

NATIONAL
CZECH &
SLOVAK
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

MOST

[The Bridge]

Fall 2015



Immortal: Warhol's Last Works, page 5



experience a pop art icon

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National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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by a grant from the Cultural
Enrichment Partnership Program
administered by the Iowa
Department of Cultural Affairs.*

STAFF ADDITIONS



Lexie Bartling Store Associate

Lexie began working at the NCSML in November of 2014. Prior to joining the staff, Lexie worked at HomeGoods. She holds a Bachelor's of Integrated Studio Arts from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.



Carol Boggs Account Clerk

Carol joined the NCSML in May 2015. Prior to joining the staff, she worked for the City of Kenosha, Wisconsin as secretary and account clerk for 17 years. Before that, Carol served as an enrollment services associate for 12 years at Gateway Technical College.



Delaney Cummings Administrative Assistant

Delaney joined the NCSML in October 2015. Prior to joining the staff, she interned in the Curatorial Department at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch, IA. She graduated from Coe College in 2015 with a B.A. in American Studies.



Laura Formanek Director of Marketing and Communications

Laura joined the NCSML in October 2015. Prior to joining the staff, she worked as an assistant editor at Post Op, a post production studio in Dallas, TX that specializes in TV and radio commercials. She holds a B.A. in Studio Art and Cinema from the University of Iowa.



Petra Králíčková Director of National Development

Petra began working at NCSML in September 2015. Prior to joining the staff, she worked at Ohio University as a curator at Kennedy Museum of Art and as director of exhibitions at the Ohio University's School of Art + Design galleries. She holds an MFA degree in studio art from University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.



Linda Lovell Banquet Supervisor

Linda worked previously at the Clarion Hotel in Cedar Rapids, IA for 39 years as the banquet sales manager. Linda brings over 40 years of experience from within the hospitality industry to the NCSML and enjoys meeting new people and facing new challenges everyday.



Kassie McLaughlin Project Librarian/ Archivist

Kassie joined the NCSML in October 2015. Prior to joining the staff, she was a graduate assistant for the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa. She graduated in 2015 with a M.A. in Library and Information Science from the University of Iowa.



Joann Teegarden Store Associate

Joann began working at the NCSML in November of 2014. Prior to joining the staff, Joann worked at St. Luke's Hospital and Pine Needles, both located in Cedar Rapids. She holds a B.A. from Purdue University.



Shanel Wermerskirchen Visitor Services Coordinator & Curatorial Assistant

Shanel joined the NCSML in May 2015. Prior to joining the staff, she volunteered at NCSML as a gallery attendant, library assistant, and school tour helper. She also worked as a tour coordinator at Brucemore in Cedar Rapids. Shanel graduated from Coe College in 2014 with a B.A. in Sociology and Political Science and is currently taking courses at the University of Iowa to earn her certificate in Museum Studies.



Sarah Jane Wick Director of Museum Store

Sarah Jane began working at the NCSML in June 2015. Prior to joining the staff, she worked at Dillard's as the Cosmetics Area Sales Manager.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO



In our journey to recover from the 2008 flood, one step remains to be taken. We have invested in a spectacular new museum, a powerful permanent exhibition and a visitor experience people rave about. Now it is essential to invest in strong, impactful programs to make our recovery complete. This is the basis for our new Strategic Plan. Not that we aren't doing anything, we are! Just check out this issue of *Most*. But there are several challenges that we face for the future, not the least of which is to remain relevant. We all know that as our children and grandchildren grow up, marry, move to other cities, often the connection to their heritage is lost. We must continue to evolve and broaden our connections to people of all backgrounds.

Another challenge is to meet the demands of a changing society. Today there are dangers to democracy on the doorstep of the Czech and Slovak Republics that have implications for all of us. And there are many more world-wide. At the same time, the focus in American public education has moved away from history, social sciences and civics. How will we develop strong leaders and informed citizens that we so desperately need?

All of this reinforces what we already know. The Czech and Slovak story, with its lessons about freedom, identity, human rights and human dignity, gives us a platform from which to play an important role in human rights education. This isn't new to us. It's actually one of our strengths. Part of what the NCSML has been doing all along has been to address human rights through exhibits and programs, like the *Samizdat* exhibit and the Holocaust speakers and Great Author Series. Now we are going to add an increased focus on providing children and young adults with meaningful ways to learn about human rights. We have been starting to create K-6 lesson plans with the Maňa project and formulating a variety of age-appropriate activities, programs and events. Human rights education is a life-long effort that must begin when you are young.

Of course, we also have significant goals to celebrate culture, serve the community and engage families, all parts of the active life of the museum and library, but which deserve to be raised up even more front and center.

On April 25, the board approved a new Strategic Plan that is bold, strategic and exciting! We are at a turning point. Not just for the NCSML, it's a turning point for the Czech and Slovak legacy. We are the only organization that can do this. If not us, then who?

All my best,

Gail Naughton

FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



In the history of the NCSML, there was no more challenging time to join the board than 2008. At the same time, there could not have been a clearer demonstration of the strength, resolve and excellence in character of our staff, volunteers

and board members throughout the flood recovery efforts that followed. Recall the feat of engineering to actually physically lift and move our museum and the once-in-a-lifetime spectacle it certainly was.

The decision to move the building challenged the NCSML board and staff to ask themselves, "If we can move a museum, what can't we do?" What you will read about in the following pages is the result.

As you read on, I hope you will agree that our plan for the future is vibrant, honors

our founders' commitment to heritage and at the same time, expands our reach. The NCSML Board of Trustees is energized by our direction and is resolved that our plan moves us toward achieving a clear vision for the future. I express my gratitude for the tireless work of our members and friends in contributing to our planning, and I invite you to provide us with your feedback on our strategic plan by email: feedback@ncsml.org or on our website: NCSML.org/theplan.

It has been my fine privilege of serving on this board, and as Board Chair for the last two years. I look forward to seeing you around the Museum!

Sincerely,

Rich Mitvalsky

On the cover: Andy Warhol, *Myths: The Shadow* (F&S II. 267), 1981

2015 – 2020

Be relevant.
Become essential.
Aim high.
Celebrate life.

STRATEGIC FOCUS: In the next five years, the NCSML will intensify its embeddedness and social impact. Every person we touch will have an experience that promotes an understanding of their connection to the world and to each other.

Strategic Priority I: Focus on Human Rights

Make a lasting impact on the education of global citizens by connecting to the lessons of Czech and Slovak history.



Strategic Priority II: Celebrate Culture

Immerse people in the richness of Czech and Slovak culture.

Strategic Priority III: Become Embedded in Community

Meet real needs that reflect authentic community priorities, and increase our social impact.



Strategic Priority IV: Engage Families

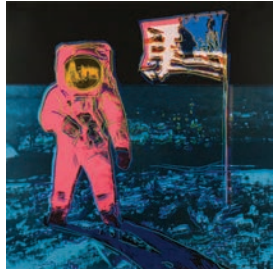
Position the NCSML as a family friendly destination in Cedar Rapids.

Strategic Priority V: Enhance Performance

Adopt a high-performance operational and business model.



OPENING IN MAY 2016



experience a pop art icon

ANDY WARHOL

Immortal: Warhol's Last Works

May 14 – October 2, 2016 • Petrik Gallery

Andy Warhol (1928-1987), an American artist who was the son of Rusyn immigrants from Eastern Slovakia, is one of the most documented artists of the 20th century. He was a promotional genius who defined the modern model of celebrity artist. He worked in several mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, silk screening, sculpture, film and music. Andy is best known for his reputation as a leading figure in the American pop art movement, which gained traction in the 1960s. His style is easily recognized, and these iconic works still resonate with audiences today.

Most of the large-scale prints featured in the exhibition are from two series: *Myths*, created in 1981, and *Cowboys and Indians*, created in 1986. *Cowboys and Indians* was the last series made before his death in 1987. *Myths* includes Warhol's take on such popular figures as the Wicked Witch of the West, Superman and Mickey Mouse. *Cowboys and Indians* pays homage to the likes of John Wayne, Annie Oakley and Sitting Bull.

The show, on loan from private collectors Wesley and Missy Cochran, also includes two pieces from *Flash Suite*, a series made in 1968 that documents the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

TO HAVE, TO HOLD, TO HIDE

Samizdat: The Czech Art of Resistance, 1968 – 1989

October 30, 2015 – April 24, 2016 • Petrik Gallery

An interview with Guest Curator, Daniela Snejppova:

Samizdat: The Czech Art of Resistance, 1968-1989 presents over 320 rarely seen handmade books, journals and other original works on paper that circulated secretly during the years between the Prague Spring and the Velvet Revolution. Curated by Daniela Snejppova in consultation with historian Tomáš Vrba and Jiří Gruntorád, director of Knihovna Libri prohibiti/Libri Prohibiti Library, the multimedia exhibition also includes period footage of underground concerts and bootleg recordings of banned Czech bands. The collection is presented by the NCSML in collaboration with Knihovna Libri prohibiti/Libri Prohibiti Library in Prague.

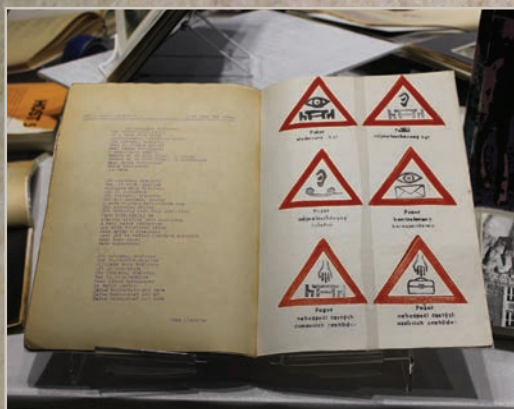
On the last Friday in October, museum patrons had a unique opportunity to attend a presentation by Snejppova. She said, "Literally meaning 'self-published,' *samizdat* is a Russian term referring to underground publications that flourished in the USSR and Soviet bloc under repressive communist rule. Copies of an essay, a book, a series of poems, or articles were generated in small batches, most commonly using a typewriter with carbon paper or a small printing press. Blending political dissidence with aesthetic innovation, *samizdat* was passed from person to person through clandestine networks."



During the communist rule of Czechoslovakia, Snejppova's family escaped while she was still a young child. She recounted that a majority of inspiration for the exhibit stems from her curiosity "trying to imagine what life would have been like if my family hadn't packed me up and escaped to Canada." The result is a fascinating display of , each of which, according to Snejppova, is an "independent expression that arose during an extreme state of control by the state."



"Creating and disseminating ideas or art that did not conform to official ideology—even if non-political—was considered to be an act against the state. This could, and did, lead to imprisonment for many of those found to be participating in this "unofficial culture." *Samizdat* explores how these seemingly small acts of opposition played a crucial role in resisting the totalitarian regime in Czechoslovakia, which was eventually displaced by the leaders of underground culture—including such producers of *samizdat* as writer and first president of Czechoslovakia, Václav Havel."



Samizdat was not limited to books. The exhibition also explores other forms of cultural resistance and includes examples of artist projects, music and video documents of underground events. Publications in any discipline: architecture, performance and visual arts, mathematics or literature (including a book on manners) could be considered *samizdat* if it was produced independently and not sanctioned by the state. The materials, in turn, became political because they were unauthorized, unofficial. Thousands of books were removed from libraries. To quote Snejppova, "censorship evacuated creativity." However, in the words of Marcel Duchamp: "The great artist of

Samizdat books, cassettes, and projected video of performance art within the exhibit, above and opposite page.



From left to right, Guest Curator Daniela Snappova with NCSML's Curator Stefanie Kohn and Director of Facilities Grant Smith. Working alongside Snappova, Kohn, Smith, and NCSML's Collections Manager, Tricia Bender (not pictured), were instrumental in building the exhibit to fulfill the creative vision.

"The great artist of tomorrow will go underground."

—Marcel Duchamp

tomorrow will go underground." And so began an era of *samizdat* in Czechoslovakia.

Snappova began her exploration into the world of *samizdat* with the goal of writing an essay. She quickly realized that her peers may read the paper, but if she created an exhibit, she could spread knowledge to so many more. Not only that, but upon beginning her research, Snappova found *samizdat* created in a vast collection of materials, which yearned to be shown in a physical space. The artists had limited resources, but preferred to keep a semblance of the equivalent above-ground item. During the opening talk, Snappova spoke to this saying, "The Czechs were really committed to having books that look like books," even if the covers had to be made from salvaged materials. For example, covers were often fabricated using wallpaper, sandpaper, pipe installation materials or mourning flags. Necessity is the mother of invention. The scope of the exhibition extends to other cultural outputs, such as artists turning to their own bodies as a medium, as with the development of "action art" in the 1970s and 80s. With public life curtailed, people turned to domestic spaces to house Apartment Theatres and Apartment Universities.

Snappova stressed the amount of courage it took to broach the state. Punishments for creating *samizdat* frequently included scare tactics, such as phone-tapping, apartment-tapping, house searches, personal searches, endless questioning or interrogations, as well as incarceration. The expansive and impactful exhibit clearly articulates the depth and breadth of creative production in this parallel culture and demonstrates the silent, yet powerful protest the Czech and Slovak people upheld for years between the Prague Spring and the Velvet Revolution.

Exhibit Website <http://artofresistance.ca>



Knihovna Libri prohibiti

Libri Prohibiti Library

MEMBERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

A note from the NCSML Membership Manager, Emily Weber:

I want to thank all of the members of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library for supporting our mission throughout the year. Every day I am touched by your philanthropy and support of the museum, demonstrated by providing the operational funding needed to deliver beautiful exhibits, host visiting lecturers, and showcase our world-class programming. The efforts of each individual member or household add up to create a wonderful community of loyal supporters. Sometimes it is difficult to thank and share each specific story of the little things our members do that mean the world to us here at the NCSML. However, I would like to share one particular story that has stuck with me this year.

At the suggestion of one of our long-time members, the museum started a program in 2015 where members can choose to “donate back” the Admit One gallery passes that come with their membership dues. We’ve shared this option with all of you on your membership statements throughout this year. We received an overwhelming response in 2015, with over 150 passes donated to be shared with families in need who may not be able to visit the museum on a daily basis.

We’ve provided these passes to local human services agencies who support child and family development. We shared the passes with our community as a way to celebrate our first bilingual children’s exhibit, *Global Shoes*, which opened back in May. And throughout the year we’ve seen members of our community delight in these passes and a trip to the museum, when they may not have been able to visit on their own or bring their children.



Museum visitors interact with the Faces of Freedom exhibit.

Recently, one of our visitor services staff members shared a story about two middle-school-aged boys who came to the museum on their own, asking if they “needed a library card” to get in. She told them, “No, you don’t need a library card. Normally a student admission costs \$5, but we had some generous members who donated gallery passes so your admission today is free!” The boys were so excited that they were able to enjoy the museum and they spent hours getting their fill of the galleries, library, theater and immigrant home.

These types of experiences are so important. Just as the NCSML has engaged and charmed our loyal supporters over the years, it must strive to position itself as a fun educational experience for a new generation of students and young people. We must reach out to families who have not yet visited our museum—or perhaps any museum—to show them that we are here for them as a community resource and as a partner.

We’re pleased to say that, thanks to your support and belief in the NCSML, we are doing just that. You make these kinds of experiences happen. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The heart of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library is its volunteer corps. Many of our volunteers give their time and talents daily, weekly or for special programs or annual events. Ongoing opportunities include being a gallery attendant, immigrant house tour guide, grand hall host, receptionist or volunteering in the museum store.

We strive to provide informative, engaging, and most importantly—FUN events for the community. Volunteers help with workshops, author series, concerts, exhibit opening receptions, kids crafts and much more.

We also offer a variety of internships that give students and recent graduates hands-on experience that will help them be successful in their professional lives. Internship positions fluctuate regularly and are posted on our website.

If you are interested in learning about any of these opportunities please contact Director of Visitor & Volunteer Services, Lindsay Erhardt-Hansen: lerhardt@ncsml.org or go to NCSML.org/volunteer for more information and to fill out a volunteer application!



A volunteer aids in the creation of a craft at the NCSML.

'TIS THE SEASON IN THE NCSML STORE



Mouth-blown Ornaments
in store and online



Crystallicious Bracelet.
\$24.95
in store and online



**Fair Trade DNA Strand
Necklace 18". \$10.95**
in store and online

Fair Trade Jewelry

Our Fair Trade Jewelry collection showcases hand-made, Czech glass, beaded jewelry created in a partnership between a Czech jeweler and families of Guatemala.

Garnets

Czech garnets have been mined for over 600 years and are known for their superior clarity. These legendary stones are truly cultural gems that make an everlasting statement.

Five Rosette Necklace. \$172.00
Rosette Earrings. \$74.00
in store and online



Moon Burst Gold-plated Brooch. \$299.95
Czech Lion Pendant. \$50.00
in store and online

Community Night at the Museum

Thursday, December 17 | 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Special performances by the
Deep Dish Divas

All Merchandise 25% Off*

Buy 3, Get 1 FREE Ornament Sale

The galleries will be open for a discounted admission price

Refreshments & cash bar

Craft activities for kids



*Excludes ornament sale and all other discounts

FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROGRAMMING

NEW! Free First Saturdays for Students

Cost: Free

Students of all ages (preschool through college) are invited to visit the NCSML's exhibits for free on the first Saturday of each month. College students must bring a current school ID card. Regular admission rates still apply to non-students.

Be My Valentine Pop-Up Card Workshop

Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 1:00pm

Cost: \$5 per child, tickets at NCSML.org

Create exciting Valentines for friends and family in this fun, hands-on workshop! Kids and parents will learn together how to make fabulous themed pop-up cards. No prior experience is necessary. Seating will be limited; purchase tickets now at NCSML.org.

Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company presents Little Red Riding Hood

Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 2:00pm

Cost: Free

Eulenspiegel's adaptation of this beloved fairy tale uses delightfully crafted miniature Bohemian marionettes. Puppeteer Monic Leo will tell the classic story of Little Red Riding Hood, her grandmother and the Big Bad Wolf. This production will be presented by the NCSML at Houby Days in Czech Village.

The Dandy Andy Film Series

Cost: \$5 adults and teens, \$2 kids 12 and under; tickets at NCSML.org

Join us for a film series inspired by the *Immortal: Warhol's Last Works* exhibition! Just who will you encounter? Meet the Wicked Witch of the West, John Wayne and Teddy Roosevelt.

The Dandy Andy Film Series (cont.)

Wednesday, June 22 at 6:30pm:

The Wizard of Oz (rated G, 1939)

Wednesday, July 13 at 7:00pm:

True Grit (rated G, 1969)

Wednesday, August 10 at 7:00pm:

Night at the Museum (rated PG, 2006)

Music @ the Museum: Bob Dorr and the Blue Band

Sunday, July 3 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Cost: Free

Bring your lawn chairs and your dancing shoes for this Official Freedom Festival Event! Bob Dorr and the Blue Band, members of the Iowa Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, will play on the riverbank at the NCSML's Rockwell Collins Amphitheater. A beer garden will be available. In partnership with the Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival.

The Andy Warhol Birthday Celebration!

Saturday, August 6 from 9:30am – 4:00pm

Cost: Free

Your whole family is invited to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in honor of the anniversary of Andy Warhol's 88th birthday! Join us for a day of pop art-inspired activities, games, edibles, and live music at the museum. Also enjoy free admission to all of the NCSML's galleries, including *Immortal: Warhol's Last Works*.

A monthly Family Art Workshop will be offered May – September, 2016. Kid-friendly projects will be inspired by the work of Andy Warhol.

Special interactive guided tours of all exhibits will begin in 2016!

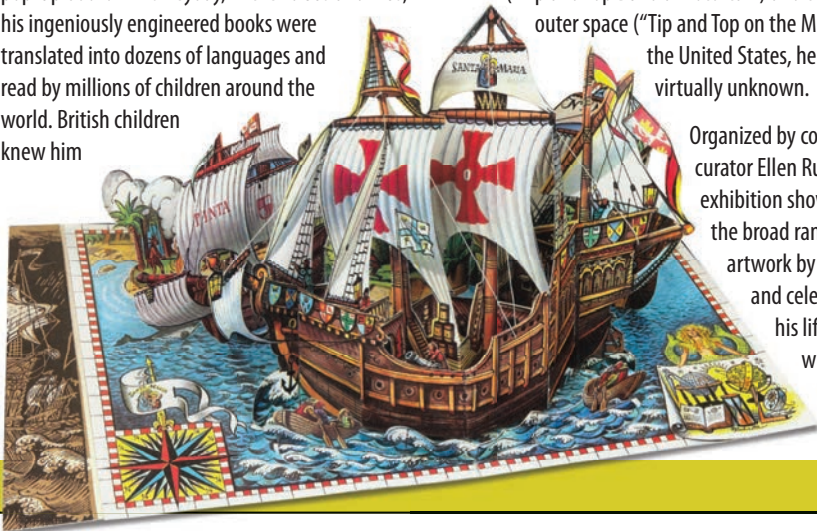
Find information about these programs, and many more, at NCSML.org.

Pop-Ups Exhibit Opens November 21, 2015-March 27, 2016

Vojtěch Kubašta was a Czech architect, graphic artist, children's book illustrator and master of the pop-up book. In his heyday, in the 1960s and '70s, his ingeniously engineered books were translated into dozens of languages and read by millions of children around the world. British children knew him

as the author of a series of pop-up books featuring Tip and Top, two boys who put together a car from scratch ("Tip and Top Build a Motorcar") and traveled to outer space ("Tip and Top on the Moon"). In the United States, he was virtually unknown.

Organized by collector and curator Ellen Rubin, the exhibition showcases the broad range of artwork by Kubašta and celebrates his life's work with paper, pencil and scissors.



LIBRARY RECIEVES GRANT FUNDING

NCSML Receives Grants to Process Archival Collections

The NCSML was recently awarded a grant for \$20,063 from the State Historical Society of Iowa's Historical Resource Development Program to improve the organization and access to library materials that document the Czech heritage of Cedar Rapids. The \$40,153 project will allow the NCSML to fully arrange and describe the library's Cedar Rapids-related collection of photos, books, organizational records, periodicals and ephemera; input the descriptions of these items into the museum's collections database; create an online guide of materials relating to the Czech immigrant community in Cedar Rapids; and scan the photos, periodicals and ephemera items to create an online collection of materials relating to the community of Czech immigrants and their descendants in Cedar Rapids. The Czech Heritage Foundation has generously pledged \$10,000 in matching funds towards the project, with the NCSML contributing the rest.



Project Librarian/Archivist Kassie McLaughlin, left, and Visiting Archivist Lucie Rajlová, right.

In order to accomplish this project's goals and objectives, the NCSML has hired Kassie McLaughlin in the position of Project Librarian/Archivist. She will be responsible to carrying out the project to its completion and will oversee interns who will be working on the project. Kassie recently received her Master of Arts in Library and Information Science from the University of Iowa, with an emphasis on archive theory, practice and management.

As part of a larger grant from the Aegon Transamerica Foundation, the NCSML was able to host Lucie Rajlová, a visiting archivist from the Czech National Archives in Prague, for the month of October. Lucie sorted through and created finding aids for two collections that pertain to the Czech heritage of Cedar Rapids. The first was a small collection of documents associated with František Kún, a prominent Czech immigrant and long-serving pastor of the church now known as the First Presbyterian Church of Ely. The second collection was a large set of early 20th century materials from the C.S.P.S. Lodge Prokop Velký consisting of meeting minutes, financial records, business correspondence and personal letters. Lucie also translated or summarized Czech-language letters and articles into English as well as provided cultural or historical context for the topics that were written about.



TRADITION OF GIVING

Charitable giving during the final months of the year has become a tradition for many. After all, it is when the NCSML benefits from its highest number of donor gifts. The Scrooges of the world will tell you it is for tax purposes, but we like to think it stems from people looking to do some genuine good as one year ends and another begins.

At the NCSML, we have our fair share of holiday traditions. Our annual Old World Christmas Market brings in thousands of visitors during the first weekend of December to enjoy arts, crafts and a variety of family-friendly activities. This tradition is already celebrating its sixth year in 2015! It is a merry and festive time to visit, and allows us to add to the "good things" we offer as we transition into the new year. In recent years, the NCSML has showcased an animatronic Santa's Workshop that had been displayed for more than 20 years at Killian's Department Store in downtown Cedar Rapids. This community connection, combined with the NCSML's exceptional exhibitions, programs and events, makes for a tradition of excellence as an organization that we are proud to uphold with your support.

What long-standing traditions do you and your family have at the end of the year? Whatever they are, we hope this year they include the NCSML. Come for a visit, drop a donation in the box at the entrance or make a more formal year-end gift at NCSML.org/support. As a community organization accessible to all, we appreciate the gifts we can offer and all that we are so fortunate to receive.

Right, Museum visitors create handmade garland and other crafts at the NCSML's annual Old World Christmas Market.



