

MARQUETTE MARITIME MUSEUM



ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Dear Donors, Members, and Friends:

We had a very successful 2025 season. Ticket admission sales were up, and the City of Marquette completed work on the second floor of the Lighthouse, which we added to our tour. Our annual fundraiser, Ghosts of Lighthouse Point (GOLP), is a great example of how we fulfill our mission of protecting, preserving, and interpreting maritime history while also giving back to the community. Over 45 community members volunteer as ghosts based on real people from the history of Marquette and the Great Lakes. For example, we had the Lilac Ghost and her Sailor from the Landmark Inn at one of our stations in 2025. The staff and volunteers research the ghosts so that tour guests not only have a fun Halloween experience, but they also learn local maritime history. NMU's Student Veteran Services participates annually in GOLP, and we coordinate with them to collect canned goods for the NMU Food Bank. This year we were also grateful for food donations for our GOLP volunteers from Domino's, Meijer, and Texas Roadhouse. The Halloween Store donated costumes and loaned us inflatables to use at ghost stations.



**Ghosts of Lighthouse Point 2025,
Volunteers and Lilac Sailor Ghosts**



The 2025 season opened in May with our free local school Field Trip program. We hosted over 1000 children and adults. We also continued our children's outdoor art/history workshops in collaboration with Carol Phillips and the Liberty Children's Art Project (LCAP). The first workshop was Plein Air Painting as a part of the City of Marquette's Art Week. We hung the Plein Air artwork in the windows of the Museum's Stannard Rock Boathouse exhibit and performance space. We offered two additional free children's workshops in July: Printmaking Maritime Mural and Native American Lake Explorers: Canoes and Dioramas.



Plein Air Painting Artwork in the Stannard Rock Boathouse

Art/History Workshops with Liberty Children's Art Project: Printmaking



The 2025 Lake Superior Day festival, held in July, had twelve educational booths for families to learn about the history, conservation, ecology, and regional importance of Lake Superior. Lake Superior Day celebrates our great lake by teaching families how to preserve and maintain it for the enjoyment of future generations.



Lake to Lake CISMA Booth at Lake Superior Day



Northville High School Mustangs Junior Varsity Hockey Team

The Museum has fourteen regular volunteers who dedicate their time giving interpretive tours of the lighthouse and helping in the museum with field trips and archival work. Another forty-five volunteers participated in Ghosts of Lighthouse Point. Special tours include Evening Lighthouse Tours and Sunrise Tours, each held twice a month. Paranormal Lighthouse Tours are monthly and remain one of our most popular events. This year we hosted delegates from Marquette's sister city of Kajaani, Finland, and the Northville High School Mustangs Junior Varsity Hockey Team on Lighthouse tours. Other tour groups included Victory Cruise, Old Cadillac Club, Great Lakes Shore Excursions, Adventure Caravans, and RV Rally.



Maritime History on Tap (MHoT), our winter lecture series, co-sponsored by the Ore Dock Brewing Company, is held once a month, November through April. In September 2025, we added an additional MHoT with Lee Murdoch's "Songs of Superior." Topics for our 2024/2025 series included:

- November 2024: Matt Zika, National Weather Service Marquette Meteorologist, "Improvements in Weather Forecasting"
- December 2024: "Our Lake Superior Trip: U of M Exploring Party 1868" with Jack Deo and Don Balmer
- January 2025: Celtic Music Trio, The Knockabouts, sea shanties, shipwreck ballads, and instrumental compositions
- February 2025: "The Gales of August: The Sinking of the Western Reserve," with Bruce Lynn, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum
- March 2025: "Pirate Dan Seavey: Fact, Fiction, and a Whole Lot of Folklore" with Captain Peggy
- April 2025: Paranormal Marquette Lighthouse with Yooper Paranormal

The Knockabouts, below



Lee Murdoch, above

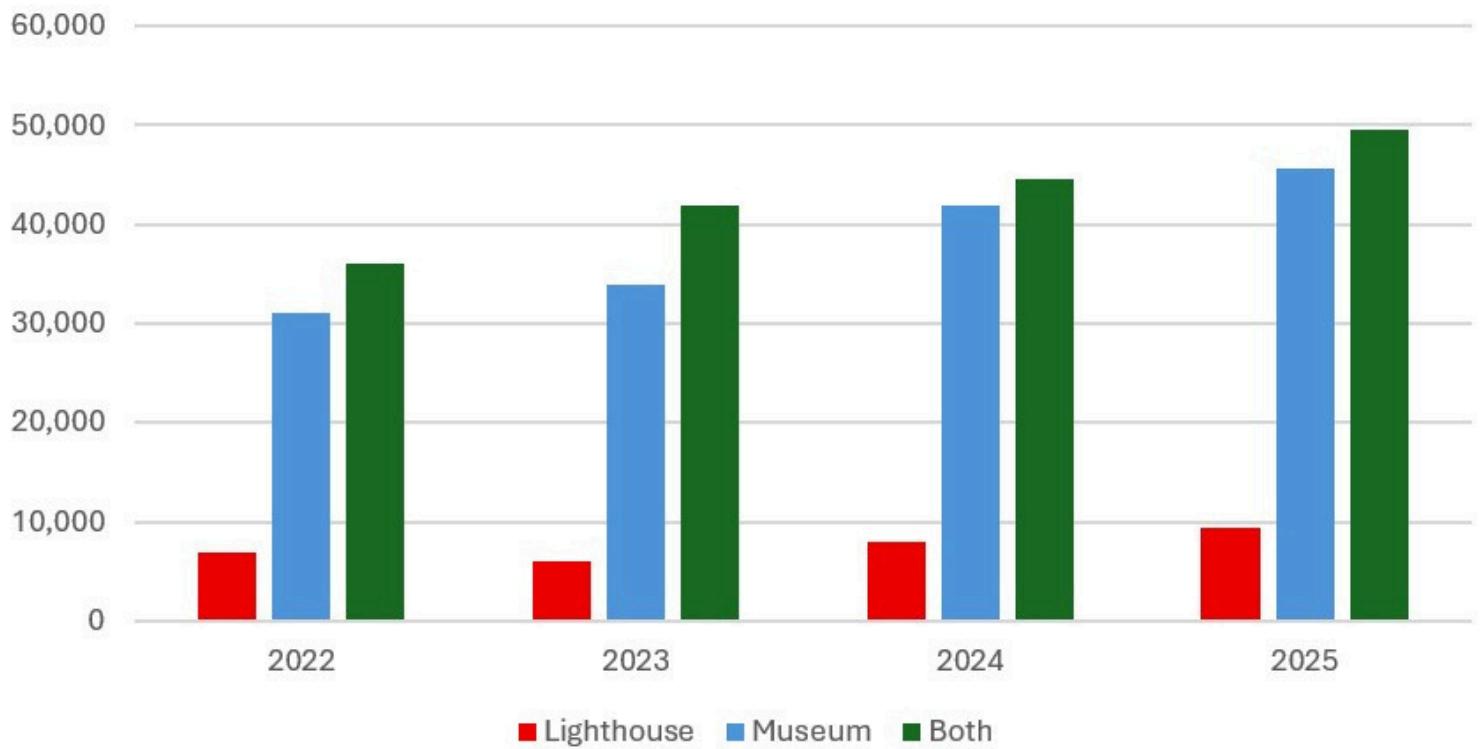


TICKETS SALES AND VISITATION

Through an agreement with the City of Marquette, half of Lighthouse ticket sale revenue is paid to the city as rent, and the money goes into a city account for future Lighthouse restoration. In 2025, we paid the city approximately \$16,000, and during the last six years, we have paid the city over \$106,000 from lighthouse ticket sales.

Overall ticket sales for 2025 were \$104,557 (compared to \$95,203 in 2024, \$82,062 in 2023, and \$74,122 in 2022). 2025 season visitation was 10,909 visitors from every state and sixteen countries, including 1000 local children and adults on field trips; 2024 had 10,086 visitors, 2023 had 9,159, 2022 had 9,055, and 2021 had 8,560. 2025 Special Programs and Fundraisers hosted an additional 1,364 visitors.

Ticket Sales 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers dedicate hours to helping our mission of preserving maritime history. Lighthouse Tour Guides and Archival Interns:

Greg Sandell
Leiji Koval
Jack Vander Lugt
Roy Delvalle
Evan Sparks
Ricky Jachalke
Trish Kautz

Ann Silverman
Dylan Taivalmaa
Carole Touchinski
Laura Miller
Steve Nason
Della Slavsky
Jon Blankenship



**Delegates (and hosts) from
Marquette's sister city of Kajaani,
Finland, on a Lighthouse tour with
volunteer, Della. November 2025**

**Pre-season Volunteer
Training, May 2025**

If you are interested in volunteering as a Lighthouse Tour Guide, email us at mqtmaritimemanager@gmail.com



Memberships 2025: \$3,150

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual \$35

Family \$65

Business \$150

Individual Lifetime \$500

Family Lifetime \$1000

Patron \$5000

Membership renewal available at

<https://marquette-maritime-museum.square.site/>

2025 DONATIONS

\$24,543.00*

THIS INCLUDES \$10,000 ROOF DONATION

GRANTS

The Museum received several grants in 2025. The Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) grant supports our arts and education programming and helps us to pay staff salaries in the winter. We also received a grant from the Hirvonen Foundation to update our camera security system in the Museum building and in the Stannard Rock Boathouse.

Maritime historian and board president Frederick Stonehouse donated his maritime research collection and Ed Pusick art work to the Museum, and we were awarded a grant from the MI History Alliance to buy archival supplies for the collection. Student interns are currently cataloging and storing the collection in appropriate envelopes, sleeves, albums, and boxes. A few items from the Pusick collection were used in the NMU Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center's 2025 exhibition "Gales of November: Shipwrecks on Lake Superior."

We also received a grant from America250MI to purchase kiosks, iPads, and software to enhance our exhibit gallery and display more photographs from our collections.



Ed Pusick Art Work at NMU

**Stonehouse Collection
before and after storage in
proper archival supplies**



**Wall-mounted
Kiosks**

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Thanks for supporting Maritime History!