



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA  
556 W MAPLE  
Thursday, January 4, 2024  
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. Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes of December 7, 2023

**4. New Business**

- A. Discussion: Museum Long Range Plan
- B. Discussion: Museum Strategic Planning, 2024

**5. Communication and Reports**

- A. Director Report
- B. Member comments
- C. Public comments

**6. Next Meeting: February 1, 2024**

**7. 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.

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**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING  
556 W. Maple  
Thursday, December 7, 2023  
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Caroline Ashleigh, Kristy Barrett (Alternate), Bev Erickson,  
Alexandra Harris, Judith Keefer, Marty Logue, Jay Shell  
Members Absent: Pat Hughes  
Student Members Present: Alex Motea  
Administration: Museum Specialist Caitlin Donnelly  
Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairperson Logue.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of November 2, 2023**

**MOTION:** by Ashleigh, seconded by Shell:

To approve the minutes of November 2, 2023.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 7  
Nays, 0

**New Business**

Members reviewed the final draft document of the Birmingham Museum Site Interpretive Plan. No changes were suggested to the document text; however, Mr. Shell suggested that captions be included for the images used in the final document.

**MOTION:** by Logue, seconded by Shell:

To approve the Birmingham Museum Site Interpretive Plan as submitted, with the addition of appropriate image captions in the final document.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 7  
Nays, 0

**Communication and Reports**

Museum Specialist Donnelly reviewed the Director's Report and provided updates to the various construction projects and highlighted the Aging in Place survey, the Black History Month planned programs, Long Range Planning for 2024 and the upcoming budget process.

**Member Comments**

Mr. Shell asked for the name of the roofing contractor working on the Allen House. Ms. Barrett suggested the font size in the exhibit materials should be larger, which other

board members agreed with. Museum Specialist Donnelly explained that the museum follows best practices and standards in its exhibit materials, including standard font sizes, and that the intent is to draw people closer to the materials to read them. However, the museum staff would consider this suggestion as we refresh existing materials for the current exhibit.

#### **Public Comments**

None.

**The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 5:00 PM.**

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 5:25 PM.



# Birmingham Museum

## Long Range Plan 2024



Presented by: Leslie Pielack

Date: January 20, 2024



# Strategic Plan Revision

- Build on accomplishments since 2013
  - Incorporate sustainability objectives
1. Update public input
  2. Focus on next 10 years
  3. Digital storage and public access
  4. Outreach and collaboration





# Strategic Plan Revision Methodology

1. Update public input with public, cultural, and internal feedback
2. Use a ten-year timeframe to set short- and long-term goals through employee recruitment and retention, best practices, and museum standards
3. Work towards enhanced public access and sustainable digital storage
4. Expand community engagement and local history education through collaborative programming and technology

# Landscape Master Plan Implementation

- Phases 2 and 3 of pond and Rouge access improvements
- Incorporate sustainability objectives
  1. Reduce physical barriers to increase public access, utilization, and appeal
  2. Incorporate sustainability and technology
  3. Seek grant funding



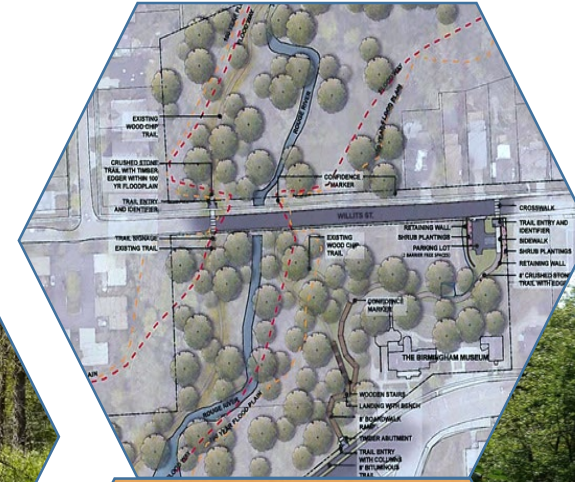
# Landscape Master Plan Implementation Methodology

1. Complete Phases 3/4 landscape with sustainable design to provide ADA-compliant access to pond, lawn, and Rouge overlook
2. Utilize technology to reduce physical impact on site and for sustainable and educational interpretive content
3. Collaborate to develop grant-eligible public access and fund sustainable materials and improvements





# Questions?



Cemetery		McC
Mr. Frederick, Batzloff.	9	
3 ft West Side 1 ft 6 in South End to center Grave		
21 Mrs. Henry, Randall.	E	3
3 ft West Side 2 6 in South End to center Grave		
28 Alice, L. Worlaker. Child	D	16
East Half of Lot, 17 in East Side to Foot of grave		
3 ft North End to center Grave		
Feb 22 Mrs. Estella B. Parks.	E	18
3 ft West Side, 3 ft North End to center Grave		
Mar 1 Mrs. Anna E. Parks.	E	18 2
3 ft 3 in from		
to Grave		
3 ft 3 in South	E	2
3 ft West Side	E	





## Director Report

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**DATE:** January 4, 2024  
**TO:** Museum Board  
**FROM:** Leslie Pielack, Museum Director  
**SUBJECT:** Director Report

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Allen House Porch Roof—the last few tasks being completed, with the warmer weather making it a little easier to wrap the project up in advance of any serious snow and freezing weather.

Special Group Tours—We are still setting up group tours for private groups interested in learning more about our diversity exhibit and the Underground Railroad. We are getting groups of 25 and 30 people, including a local private company who wants to use our exhibit as a basis for a lunch and learn program for their employees. Because of its popularity, we anticipate extending the diversity exhibit into the fall of 2024.

Presentations—This is the time of year when we gear up our programming for presentations, but we are even busier this year than usual! The museum's monthly programming will continue in January, February and March at the Baldwin Library, as follows:

- January 11, 7 PM: "A Shifting Landscape: How Immigration Shaped Birmingham" featuring Justin Koch
- February 8, 7 PM: "The Civil Rights Movement in the 1970s and Birmingham's CREEM Magazine" featuring Caitlin Donnelly
- March 14, 7 PM: "The Prindle Sisters: Birmingham's Pioneer Women," featuring Donna Casaceli

In addition, we will be promoting our special on site, Saturday morning Black History Month Programs as follows:

- February 3: "Birmingham's Connections to the Underground Railroad," featuring Justin Koch
- February 10: "The 'Delaware Moors': a Multiracial Community with Ties to Birmingham's Story," featuring Leslie Pielack
- March : "The Harris-Jackson Family of Birmingham: Three Generations of Birmingham's Black History," featuring Donna Casaceli
- February 24: "Black Artists of the 1970s and 1980s Through the Lens of CREEM Magazine," featuring Caitlin Donnelly

**Next** also requested that museum staff provide presentations on local Indigenous people for their special series this winter and spring:

- January 11: "The Saginaw Trail and the Indigenous People of Oakland County," (Leslie Pielack)
- January 30: "Basket Traditions of Great Lakes (Anishnaabe) Tribes" (Donna Casaceli)
- March : "Indigenous Archaeology of Oakland County," featuring Caitlin Donnelly

Finally, as part of the museum's collaborative programming with area historical societies and our Underground Railroad Project, the Southfield Public Library will be featuring the first in the Oakland History Center's Sesquicentennial Year Lecture Series on January 31 at 7 PM. This will include an introduction by Museum Director Leslie Pielack explaining the UGRR project followed by a presentation by Birmingham Museum volunteer Joy Young on John Sella Martin. Martin was a freedom seeker who came to Southfield, was sheltered and taught by abolitionist minister J.S.T. Milligan, and went on to become a close colleague of Frederick Douglass and a famous abolitionist and minister himself. The evening will also include other festivities and recognition of the project and the research, as well as the Oakland History Center's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.