

# FY20 Annual Report

Denno Museum Center at Northwestern Michigan College



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Cover Image: Visitors attend the opening reception for *Ergo Sum: A Crow a Day*. On August 1, 2014 Canadian-born artist Karen Bondarchuk set out to mark the passing time that her mother – diagnosed with dementia in 2010 – no longer could. For 365 days, she produced a crow a day on a hand-cut, hand-gessoed panel, remembering her mother as she once was and grieving her loss.

Above: Dennon Museum Center staff responded to COVID-19 by producing an alternative web-based concert series to engage our membership and support local artists and businesses.

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## From the Director

Dear friends of the Denmos Museum Center,

COVID-19 has affected our communities, our friends, and our loved ones in ways none of us could have ever anticipated. Every sector of our economy has been affected, and museums have certainly not been immune to the challenges that the global pandemic has brought with it.

Nevertheless, our community museum is still “engaging, entertaining, and enlightening audiences.”

I am fortunate to be surrounded by colleagues who believe strongly in the value of a community museum. Our museum staff has stepped up to provide an unprecedented level of digital engagement since closing our doors in mid-March due to COVID-19. Since that time, our staff has worked to engage and partner on the following initiatives:

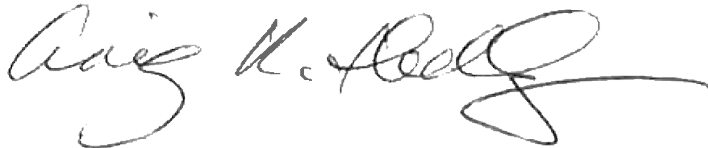
- A free virtual concert series promoting local artists and the Crosshatch Artist Fund
- Virtual exhibitions featuring community artwork
- Efforts to pool emergency medical supplies from arts organizations for local hospitals
- A sculpture day panel discussion co-hosted by the Denmos and Michigan Legacy Art Park
- And Draw NoMI collaborative efforts, including twice-weekly drawing demonstrations

We are deeply grateful to all of our members and community supporters during this trying time. Your support and generosity has enabled our staff to continue delivering these creative programs for our community at no charge, while still planning for reopening and on-site public engagement.

While the world around us seems to be changing faster than we can keep up, one thing is certain—the Denmos Museum Center will be here to provide educational opportunities, entertainment, and a sense of community in this trying time.

We look forward to continuing this important work in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Craig Hadley  
Executive Director and Chief Curator



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## About Us

### **Mission**

The Denno Museum Center seeks to engage, entertain and enlighten its audiences through the collection of art, and the presentation of exhibitions and programs in the visual arts, sciences and performing arts.

### **Vision**

We will be respected by our peers and appreciated by a growing audience.

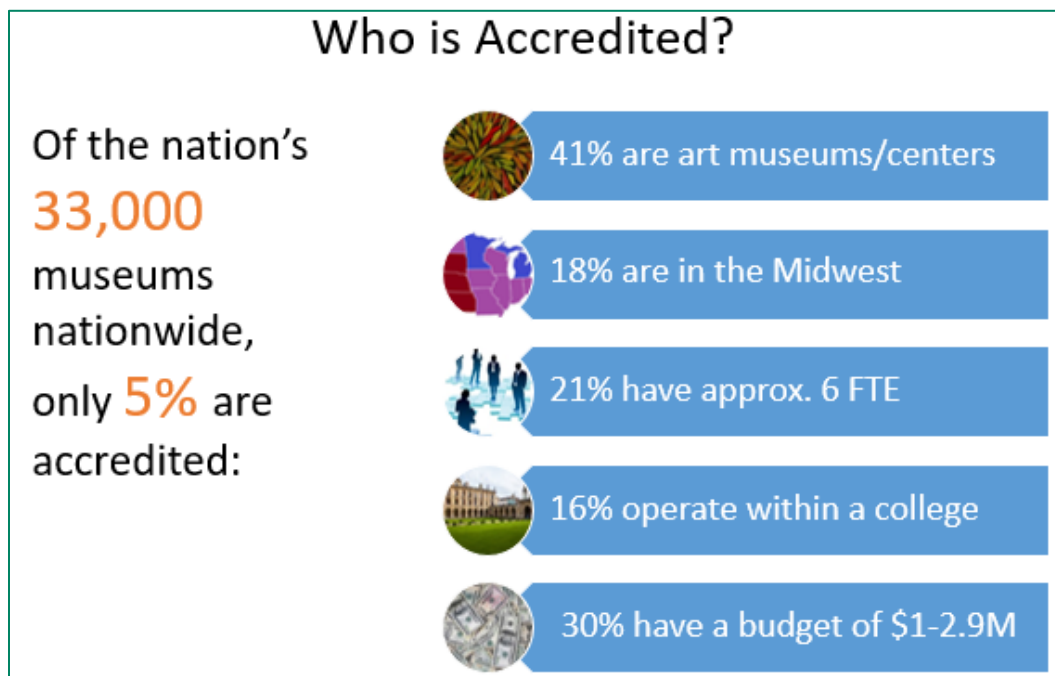
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Above: Installation photograph of the Diana & Richard Milock Wing, spring 2020



The Denmos Museum Center received its first Museum Assessment Program (MAP) award from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the Institute for Museum and Library Services in 2019. As part of the review process, the Denmos will undergo its first AAM peer review in fall 2020 in preparation for “core documents verification” from the Alliance. The verification process includes a review of critical museum policies, including the mission statement, collections management policy, code of ethics, strategic plan, and disaster preparedness.





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## Exhibitions Temporary

# THE LURE OF NIAGARA: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHARLES RAND PENNEY HISTORICAL NIAGARA FALLS PRINT COLLECTION

JUNE 7, 2020 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

It is believed that more prints were made of Niagara Falls before the twentieth century than of any other specific place, and The Charles Rand Penney Collection of Historical Niagara Falls Prints is the largest collection of this genre. Viewing so many images of one subject together, we can gain new insights not only about the location itself, but also about the manner in which the scene has been depicted, emerging with a deeper understanding of the history of Niagara Falls.



The collection is organized into seven thematic categories—Hennepin & Derivatives, A Variety of Depictions, Niagara As a Symbol, Popular Prints, Prints for the Wealthy, Extraordinary Events, and Maps. The immense size and fragility of the complete collection precludes a presentation in its entirety. The Lure of Niagara: Highlights from the Charles Rand Penney Historical Niagara Falls Print Collection features works, representative of the larger holdings of the collection, which are symbolic, commercially popular, historically relevant, and particularly unique.

# 40 CHANCES: FINDING HOPE IN A HUNGRY WORLD

JANUARY 19, 2020 – APRIL 19, 2020

In this powerful exhibit featuring the photography of Howard G. Buffett, 40 photographs document the world hunger crisis as part of a global awareness campaign. Traveling to more than 137 countries, Buffett turned his camera lens on the powerful forces that fuel hunger and poverty. A philanthropist and farmer, Buffett believes that each of us has about 40 chances to accomplish our life goals, just as farmers have about 40 growing seasons to improve their harvests. His photography is a call to action to find lasting solutions to the world hunger crisis.



*40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World* was developed by the Newseum in collaboration with Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The Newseum, located in Washington, D.C., increases public understanding of the importance of free press and the First Amendment. [newseum.org](http://newseum.org)

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation is the exclusive sponsor of *40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World*.

# PULPED UNDER PRESSURE

JANUARY 19, 2020 — MAY 24, 2020

With traditional hand papermaking at its core, *PULPED UNDER PRESSURE* underscores important contemporary issues steeped in history and craft. Enticed through touch, these works encourage a contemplative slowing down even as they urge acknowledgement of some of the most pressing issues (environmental crisis to global marginalization) facing civilization today. Each of the artists, Jillian Bruschera, Julia Goodman, Reni Gower, Trisha Oralie Martin, Melissa Potter, Marilyn Propp, Maggie Puckett, starts simply with a foundation of pulp made from natural fibers. Their multifaceted results incorporate a rich range of printmaking, letterpress, papercutting, and installation with a diversity of recycled disposable materials (junk mail, egg cartons, old cotton t-shirts, ripped denim jeans) as well as old bedsheets, beetroot, heirloom plants, and illuminated el wires. In very unique ways, these artists consider paper beyond its most common function as a passive surface of record or craft. Instead, the material is transformed and imbedded with content that turns communication into a public practice. By challenging assumptions, the artists of *PULPED UNDER PRESSURE* create artworks



## ERGO SUM: A CROW A DAY

JANUARY 19, 2020 — MAY 24, 2020

On August 1, 2014 Canadian-born artist Karen Bondarchuk set out to mark the passing time that her mother – diagnosed with dementia in 2010 – no longer could. For 365 days, she produced a crow a day on a hand-cut, hand-gessoed panel, remembering her mother as she once was and grieving her loss. The resulting work explores communication and an artist's relationship to the world; it resonates for its depth, beauty, and elegiac and potent whimsy.



## CAROLE HARRIS: ART QUILTS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019 — DECEMBER 29, 2019

Carole Harris is a fiber artist who has redefined and subverted the basic concepts of quilting to suit her own purposes. She extends the boundaries of traditional quilting by exploring other forms of stitchery, irregular shapes, textures, materials, and objects. Harris enjoyed a career as an interior designer for over 45 years, 33 years as president of Harris Design Group, LLC, the interior and graphic design firm she founded in 1976 and dissolved in 2009 to devote full time to her studio art practice.



Travels to Europe, China, Japan, and the Caribbean have led her to explore how time impacts and alters our natural and constructed environments.

# EXPLORATIONS IN WOOD: SELECTIONS FROM THE CENTER FOR ART IN WOOD

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019 – DECEMBER 29, 2019

The Center for Art in Wood presents Explorations in Wood, curated by Andy McGivern, Curator of Exhibitions at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, in Wausau, Wisconsin. He describes the exhibition as follows: our dependence on—and love for—wood cannot be overstated. It is integral to our very existence in a range of ways, encompassing our manmade environments as well as both utilitarian and decorative items. The organic qualities of wood, our ability to manipulate its shape, its abundance, and its renewable potential are among the reasons wood permeates our culture – including the art world.



The 74 objects comprising Explorations in Wood are a small sample of the work in the collection of Philadelphia's Center for Art in Wood, gathered over a forty-year period. The Center for Art in Wood encourages an international roster of artists to not only explore the many facets of wood, but continues to challenge artists to discover the inherent and dynamic

## 2019 ANNUAL CAPE DORSET PRINT COLLECTION

OCTOBER 1, 2019 – NOVEMBER 30, 2019

The Dennon Museum Center is once again honored to host the release of the 2019 Cape Dorset Annual Print Collection. This 60th Annual Cape Dorset Print Collection consists of 32 prints by 17 artists, each an edition of 50, including veteran artists as well as newcomers.



2019 CAPE DORSET ANNUAL PRINTS COLLECTION  
OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 1



## 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.

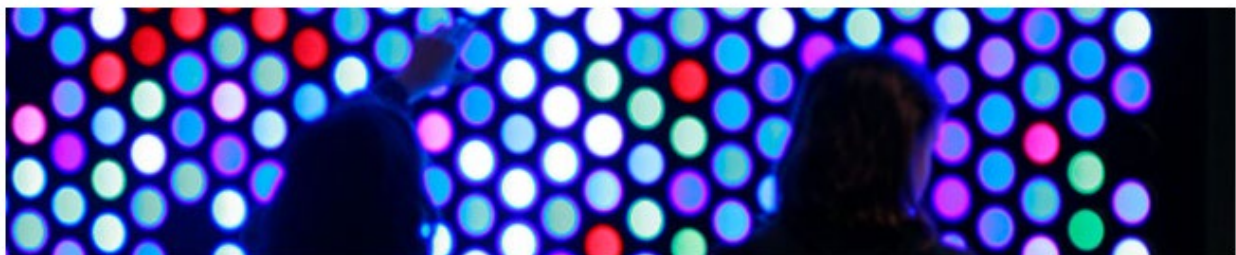
## INUIT ART GALLERIES AT THE DENNOS MUSEUM CENTER



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



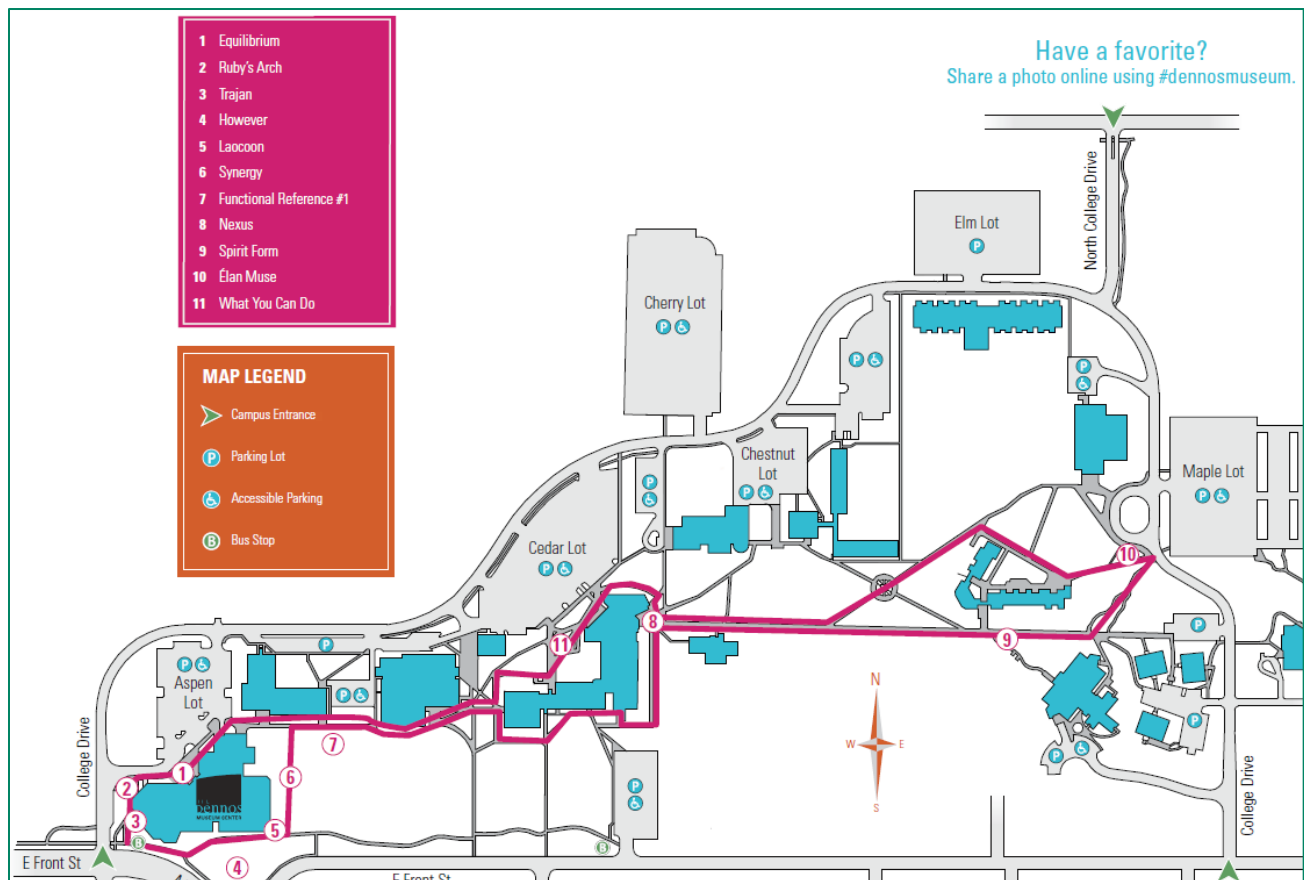
The Denmos Museum Center's Thomas A. Rutkowski Discovery Gallery offers "hands on" interactive experiences related to the arts and sciences for children and adults. The recent re-installation of the Gallery in 2018 focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM).

# 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.





**Programs**  
**Engagement**



**THE**  
**ART**  
**OF: \_**

In conjunction with the exhibition *Pulped Under Pressure*, members participate in a workshop with artist Reni Gower.

# K-12: DENNOS VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

SEND US YOUR BEST PHOTOS OF YOUR PETS!

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark patterned sweater, holding a black camera up to her eye as if taking a picture. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

HAPPENING NOW

**K-12: Dennos Virtual Exhibit**  
Traverse City

★ Interested ▾



HOSTED BY  
DENNOS MUSEUM CENTER  
MICHIGAN LEGACY ART PARK

INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE DAY

# ISDAY

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020 at 2:00 PM EST | LIVE STREAM CONVERSATION

TBA      JOHN SAUVE      LOIS TEICHER      MAUREEN GRAY      BRIAN FERRIBY



**Dennos Museum Center**

April 13 at 11:03 AM · 🌐



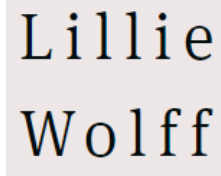
A lunchtime inspired DRAW NoMI doodle session! Watch until the end to learn more about shopping safe downtown and the share a slice program through the Filling Station.

Downtown TC (Official)  
The Filling Station Microbrewery





**Programs**  
**Our Partners**



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## **Programs** **Concert Series**

While the last three concerts of the season were canceled due to extenuating circumstances and COVID-19, the Dennos Museum Center was able to offer seven terrific in-person concerts this year along with four virtual performers during the month of April. Concerts provide an opportunity for the museum to bring the world to Traverse City, while embracing our charge to “Build Community. Spark Conversation. Inspire Change.”

### 2019–2020 DENNOS CONCERT SERIES LINEUP

[Click on the concert for more information.](#)



#### **DAMN TALL BUILDINGS**

**Saturday, October 5, 2019 — 8:00 PM**

Whether live or on record, the band still radiates the energy of a ragtag crew of music students playing bluegrass on the street. Anchoring that energy is their instrumental chops, their strong songwriting, and their varied influences that stretch

beyond bluegrass.



#### **SELWYN BIRCHWOOD**

**Saturday, October 19, 2018 — 8:00 PM**

With his fiery guitar and lap steel playing, instantly memorable songs and gritty, unvarnished vocals, Selwyn Birchwood is among the most extraordinary young stars in the blues. He busts the genre wide open, adding new sounds, colors and textures,

delivered with a storyteller’s charisma.



#### **THE HARMALEIGHs\***

**Saturday, November 2, 2019 — 7:30 PM**

The Harmaleighs are Haley Grant (lead vocals and guitar) and Kaylee Jaspersen (bass and backup vocals). They honestly craft poetic, passionate, and powerful songs cut from a pastiche of indie, folk, pop and Americana.



## CHE APALACHE CALL 231.995.1055 TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS

Friday, November 15, 2019 — 8:00 PM

Che Apalache is a four-man string band based in Buenos Aires with members from Argentina, Mexico and the United States. The group's founder

is Joe Troop (fiddle), Pau Barjau (banjo), Franco Martino (guitar) and Martin Bobrik (mandolin).



## IRISH CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA

Sunday, December 1, 2019 — 7:00 PM

This family-friendly performance features evocative Irish ballads, lively instrumental tunes and thrilling Irish dancing. Take a memorable glimpse into the enchanting spirit of Christmas, as the finest

traditional artists from Ireland bring you on a fun-filled start to the holiday season.



## SECOND CITY

Saturday, February 1, 2020 — 8:00 PM

The Second City is breaking all the rules they made famous in this hilarious revue that will leave you laughing, and questioning your existence on this planet. Okay, maybe not questioning your existence—but you're guaranteed to re-think

everything you thought you knew about what's funny!



## KHALIF WAILIN' WALTER

Friday, February 21, 2020 — 8:00 PM

Khalif Wailin' Walter belongs to the new generation of Chicago's young Blues Players who are carrying on the deep tradition. Khalif's music is infused with modern funk and innovative arrangements to create his own unique musical voice.

**Canceled this season:**



## NIVE AND THE DEER CHILDREN

### CANCELED

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this show has been canceled. Ticket holders have the option to exchange their tickets for one of the upcoming concerts, or receive a refund for the show. Please

contact the museum at 231-995-1055 to request an exchange. If we have not heard from ticket buyers by March 6th, we will process a refund on that day.



## MYSTICAL ARTS OF TIBET\*\*

Friday, April 17, 2020 — 8:00 PM

The Loseling monks perform ancient temple music and dance. Their tours aim to make a contribution to world peace through sacred art; to generate a greater awareness of the endangered Tibetan civilization; and to raise support for the Tibetan

refugee community in India. [Tickets »](#)



## LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III

Saturday, May 2, 2020 — 8:00 PM

Loudon Wainwright III's long and illustrious career is highlighted by more than two dozen album releases, Movie and TV credits, and now his new autobiography, *Liner Notes* (2017 Penguin/Random House). In 2010 he won a Grammy for Best

Traditional Folk Album for *High Wide & Handsome*. His 2012 recording, *Older Than My Old Man Now* was named one of NPR's Top 10 Albums of the Year. [Tickets »](#)

**The Live & Local Concert Series**  
ON FACEBOOK LIVE

**April 6 - 11th**  
FEATURING:  
**May Erlewine  
Blake Elliot  
Jack M. Senff  
Elizabeth Landry**

Presented in partnership by:  
THE DENNIS MUSEUM CENTER  
CROSSMATCH

Donate to support local artists here: [crosshatch.org/emergency](https://crosshatch.org/emergency)



# Collections

## New Artwork



Jerry's Map (K-7), 2016  
By: Jerry Gretzinger  
8" x 10" Inkjet prints on paper

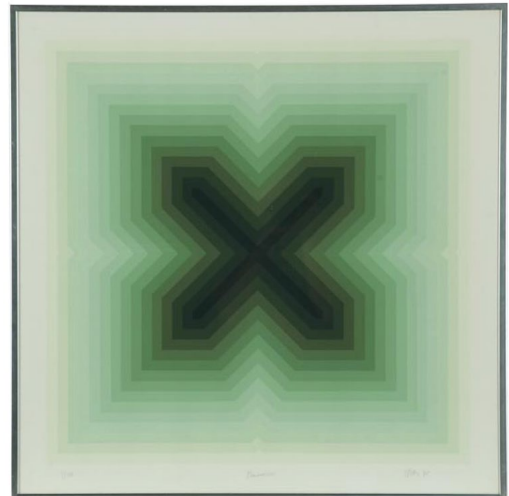


Oregon, 1970  
By: Brett Weston  
Gelatin silver print on paper



Superior, 1975  
By: Jurgen Peters  
Serigraph on paper

Kanagink 1957/2007  
Stonecut and stencil on paper  
Ellett Estate of Inuit Art



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## Collections Preservation



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

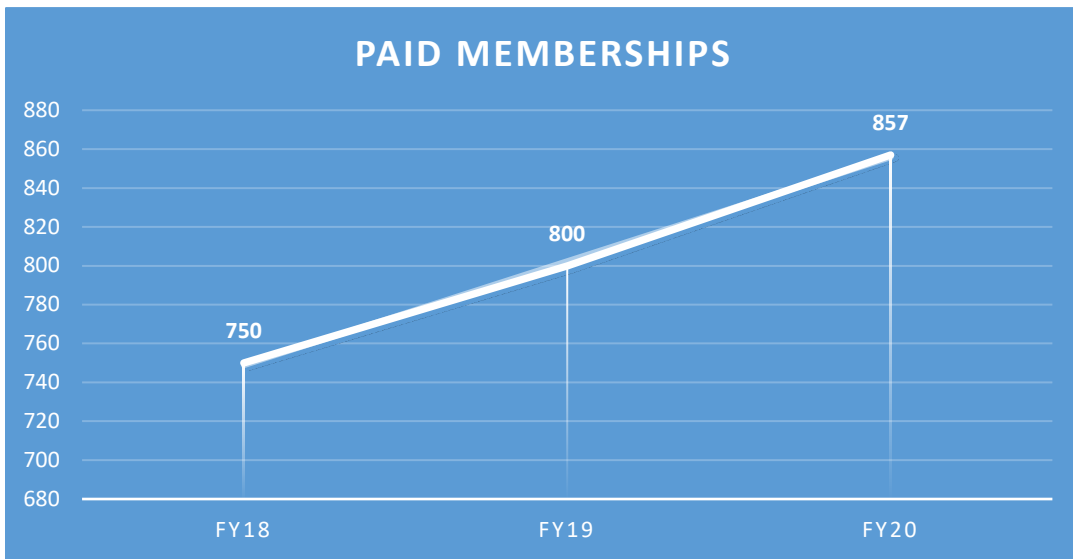
- **7** new collections committee members began their terms in spring 2020
- **2,950** objects have catalog records in our PastPerfect database for enhanced research and inventory retrieval

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## Administration Membership

The Dennis Museum Center introduced a new Trailblazer level membership during FY20. This benefit provides a second reciprocal benefit to new and existing members through the Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums (ROAM).

Membership has been trending positive since the Dennis Museum Center expansion was completed in early 2018. The graph below provides membership data for the past three years at our organization:



Get **FREE** admission to over  
**1500** museums in North America!

Become a Member at the \$100 Level or Above

THE DENNOS IS NOW PART OF



NORTH AMERICAN  
RECIPROCAL MUSEUM (NARM) ASSOCIATION





## Administration Museum Store

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

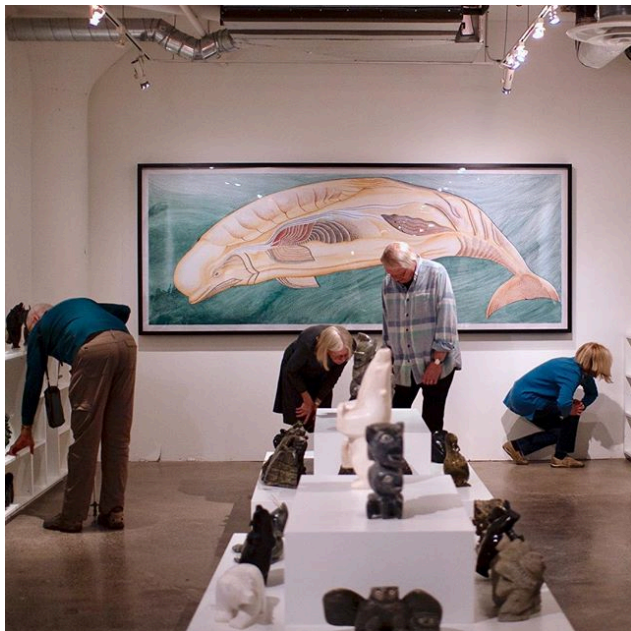
The Denno's Museum Store showcases a carefully curated assortment of art-inspired objects that reflect the Museum's collections as well as current exhibitions. We seek out unique, fun and functional gifts and mementos with a focus on great design to inspire, engage and delight both visitors and our community. 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 well made 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. Purchases support the exhibitions and programs of the DMC.



Above: Nicole Zeiler, hand selecting Inuit carvings for the store's collection.

At left: Guests of the Denno's Museum Store on an Inuit Art buying trip to Toronto.

Below: One of many local artists featured in the Denno's Museum Store.







NMC student printmakers enrolled in Glen Wolff's art course attend their first annual Denno's Holiday Artists Market and sell their own original prints.

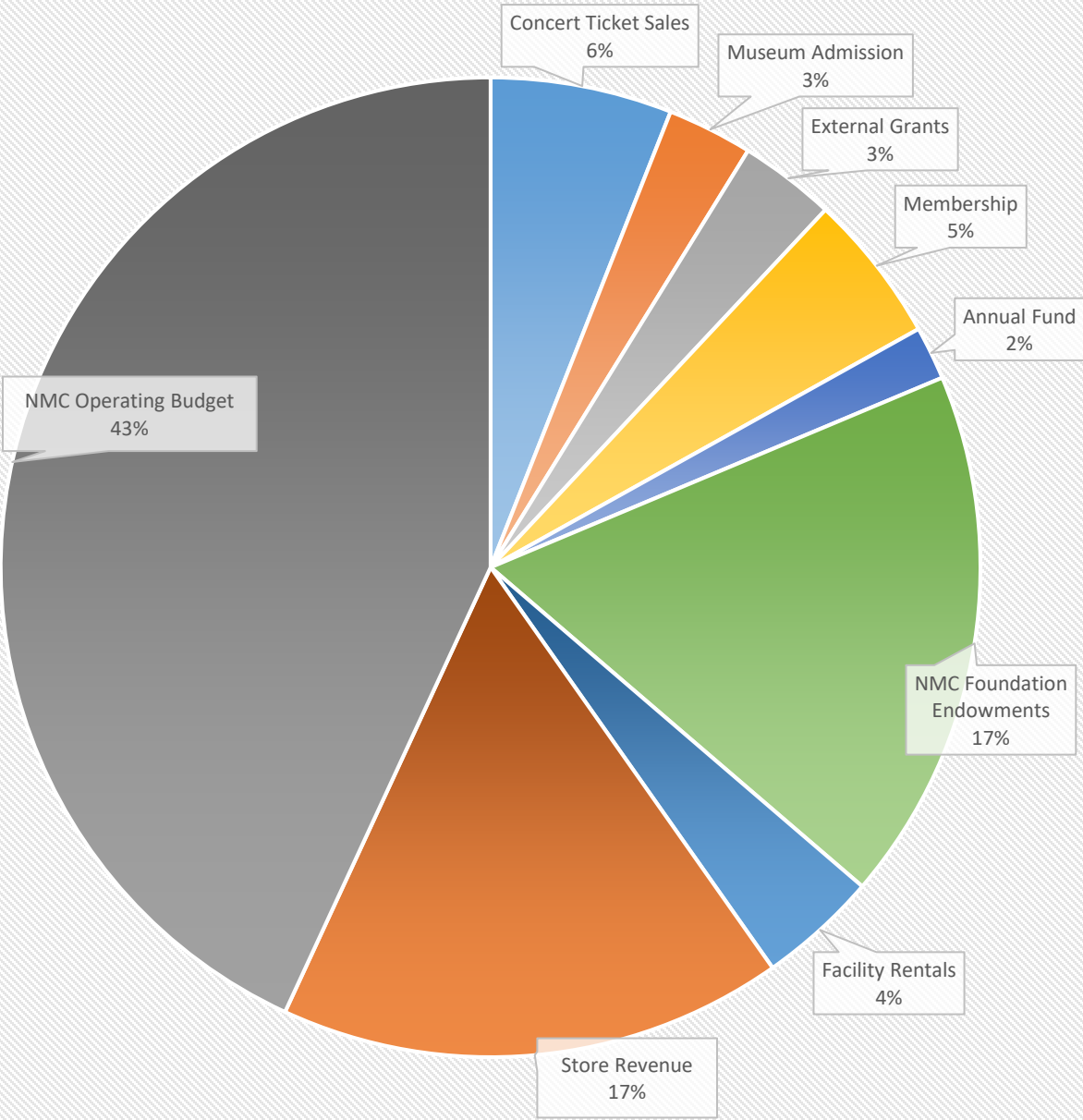
Denno's Museum Store, fall 2019. Featuring wood working and textile goods by local artisans in honor of *Explorations in Wood* and *Carole Harris: Art Quilts*.



**Administration**

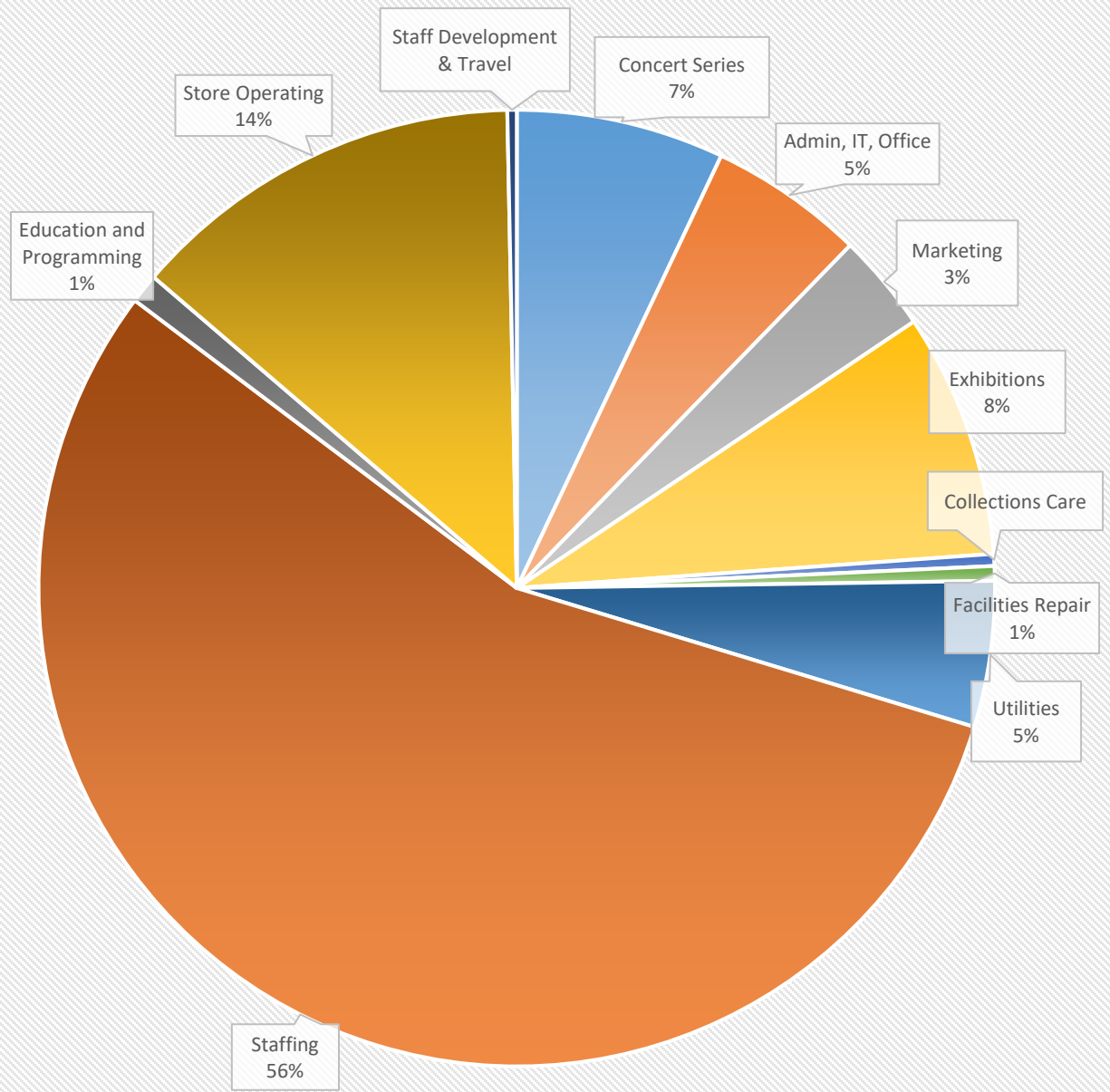
**Income & Expense**

2020 DMC Budgeted Income



- Concert Ticket Sales
- Museum Admission
- External Grants
- Membership
- Annual Fund
- NMC Foundation Endowments
- Facility Rentals
- Store Revenue
- NMC Operating Budget

## 2020 DMC Budgeted Expense



- Concert Series
- Admin, IT, Office
- Marketing
- Exhibitions
- Collections Care
- Facilities Repair
- Utilities
- Staffing
- Education and Programming
- Store Operating
- Staff Development & Travel



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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



L E A R N



L I S T E N



E X P L O R E



C R E A T E



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