the Anthropology department end-of-year event on Apr. 25, 2023.



Volunteers

- The museum is grateful for the contributions of our alumni and community volunteers: Don Adzigian, Carolyn Campbell, Karen Davis, Linda Darga, Inger Sundy-Ranby.
- To clarify the parameters of volunteer activities, in fall 2022 a volunteer agreement was created. Although not a legal document, the agreement presents guidelines and agreed standards of conduct for volunteers in the museum.
- Student volunteers regularly assist in keeping the gallery open during the academic year, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday evenings 5 to 8 p.m. Student volunteers also assist with events and outreach, including Michigan Archaeology Day and STEM Day.



Preservation of museum-related faculty papers

- Papers of Professor Bernice “Bunny” Kaplan (1923-2020) – These were left to the museum by Bunny but will be transferred to the University Archives for preservation.
- Papers of Professor Gordon Grosscup (1927-2021) – Following Professor Grosscup’s death in November 2021, the museum received the papers that remained in his home and office. Those relevant to the museum’s collections and operations were retained by GLGMA, with the remainder transferred to the university archives.



Funding and scholarships

Recurrent funding

For much of its first sixty years, the Anthropology Museum survived without a steady stream of funding. Donated time and materials supplemented by occasional grants and ad hoc funds provided by Professor Gordon Grosscup enabled it to operate. A small exhibit fund was established in 1988, and in 2016, Professor Grosscup established his own fund to support the creation of special exhibitions in the museum. Finally, as part of Andrew Maske's hire in fall of 2022, an annual budget from the university was established for the first time in the museum's history.

Internal grants

OVPR Grant

The Museum received an Arts & Humanities Research Support Grant for 'Occupied Detroit: Native American Landscapes in an Urban Colonial Space' totaling \$44,944 from the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). This grant will be used to organize the collections from Fort Lernoult and Fort Wayne and collaborate with tribal liasons on the possibility of developing a future exhibit around Indigenous uses of the landscape in and around Detroit during the colonial period. Two graduate students in Anthropology and one graduate student in Archives Administration have been hired to organize and sort these collections. Storage supplies have also been acquired using these funds.

External grants



MACC Grant

The Museum received a Michigan Arts & Culture Council Project Support Grant entitled "Exhibition: Many Ways of Knowing – STEM & the Humanities in Anthropology" totaling \$6,979. This grant supports the 2023 exhibit "The Science of Culture" and programming around it, along with evaluation of the project.

Bequest

Upon his death in late 2021, Professor Gordon Grosscup left in his will a financial bequest to his namesake museum. Throughout the 2022-23 academic year, museum staff have been working with the executor of the Grosscup estate in preparation for this contribution. The donation is expected to be processed and available for disposition beginning in 2023-24.

Scholarships

Two student scholarship funds are awarded by selection of the museum staff and Museum Committee faculty. The Alan Hugley Endowed Scholarship Award is given to students for outstanding efforts as volunteers. This year's recipients were Julie Julison, Patience Johnson-Williams, Emily Rockhold. and Aleah Edwards. The Coleman "Steve" Demeter Endowed Graduate Scholarship is awarded to outstanding student museum volunteers focusing historical research on archeology. John Cardinal received the award in 2022, and no award was given in 2023.

Contact information

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ANASTASIA WOODY

First student to complete
the Graduate Certificate in
Museum Practice

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MUSEUM PRACTICE

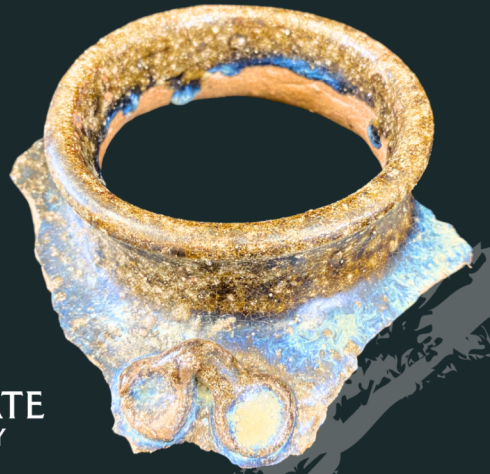
Wayne State's Graduate Certificate in Museum Practice prepares graduates with broad critical knowledge and essential skills relating to different facets of museum operations. The certificate program unites history, theory and practical learning in a curriculum that lays the groundwork for professional careers in museums and other cultural and heritage institutions. The program is available to students interested in complementing their discipline-based work in master's or doctoral programs across the university, as well as emerging museum professionals and others who wish to pursue it as a free-standing credential.

Visit this website for more information:

<https://clas.wayne.edu/anthropology/grad/gc-museum-practice>



THE SCIENCE OF CULTURE



GLGMA's
Major Exhibition
of 2023



WAYNE STATE
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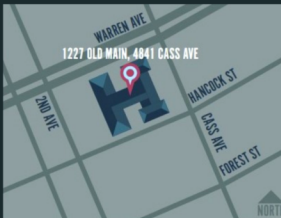


THE SCIENCE OF CULTURE

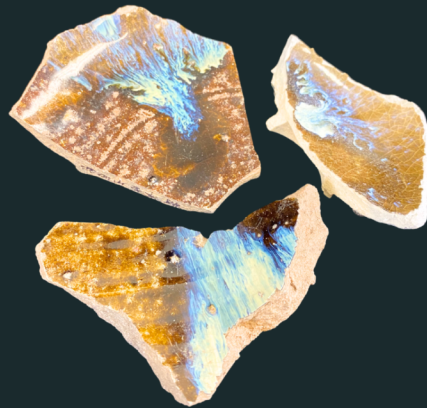
OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, March 23rd 2023, 4-6PM

RSVP by Friday March 17th at
go.wayne.edu/AnthroRecep,
or by calling 313-577-2935



GORDON L. GROSSCUP
MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY



Check out our website for more information
<http://www.clas.wayne.edu/anthromuseum/>



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