Arab American National Museum



ABOUT AAN M



Since opening its doors in 2005, the Arab American National Museum (AANM) has remained the nation's only cultural institution to document, preserve and present the history, culture and contributions of Arab Americans. Located in Dearborn, Michigan, amid one of the largest concentrations of Arab Americans in the United States, AANM presents original exhibitions, cutting-edge art, film screenings and performances in Michigan and in major cities across the U.S., and continually documents the history and experiences of Arab Americans.

AANM is one of just four Michigan Affiliates of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. AANM is a founding member of the Detroit-area arts collective CultureSource as well as the Immigration and Civil Rights Network of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience and the Michigan Alliance for Cultural Accessibility, and is a member of the National Performance Network. AANM is an institution of ACCESS, the largest Arab American community nonprofit in the nation, founded in 1971.















A CAN'T-MISS SUMMER MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL CELEBRATING ARAB AMERICAN TALENT, COMMUNITY AND IDENTITY!

DEARBORN, AUGUST 15-16, 2020 WWW.JAM3A.ORG









FROM THE AANM DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

It is both an honor and a source of great joy to be writing this letter, my first as director of the Arab American National Museum. Since taking the helm last April, I have witnessed daily the important work that the Museum does to preserve and document the history of our community and uplift the voices of Arab Americans through the stories they tell and the art they create. For the past 15 years, AANM has been a place that enlightens and inspires. Whether it's the visitor who walks through our exhibits and unexpectedly finds the picture of a great-grandparent, or the researcher who pours over papers and photographs housed in our archives, or the artist who brings our spaces to life and audiences to their feet with the power of music, dance and poetry, AANM's impact on our community is undeniable. It is an absolute pleasure and privilege to be a part of this singular institution still the only museum in the nation dedicated to preserving and celebrating the history, culture and contributions of Arab Americans — and to work side-byside with our incredible team.

As you flip through the pages of this bienniel report that covers our activities from 2017 to 2019, I hope that you feel the vibrancy of AANM's programs and initiatives. Our programs and work are shaped by those things we value most: our community — both our neighbors in Southeast Michigan and those who live across the nation; knowledge on Arab Americans that we both produce and share; the boundless creativity of Arab American artists who speak to us about the Arab American experience; the capacity of dialogue to enable us to unpack complex issues in ways that are resonant, meaningful and empowering; and inclusion, which broadens our horizons and opens our eyes and ears to new and important perspectives.

The past two years were full and rich ones for AANM, and I am happy to share that we have not slowed down since my arrival nearly a year ago. Everything we do has been possible through the hard work of AANM's dedicated team, and through the support of AANM's partners, sponsors, friends and Members. We look forward to your continued engagement in 2020 as we celebrate our 15th year of exciting and dynamic programming, culminating with JAM3A, our new, not-to-be-missed free summer music and arts festival taking place on August 15-16, 2020 in East Dearborn. Please join us in this milestone year. You will not be disappointed.

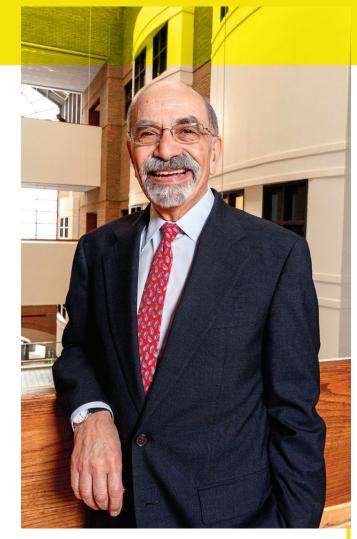
Mialli

Diana Abouali

Dear Friends,

As the Museum enters a new decade and its 15th year as our nation's sole institution dedicated to our community and its story, we are reminded of the importance of uplifting and presenting voices not only of Arab America, but of all communities in this area and beyond. Creating a platform for the discussion of shared experiences leads to a greater understanding of one another, and it is something we have done so well for so very long. It brings me great pride to continue in my role as chair of the National Advisory Board for such a thoughtful and revolutionary institution.

The world and ways we communicate are evolving daily, and we have evolved right alongside it, allowing us to engage with communities previously unreached. Hundreds of thousands of individuals from across the country have interacted with our permanent and traveling exhibitions, and the plethora of artists we have presented have given us the opportunity to host diverse voices from communities, both nationally and internationally.



AANM has proven to be a powerful tool for so many, and there are no plans of slowing down anytime soon. On behalf of the entire AANM National Advisory Board, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the stakeholders who have made this institution so invaluable; our donors and champions who never fail in their commitment to our cause and assistance in funding many of the Museum's events and programs; our Friends of the Arab American National Museum Committee, supporters and staff, who are driven, dedicated and incredibly versatile, and the force behind everything that we do; and most importantly, our nation's Arab American community, the foundation of our work and a continual source of inspiration.

While many see this new decade as a fresh start, we see it as an opportunity to continue our journey in innovative and exciting ways. I invite you all to join us on the adventure, which is guaranteed to be breathtaking from beginning to end.

780. Waly

Fawwaz T. Ulaby





MOBILIZE - ORGANIZE - VOCALIZE - EMPOWER

NEARLY 400 ATTENDEES

OVER 100 SPEAKERS

16 STATES

FOUR COUNTRIES

THREE UNFORGETTABLE DAYS

ONE EXCEPTIONAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE









BOOK + PRINT FEST

Launched in 2018 and expanded in 2019, this all-day art celebration hosted hundreds of attendees and a diverse range of vendors displaying works and selling art and prints, while guests networked and enjoyed live music and workshops. Event partners and their presentations included InsideOut's youth poetry workshop, Maamoul Press' Coptic bookbinding workshop and a book reading with artist-in-residence, Zeyn Joukhadar.

DANCING IDENTITIES/DEFINING PLACE

In collaboration with Daring Dances, Minneapolis-based Leila Awadallah (pictured, with performance partner Noelle Awadallah) and Detroit's own Audrey Johnson presented a thought-provoking journey through identity, place and imagination featuring incredible movement and multi-disciplinary elements. Jaw-dropping performances from these emerging artists explored historic oppression and queer identity, entrancing and immersing attendees while creating a space for conversation, culminating in an informal talkback with the audience.



FAMILY PARTIES

In an effort to create educational and inclusive spaces for our communities to engage with and learn about different holidays, customs and traditions, we hosted over 1,100 individuals over the past two years at our family parties, celebrating Eid, Halloween and Christmas.

KIDS COALITION AGAINST HUNGER

Over 100 students from a wide range of backgrounds across the greater Detroit area came together for a common cause: putting an end to world hunger. While working to package meals for families in need, students got the chance to explore what it truly means to engage with community and give back.

KNOWLEDGE





CLASSROOM VISITS

Through programs such as Adopt-a-Classroom and Zyara, as well as support from the Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs (CMEAA) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), AANM has educated over 13,000 students — many of whom would not be able to make the trip to the Museum without financial support — since 2017. IMLS's support also enabled us to co-author a book with Dr. Randa Kayyali re-envisioning and showing a more nuanced perspective on the Arab American experience.

SURA ARTS ACADEMY

Over the last two decades, our award-winning SURA Arts Academy has empowered hundreds of students — with nearly 70 participants since 2017 — to capture the world around them and share stories about their lives, communities and cultures through the art of photography. SURA students have returned to volunteer and mentor others in the program, and have gone on to work professionally in photography.



WHAT WE CARRIED: FRAGMENTS & MEMORIES FROM IRAQ & SYRIA

Through our traveling exhibition What We Carried: Fragments & Memories from Iraq & Syria, a project by photographer Jim Lommasson, over 750,000 visitors gained firsthand insight into what objects and memories might be chosen if one was forced to leave their home forever. The exhibition was shown at the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration in New York from June-Oct. 2019, among many other venues across the U.S.

ORAL HISTORIES

From 2017 to 2019, AANM archived nearly 40 original recordings of oral histories with hundreds more from the 1970s, 80s and 90s being digitized. Our continued partnership with the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs (SFSLAC) has been crucial in recording video oral histories documented online in a collection called the "Family History Archive of Syrian & Lebanese Families in the American South."

CREATIVITY



ARTISTS + RESIDENTS

This residency program connects artists from across the nation and the globe with our local community, while also being key in our efforts to make East Dearborn a national hub for Arab American art. Residencies engage the community in ways big and small, ranging from artist talks and free workshops to large-scale productions and exhibitions. Recent residents include musician, composer and founding director of the National Arab Orchestra, Michael Ibrahim; multi-disciplinary Armenian artist and writer Levon Kafafian (left); and world-renowned Emirati photographer Farah Al-Qasimi.





MY AQAL: BANNED & BLESSED HOME

As part of the 2018 Arab Film Festival, the community was invited to create miniature versions of an "aqal," a traditional Somali home. Somali artist Ifrah Mansour led guests in learning about Somali nomadic culture and the aqals that represent healing, generosity and hospitality. Additional aqals created by Mansour were displayed at AANM, combined with poetry and lighting to form a symbol of hope, strength and human connection.

THE FAR SHORE: NAVIGATING HOMELANDS x 2018 ARAB AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS

Over 150 audience members joined us for the opening of *The Far Shore: Navigating Homelands*, a visual and literary exhibition featuring art created in response to contemporary poetry on the Arab immigrant experience. Held in conjunction with the annual Arab American Book Awards, a literary program honoring books written by and about Arab Americans, this exceptional evening highlighted the Museum's invaluable role as a convening space for art and conversation.



47SOUL WITH TAMMY LAKKIS

AANM's Annex was packed to the brim with guests singing and dancing along to the Palestinian electro group 47SOUL during their first-ever tour across the U.S. in 2019. Detroit's own DJ Tammy Lakkis set the tone for the night, followed by 47SOUL's unique sound and dynamic presence. A renowned voice on social and humanitarian issues, 47SOUL's "Shamstep" style has become a defining voice in Arab youth culture, not only in the "Sham" region (Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan), but around the world.

KHASHB WA KHEIT: CHAMBER MUSIC BY ARAB AMERICAN COMPOSERS

Themes of identity, tokenism, the creation process and the stigma surrounding the arts as a career path were explored in an exciting 2018 collaboration with Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings. Over 130 individuals were in attendance for a performance that featured contemporary works and talks by Arab American composers Suad Bushnaq, Kinan Abou-afach and Michael Ibrahim.





CONCERT OF COLORS FORUM ON COMMUNITY, CULTURE & RACE

AANM's annual Forum at the Concert of Colors diversity festival is a dynamic gathering where artists, activists and advocates share their voices and uplift communities. 400 guests gathered for the Forums of 2018 and 2019 — State Violence, Trauma & Healing through Art, and Freedom of Expression: The Power of Owning Our Voice, respectively exploring different ways to use creativity as a tool for sparking conversation, sharing ideas and igniting social change.

LIDO PIMIENTA

Lido Pimienta, a Colombian Indigenous artist whose work explores gender, race, motherhood, identity and the construct of the Canadian landscape in Latin American diaspora and vernacular, brought together guests from local Latinx and Indigenous communities, among other diverse groups, for an enriching experience in 2018. Through a community talking circle and beautifully piercing performance, Pimienta engaged our audience with thought-provoking, powerful dialogue, highlighting the importance of cross-cultural understanding.



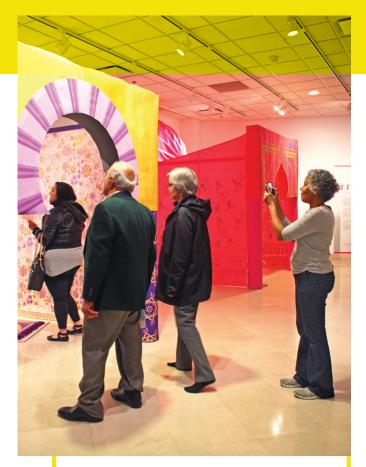
9/11 ANNIVERSARY TOWN HALL

Personal and familial stories about mass incarceration and the targeting of religious and cultural institutions were shared at the 2018 and 2019 editions of our annual 9/11 Anniversary Town Hall. This program aims to honor victims and acknowledge the lasting impact that day has had on so many vulnerable communities, with audiences coming together to reflect, remember, educate and build solidarity.

HIKAYAT LIVE STORYTELLING SERIES

Our Hikayat series presents evenings of live storytelling that build joy, healing and inspiration in shared solidarity as storytellers share tales on some of the most personal topics within our communities. 2017 featured stories of race, identity, sexuality and gender, while Hikayat's return in 2019 highlighted stories of freedom in its many forms.





MIHRAB: PORTRAITS OF ARAB MUSLIM **WOMEN BY HEND AL-MANSOUR**

This exhibition by Saudi American artist Hend Al-Mansour centered on three Arab Muslim women from Minnesota, exploring their relationship with Islam, interpreted by the artist and presented through installation portraits. Guests were able to enter the installations, each featuring a mihrab — the architectural prayer niche found in mosques — as a framework, and experience the power of these women's stories.

FRANK WALN AND JEREMY DUTCHER

As an institution that stands on Anishinaabe land, we are committed to uplifting Indigenous artists and activists. In 2019, AANM held individual events with Sicangu Lakota artist Frank Waln (left) and award-winning member of the Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick, Jeremy Dutcher. These musicians held beautiful performances as well as talks, addressing topics such as brutalities faced by Indigenous people, the importance of preserving all aspects of their culture and building stronger solidarity between communities.



AMERICAN LANDSCAPE: AN EXPLORATION OF ART & HUMANITY BY NABIL MOUSA

Syrian American artist Nabil Mousa's mixedmedia exhibition presented a hope for true and authentic equality and representation. Debuting at MOVE 2017, this exploration encouraged visitors to look beyond political and religious differences to develop deeper empathy, understanding and connections with members of the LGBTQ+ community. Images of same sex figures linking hands in pairs, rows and even formations that build up the stars and stripes of the American flag — were combined with other potent signifiers of American culture to create important commentary on civil rights in the U.S.

ARAB FILM FESTIVAL

In an even greater effort to showcase Arab and Arab American filmmakers and connect them to numerous communities, the AANM Arab Film Festival introduced special family friendly programs in 2019. The festival saw nearly 2,000 attendees across 2018 and 2019, with screenings at AANM, the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

Partnerships and collaborations are essential to the ongoing success of AANM. We salute the many organizations listed here, whose contributions amplify the impact of AANM's work in its hometown, state and in major metropolitan areas nationwide with substantial Arab American communities.

A Host of People, Detroit, Mich. Alpena County Library, Alpena, Mich. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Detroit, Mich. American Indian Health & Family Services, Detroit, Mich. Arab America, Washington, D.C. Arab American Cultural & Community Center, Houston, Tex. Arab American Heritage Council, Flint, Mich. Arab American Studies Association, Dearborn, Mich. Arab Student Association, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, Mich. Art Babes, Detroit, Mich. Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, Ohio Bank Suey, Hamtramck, Mich. Blue Hands United, Dearborn, Mich. Build Institute, Detroit, Mich. Caroline Kennedy Library of Dearborn Heights, Dearborn Heights, Mich. Center for Arab American Studies, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, Mich. Center for Book Arts, New York, N.Y. Center for Constitutional Rights, New York, N.Y. Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies (CMENAS), University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, Mich. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, Mich. Cinema Detroit, Detroit, Mich. Cinema Lamont, Detroit, Mich. Cinetopia Film Festival, Ann Arbor, Mich. City Hall Artspace Lofts, Dearborn, Mich. City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Chicago, Ill. CJAM-FM, Windsor, Ont., Canada ComiqueCon, Dearborn, Mich.

Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs (CMEAA),

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Farmington

Hills, Mich.

CultureSource, Detroit, Mich.

Daring Dances, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dearborn Fresh Supermarket, Dearborn, Mich.

Dearborn Historical Museum, Dearborn, Mich.

Detroit Cristo Rey High School, Detroit, Mich.

Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET), Detroit, Mich.

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings, Southfield, Mich.

Dearborn Public Library, Dearborn, Mich.

Detroit Community Yoga, Detroit, Mich.

Detroit Equity Action Lab, Detroit, Mich.

Detroit Historical Society, Detroit, Mich.

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, Mich.

Detroit Free Press, Detroit, Mich.

Detroit Justice League, Detroit, Mich. The Detroit News, Detroit, Mich. Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit, Mich. Detroit Tigers, Detroit, Mich. East Downtown Dearborn Development Authority, Dearborn, Mich. Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, New York, N.Y. Equality Detroit, Detroit, Mich. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, Dearborn, Mich. FOX 2 Detroit, Detroit, Mich. Gathering All Muslim Artists (GAMA) Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids, Mich. Green Brain Comics, Dearborn, Mich. Habib's Cuisine, Dearborn, Mich. Hashems, Dearborn, Mich. The Henry Ford, Dearborn, Mich. Henry Ford College, Dearborn, Mich. Hollingsworth Logistics, Dearborn, Mich. Holocaust Memorial Center, Farmington Hills, Mich. HYPE Athletics, Dearborn, Mich. InsideOut Literary Arts, Detroit, Mich. Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), Washington, D.C. Iragi Kabob, Dearborn, Mich. Islamic Center of Detroit, Detroit, Mich. Jackson Public Library, Jackson, Mich. Jacksonville Public Library, Jacksonville, Fla. Japanese American Citizens League, Mich. Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, Calif. Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, Big Rapids, Mich. Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalamazoo, Mich. Kids Coalition Against Hunger, Westland, Mich. Kulture City, Birmingham, Ala. Lansing Community College, Lansing, Mich. Lebon Sweets, Dearborn, Mich. Lorenzo Cultural Center, Clinton Township, Mich. Maamoul Press, Dearborn, Mich. Maples Elementary School, Dearborn, Mich. Melvindale Public Schools, Melvindale, Mich. Mexican Consulate of Detroit, Detroit, Mich. Michigan.com, Detroit, Mich. Michigan Alliance for Cultural Accessibility (MACA), Mich. Michigan Department of Education, Mich. Michigan Humanities, Mich. Michigan Radio, Mich.

Michigan Science Center, Detroit, Mich.

Midland Center for the Arts, Midland, Mich.

Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative, Detroit, Mich.

Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Mocha Café, Dearborn, Mich. The Monitor, Hazel Park, Mich.

National Arab Orchestra, Detroit, Mich. National Building Museum, Washington, D.C. National Lawyers Guild, New York, N.Y. National Performance Network, New Orleans, La. New American Leaders, New York, N.Y. New Detroit, Inc., Detroit, Mich. NEW: Solutions for Nonprofits, Ann Arbor, Mich. New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), New York, N.Y. Noor Theatre, New York, N.Y. Northville Public Schools, Northville, Mich. Ocelot Print Shop, Detroit, Mich. Padzieski Art Gallery, Dearborn, Mich. Pages Bookshop, Detroit, Mich. Palestinian Youth Movement - Michigan Chapter, Mich. Peter White Public Library, Marquette, Mich. Ping Chong + Co., New York, N.Y. Poetic Societies, Detroit, Mich. Public Allies, Washington, D.C. Qahwah House, Dearborn, Mich. Rackham Program in Public Scholarship, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, Mich. Roti Max Bakery, Dearborn, Mich. Ruth Ellis Center, Highland Park, Mich. Sabeel Media, Rutland Township, Mich. The Scarab Club, Detroit, Mich. Schoolcraft College, Livonia, Mich. Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers, Detroit, Mich. The Seventh Art Stand, Seattle, Wash. Shakespeare Theatre Company, Washington, D.C. Shatila Bakery, Dearborn, Mich. Sheeba Restaurant, Dearborn, Mich. Signal Return, Detroit, Mich. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Source Booksellers, Detroit, Mich. Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs, New Orleans, La. Southwest Solutions, Detroit, Mich. St. Clair County Public Library, Port Huron, Mich. Super Greenland Market, Dearborn, Mich. Third Man Records, Detroit, Mich. University Musical Society (UMS), Ann Arbor, Mich. University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, Mich. University of Michigan-Detroit Center, Detroit, Mich. University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Mich. Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich. WDIV-TV Local 4, Detroit, Mich. West Downtown Dearborn Development Authority,

Dearborn, Mich.

WXYZ Detroit, Detroit, Mich.

Yemeni American News, Dearborn, Mich.

Women's Rights National Historic Park, Seneca Falls, N.Y.

Development Corporation State of Michigan United States Dept. of Housing

\$500,000 +

and Urban Development \$100,000 - \$499,999

Michigan Economic

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan DTE Energy Foundation Ford Foundation Institute of Museum and Library Services Saudi Aramco The Kresge Foundation W.K. Kellogg Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

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\$25,000 - \$49,999

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The Henry Ford

University of Michigan-Flint Westin Book Cadillac

Yazaki North America Inc.

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SCHEDULE OF REVENUE & EXPENSES (UNAUDITED)	OCT. 1, 2017 - SEPT. 30, 2018	OCT. 1, 2018 - SEPT. 30, 2019
CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS		
Individuals, Memberships & Special Events Net	\$294,527	\$303,088
Corporations	\$281,142	\$162,600
Foundations	\$854,323	\$238,713
Government	\$197,216	\$665,498
Subtotal: Contributions & Grants Revenue	\$1,627,208	\$1,369,899
EARNED REVENUE		
Program Fees, Gift Shop, Rentals & Admissions	\$178,108	\$211,013
AANM Endowment Fund - Distribution	\$206,029	\$206,351
Subtotal: Earned Revenue	\$384,137	\$417,364
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,011,345	\$1,787,263
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES		
Salary & Benefits	\$367,614	\$407,811
Facility Operations	\$406,265	\$443,348
Exhibits, Education & Public Programming	\$1,237,382	\$935,607
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	\$2,011,261	\$1,786,766

AANM ENDOWMENT FUND

The AANM Endowment Fund consists of six funds. Three are invested with McDonald Partners, LLC and three are maintained by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM).

Market value of the fund reported as an asset on the ACCESS balance sheet	AS OF SEPT. 30, 2018	AS OF SEPT. 30, 2019
Funds maintained at CFSEM	\$1,155,220	\$1,138,505
Funds invested at McDonald Partners, LLC	\$2,687,781	\$2,720,878
TOTAL	\$3,843,001	\$3,859,383

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) has also accepted gifts from unrelated donors for the benefit of ACCESS. These assets are not reported on the balance sheet since CFSEM maintains variance power with respect to the assets contributed to them for our benefit.

	AS OF SEPT. 30, 2018	AS OF SEPT. 30, 2019
Total value of these assets	\$2,538,306	\$2,501,573

ATTENDANCE O LICACE		COLLECTIONS	
ATTENDANCE & USAGE		COLLECTIONS	
On-Site Visitors	28,141	New Oral Histories	20
Traveling Exhibitions & off-site programs	931,169	Artifacts and artwork added	145
Website Users (all AANM sites)	11,386	Page views on AANM Collections Online (CONTENTDM)	31,698
Website Page Views (all AANM sites)	22,735		
Facebook Likes	12,890		
Twitter Followers	11,062	CURATORIAL	
Instagram Followers	4,181	2017-2018 Served 89,070 visitors across 7 venues through traveling exhibition <i>What We Carried</i>	
RUSSELLJ. EBEID LIBRARY & RESEARC	H CENTER	2018-2019 Served 793,887 visitors across venues through traveling exhibitions <i>What</i>	

2017-18 13 research visits & 268 reference questions

2018-19 18 research visits & 181 reference questions

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD (AS OF SEPT. 30, 2019)

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Jumana Salamey, AuD | Deputy Director

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Lejla Bajgoric | Community Events Organizer

Elizabeth Barrett-Sullivan | Curator of Exhibits

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Brandon Coulter | Communications Specialist

Greta Anderson Finn | Grant Writer

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Kathryn Grabowski | Curator of Public Programming

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Crystal McColl | Curatorial Specialist

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