



For more than 80 years, the Danbury Museum (formerly the Danbury Cultural and Arts Center, then the Danbury Scott Fanton Museum and now the Danbury Museum and Historical Society Authority of the City of Danbury) has been entrusted with significant material culture, archival, and monetary donations from Danbury families that support our ability to inform and provide context for our community history - from the start of the material cultural Indigenous record, and recorded Danbury history beginning in 1684/5, through the present day.

We have the privilege of maintaining our historic building collection and tens of thousands of artifacts in our collections. Highlights of those collections include the documents, artifacts, and clothing/textiles of Pulitzer Prize winning, “Father of Modern American Music” Charles Ives and internationally famous, civil rights pioneer and American icon and performer, “songbird” Marian Anderson (a portion of this collection traveled twice last year to the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia as a participatory exhibition celebrating the renaming of the main concert hall- The Marian Anderson Concert Hall!). This could not have been accomplished without the unwavering support of the City of Danbury and our numerous, local, corporate sponsors, most notably Ives Bank. Over the last 25 years, Danbury community members have, on average, helped us raise, through donations and support of many grant applications, an astounding \$75,000-100,000 each year to keep the museum “doors open” for community use.

We provide on-site guided research visits to hundreds of researchers annually. We store, and make accessible digitally, the microfilm records of an unbelievable 177 years of Danbury newspapers, 1837 through 2014. In addition, we care for hundreds of linear feet of storage boxes containing photographs, maps, diaries, deeds, letters, city and town documents, military records, and business documents giving context to how Danburians lived, and worked, in our Danbury community from 1684-present day.

We regularly conduct tours (we interacted with 17,000 persons in calendar year 2024!) on our Main Street campus that includes the Rider House (1780), the John Dodd Hat Shop (1790), the Little Red School House, and of course, the Marian Anderson studio. Additionally, we conduct tours at the recently re-opened Charles Ives Birthplace, which provides musical accessibility to the Ivesian songbook as well as showcasing the very rich history of a significant Danbury family. We encourage self-guided tours of our Huntington Hall exhibit space, and the unique, collections driven, exhibitions that are hosted in that space each year. Opening in March, our 2025 year long exhibition of Marian Anderson's dress collection takes center stage in that space!

We are thrilled to once again be able to provide curriculum-based programming onsite and in schools for Danbury Public Schools. Thanks to State Representative Farley Santos, we can do this at no charge to the schools again this spring, in conjunction with our partners at the Danbury Library and the Danbury Police Department and dozens of museum volunteers! Additionally, we have a long term digitization project that is aligned with our Danbury district social studies and history curriculum providing 24/7 access through our website to areas of study and interest to our middle and high school students.

We support and work cooperatively with the Chamber of Commerce, Cultural Commission, Cultural Alliance of Western CT, and other local, state and national arts/culture organizations via talks and programming, as well as holding summer concerts on our Main Street campus that tie us to Danbury's robust musical heritage, through cooperative partnerships with Richter Arts, Richter Musicals, Danbury Community Band, and the Danbury Music Centre. This past year's celebration of the 150th birthday of Charles Edward Ives made an impact on over 1000 attendees here and several hundred in Montreal, Canada. We look forward to more, annual, Ivesian celebrations with our Music Centre partner in 2025 and beyond!

We create enjoyable and interesting content (with a monthly aggregate average of 100,000 interactions across all our platforms) through our website, www.danburymuseum.org, as well as for Facebook, BlueSky, and Instagram. This content shares our collection, engages in nostalgia about Danbury places, and tells Danbury stories through many lenses. At the same time, we

maintain and continually update our YouTube page of videos from the Museum archival collection that showcases our shared history. We are fortunate that our SAVE volunteers, through the United Way, have spent almost 800 hours (by June of 2025) engaged in this monumental effort to convert dilapidated VHS and CD content into usable and accessible content for our community wide enjoyment and for research purposes! Just one of the many volunteer groups we work with that help move the Danbury Museum mission forward, every day!

We are proud to be the home of, and provide monthly/weekly meeting space for, the Friends of the Danbury Museum (our 501c3 support group), Danbury Garden Club, Danbury Garden Club Juniors, Danbury Mineralogical Society, Mary Wooster Chapter of the DAR, Friends of Danbury Cemeteries, Fabric Friends of the Danbury Museum, the Arion Singing Society, knitters of the Women's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield, and the Danbury Area Community Knitters.

We provide college/university, and high school interns with the opportunity to experience many aspects of working professionally in a historic house museum and archive, and to assist with museum programs and exhibit development. The Danbury Museum hosts multiple interns throughout the year in three distinct intern cycles, as well as many one day volunteer “swot” days, with our local high school history enthusiasts. We are happy to support multiple United Way SAVE volunteers, scout volunteers, Upward Bound volunteers, Rho Kappa volunteers and adult independent volunteers as we coordinate their efforts to best use their donated time and talents on a variety of Danbury Museum projects.

Please follow along with us on our recently added website, www.Danbury250.org, as we begin to plan, and coordinate, in conjunction with the City of Danbury, and with dozens of local groups, Danbury's commemorative programs, events and activities celebrating the 250 years of American Independence!

For more information about the Danbury Museum please connect with staff members Brigid Guertin, Michele Lee Amundsen, and Patrick Wells, or with any Danbury Museum or Friends of the Danbury Museum board members through 203-743-5200 or by emailing b.guertin@danbury-ct.gov

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The Danbury Museum welcomes visitors and music aficionados of all ages to the birthplace of Charles E. Ives, Pulitzer Prize-winner and CT State Composer and father of modern American music.



Student visits--for tours, programs, crafts, (sometimes free books!) and other special visits are an important part of the Danbury Museum's mission.



Working with and supporting our community partners are big parts of the museum's outreach. On and off campus we host several free concerts each year with groups like the Danbury Music Centre and Richter Arts. We enjoy supporting Danbury staples like the Westerners and talking Danbury baseball history!

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Third grade field trips to the Danbury Museum are among our favorite parts of the year. In 2024, 1000 Danbury Public School third graders visited and learned about Charles Ives, Marian Anderson, our hatting heritage, and colonial-era life.



Cursive Camp is both mission based and one of our favorite activities! In the summer of 2024, we had 135 Cursive Campers over the course of three week-long sessions. It's art, it's muscle memory, and it's so important to teach the next generations how to read cursive so they can read historic documents, family recipes, and more.



From Danbury Garden Club Juniors, to volunteers from local businesses, author events of local and national interest, and even international quilt study groups, the staff and volunteers of the Danbury Museum enjoy being part of a community good that is welcoming and open to all.