The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center preserves local history and inspires learning to inform and improve our community.

August, it’s been fun!
A few updates as we head into Labor Day Weekend

This summer has kept everyone busy as multiple new exhibits opened and programming sprouted up in the Back-in-Time garden and On the Road with our new sold out series at local sites including Ox-Bow and the Felt Mansion.

The History Center/SDFAI exhibit Art of the People: Contemporary Anishinaabe Artists at the History Center School House has brought in record numbers with nearly 1,000 visitors visiting the show in the last two months. The History Museum at Mt Baldhead has welcomed nearly 3,000 visitors! Thank you to all of our amazing docents for making this possible!

We’re eagerly anticipating the opening of A Century of Progress: 100 Years of LGBTQ History in Saugatuck-Douglas this week. We look forward to celebrating outdoors together at the Preview Party and at the Member Picnic on September 15th.

We have more going on than ever at the SDHC and that means it’s not too late to volunteer! These last several weeks have

Sculptor Jason Quigno at the August 26th evening program in the Back-in-Time Garden. Join us for more programs in September!

SDHC Summer and Fall 2021 Programs

We're heading into the final week of Tuesday Talks. We had a great 2021 season with virtual and outdoor in-person programs on a range of topics from Michigan State Parks to Fishtowns around the Great Lakes.

August 31, 11am Tuesday Talk
The Life and Art of Saugatuck Artist John Polka with Ken Kutzel. This program will be held in person in the Back in Time
seen volunteer projects in our gardens, museum docents greeting visitors, exhibit preparations, and collections care, too. If you would like to help, please reach out by phone or email for more information.

Eric Gollannek
Executive Director

Garden at the History Center in Douglas. Bring a chair and a friend! Sponsored by Bill Hess and Mike Mattern

September 15, 6pm Monthly Meeting Member Picnic! Free for members, this Wednesday evening event offers food, drink, and socializing outdoors at the Back in Time Garden at the History Center in Douglas. Bring a chair and we’ll see you there!

Click here to view the full list of programs and events heading into autumn!

Did you know you can revisit past programs on the SDHC's YouTube channel?

Visit our YouTube page for history on-demand!

Announcing the History Center Member Picnic September 15th
6 PM in Douglas!

The History Center wants to say thank you for your membership and support through the last two challenging years.

We invite you to join us outdoors in the History Center garden in Douglas for a special evening of pizza served up fresh alongside beer, wine, and soft drinks.

This event is free for members! The event begins at 6 PM and will include presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award and Charles Lorenz Award.

The Member Picnic is sponsored by Bill Hess and Mike Mattern. If you would also like to support this event as a sponsor, please contact us by phone at 269-857-5751 or by email at info@sdhistoricalsociety.org!

---

Volunteer Opportunities this Fall

**Volunteers are a part of everything the History Center does from caring for our sites to planning and hosting member events.**

**We are currently seeking volunteer docents to help greet visitors at the Century of Progress exhibit at the History-Center School House in Douglas.**

Orientation will be provided on Wednesday September 1st and September 8th. Docent commitments require no more than two hours, with shifts available noon to 4 PM, Friday through Sunday in September and October.

Please contact Eric Gollanek today at director@sdhistoricalsociety.org for more information!
Century of Progress Exhibit Opens Labor Day Weekend

The *Century of Progress* exhibit at the History Center’s School House gallery in Douglas opens to the public on Saturday, September 4th with a ticketed outdoor preview party on Friday, September 3rd.

Covering over 100 years of history, the exhibit shares the stories of people living in the margins at the Lakeshore in a timeline format with local, state, and national LGBTQ developments included for context. Interpretive panels identify factors that have contributed to the diverse and inclusive nature of these two small Lake Michigan coastal villages alongside historical artwork and artifacts from SDHC collections. The exhibit showcases not only the progress made by the LGBTQ community, but also the challenges it has faced and the setbacks it has endured.

Coinciding with the *Century of Progress* exhibit will be a related art exhibition, *History Book: LGBTQ Portraits*. This exhibit will feature more than two dozen stylized portraits of LGBTQ pioneers—some local—by acclaimed Chicago artist and designer David Lee Csicsko. Biographical and historical information for the exhibit was developed by LGBTQ historian and author Owen Keehnen. Both Csicsko and Keehnen are inductees of Chicago’s LGBT Hall of Fame. The exhibit will be housed in the second floor gallery space directly above the *Century of Progress* exhibit.

Both exhibits will be open to the public beginning Saturday, September 4th during Labor Day weekend and will be housed in the History Center’s Old School House building at 130 W. Center Street in Douglas. The exhibit will be open Friday-Sunday, noon to 4 PM in September with fall and winter hours to be announced.

*Century of Progress is receiving lots of great publicity in local press and*
Center celebrates LGBTQ progress

The Saugatuck Center for the Arts, in partnership with the Saugatuck-Douglas LGBTQ Center, celebrates 100 years of LGBTQ history with an exhibit opening August 28th. The exhibit, featuring 1980s and 1990s images, is located at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts and is open to the public. The exhibit will run through the month of August. For more information, visit www.saugatuckarts.org.

You're invited to a party!

A ticketed preview party and viewing of the Century of Progress and History Book exhibits will be held Friday, September 3rd at the History Center’s School House and Garden from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with beverages, appetizers and a D.J.

History Center staff including the exhibit team will be on hand to introduce the exhibit and answer questions.

Update: the VIP Champagne Reception is now sold out!
The exclusive ticketed VIP champagne reception will be held at the Pride Celebration Garden (photo, right) across the street from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. If you would like to be added to our wait list, please email/call the office at 269-857-5751.

You can read more about the project as featured in a July 2021 Michigan Humanities blogpost here: https://www.michiganhumanities.org/saugatuck-douglas-home-to-lgbtq-communities-for-more-than-100-years/
The Board of Directors approved a simplified membership structure at its March 17th board meeting. The new structure took effect for the 2021 membership year beginning in April.

- Individual $40
- Household $60
- Business Partner $250
- Lifetime Member $1,000

Become a lifetime member! No annual renewals and special invites to Lifetime member only events!

Click here to renew or make a donation with PayPal today!

About the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society was founded in 1986 by a group of charter members interested in preserving and sharing the unique history of Saugatuck, Douglas and the surrounding area. In 2016, the Society was renamed the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to celebrate its growth and to recognize the development of the History Museum and Old School House sites.

We are a vibrant non-profit 501(c)3 history organization with nearly 700 members residing in nearby communities and across the country.

Members are the lifeblood our volunteer organization.

To renew or join as a member, visit our website for more information.

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Saugatuck Pump House building.

The History Center -- Old School House and Francis Surfboat Exhibit are located at 130 Center Street in Douglas.

The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit are open daily.

The History Center Archives are available for research by appointment. For more information, e-mail the archives directly at archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org

History Center main phone: 269-857-5751
Archives direct phone: 269-857-7901
Late Summer-Autumn Calendar

Ongoing
Then and Now exhibit at the History Museum at Mount Baldhead, open Saturday-Sunday through October, noon to 4:00 p.m. 735 Park Street, Saugatuck.

Art of the People: Contemporary Anishinaabe Artists exhibit at the History Center’s Old School House galleries, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas. Open Friday-Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. through October 10th.

A Century of Progress: 100 Years of LGBTQ History in Saugatuck-Douglas along with artist David Csicsko, History Book: LGBTQ Portraits exhibit in the upstairs gallery at the History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas. Open Friday-Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. through October 31st. Winter hours TBA.

August 31, 11am Tuesday Talk
John Polka. Art History by Ken Kutzel, art curator for the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center. History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

September 3 and 4, Friday and Saturday – Exhibit Opening
Friday preview party in advance of Saturday public opening of the Century of Progress exhibit, a Saugatuck-Douglas LGBTQ history timeline along with artist David Csicsko, History Book: LGBTQ Portraits exhibit in the upstairs gallery. History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.
September 14, 7 pm, Tuesday – Arts Initiative Program
A Contemporary Construct of an Ancient Aesthetic: Native American Metal Adornment in the Great Lakes Area with Frank Barker, Metalsmith and Language Coordinator for the Gun Lake Tribe. Program held at the History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

September 15, 6 pm, Wednesday – Monthly Meeting
Member Picnic and Awards Presentation. Back-in-Time Garden, History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

September 30, 7 pm, Thursday – Arts Initiative Program
Artist Talk: “The Stories Behind My Work” with Shirley Brauker, Native American artist and creator of Moon Bear Pottery and Indian Arts. Program held at the History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

SDHC Holiday Party plans remain open pending conditions this fall. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.
The SDHC is supported with a grant from Michigan Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan.

The SDHC also receives operational support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center
www.mySDhistory.org

Follow us on social media for photos and real-time updates