

## Exhibit Room Report

### Foundation Meeting, November 2023

Respectfully Submitted by Liz Kneer, Exhibit Room Coordinator

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#### Past Exhibit

##### ***Drake Hokanson: At Home in Flyover Country (August 8, 2023-October 21, 2023)***

We had another great month of *At Home in Flyover Country*, with 1152 visits in September. There were many books checked out on photography and lots of black and white/greyscale artwork created at our drawing station.

Drake gave a wonderful presentation on October 16 at Winchester Academy. Due to a schedule change on Drake's end, the exhibit came down on October 17 rather than October 21.

It was a pleasure to meet and work with Drake and his wife Carole for his exhibit. We had wonderful feedback on the quality of this exhibit and the beauty of Drake's photography. Total attendance for October was 1118 people, with 3481 total visitors for *At Home in Flyover Country*.

<http://www.drakehokanson.com/photographs.html>

#### Current Exhibit

##### ***Waupaca History 101: Our Indigenous & Immigrant Story (October 28, 2023-December 9, 2023)***

*Waupaca History 101* will be a great opportunity to educate our community on our Indigenous history, past and current immigrant stories, and showcase our newly digitized historic newspaper collection! Although it took a bit of coordination, all items arrived at the library and are installed for this highly educational exhibit.

The exhibit includes the indigenous story of our area, told through informational panels from UWSP. The Ho Chunk Museum in Tomah has a panel exhibit on the Ho Chunk Nation.

Adult Programming librarian, Molly Reinke, arranged to have author Angeline Bouley visit our library and schools, which will be a fantastic complement to our indigenous history portion of the exhibit. I will host the book club discussion for her latest book on November 18, and be sure to mark your calendar for the author visit/presentation on December 5, 6.30p at the Waupaca High School.

Our European immigrant history is explained through *Neighbors Past & Present*, on loan from the UW Madison Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies <https://mki.wisc.edu/exhibits/npp/>. Additionally, our great partner Tracy Behrendt from the Waupaca Historical Society, provided many images for the exhibit highlighting our early Waupaca history.

It's taken a lot of patience, but we are delighted to give patrons the chance to explore our newly digitized historic newspaper collection. Two computer stations are in the Exhibit Room, and visitors can print what they find. Patsy Servey and Simon Baumgardt were a huge help to make this available.

One of the most moving parts of the exhibit are the local stories we are able to share of our recent immigrants. Alongside these stories, we feature *The Bias Inside Us*, a poster exhibit from the Smithsonian. This is an opportunity for our visitors to critically think about their own biases and how they interact with everyone in our community.

<https://biasinsideus.si.edu/homepage>

We are excited to host all six 4th grade classes from the WLC on November 16! Since Wisconsin history is part of their curriculum, this exhibit is a great field trip for them. Three classes are visiting in the morning and three in the afternoon. We will have three activities that groups will rotate through: a tour/scavenger hunt of the exhibit, a video/activity with Tracy Behrendt, and storytime with Children's Department staff.

#### Upcoming Exhibit

##### ***Franklin: Celebrating Black History (October 28, 2023-December 9, 2023)***

*Franklin* is coming to us in digital format, so all images will be printed and mounted this month. Larry Thomas at FVTC has a great collection and knowledge of important black historical figures, and we will feature these as well.

The Waupaca Historical Society is screening the documentary film, "The Exchange". In 1966, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Thomas Schaffer, an English teacher at Kaukauna High School, looking to perform the play "In White America" with KHS drama students, arranged a 13-student exchange between Kaukauna High School and Rufus King High School in Milwaukee. The students lived in each other's homes and presented a controversial play in each community. In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of those historic performances, Joanne Williams, a television journalist from Milwaukee, began producing a documentary on the exchange. <https://www.theexchange50.com/>

### **Additional Exhibit Room Items**

EXHIBIT ROOM REMODEL: We are on track to have all remaining items installed for the Exhibit Room remodel by the time *Franklin* opens in December.

**Action Item:** The Verguawen family checked in on our remodeling and asked about an plans for recognition of their donation. What does the Library Foundation want this event to look like to recognize our donors and the remodel project?

CHARLES SCHULZ/BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT: Community grant writer, Greg Grohman, let us know we received a \$3000 grant through the Community Foundation and an additional \$1000 from Alliant Energies to support our Black History/*Franklin* exhibit. The Community Foundation grant was written to support both the library and Waupaca Historical Society, since they will be screening a documentary to complement our exhibit. The library will receive \$2250 of the Community Foundation grant, for a total of \$3250 in funding.

The Exhibit Room Committee met on October 4th and discussed take down for our Drake Hokanson exhibit as well as installation for our upcoming *Waupaca* exhibit. We also looked ahead to our Black History/*Franklin* exhibit on ideas for programming. We had another brief Exhibit Room Committee meeting after we installed the *Waupaca History 101* exhibit on October 26 to talk about upcoming exhibits and programming.

I continue to attend biweekly meetings to coordinate the Yuletide Trail. The library is heavily involved with this important community event hosting an interactive movie, Exhibit Room crafts in partnership with the Arts Hub, storytime, musical events, cookie stop location and more. This is an opportunity to welcome new patrons into the library and showcase our many services we provide.

The Library Foundation annual campaign mailing will go out later in November. I am making sure our mailing list is updated, envelopes ordered and everything ready to go once materials are printed. Our target is to have everything out the door by the end of the month.

Members from the Waupaca Community Arts Board approached me to display their glass art from their latest project, *Shine*. These pieces will be used for installations in downtown Waupaca, but we are happy to showcase them and explain the story behind the project this spring.

Our application for *Americans and the Holocaust* was submitted to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office. We had great support from community partners at the School District of Waupaca, Winchester Academy and the Waupaca Historical Society to strengthen our application. The ALA will notify winners winter 2024. <https://www.ala.org/tools/programming/USHolocaustMuseum/>

With Drake Hokanson taking down his exhibit earlier than anticipated, the Exhibit Room was closed longer than usual between exhibits. *Waupaca History* had many moving parts, and it was not possible to get the traveling components of the exhibit here any sooner. The upside of this, though, was that the library was approached to host a 'Meet Me at the Library' event for the School District of Waupaca Robotics Club. Meeting Room space wasn't available that day, but since our space is open on October 23, the Robotics Club held their event in our Exhibit Room.

### **Monthly Attendance Reports**

The attendance charts for September and October are included with this report.

### **2023 Schedule**

- *Women*: December 10-January 28
- *Youth Art Month*: February 4-March 31
- *Waupaca Rotary: 30 Years & Just Getting Started*: April 8-June 3
- *Waupaca Solar Energy/Waupaca Prairie/Citizen Science (Summer Learning Program)*: June 10- August 5
- *Drake Hokanson: At Home in Flyover Country*: August 12-October 21
- *Waupaca History 101: Immigrants Past and Present (digitized historic collection)*-October 28-December 9
- *Black History*: December/January

### **2024 Schedule**

- *Black History*: December/January
- *Youth Art Month*: February/March
- *Ecuadorian Art*: April/May
- *Summer Learning Program: Waupaca: Choose Your Own Adventure*: June/July/August
- *Creative Power Collection (Artists with disabilities/Employment inclusion)*: Late August/September
- *Typewriters*-October/November
- *Quilts*-December/January

### **2025 Schedule**

- *Quilts*-December/January
- *Youth Art Month*: February/March
- *Community Blood Center*: April/May (potential bump to Aug/Sept 2024)