



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA  
556 W MAPLE  
Thursday, June 7, 2018  
5:00 PM**

***Mission Statement:** The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.*

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Introduction of Guests**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes**
  - A. Minutes of May 3, 2018
- 5. Unfinished Business**
  - A. Private Use/Special Events Policy for Museum Grounds
  - B. Museum Fund Raising Case Statement- September Landscape Event
  - C. Bicentennial Book Project
- 6. New Business**
  - A. Interim Sign Design
- 7. Communication and Reports**
  - A. Director Report
  - B. Member comments
  - C. Public comments
- 8. Next Regular Meeting: TBD/(July 12)**
- 9. Adjournment**

NOTICE: Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the city clerk's office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-5115 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. *APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MUSEUM BOARD MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT [www.bhamgov.org](http://www.bhamgov.org).* City of Birmingham, 151 Martin, Birmingham, MI 48009; 248.530.1800. Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at the number (248) 530-1880, or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

*Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la ciudad en el número (248) 530-1800 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).*

draft



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, May 3, 2018  
5:00 PM**

Members Present: James Cunningham (left at 6:47 PM), Russell Dixon, Lori Eaton, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue

Student Members Present: none

Members Absent: Caitlin Rosso

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of April 5, 2018**

**MOTION:** by Dixon, seconded by Keefer:

To approve the minutes of April 5, 2018.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 6  
Nays, 0

**Unfinished Business**

- A. The board reviewed the planning for the exhibit reception and open house on May 12, 2018. James Cunningham, Tina Krizanic, and Marty Logue will be on hand to acknowledge recipients. At least two commission members will also be on hand. We expect a good turnout, based on the phone calls and comments we have received.
- B. The Museum Board reviewed some of the components of a possible grounds policy to consider what should be included and what needs further investigation. The board felt that it was important to provide context for the rules so that the public would understand what is behind any restrictions or limitations for permitted group use. Getting specific input from historic landscape architect Brian Devlin would also be important for the existing landscape as well as planned projects. Additional information about other park regulations (for example about amplified music, etc) will be needed. Some rules were agreed upon by the board during discussion:
- Consistent with existing park and city policies, no alcohol is permitted, any permitted use would require insurance, and because it is public property, any permitted use could not be exclusive.

- No permitted use of the grounds would include the museum buildings, including access to restrooms.
- Any permitted use should be limited to 100 persons.
- Canopies up to 12 X 12 but could not be staked to the ground, only weighted with portable sandbags. Canopies would need to be kept to the upper/Heritage Zone area on the flat surfaces near the patio and plaza.
- No amplified music, only voice public address may be used.
- Portajon/s may be used at the rear of the driveway only, and must be offloaded and picked up in a timely way before and after the permitted event.
- No cooking permitted on site; catered food as determined by permit.
- At least two museum staff must be present during event (but not to assist with the event).
- Event timeline would be approximately 90 days from application, though Museum Director and Museum Board review, to commission review and approval (current timeline for other special event permits)

Sample draft will be available for further review at June Museum Board meeting.

C. Museum Board reviewed funding case statement process for the master landscape projects. Before the September 9 event, the Museum Board agreed to complete the initial portion of a case statement, e.g., to develop the story for the landscape funding campaign and prepare it with introductory information to facilitate communication with the public and major donors. Ms. Eaton will work with Museum Director Pielack to prepare a draft for Museum Board review.

### **New Business**

A. In advance of planned repairs and re-painting of the Hunter House, an opportunity to get a professional paint analysis at a reasonable cost has been identified. This will help in future efforts to do accurate interior restoration repairs/repainting and also provide additional information for future interpretation of the Hunter House. The Museum Board agreed by consensus that this is a good idea to gain this information before any repainting is considered.

### **Communication and Reports**

A. Museum Director Pielack reviewed her report and provided updates. At the recent budget hearing, the commission reviewed the manager's recommended budget for the museum. In the course of the discussion, the commission requested that the existing sign be removed because of its appearance. The Museum Board agreed that it is unsightly and should be removed. However, it would be a detriment to have no sign at all; the board agreed that an interim sign that identifies the museum and its hours of operation would be important while waiting for a design and formal construction of a permanent sign in coordination with the city's re-branding process. Museum Director Pielack will provide some basic options for consideration of an interim sign for the next Museum Board meeting, and if agreed by the board, to recommend to the commission that an interim sign be installed until the final sign project is done.

B. Mr. Dixon announced that Gretchen Maricak's artwork collection will be exhibited at Wayne State's medical school from mid-May until the end of June, and he will send

information to members about the planned exhibit reception. He will follow up with the collection representatives to inquire about digital versions of the two pieces Gretchen created of the Allen and Hunter Houses. He also inquired about labeling for the Flint Faience fireplace exhibit, which is currently incomplete.

C. There were no public comments.

The next regular meeting will be **June 7, 2018 at 5:00 PM.**

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

## **(draft)** Birmingham Museum Grounds Group Use Permit Rules

The four-acre site of the Birmingham Museum is one of the most historically and topographically complex in the city. The flower gardens at the Allen house, the steeply sloping lawn, the spring-fed pond and pool, and the woodlands that lead down to the adjacent Rouge River corridor make it a haven for wildlife. It is also unique in the city in that it has historic landscape structures that date to the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that require protection and preservation. In addition, the entire site and the two buildings (the Allen House and the Hunter House) are part of the city's Mill Pond Historic District.

The following guidelines have been developed to allow group use within the limits of preserving and protecting the landscape's natural and historic resources. The City of Birmingham and/or its designee reserves the rights to deny any permit applicant if it deems an activity is not in keeping with this objective.

A permit is required:

- For use of the grounds (see areas below) for any organized group activity of **ten or more** people
- **For photography by professional/commercial photographers**

To allow time for complete review, applications must be received by the Museum Director as follows:

- 15 days before a planned activity for 10-20 people (administrative approval)
- 90 days before a planned activity for 21-100 people (maximum allowed) (commission approval)
- 15 days before a **professional/commercial photo shoot** (administrative approval)

The following areas are available for permitted use (**see map**):

- The paved patio and immediately adjacent lawn and walks on the north side of the Allen House and the Allen House back porch
- The Hill School Bell plaza area between the Allen and Hunter Houses
- The grassy lawn area and slope below the Allen House and the Hunter House, adjacent to Willits Street

**Neither the Allen House nor Hunter House buildings are available as part of permitted use of the grounds.**

**See also attached**

- **permit application and fee structure**
- **clean up deposit and checklist**
- **insurance liability requirement**

Conditions of Permitted Use

1. The intent of the group use permit is to allow low impact use of the grounds to enjoy the natural beauty and historic setting. Sports activities, political rallies, outdoor concerts, fund raising events and the like are not appropriate for this park.
2. Children twelve (12) years of age and younger will be required to be under direct supervision of parents/adult guardians at all times.

3. The Birmingham Museum site is a public park. Any permitted use according to these rules is considered non-exclusive use.
4. Permitted group use of the grounds is not allowed outside normal park hours of dawn to dusk. Permitted group use is encouraged outside ordinary museum operating hours of Tuesday-Saturday, 1 to 4 pm and 1-8 pm the second Thursday of the month.
5. No permitted use will be allowed that will interfere with normal museum programming, exhibits, or general operations in or around the buildings. The City of Birmingham and/or its designee reserves the right to deny the use or the continued use of its facility to any person or organization not in compliance with rules or at its discretion to protect the grounds and buildings of the Birmingham Museum.
6. Access to the museum buildings will not be included in any permitted group use of the museum grounds. A porta jon may be rented for a permitted activity, subject to approval at time of application and must be placed at the north end of the driveway adjacent to the Allen House. The porta jon must be dropped off no earlier than the evening before the event and must be picked up no later than the morning after the event. Porta jon use is non-exclusive; the public may not be prevented from using any porta jon on the museum grounds.
7. Alcohol is not allowed in any park in Birmingham.
8. Catered food by licensed caterers is allowed with pre-approval by the Birmingham Museum; no cooking of food is permitted on the property, and no flames, fires, sterno, or lit candles are permitted.
9. Parking and vehicle access is not permitted on Willits Street except as currently provided by posted ordinance, or on museum property except for loading and unloading in driveway. Under no circumstances may the handicapped parking area or barrier free paths be obstructed.
10. Permitted group activities are limited to 3 hours between dawn and dusk, inclusive of set up and clean up.
11. For any permitted group activity use of the grounds, a minimum of two (2) museum staff must be on site. Museum staff persons are not available to assist with the permitted activity; their purpose is to oversee the safety of the site and the museum. Group use fees reflect the cost of providing these staff.
12. Insurance is required (see attached).
13. Canopy tents of 12 X 12 feet or less may be used, with sand bags as needed, and are restricted to the patio area near the Allen House porch and the Hill School Bell Plaza area. No tents may be staked.
14. Special wedding fees (ceremony only) apply. In consideration of the environment and of the preservation of the site, nothing whatsoever may be thrown on the premises, e.g., glitter, confetti, rice, bird seed, flowers. No fastening or securing of decorations, lighting, devices or materials on any building, structure, tree or plant is permitted, and no balloons are allowed. Nothing whatsoever can be placed in or around the pool or other water features. No staking or driving of holes or disturbance of the ground for any purpose is permitted.
15. No signage of any kind may be placed on the museum premises.
16. A clean up checklist must be approved by museum staff for return of deposit (see attached).
17. As the museum grounds is an outdoor setting, no provisions can be made regarding inclement weather. The museum buildings will not be available for participants at an outdoor permitted event.

**(draft-Landscape Fundraising Case Statement)**  
**[Birds, bees, ponds and wetlands] [Our Natural Environment, Past and Present:**  
**Interpreting and preserving Birmingham's historic parkland]**

## **Introduction**

The parkland that surrounds the Allen and Hunter houses is more than grass and trees and water. It is a landscape that bears witness to the lived history of a place, whether those lives were plant, animal or human. The 1822 John W. Hunter House tells the story of the frontier families that settled Birmingham in the early 1820s, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Allen House, built in 1928, moves our story into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. The Allen House is also in the process of being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. The land that connects and surrounds them has a rich history and a story of its own to tell. The Birmingham Museum Master Landscape Plan provides guidelines to preserve and interpret that story.

The site of the Birmingham Museum is one of the most historically and topographically complex in the city. The flower gardens and steeply sloping lawn, the spring-fed pond and pool, and the woodlands that lead down to the Rouge River make it a haven for wildlife. Its location at the intersection of Southfield and Maple roads, at the west end of the city's downtown shopping district, makes it an inviting place for residents and visitors alike during every season of the year.

Over the past several years, the museum board and staff have focused primarily on building maintenance, preserving and exhibiting the museum collection, and public engagement. Improvements made to the Birmingham Museum's structures and property include:

- Barrier-free access to both Hunter and Allen Houses, 2013
- The Hill School Bell Outdoor Structure, completed and dedicated, 2016
- Public Access Wi-Fi installed for internal and external digital access to museum content, 2016
- Restoration of the 1928 Allen House's cedar siding and original wood trim, 2017
- New roofs for both Hunter and Allen Houses, 2018
- Additional interior and exterior repairs to Allen House, 2018
- Analysis and restoration of original interior paint, Hunter House, 2018
- Additional exterior repairs to Hunter House (porch), 2018

In addition to these projects, volunteers have painted fences, consulted with the museum about native landscapes, and planted heirloom vegetables.

For the historic parkland surrounding the museum to truly shine, more must be done. Invasive species have invaded the pond and the woodlands along the river. The wooden staircase that leads from the Allen House patio to the lower lawn is decaying as are the stairs that lead to the river. There are no paths that allow for full access from the museum buildings to the natural areas and pond that meet barrier-free Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Guidelines. There is no signage to interpret landmarks of important natural

and cultural significance, such as the Rouge River's unique character, the Native American presence in the landscape or the concrete spring-fed pool in the lower lawn that was used by 9-year-old James Allen, who contracted polio in the 1920s.

### **Developing the Master Landscape Plan**

During the 2017 fiscal year, the Museum Board began working with a specially trained landscape architect experienced in historic preservation. The resulting Master Landscape Plan, which was accepted by the Birmingham City Commission in March 2018, will ensure that the essential history and uniqueness of the site are preserved and that future citizens of Birmingham will experience multi-faceted benefits of this long-term strategy.

The specific *goals and objectives* of the Birmingham Museum Master Landscape Plan are as follows:

- To improve public access, especially barrier-free access, to the diverse parkland surrounding the museum
- To preserve the natural and historic landscape features
- To provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the parkland, its natural environment and its cultural history, including Native American occupation
- To coordinate with the City of Birmingham Parks and Recreation department and the Rouge River Trail Corridor Master Plan on planning and implementation of pathways, access priorities, materials, and signage.
- To utilize phased planning to optimize private donations and grant funding opportunities

The resulting Birmingham Museum Master Landscape Plan is conceptual in nature. While it provides a broad approach to integrating diverse components, it is designed to give general guidance for more detailed future planning. The plan's strengths lie in its careful consideration of public needs, while maintaining a fundamental preservation focus to ensure that no irreversible changes are made.

The landscape plan divides the property into four zones each with distinct elements and characteristics. Each zone can be approached as a separate project for planning and funding purposes; however available grants, changing conditions, or other needs may make it more efficient to combine certain elements from different zones. A brief description of each zone, priority level and estimated costs are provided below.

#### ***Heritage Zone (Priority: 2018-2019)***

***Cost estimate: \$24,655***

This zone borders Maple Road and includes the Allen House, the Hunter House, and the Bell Plaza, the most visible and active area of the museum grounds. Recent improvements over the past few years have improved accessibility with handicap and short-term parking as well as a barrier-free ramp to the Hunter House. In 2016, the Hill School Bell monument was installed through a funding partnership between donors and the general public to preserve and interpret Birmingham's school heritage. At the same



time, Wi-Fi upgrades to the entire landscape were completed that provide enhanced public access opportunities for visitors to the park and museum. Building on these improvements, the landscape plan objectives for the Heritage Zone seek to create an inviting and welcoming public face for the museum and parkland that integrates the physical structures. The design calls for new signage and online virtual exhibits, interpretive gardens for visitors of all ages, and restoration of historical species.

Heritage Zone programming and community engagement plans include:

- Historical children's garden with heritage plants for educational/demonstration activities and tours
- Community perennial gardens showcasing Birmingham heirloom plants with interpretive information and tours
- Low maintenance organic herb garden with interpretive information and programming
- Family events and activities in the plaza area
- Musical performances and other programs on the back porch of the Allen House
- Outdoor exhibits utilizing app development and Wi-Fi to provide interpretive history

***Pond Zone (2019-2021)***

***Cost estimate: \$200,380***

The Pond Zone comprises the north portion of the museum property and includes the gentler slopes at the base of the Transition Zone, extending to Willits Street. A main goal of the Master Landscape Plan is to provide handicapped parking along Willits Street with access to the museum property and especially to the pool and pond area. The preservation and interpretation of the swimming pool within the pond is an equally important goal, as this is an extremely unique use of the spring-fed pond. The pond area presents special challenges to both preserve it for its unusual natural and historic features while making it accessible to the public, especially physically challenged visitors.

The Master Landscape Plan for the Pond Zone proposes a handicap accessible path from a new sidewalk along Willits Street, around the pond to a staging area at the historic swimming pool location, to a seating area on the west side of the pond, and finally to the new overlook at the woodland trail. The interpretation of the swimming pool will be accomplished by the construction of a boardwalk along the east edge. This boardwalk will also provide an opportunity to experience the pool right in the middle of the pond without damaging its wetland or historic materials. A water garden is proposed to the east of the boardwalk, giving an opportunity for visitors to learn about native water plants.

Pond Zone programming and community engagement plans include:

- Wi-Fi/online interpretive materials about poliomyelitis and the unique Allen House pool for Jim Allen's physical therapy
- Barrier-free outdoor programming and tours for all ages throughout the grounds, including pool area and Rouge River overlook
- Interpretive programs for natural wetlands, native water plants, and wildlife
- Educational activities and programs on environmental value of birds, bees, bats, and butterflies and native species for habitat preservation

***Transition Zone (2021-2022)***

***Cost estimate: \$115,050***

The Transition Zone begins at the top of the slope immediately behind the houses and plaza and extends down to the base of the slope. This zone provides access from the house to the pool and includes the original fieldstone wall and remnants of original landscape plantings from the Allen era, including American elm and Norway spruce. A wood staircase behind the Allen House provides access to the lower lawn, but requires a high level of maintenance and does not reflect the historic period of the Allen House or of the landscape.

The Master Landscape Plan for the Transition Zone calls for replacing volunteer or inappropriate tree species in order to reintroduce modern disease-resistant elm cultivars. Significant new features proposed for the Transition Zone are concrete steps and with fieldstone retaining walls that would replace the wood staircase, providing a safer and route for pedestrians to access the lower lawn, the woodland trail, and the pond area from the patio behind the Allen House., The planned stair will reflect the historic 19<sup>th</sup> century fieldstone walls nearby, blend more effectively into the landscape, and require less maintenance. A spacious grassy landing at the bottom of the steps will allow people to congregate for small gatherings and performances on an intimate scale.

Transition Zone programming and community engagement plans include:

- Stair design provides for multi-use as small amphitheater-like performance area on lower lawn and uses natural and lower-maintenance materials
- Open lawn provides area for traditional lawn activities such as picnics
- Wi-Fi based interpretive education about overall site history from pioneer period to present, including founder Elijah Willits, the first schoolhouse in Birmingham, and the Harry and Marion Allen House, and the John West Hunter House
- Small garden area for daylilies and other heirloom plants to feature historic varieties and interpretation of the 1928 Allen House landscape
- Outdoor photography and art programs and display at 19<sup>th</sup> century stone walls

***Riverine/Woodland Zone (2023-2024)      Cost estimate: \$232,250***

The Riverine/Woodland Zone begins at the top of the hill west of the Allen House and extends down to the Rouge River. This natural landscape offers an opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy a secluded natural preserve within the city that incorporates trails and a connection to the river and its history.

The Master Landscape Plan for the riverine/woodland zone proposes the restoration of the native woodland with the removal of invasive species and reintroduction of native sugar maples and other trees and associated sub-canopy and ground layer plants. Existing trails will be enhanced by replacing existing timber steps with safer and more stable stone steps with a handrail. In accordance with the Rouge River Trails Corridor Master Plan, a boardwalk is proposed at the intersection of existing trails which will provide access to the Rouge River with a wood deck overlook according to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality requirements. A new ADA-accessible path, beginning at Maple Road and sloping gently to the lower woodland, will parallel an existing 19<sup>th</sup> century stone wall and, for the first time, provide full barrier-free access to upper and lower portions of the parkland.

Riverine/Woodland Zone programming and community engagement plans include:

- Wildlife and natural habitat information and interpretive materials (Wi-Fi/electronic)
- Narrative history of the Native American presence in the area and land use
- Settlement and pioneer period of Birmingham and importance of Rouge River
- Invasive species vs. native plants educational tours and interpretive materials
- Bird watching programs

**Leave a legacy on Birmingham's landscape**

Over the next months and years, Friends of the Birmingham Museum, the Birmingham Museum Board, and museum and city staff will be working to bring the vision outlined in the Master Landscape Plan to life. We are seeking partnerships and support from a wide range of funding sources including federal, state and local grants, private foundations, local civic groups, and individuals.

Many opportunities will allow you to get involved and help bring the plan to life. Please contact the museum's director, Leslie Pielack at 248-530-1682 or [lpielack@bhamgov.org](mailto:lpielack@bhamgov.org), or join us at any of our monthly Museum Board public meetings to learn more about how you can participate

The

1

# BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM

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**TUES-SAT 1:00 to 4:00 pm**

**1:00 to 8:00 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAYS**

**\$7 adults, \$5 students/seniors, age 5 & under/members, free**

*The*

# BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM

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2

TUES - SAT 1:00 to 4:00 pm

1:00 to 8:00 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAYS

\$7 Adults • \$5 Students/Seniors • 5 & Under/Members FREE

**The**

# **BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM**

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**3**

**TUES - SAT 1:00 to 4:00 pm**

**1:00 to 8:00 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAYS**

**\$7 adults - \$5 students/seniors - age 5 & under/members, free**

# The BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM

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4

TUES - SAT 1-4 pm; 1-8 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> THURS  
\$7 adults • \$5 students/seniors • 5 & under/members, free

# BIRMINGHAM *The* MUSEUM

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5

**TUES - SAT 1:00 to 4:00 pm**

**1:00 to 8:00 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAYS**

**\$7 adults, \$5 students/seniors, age 5 & under/members - FREE**



# BIRMINGHAM *The* MUSEUM

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6

TUES - SAT 1:00 to 4:00 pm

1:00 to 8:00 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAYS

\$7 adults, \$5 students/seniors, age 5 & under/members - FREE

# BIRMINGHAM *The* MUSEUM

7

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TUES - SAT 1:00 to 4:00 pm

1:00 to 8:00 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAYS

\$7 adults \$5 students/seniors, 5 & under/members - FREE

(draft) Summer 2018 Newsletter

### **Museum Board to Host Outdoor Event September 9 to Celebrate Master Landscape Plan**

The public will be invited to explore the grounds and learn about future landscape improvements at the Birmingham Museum at a special outdoor event late this summer. A conceptual Master Landscape Plan (<http://www.bhamgov.org/Final%202018%20Birmingham%20Museum%20Master%20Landscape%20Plan%20Document.pdf>) has been developed that creates four distinct zones of interest for preservation and restoration, improved public access, and educational purposes. On September 9, visitors can walk the site and meet with Museum Board members and the historical landscape architect to see what is planned for the natural and historic features that abound on the four acre site. Fun activities, information, and discovery will be the focus of this “get acquainted with your historic park” day. Opportunities for public and private partnerships on targeted project funding will also be available as part of the event. Mark your calendars and join the museum in celebrating the last days of summer outdoors in its diverse and historic landscape.

*Be sure to check out our crowd-sourced bicentennial exhibit “People of Birmingham: Celebrating 200 Years of Stories.” Now through December, 2018; Tuesday-Saturday 1 to 4 p.m., and 1 to 8 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. Admission: Adults, \$7; \$5 for students and seniors, kids 5 and under and members, free.*

**DATE:** June 7, 2018  
**TO:** Museum Board  
**FROM:** Leslie Pielack, Museum Director  
**SUBJECT:** Director Report

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Greenwood Cemetery Tours—May 5—20<sup>th</sup> Century Notables. The tour was very popular with about 20 people in attendance.

School Tours— 510 students and 131 adults visited this year. The hands-on activities have been very well received by students and teachers alike, and parents have been very interested in the bicentennial exhibit as well.

May 12 Reception—We had a very successful event with over 60 people in attendance, 5 of whom were commissioners. The refreshments were just right for the crowd and the event. A very good experience for all and some additional cash donations to the Friends on behalf of the museum were also received.

Celebrate Birmingham Parade May 20—Museum Board members, Friends board members, museum staff, volunteers, and family/friends formed a group of fourteen to walk in the parade this year. Chilly conditions and construction on Woodward did not dent the enthusiasm. Members carried posters of some of the historic people of Birmingham and people along the route got involved and asked us who some of them were.

Gretchen Maricak Drawings—The curator at Wayne State University is going to work with us toward getting us digitized images of Gretchen's work. We will also need to make shared use arrangements going forward.

Artifacts from Woodward Construction—A new artifact has turned up. It is a sign from around 1920 that advertises a type of specialty tire that would have been displayed outside an auto repair shop. We have had a lot of interest in the artifacts on Facebook and Twitter and with our press releases and media exposure.

Presentations—The Spring series presentations at Baldwin Library have been successful, with a varied audience and reinforcement of the message of the bicentennial.

Interpretive Planning for Hunter House—Paint analysis will be undertaken as an initial step in planning for repairs and repainting of parts of the Hunter House over the summer, which can help in the process of developing an interpretive plan for the building moving forward, as well as some additional research on early Birmingham. Interpretive planning will help with the physical repair goals as well as programmatic direction.

Fence along boundary—Costs associated with repair of the fence and removal of the invasives are being sought. A collaboration with the neighbor about undertaking a joint project will be proposed over the summer.

Bicentennial Booklet Project—With some parameters and direction to base the publication on the exhibit panels, cost proposals are being sought from the two publishing companies that we have been in touch with for this project. This will give us direction for setting price, number of issues, etc. for the expected fall printing.

Allen and Hunter House Roofing—An RFP will be posted in early July for the roofing project. We anticipate that the work will be completed by late summer or early fall, depending on the final contractor and scheduling.

Allen House Nomination to National Register—in process; the application is very detailed and expected to take several months.