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On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank you.

Vision
Cincinnati Museum Center will be known for its commitment to understanding the richness of our past, present and future by providing world-class learning experiences for children and adults.

Mission
Cincinnati Museum Center inspires people of all ages to learn more about our world through scientific, regional, historical, and educational, engaging and meaningful experiences.

Profile
Cincinnati Museum Center is a one-of-a-kind, multi-museum complex housed in Union Terminal, a former passenger rail station originally built by the Cincinnati Northern Railway in 1933. Located in the heart of Queen City Plaza, Union Terminal include the Cincinnati History Museum, the Cincinnati Library Archives, The Discovery Children’s Museum, the Richard & Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve System and the Robert O. Lindner Family OMNIMAX® Theater. Museum Center is the largest cultural institution in the Ohio River Valley and one of the world’s largest, permanent collections of natural history and science.

In addition, Museum Center has been working with our collaborative partners, the Ohio Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, to protect Richard & Lucinda Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve System for over 50 years. The Preserve is the largest privately owned protected natural area in Ohio at 16,000 acres. It provides critical habitat for more than 100 rare plant and animal species.

For more than 50 years, the Preserve is the largest privately owned protected natural area in Ohio at 16,000 acres. It provides critical habitat for more than 100 rare plant and animal species.

In 2002, Cincinnati Museum Center received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor for museums and libraries. The award, given by the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) is America’s highest award to museums and libraries. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in community impact, the nation’s highest honor for museums and libraries.

In 2012, the American Alliance of Museums accredited our museums. With that distinction we become one of only 16 museums to be recipients of the IMLS medal and be accredited. Accreditation is a significant evaluation of operations, management and impact and this achievement indicates that Cincinnati Museum Center is among the best!

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Difference Maker Awards
In 2012, the Cincinnati Museum Center inspired people of all ages to learn more about our world through scientific, regional, historical, and educational, engaging and meaningful experiences.

How did we touch a wide audience?

Our goal is to present programs to tremendous breadth. Babies, mathematicians, educators, artists, first graders, and some ever-growing group of individuals who rarely look up from their mobile devices--all were treated to extraordinary programming.

How did we keep our community’s traditions alive and vital?

Diversity Officer, University of Cincinnati

American Alliance of Museums Accreditation

In 2002, Cincinnati Museum Center received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor for museums and libraries. The Museum and Library Service recognizes institutions for extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions to their communities.

American Alliance of Museums Accreditation

Cincinnati Museum Center is one of 10 museums in the United States to receive both the Institute of Museum & Library Services National Medal and AAM Accreditation (2012).

Dear Friends,

As we sit down to write this letter, we began to wonder how to express the exhilaration of the past year I’ve been one to celebrate.

The reason? Because you--and other loyal friends--supported Museum Center in ways that helped ensure success. Thanks to you, the depth and breadth of our programming, public programs, and special events is greater than ever before.

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How do we spark curiosity?

As our world grows both more connected and more complex, science education is vital. At CMC, we are connecting our deep scientific collections, nearly 2 million artifacts and natural history specimens, with the expertise of our research staff to our visitors hands-on learning experiences. The result is an explosion of curiosity that we see every day. This is the wide-eyed, jaw-dropping, wow moment that drives an enthusiasm for problem-solving, and a quest to know more.

How do we spark curiosity?

We do this for students through our ongoing and continuing role in the Southwest OHIO STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) Learning Network HUB. We do this for 100 educators, reaching 1500 students through our award-winning ECSITE (Early Childhood Science Inquiry Training for Educators) programs with Northern Kentucky Head Start and Hamilton County Community Action Agency, with unprecedented support from PNC Bank Foundation, and the Social Innovation Fund. We do this for more than 300,000 visitors through our LITE Lab (Learning, Innovation, Technology, Education) in the Museum of Natural History & Science. All of these efforts create opportunity for students, teachers and visitors to engage, investigate, experiment and solve, in the role of real scientists and science-conscious citizens.

Further highlights of this year included: celebrations of BugFest, StarFest, nano days, National Chemistry Week and National Fossil Day. Through the 15 volunteers in the Paleo lab, 150 dinosaur bones were prepared for display and study; 2,200+ researchers reported on the LITE Lab by 73,470 visitors, in 16,840 hours of scientific programming; 11,470 pieces of scientific observation were shared in Nature’s Trading Post among our 34,276 traders.

We have a unique equation that sets Museum Center apart from any other organization in our region: collections + research + hands-on learning = the unparalleled ability to create a truly engaging, comprehensive science museum, a necessary resource for the Greater Cincinnati community.

We do this for more than 300,000 visitors through our LITE Lab (Learning, Innovation, Technology, Education) in the Museum of Natural History & Science. All of these efforts create opportunity for students, teachers and visitors to engage, investigate, experiment and solve, in the role of real scientists and science-conscious citizens.

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Why is my Research Important?

Nearly two million artifacts and natural history specimens including: 32,000 bird specimens, more than 4,000 genomicresource-tissue samples, more than 70,000 fossils, 14,000 molarizes, 12,000 herpetology specimens, 11,000 rocks, one million historic photographs, 2.6 million feet of historic film, 5,000 maps, 70,000 book titles, 350,000 archival items and 25,211 online history resources make Cincinnati Museum Center a destination for research, by our on-staff experts and their colleagues around the world.

Brenda Hunda, PhD, curator of invertebrate paleontology explains her work and why it is important to our community: “My research focuses on non-marine fossils from the Cincinnati Arch region. My scientific research is important because it aims to document and understand evolutionary processes in deep time, and provide further insight into the environments and organisms that once thrived in this region 450 million years ago.”

We are connecting the web of biodiversity through research of birds from East Asia to Adams County, Ohio. We are excavating the Hahn Site, a Late Prehistoric village occupied for centuries between ca. 1300 and 1600 (CE), and one of the most intact circular villages remaining in the central Ohio Valley. We are illuminating the stories of life: 450 million years ago in the Ordovician seas; 150 years ago on the battle fields of the Civil War; 70 years ago in Union Terminal’s Troops in Transit USO lounge; to the spark of curiosity of today.
Perhaps the greatest asset of Cincinnati Museum Center is the spectrum of learning that we influence. No other organization in our region has the same opportunity to impact our earliest learners and continue through their school years, still sparking their interests as they grow to be curious adults of wiser generations. Did you know that children learn by playing? It’s true! Learning Through Play conference is an outstanding model of a community convening resources and best practices to support early learning and kindergarten readiness. This unique, one-day event brings experts direct to parents and educators through engaging sessions and relevant topics such as using sign language at an early age to aid communication, becoming an emotional coach for your child, and using play as an effective tool for learning.

Duke Energy Children’s Museum is the hub of hands-on early learning. Touch it, climb it, splash in it, build it, explore it, master it. Every day children learn about their world through physical and interpretive play experiences. This past year, Burfdell Pet Hospital and Kroger helped facilitate this essential form of early learning through grants to enhance our Kids Town exhibits and grocery store & gas station. Daily, our young vets are examining x-rays, caring for animals and speaking to real-life Pet Hospital vets; while busy shoppers are making healthy food choices.

Duke Energy Children’s Museum

Grandparents Club is a special bond between grandparents and grandchildren. It is an opportunity to inspire and be inspired. It is a sharing of endless love and joy. To facilitate special moments between generations, GMC launched the Grandparents Club. To become a founding member at the $1,000+ level to support the core mission of Museum Center with membership, CMC is open one hour earlier, one Saturday per month for Grandparents Club members! This exclusive time offers inspiration and learning. As a unique donor benefit, Grandparents Club is the supporting partner for the 2012 Grandparents Club.

Grandparents Club

Cincinnati Museum Center is a proud member of the American Alliance of Museums. Did you know that America’s first museum, the Boston Athenaeum, opened its doors in 1807? Learn more at americanart.org.
Youth Program

Cincinnati Museum Center’s Youth Program serves 150 thirteen-to-eighteen-year-old students from diverse backgrounds. The Program’s focus is to engage youth in informal learning while developing workplace skills in a museum setting. Youth act as greeters to our visitors, interpreting exhibits and facilitating hands-on demonstrations. Through personal development workshops, field trips, college visits, volunteerism and other learning opportunities, participants in our Youth Program are well prepared for success in high school and beyond.

100% of our Youth Program participants have graduated from high school. 99% have enrolled in a four-year college, 1% have enrolled in technical school or military service. 80% of our youth have received some form of college scholarship, several with full financial aid packages. Several participants have been named National Merit Scholars. More than 1,500 students are alumni of this program. “Thanks for leading me to my career and helping me develop the skills necessary to be successful. The Youth Program exposed me to many experiences, people, and places that helped shape who I am today.” says Sharon McMullen.


1,000 - $2,499 (continued)

Cornerstone Society

Annual Fund and Mission Support

Cornerstone Society

Donors to the Cornerstone Society have contributed $2,500 or more to support Cincinnati Museum Center’s Annual Fund and Mission Support. These wonderful donors provide critical funding to support the Museum’s mission of catalyzing community impact through exhibits, events, and educational programs.

Annual Fund and Mission Support

Cornerstone Society

$1,000 - $2,499 (continued)

Donations to the Cornerstone Society make possible the Museum’s Annual Fund and Mission Support, which are the primary funding sources for programs and projects that engage thousands of visitors each year.

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Our Collections

At the core of our visitor experience is the immeasurable depth of our collections. Financial gifts help support our ability to care for and preserve these priceless objects of historic and scientific value, but how do these collections come to Cincinnati Museum Center? From our community and those who value it. This past year, we accessioned 251 lots into our 22 categories of collections; 228 of these were gifted to CMC. Just a few highlights include letters to Andrew Hickenlooper from William Tecumseh Sherman (1889); WWII era papers from Dr. Warren L. Strohmenger; and records, history objects and photographs from the Greene Line Steamer Company, famous for the Delta Queen.

We were also very pleased to continue to share these collections on display through the highly-acclaimed exhibit, "Treasures of the Past: Cincinnati's Historic Art 1800 - 1930," facilitated by team of David Conzett, David Hausrath and Phillip Long - the exhibit supported by First Financial Bank.

For a complete list of Gifts of Artifacts & Materials to the Cincinnati Museum Center during the 2011-2012 fiscal year, please visit cincymuseum.org.
Cumulative Giving
Celebrating generous donors who have contributed a total of $100,000 or more.
Anonymous (5)
Dr. & Mrs. Compton Allyn
American Financial Group
William P. Anderson Foundation
Winifred L. & Emil L. Barrows Fund
Barb & Dave Beato
Rosemary H. & Frank Bloom Special Fund
Mr. & Mrs. David T. Bohl
Mrs. Lela C. Brown
Otto M. Budig, Jr.
The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation
Cincinnati Foundation
Charles H. Dater Foundation, Inc.
Ann Taylor Deupree
Deupree Family Foundation
Helen G., Henry F. & Louise Tuechter
Dornette Foundation
Taxpayers of Hamilton County
Harriette R. Williams Downey Fund
Duke Energy Corporation
Duke Energy Foundation, Inc.
Lucile & Richard Durrell Special Fund II
Lucile & Richard Durrell Special Fund III
The Thomas J. Emery Memorial
Ernst & Young LLP
Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Farmer
Adelaide R. Farny
Fifth Third Bank
Fifth Third Bancorp
First Merchants Bank
FirstMerit Bank
Frisch's Restaurants
Estate of Oliver M. Gapi
American Historical Society
George H. & Emma H. Geier
Ginn Family Fund
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Holiday Memories at Union Terminal
For decades Union Terminal has been a place of memories and traditions that are shared from one generation to the next; stories of war-time departures and returns, boarding the trains for college and camp, and whispering messages of love across the dome. One of the biggest gifts that has impacted our community in 2011-12 was that of the Duke Energy Holiday Train to Cincinnati Museum Center, embarking on another way to make memories with generations of families at Union Terminal.

“It is a wonderful partnership that gives our historic trains a permanent home at Cincinnati Museum Center,” said Johnna Reeder, vice president of Community Relations for Duke Energy. “We know this would be a great place for people of all ages to see them for many holiday seasons to come.”

The original CG&E holiday train tradition began in 1946 in partnership with the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Railroad. Since 1946, more than 9 million people have celebrated with the Duke Energy Holiday Train display. It is one of the largest portable models in the world, measuring 38.5 by 47.5 feet long. It features over 200 miniature rail cars and 60 engines running along 1,000 feet of track. In 2011, Duke Energy gifted the trains to Cincinnati Museum Center to ensure the trains would be preserved and continue to be presented for all generations of our community to enjoy.
Community partnerships and inspiring people propel the Cincinnati Museum Center forward.

Positive Exposure

Community volunteer Kathleen Call led the effort to bring Rick Guidotti’s photography exhibit Positive Exposure: The Spirit of Difference to Museum Center. This enlightening exhibit included the stigmas associated with difference by celebrating the beauty of genetic and medical diversity with positive images and inspiring real life stories.

To support this illuminating exhibit, CMC joined forces with Starfire U. Starfire enables individuals with disabilities to become active and vital members of the community. Starfire facilitated experiences including sports teams, musical performances, yoga and poetry readings, providing opportunities for individuals to learn and practice their social skills and create strategies for interacting with the community.

Girl Scouts

Museum Center was delighted to help the Girl Scouts turn 100 this year! We hosted more than 1,000 Girl Scouts in February throughout all three museums and the OMNIMAX® experience. The Girl Scouts echoed throughout Museum Center’s Rotunda for a presentation and sing-a-long. The celebration who make the world a better place.

We’re proud to help celebrate and support the Girl Scout’s mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, to help them become active and vital members of the community. Starfire facilitated experiences including sports trivia, musical activities, and creating strategies for interacting with the community.

Difference Makers

Duke Energy Children’s Museum’s annual Difference Maker Awards honor youth, adults, businesses and agencies that share Cincinnati Museum Center’s mission to better the lives of children in our community. The Difference Maker program strives to recognize our community’s unsung heroes. The grandmothers and foster parents, the mentors and teachers who make the Greater Cincinnati region a better place for children. Since the inaugural Difference Maker Awards in 2008, we have recognized more than 100 nominees.

The 2011 Difference Maker Awards

Josh Caras; Elise Hoffs, Ronald McDonald House Volunteer; Mike Holmes, assistant coach of Cincy Swish; Aaron Davis, coach of the West End Wastlits; Brittan Schippaellan, ten year old musician; CMC, Difference Maker Award Program; Marquicia Jones, Founder of Q-Kidz Dance-Drill team.

Alice & Danny

After fifty years of volunteer service to the Museum of Natural History & Science and Cincinnati Museum Center, Alice Lytle has her very own key. Her passion and dedication were celebrated this past summer through a surprise reception. Alice has worked on countless projects and events with CMC in her years of service. She played an instrumental role in the opening of the OMNIMAX® Theater as well as the funding and development of the Flahsbergch Museum and has chaired countless galas. Alice has had a hand in some of the biggest projects in the organization, but also took the time to be a part of the small ones. But, according to her it was not a love of science and history that drove her to volunteer. She loves working with people and seeing them come together in a special way. She shared a very special wish as she said, “I call us say, I hope you’ll be in love forever. And I do love this place.”

One of the people Alice has loved bringing in to CMC’s exhibits is long-time maintenance expert, Dan Hildebrand. Danny began working for the Museum of Natural History & Science in 1944 at the age of 16! He was separated from us for a short time as he served his country during the Vietnam War but returned to work with us from that day forward. Not many people have made such a long-term commitment to one organization. Forty-eight years. Literally millions of museum-goers, over generations, have been impacted by Danny’s work and dedication.

Concluding

2011 Difference Maker Awards

Cumulative Giving

Relationship with Museum Center

Total Giving

Cumulative Giving

American Red Cross

Dr. & Mrs. Compton A. Allyn

Mrs. Mary E. Carroll

Mrs. Philip O. Geier, Jr.

Memorial Fund

Mrs. Lela C. Brown

Mrs. Alice M. Geier

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Cincinnati Museum Center’s ability to host blockbuster exhibitions in our Westheimer Chang Exhibit galleries brings the world to our region. Since opening this space for special exhibitions in 2004, CMC has hosted The Titanic, Nicholas & Alexandra, Bodies, Dinosaur Unearthed, Cleopatra, and in 2011-12 it was A Day in Pompeii. We are able to create once-in-a-lifetime experiences that share the mysteries of the ancient world, and priceless treasures of art, science and humanity with millions of visitors. A Day in Pompeii also connected visitors with the highly acclaimed research of Professor Steven Ellis and the University of Cincinnati Department of Classics. Together, CMC and UC gave our region a look at the fascinating civilization and opportunity to understand how local research is leading the field of archaeology to new insights into the daily life of Pompeii before that fateful day of Vesuvius’ eruption in AD 79.

In addition to the exhibition, A Day in Pompeii, a wide variety of hands-on programs helped share the impact of this learning experience throughout all three of our museums, plus adult lectures, a book club, wine tastings and a Pompeii inspired art show featuring 25 local visual artists.

Support for A Day in Pompeii included sponsorships from Kroger, The Cincinnati Reds, Frisch’s, and The Cincinnati Enquirer.


Our exhibition programs were sponsored by support from a number of our members, donors and organizations.

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Celebrating generous donors who have made contributions each year for the past ten fiscal years.

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Consistent Giving

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Institutional Advancement Department

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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If you have a change or correction, please contact the Institutional Advancement Department at (513) 287-7074.

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Legacy Society

Legacy Society

(continued)
Every beat of music, every grand sweeping view, every frame of the film is an experience that transports our OMNIMAX® viewers to another place, and this year, another time. Again, we are able to share inspiring stories that bring the world to our region.

Rocky Mountain Express took our breath away as we learned of the visionary plan to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. This gorgeous film has now been added to the holiday traditions line up at Union Terminal, providing a complete train experience.

To The Arctic warmed our hearts with its story of polar bear, walrus and other Arctic families adapting to life as the Arctic environment changes.

Our Passport to the World Series of Culture Fests, supported by Luxottica, brought the world to more than 60,000 participants. Visitors experienced the beauty and richness of cultures from around the globe with a glimpse into that culture's arts and heritage through displays, cultural presentations, performances and merchandise. Each fest is a forum for interacting and learning with community members of different backgrounds. The featured cultures are Latin American, African, Appalachian, Celtic Lands and Asian.

“I was so excited to see the many different countries represented at Asian Culture Fest...we are a true global community and your work continues to contribute to that fact!” said Carla Walker, board member of Sister Cities International.

Our Legacy Society honors our friends and supporters who have helped to secure the future of Cincinnati Museum Center as they plan their own. These donors have named Museum Center as the beneficiary of a planned gift.

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Ohio Museums Association Professional of the Year

Steve Demars, director for corporate, foundation and government relations at Cincinnati Museum Center was named the 2011 Ohio Museums Association (OMA) Professional of the Year. This award recognizes Steve’s outstanding leadership and professionalism in service to CMC and work that benefits museums across Ohio.

His accomplishments have enabled CMC to build a DNA laboratory, begin its restoration of Union Terminal and advance the current goal of also featuring modern applied and physical sciences in the Museum of Natural History & Science. His work extends beyond CMC, developing the Ohio Alliance of Science Centers and cultural institutions from across the state.

American Inhouse Design Award

Cincinnati Museum Center’s own Design and Marketing Team received an American Inhouse Design Award from Graphic Design USA for the 2010-2011 Annual Report. Jenna Stoll, director of Graphic Design, and the team for Museum Center’s development of Museum Center staff - Ashley Foster (as he accompanies himself with lively accordion music!) 18 years or engaging guests with his interpretation of the life and songs of Stephen Foster (as he engages himself with lively accordion music!) 18 years and public programming and for professional development of Museum Center staff – Ashley is an impassioned ambassador of our mission!

YMCA Black & Latino Achiever Awards

Cincinnati Museum Center has several staff who have been recognized as a YMCA Black & Latino Achiever. Tonya Matthews PhD. was recognized in the 2010 class, Terry Dickey in 2011, and Calvin Harper will be recognized in November 2012. The classes are assembled annually and the honorees commit to engaging in community service with the YMCA for the duration of the class years. The honorees are then recognized at the annual YMCA Black & Latino Achiever Awards.

Mr. Ashley L. Ford, volunteer extraordinaire, can often be found in our Cincinnati History Museum strolling through the Public Landing dressed as an 1860’s steamboat captain, or engaging guests with his interpretation of the life and songs of Stephen Foster (as he engages himself with lively accordion music!) 18 years or engaging guests with his interpretation of the life and songs of Stephen Foster (as he engages himself with lively accordion music!) 18 years of volunteer service; creation of educational programming for museum guests; financial and other support for public programming and for professional development of Museum Center staff – Ashley is an impassioned ambassador of our mission!

Dave and Barb Beato

have volunteered at Museum Center since the institution’s inaugural year in 1990. Dave primarily at the Geier Center, and Barb in the museum shops. 2012 saw the Beatos move away from Cincinnati, but not before leaving a remarkable legacy. If giving over 25,400 hours of volunteer service wasn’t enough, the Beatos regularly remembered Museum Center in their annual giving and also in their estate plans. They are tremendous friends who have left an indelible mark at Museum Center. We wish them continued happiness in their next, exciting chapter!

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have volunteered at Museum Center since the institution’s inaugural year in 1990. Dave primarily at the Geier Center, and Barb in the museum shops. 2012 saw the Beatos move away from Cincinnati, but not before leaving a remarkable legacy. If giving over 25,400 hours of volunteer service wasn’t enough, the Beatos regularly remembered Museum Center in their annual giving and also in their estate plans. They are tremendous friends who have left an indelible mark at Museum Center. We wish them continued happiness in their next, exciting chapter!

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In Memoriam

Paul C. Kostel 1945-2006
Walter E. Peter 1934-2006
Neil A. Armstrong 1930-2012

August 25, 2012 marked the passing of a true American hero and longtime friend of Cincinnati Museum Center. Neil Armstrong served as a member and chairman of the board of trustees of the Museum of Natural History & Science at its Gilbert Avenue location in the 1980s. In 2004, Mr. Armstrong was a spokesperson for the Union Terminal operating levy campaign. And on August 15, 2006, Neil received NASA’s Ambassador of Exploration Award at a ceremony held at Cincinnati Museum Center. US Senator John D. Glenn and NASA Administrator Dr. Michael Griffin were on hand as Neil designated Cincinnati Museum Center to receive a moon rock collected during his Apollo 11 mission.

Armstrong called the award “very impressive” and went on to share what he called “a thin slice of natural history” with the audience. Using a moon rock he dubbed “Bok” as the central character, Armstrong outlined the geologic development of the moon through the song. He wrapped up his talk with a joke: “I was the strange creature that kidnapped Bok.” He referred to the lunar sample that was part of the award as “a chip off the old Bok.”

Giving the award and lunar sample to Museum Center President/CEO Douglas W. McDonald, Armstrong said, “I hope I’ve persuaded you that a place of natural history is a great place for (it) to be.”

“I was waiting for my father in the rotunda of Union Terminal in August 1945 when he arrived home from World War II. In 1952, he left for the Navy on a train at Union Terminal. Five years later, he married my mother and me. Every time I come to Union Terminal, I get that feeling. It’s nostalgia. Every time my father came off the train with his big army bag slung over his shoulder, and my brother black bibs clicking along the terminal floor as he walked to my mother and me. Every time I come to Union Terminal, I could dangle my feet in the fountain outside and watch the Pullman Porters. The place still smells the same.”

And some 50 years later, he became a Pullman Porter for us. We will miss him, but we will also celebrate every moment we had with him, as he gave his big joy to work here and our great honor to have him.

Neil Armstrong 1930-2012

Bennie Butler 1938-2012

Bennie Butler was an inspiration for visitors and staff in his 10 years of portraying significant African Americans in Cincinnati’s history. Creating some of the best-loved and most memorable interpretations in our History Museum and Museum of Natural History & Science, Bennie has been described as “amazing,” “engaging” and even “debtor.” He was a gentleman of all manner of distinction and as historical figures he recreated for us.

Bennie is also the ultimate Union Terminal story. His memories here date back to 1945, when he welcomed his father home from World War II. In 1952, he waved goodbye to his brother as he left for the Navy on a train at Union Terminal. Five years later, he launched his high school prom at this Cincinnati landmark. In Bennie’s own words: “I was the strange creature that kidnapped Bok.” He referred to the lunar sample that was part of the award as “a chip off the old Bok.”

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In Memoriam (continued)

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In Memoriam (continued)

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In Memoriam (continued)

They will all be missed.
In early 2012, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Cincinnati Museum Center announced a visionary plan to take steps to join together in a united corporate structure. Our iconic and inspirational attractions share a common vision to create engaging, inspiring and meaningful learning experiences. Our world-renowned institutions are focused on maintaining distinct brands and missions, but will be better positioned to contribute more to the community.

“We know that joining together will strengthen our respective organizations,” said Francie S. Hiltz, chair of Cincinnati Museum Center Board of Trustees and Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr. presiding co-chair of National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. “The result will be creative and dynamic organizations, offering greater financial strength and new opportunities.”

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Cincinnati Museum Center are united in operations and planning. For the purpose of charitable gifts and other revenue, each organization remains a separate 501(c)(3) entity. The Board of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is responsible for overseeing fundraising, programming and for enhancing the image of the Freedom Center, locally, nationally and globally.

After significant dialogue with the community, an effort is underway to lead necessary program and facility improvements for the sustainable success of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Cincinnati Museum Center.

Local and national leaders shared their support of this initiative.

“There is tremendous opportunity to maximize the effectiveness and reach of both organizations,” said Thomas Williams, Cincinnati Business Committee past Chair.

Christopher Smithman, president of the Cincinnati Chapter of the NAACP and sitting Cincinnati City Councilman, stated, “I have great confidence in both leaders. I view the merger as a very positive step for the region.”

Wade Henderson, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, shared his thoughts: “The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is quickly becoming an indispensable institution whose mission grows more vital by the day. By joining forces with the Cincinnati Museum Center, the Freedom Center will have the foundation to grow stronger and more dynamic, enabling it to reach and inspire a wider audience.”

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