



Happy New Year from the Danbury Museum!

As we kick off 2025, we wanted to take a quick look back at a truly banner year for the Danbury Museum! From the return of school field trips on the museum campus to the incredible music of #Ives150, 2024 was memorable!

We thank YOU--our members, our volunteers, our small and large business donors, the City of Danbury, and all of our community partners. The work we do together, cooperatively, contributes to the infrastructure that makes Danbury a great place to live and work.

Programming

It was such a joy to welcome more than 1000 Danbury Public School 3rd grade

students to the museum last spring where they learned about Marian Anderson, Colonial life, Danbury's hatting history, and even left with a swag bag. These field trips were completely free, with the costs being covered by a Youth Services Prevention (YSP) grant secured for us by State Representative Farley Santos. This is a two year grant and we are all looking very much forward to welcoming students back to the museum this spring. The YSP grant also allowed us to provide Cursive Camp for more than 135 campers over a three week span this past summer. It is incredibly rewarding watching the students learn cursive concepts and put them in to practice.

There was more free music in the museum's calendar than ever before! We were pleased to host Richter Arts Spring Concert series, and we followed it up with our summer and autumn concerts. Thank you to everyone who joined us for so many fun indoor and outdoor concerts.

In addition to musical events, we hosted a number of free historically based programs with historians and authors (like Bethel's Town Historian, Patrick Tierney Wild, who visited twice!) and interpreters like Eric Chandler, and military artist Mark Maritato.

Exhibitions

Exhibits and tours are the fun part of the work we get to do! We work hard to keep both free of charge so as not to create further economic barriers to our visitors. Between tours and our year-long "Art of Quilting" exhibit, the museum hosted more than 17,000 guests. This means we got to share not only Danbury's story, but also the important narratives of Marian Anderson and Charles Ives and their lives in our community. In addition to the quilt exhibit in Huntington Hall, the museum created an offsite exhibit for Juneteenth, and two photographic exhibits outside the Mayor's office in City Hall. We love the opportunity to showcase special segments of our collection in exciting ways off of the museum campus.

And when it comes to special exhibits, this year was truly exceptional. In February, museum staff traveled to Philadelphia for the announcement of the naming of Marian Anderson Hall in the Kimmel Center for the Arts. Then, in early June, we were afforded the extraordinary privilege of taking six of Marian Anderson's performance gowns to Philadelphia for an exhibit that was part of the gala celebration. What a whirlwind--and what an incredible honor to share garments from our Marian Anderson collection with her hometown of Philadelphia.

Rounding out the year, in October, as part of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Charles Ives, museum staff took the Anna Hyatt Huntington bust of Ives along with an Ives music stand and several photos to Montréal, Canada, for a special performance of Ives's Piano Sonata No.2 at Bourgie Hall, a musical venue that is

part of the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts. Upon returning from Canada, the museum and our wonderful partner the Danbury Music Center celebrated #Ives150 with a series of concerts and events that saw more than 1200 attendees, 75+ musicians (international and local) and culminated in a magnificent performance of Ives's Piano Sonata No.2 by French Canadian pianist Louise Bessette.

Volunteers & Community

We are fortunate to have a committed crew of 30 volunteers and multiple rotating interns--some do archival work, some are part of the SAVE program, some are members of our two volunteer boards--who put in nearly 6000 hours in 2024, the equivalent of almost 3 full-time employees! That's an incredible number and we're grateful for the work they do on all fronts. In addition, thanks to two Eagle Scout projects, the museum was able to complete and install more than 25 panels of wood fence around the campus. Special thanks to teams from Ives Bank and Keller Williams for their help on days of service!

The Danbury Museum is also a community hub for many volunteer organizations: Fabric Friends of the Danbury Museum, Danbury Community Knitters, Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield Knitters, The Danbury Mineralogical Society, Friends of Danbury Cemeteries, Mary Wooster Chapter, CT DAR, Danbury Garden Club Juniors, Friends of the Danbury Museum, and the Arion Singing Society to name just a few. We are proud to support these organizations, their members and missions, and the many good works they do throughout the greater Danbury area.

And to all this, we add fundraisers like the Danbury Museum Gala, Sell Your Old Gold, and the Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament. Then there's digitizing--we're working hard, volunteers and staff, to make our various collections more accessible. Visit the [Digital Archives](#) page and see all the things we have uploaded. Our [YouTube channel](#) continues to grow with more than 200 videos on it as of the end of the year. Across our six social media platforms the museum reached more than 698,000 people!

We assisted and facilitated more than 200 onsite researchers last year and took in more than 5000 objects via your donations. All in all, a tremendously busy and fulfilling year.

Here's to a happy and healthy 2025 and we look forward to welcoming you to our [Gala on February 28](#), or to a program or exhibit this year!



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