As local and national debates on immigration continue, a group of community partners in Lewiston and Auburn worked on a program that encourages conversation, celebration, and understanding. Museum L-A was selected as one of 32 sites across 24 states to host this program series. All events were free and open to everyone.

Becoming American is a public program that features films, discussions, and a wide variety of events across the twin cities. The program is spearheaded by Museum L-A and the list of community partners includes: Auburn Public Library, Bates College, City of Auburn, City of Lewiston, Edward Little High School, First Universalist Church of Auburn, Gendron Franco Center, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, L/A Arts, Lewiston Public Library, Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services, Maine Immigrant Resource Center, the Maine Humanities Council, Tree Street Youth, and the YWCA of Central Maine.

The program at Museum L-A ran from September to November 2018. In addition to six screenings of documentary films, there were a wide range of programs including art shows, concerts, book groups, lectures, and youth-led events to share immigration stories and experiences.

MUSEUM L-A WELCOMES JESSICA ADKINS AS ITS FIRST DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

A major step was recently taken to move the future new Museum L-A forward. Since the workload has doubled for the Executive Director who needs to work with Architects, Planners, Exhibit Designers and Fundraisers, it was decided the Museum needed to add a position of Director of Operations to undertake its internal activities.

Jessica Adkins was hired as its new full-time Director of Operations. Jessica is a new resident of the state of Maine and comes to Museum L-A with a combined 15 years of managerial and operational experience. She spent more than three years as the Director of Operations for an international biotechnology company based out of Norway overseeing Operations, Human Resources, and Finance. Prior to her most recent position, Jessie spent 12 years managing the operations of various federal and state projects spread across the U.S.

Jessie has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in operational management, human resources, and finance. She spent most of her childhood and adult life working and giving back to the local communities she lived in, and she is looking forward to now immersing herself in the Lewiston-Auburn communities.

“It is with pleasure that we welcome Jessica to our staff as a leader and manager to provide direction, guidance and professional expertise in Museum operations and programs.” Says Rachel Desgrosseilliers, Executive Director. “It is a necessary step to allow focus to be placed on delivering a new museum to our communities.”

Jessica is excited to start this new career journey and provide leadership and support for the staff and volunteers as well as oversee all grants and marketing activities for the Museum.
A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Listening.
Something we have been doing a lot of in the past few years. We listened to community members through forums, surveys and one-on-one conversations with people of all ages. We listened to young professionals, families and our youth as they tell us they want us very active in the community, an integral part of what is happening today and a place to just drop by and be. They want us to be the “living room” of the community and our new Museum to be something new and exciting where they can start putting their own character on “their” community.

We heard people telling us to move forward, not be afraid, and be a strong focal point that helps push educational, cultural and business partnerships to new heights. We heard and are becoming a “destination” that opens whole new possibilities for the area in cultural tourism. We heard people wanting us to become the anchor creating a “critical mass” needed to act as a catalyst for revitalization and help open doors to willing investors for the downtowns and their futures.

By listening, we heard you challenging us to think BIG, BOLD, and AUDACIOUS. Both communities have high expectations. We need to be ready to move toward a Vision of Museum L-A insinuating a strong, vibrant, and resilient community that sustains a strong identity.

Our visionary approach is to foster community, become a destination for discovery and be essential to the 21st century landscape of education, business, innovation, immigration and life today. We remain committed to: WE ARE HERE TO HONOR, REMEMBER & INSPIRE! Honor the past, remember the people and inspire the future. We are an AMAZING people!

Status Update.

- We are completing our 3-5 year Strategic Master Plan towards our new Museum.
- We worked with Exhibit Planners to identify KEY stories and new exhibits.
- We rebuilt our staff to lead us into the future: Kate Webber, Director of Education & Outreach; Kathy Becvar, Director of Development; Emma Sieh, Collections & Exhibit Coordinator; Jessica Adkins, Director of Operations; with an open position for Visitor Services & Volunteer Coordinator.
- We are planning the Capital Campaign.
- We are hiring the architects to start design and preparation for construction.

We have already invested $1.5 million on the new site, and $6 million of our budgets have been spent in the local economy. Like our ancestors we made every penny count. We are not there yet. Board, staff, volunteers and yes the community want to see this happen. We are working with both the Cities of Lewiston and Auburn to make it happen. We still need to count on donations, sponsorships and very important, new volunteers to help in a variety of ways. This is a big project for the community. We cannot do it alone. But, it is a LEGACY that we will all be leaving to this community. Just as they say: “It takes a Village to raise a child”, we say, it takes a Community to give “birth” to a Museum.

Imperatives.
Moving forward creates imperatives reflecting Museum L-A’s growing significance in the community and as an interpretive institution. They include:

- Capacity to contribute to Lewiston-Auburn’s distinctiveness, pride and sense of place, and competitiveness as a place to live, work, play and visit.

As Executive Director, my job focuses on making this BIG, BOLD and AUDACIOUS project a reality. We have been listening to you for many years. We continue to listen and want to hear from you. We will have more community forums as we move forward to learn more about what you want us to be for you, your families, your businesses, your community and our visitors.

I hope you will feel free to contact me at 207-333-3881 and let me know what you are thinking. If you wish to be placed on a list of people wanting to give input for the new Museum, let me know by emailing rachel@museumla.org. Know that my door is always open. This is all of our futures but especially our children’s and grandchildren’s. Until our next update, I remain ready to listen.

Here’s to an amazing future to all of us in Lewiston-Auburn.

The Exhibit Design Committee Members discuss a presentation by EXP Studios for the future Museum.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL DESGROSSEILLIERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTE
For years, the Museum has been collecting the history of the ancestors of our community, preserving the mementos of their hard work, ingenuity, and creativity. Many of the pieces in the collection were handcrafted items, including an embroidered baptism set, hand-forged golf clubs as well as personally designed wood, stone and metal weaving hooks. These represent a traditional history of making things in our community that has almost been forgotten. Drawing inspiration from these items, the idea for an exhibit celebrating the crafts and goods made by hand was formed.

This summer, Museum L-A honored artisans from 16 cities and towns in Maine for its gallery exhibit “The Lost Art of Handiwork”.

Nearly 800 people visited the exhibit from June through September. Demonstrations of weaving and crafting were done throughout the exhibit.

Since the 1950’s, Martha Grenier Rivard asked her guests to sign a special tablecloth. She then lovingly hand embroidered each signature, creating a work of art to be cherished for years.

Over 300 guests enjoyed dancing with their friends at Museum L-A’s Dance Party Under the Stars II fundraiser that was held on Friday, September 7th. The Good n’ Plenty band brought back fond memories with songs of the 70’s and 80’s. It was the perfect opportunity for a reunion of band members while Museum L-A honored local musicians who passed away.

It was a beautiful starry evening at the amazing future home of Museum L-A, located near the Simard-Payne Park. Guests were captivated by the beauty of the Androscoggin River and the evening skyline of Lewiston-Auburn. It was a spectacular evening!

Stay tuned for Dance Party—2019!
Be a Part of History...Volunteer!

There are so many ways to support our work and preserve our history. You don’t need to have a museum background to make a difference. Museum L-A’s current volunteer needs include:

- Greeters
- Tour Guides
- Data Entry
- Researchers
- Education
- Retail/Gift Shop
- Writers & Composers
- Graphic Design
- Marketing
- Fundraising
- Archiving
- Collections
- Exhibit Committee
- Entrepreneurial Task Force
- Development Committee
- Light Cleaning
...and so much more!

For more information about volunteering for Museum L-A, please call 207-333-3881 or email info@museumla.org.

This fall, Aroha Philanthropies, the American Alliance of Museums, and Lifetime Arts announced that 20 museums and organizations have been tapped to participate in a new initiative, funded and managed by Aroha Philanthropies, Seeding Vitality Arts in Museums.

Museum L-A is one of the 20 selected museums, which range from Alaska to Puerto Rico. The more than $1 million project will enable these museums to develop and implement high quality, intensive arts learning opportunities for older adults.

The sponsoring organizations feel there is an urgent need to change the narrative about what it means to grow old in America, combat ageism, and promote a healthy change in societal attitudes toward aging as growth and older adults as contributors.

Programs will begin in 2019 and will consist of multi-session, professionally led participatory arts education. The sessions will make use of Museum L-A’s collections as inspiration, and participants will have behind-the-scenes access to the Museum as they learn a new skill. Keep an eye on Museum L-A’s website and social media to find out more as planning progresses.

We are honored to be the recipient of a grant for $25,250 from the Aroha Philanthropies to create a brand-new series of arts education programs for the older residents of our community.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

The Board of Directors and staff of Museum L-A are honored to receive the generous support from corporate major sponsors for our events, programming, and exhibits.

DANCE PARTY UNDER THE STARS II SPONSORS

- MAPLE WAY DENTAL CARE
- Modern Woodmen FRATERNAL FINANCIAL
- PLATZ ASSOCIATES
- CENTRAL MAINE POWER
- headlight audio visual video
- CHAPMAN Trucking
- Sun Journal

Andrucki & King
Gendron’s Seafood
Museum L-A’s current gallery exhibit, “Beau-frog: The Art of Peter Archambault,” displays the artwork and political cartoons of Peter Archambault, a native of Madawaska, Maine. His artwork, featured monthly in a Franco-American publication at the University of Maine at Orono, Le F.A.R.O.G. Forum, provided rich political commentary, an investigation into immigration practices, and an exploration of the Franco-American culture in Maine and New England.

Emma Sieh, Museum L-A’s Collections & Exhibit Coordinator, displays artwork that will be on display in the Museum’s upcoming exhibit, “Beau-frog: The Art of Peter Archambault”.

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. Following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, this year’s #GivingTuesday is on November 27th and will kick off the giving season by inspiring people to collaborate and give back.

DONATE TODAY TO BRING STUDENTS TO MUSEUM L-A. VISIT WWW.MUSEUMLA.ORG TO MAKE YOUR GIFT!
“OBJECT OF THE MONTH” AT MUSEUM L-A

A monthly object is on view on Museum L-A’s website and occasionally in the Museum gallery! Every month staff select an object from the collections to highlight and display. The idea behind this featured attraction is to evoke curiosity in an item that would have been otherwise hidden in storage, inspire visitors to help preserve our history through the collection by donating or sponsoring an item, and start conversations between the visitors and Museum staff about their own personal histories.

If you would like to help us preserve and care for these items that represent our community’s history, please donate to our Collections Department by visiting www.museumla.org or calling Kathy Becvar, Director of Development, at 207-333-3881.

JULY 2018

Martha Rivard would invite guests to sign her special tablecloth, then she would lovingly hand embroider their message.

AUGUST 2018

This Bates Supreme tablecloth belonged to Blanche Adrienne Morin Chouinard who worked in the spinning room at Bates Mill.

SEPTEMBER 2018

The Lewiston High School song has been sung at sports games, graduations, and other important school events for more than 80 years.

OCTOBER 2018

Museum L-A is looking for more information for October’s Object of the Month. Please call us at 207-333-3881 if you recall this parade.

Need Inspiration for Your Holiday Shopping? Think Museum L-A Gift Shop!

Are you looking for a unique gift for a special person who has everything? Museum L-A has recently upgraded its gift store to include products with the designs created by millworkers from Bates Mill. Our reproduction tote bags and Work Art prints, children’s and historical books and still locally crafted Maine Heritage Weaver bedspreads have been extremely popular.

Large reproduction Work Art prints and “Seven Mills Collage” would be great for the person who has everything to enhance their office, business or lobby walls. Now some of your Holiday shopping can be done right here in Museum L-A’s gift shop. Come in a see our new look and new products. All proceeds of the gift shop are used to provide new programs, education as well as preservation of artifacts so you would be solving your gift problem and helping a local organization at the same time. We look forward to seeing you.
Fun & Fright at Museum L-A

Not only can Museum L-A tell stories about our community and the people who live here—we can also create experiences for people to hear frightful stories!

Our StoryTellers Unhinged event welcomed over 40 people who enjoyed the antics of the Mainely Improv troupe on Friday, October 12th. The performers entertained guests with their improve rendition of Rapunzel and other fun stories.

Over 120 visitors toured the Museum on a behind-the-scene spooky tour of Bates Mill during Museum L-A’s Chills in the Mill event. Guests traveled into some forgotten parts of the building, and event organizers shared some stories of the more gruesome and creepy history about the mills that have probably never been heard.

Connecting Generations as Lucien Picard Tells His Story...

We are always honored to receive visitors who worked for the Bates Mill! Lucien Picard recently visited with his daughter and granddaughter. He explained all the different machines to us. He went to a special training school so he could learn the techniques to repair the Jacquard looms.

Lucien’s granddaughter told us that she has never been that interested in local history, but to be able to have her grandfather here sharing his life’s work was incredible. She recently moved back to Lewiston and is excited to learn more. Her pride in what her grandfather accomplished was clear!

We’re glad the Picard family came to see us, and honored to be fulfilling our mission of connecting generations!
35 Canal Street, Box A7
(enter from Chestnut Street)
Lewiston, ME 04240
Phone: 207-333-3881
www.museumla.org

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday-Friday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
And by appointment

OUR MISSION

Museum L-A connects generations and cultures, fosters a spirit of discovery and human ingenuity, and helps people experience the rich history of work, the arts, and community.

Donate now...No gift is too small!

Your gift matters.

Museum L-A relies on the donations from individuals and businesses to continue its mission to connect generations and cultures, foster a spirit of discovery and human ingenuity, and help people experience the rich history and heritage of work, the arts and community.

Your gift matters. A gift of any size will help us to continue providing outstanding educational programs for people of all ages. Our exhibits are second to none—and your donation helps us create truly unique experiences for everyone. We are all about fun, learning, and inspiring others.

Please consider making tax-deductible gift during the upcoming holiday season to support us on our exciting journey as we continue to instill pride in who we are – strong, proud, hard working, and like our ancestors, ready to say yes we can.

Visit www.museumla.org to make your secure online donation. We also encourage you to take advantage of recurring giving...an easy payment plan that fits your philanthropic schedule.

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

Matching Gifts

Did you know that many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage philanthropy among their employees? And that some companies will even match to spouses and retirees?

Some companies also provide matching gifts for the volunteer hours you perform. You select the nonprofit organization as the beneficiary.

By simply completing a matching gift form (paper or online), you may be able to double or even triple the impact of your gift.

Contact your human resource department to find out if your company allows matching gifts.