River exhibit will continue in gallery space

The end date of the “Our Working Waterway” exhibit has been extended due to the museum being closed throughout much of its scheduled presence in our gallery. The exhibit dives into the history of the Androscoggin River and its effects on the industrial development of many cities throughout Maine. From the generation of water power to the passage of the Clean Water Act 50 years ago, people have used this important waterway to develop manufacturing centers, polluted the river’s waters, and worked hard to clean and maintain the river throughout history. Photographs, maps, and drawings from numerous history organizations are featured in this exhibit alongside artwork inspired by the stunning landscape of the Androscoggin River. To learn about the Wabanaki and their ancestral history in Maine; to learn about organizations focused on the assessment, use, and clean up of the river, visit https://www.museumla.org/gallery-exhibit/

This exhibit was funded in part by a grant from the Maine Bicentennial Commission.

Child-labor themed Travel Trunk program updated, launched for grades 3-6

Developed to bring the museum to the classroom, Museum L-A’s travel trunk includes lesson plans, primary source objects, activities, games, books, and child laborer costumes. The curriculum guide provides learning objectives from the Maine Department of Education. The step-by-step lesson plans are designed to engage students with activities centered on reading, creating a timeline, understanding immigration, weaving, and role playing. Educators will also have access to online audio files of local oral histories that provide first-hand information about child laborers from people who actually worked in mills, shoe shops and brickyards as children. More information and a reservation form can be found on the museum’s site at https://www.museumla.org/travel-trunk-program/.
A few months ago, we lost a good friend of Museum L-A, Dr. Bernard Lown, world renowned physician, professor, and inventor of the defibrillator. He was a visionary, an advocate for peace, and a friend, guide, and mentor to many. Despite his fame, he never forgot his roots, and he loved this community. “No one was ever more in love with the world,” said his granddaughter at his graveside service.

My drive to the museum takes me over the bridge that bears his name. As I cross the bridge, I often recall the words said of Dr. Lown at Harvard, following his death. “He was a man who built bridges among people the world over to create a healthier, safer life for everyone.” What a legacy!

As we at Museum L-A listen to the oral histories of those who worked in these mills, factories, and brickyards, we are mindful of the rich history and heritage of those who came before us and molded the Twin Cities. And we are grateful for those who continue to come, bringing creativity, innovation, and joie de vivre.

Museum L-A is pleased that “Le Carrefour,” funded by TV5 Monde, the Points North Institute, and the Maine Humanities Council will be partially filmed in our space at the Bates Mill. Written, directed and filmed by Jessamine Irwin of New York University and Daniel Quintan-

Museum L-A is proud to have been one of the nonprofits selected to be on the ballot of the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation’s Community Matters More campaign. Your vote secured us a grant enabling us to continue offering the best exhibits and programming. This year, over $140,000 was awarded to 44 nonprofit organizations in Maine and New Hampshire.

Since its inception in 2007, the Community Matters More program has awarded almost $1.5 million to more than 500 organizations. The program started in support of nonprofits that play an important role in many lives and has steadily grown through the years.

The National History Day contest engages students around the world in historical research and skill development. Young people learn critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as acquiring the tools needed to boost their self-esteem and confidence. This year’s theme, “Communication in History: the Key to Understanding,” required students to enter projects in the areas of documentary, exhibit, historical paper, performance, or website development, moving through local, state, and national channels.

In the past, Museum L-A has physically hosted several hundred students in Maine’s Southern Region competition and looks forward to doing so in the future. Due the constraints of COVID-19, this year’s contest and judging took place completely online. Museum L-A is proud to have provided volunteer judges to guide and support hardworking and impressive Maine students!

Museum L-A is so appreciative of all the ways Bangor Savings Bank partners with and supports our efforts. This funding helps us to continue providing the best quality in-person and online resources for teachers, students, and families in Lewiston-Auburn and beyond.

The National History Day contest engages students around the world in historical research and skill development. Young people learn critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as acquiring the tools needed to boost their self-esteem and confidence. This year’s theme, “Communication in History: the Key to Understanding,” required students to enter projects in the areas of documentary, exhibit, historical paper, performance, or website development, moving through local, state, and national channels.

In the past, Museum L-A has physically hosted several hundred students in Maine’s Southern Region competition and looks forward to doing so in the future. Due the constraints of COVID-19, this year’s contest and judging took place completely online. Museum L-A is proud to have provided volunteer judges to guide and support hardworking and impressive Maine students!
illa of Bangor, this documentary features a young man fleeing unrest in the Congo who seeks asylum in Lewiston. In contrast, a long-time resident's Franco identity has resurfaced, thanks to a new era of francophone immigrants arriving. As nationalist sentiments rise up once again, the French language serves as the vehicle of communication, breaking down stigmas and connecting Lewiston's past to its present.

Le Carrefour will be screened at the Camden International Film Festival in September and will be shared with audiences via community screenings this fall.

Geocaching is a modern-day scavenger hunt for caches, or site-specific hidden objects. Nearly four million people are already part of the global geocaching community, with caches in 191 countries and every continent.

The New England Franco-Route GeoTour will highlight several Franco-American cultural sites in cities across New England, including Woonsocket, RI, Lowell, MA, Manchester, NH, Biddeford, ME, and Lewiston-Auburn. A small team from Museum L-A worked with the French-Canadian Legacy Podcast folks to choose historically significant sites in the community. In addition to the traditional treasure hunt aspect of Geocaching, this GeoTour will feature information in both English and French. The New England Franco-Route GeoTour will be a fun and uniquely engaging educational experience for individuals, families, friends and classes of all ages.
Your gift matters more than ever.

Museum L-A relies on the donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations to further its mission. Your contribution helps us to continue providing outstanding educational programs for people of all ages. Our exhibits are second to none and your donation enables us to create truly unique experiences for everyone. Your gift is an investment in preserving history and keeping the stories accessible for generations to come. 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.

For more information, contact Audrey Thomson, executive director, at aathomson@museumla.org or 207-333-3881.

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.

Be the first to know about what’s happening at Museum L-A!
Sign up for our mailing list at www.museumla.org.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!
There are many ways to get involved and volunteer at Museum L-A, both in the galleries and behind the scenes. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities and the application process, contact our volunteer coordinator at info@museumla.org or 207-333-3881.