



★★ THIS IS ★★
CHICAGO

OUR FUTURE
—
ENDOWMENT

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

OUR FUTURE



Each generation at the Chicago History Museum (CHM) has depended on an investment that looks far beyond today.

When early Chicagoans founded the original Chicago Historical Society over 150 years ago, when they rebuilt it after two devastating fires, when they came together in 1931 to create a new home in Lincoln Park—they were renewing a commitment to our city, its history, and its future. Because our history is at the heart of our city—and it's up to us to keep it beating.

As we prepare the Museum for its next generation of service, we must invest in a stronger endowment—the enduring, stable financial foundation for everything the Museum does, now and in the future.

Endowment funds currently provide one-quarter of the Museum's annual budget. Over the next 20 years, we must increase annual endowment support to half of our annual budget in order to protect against uncertain public funding, enable innovative thinking, and sustain a higher level of activity and service. This includes unrestricted endowment funds, as well as dedicated endowments such as the Innovation Fund, Collections Fund, and endowed staff positions.

With your support, we can make a generational investment in the future of the Chicago History Museum—for the future of the city whose spirit we share.

ENDOWMENT

CHM's endowment: the foundation for generations of service

How does endowment support the Museum today and tomorrow?



INVEST

Endowment funds are invested in the market to ensure that they not only replenish, but grow over time.



DRAW

We prudently draw from our endowment each year to help support current projects while also providing a sustainable future.



IGNITE

Critical staff positions, free field trips and school programs, important preservation and archiving projects, bold innovation and forward-thinking planning, stories shared through exhibits and in communities across Chicago: a healthy endowment directly supports all of CHM's work.



FOREVER

Endowment provides the heartbeat of CHM. Every year, for years and generations to come, endowment funds will sustain our work, our mission, and our service to Chicago.

A story of three endowments

The Chicago History Museum could not beat boldly with the heart of our city today without the support of three visionary donors and their three generational endowments:

Henry D. Gilpin's 1874 bequest made it possible for the Chicago Historical Society to be reborn and rebuilt after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, *Charles B. Pike* led the fundraising efforts to help the Society move to its new Lincoln Park home in 1931—the society's 75th anniversary.

Alice Rosene Sharp's bequest was the lead gift that made the 2006 Reinvention possible, on the 150th anniversary of the Society, when it was renamed the Chicago History Museum.

Each of these donors continues to inspire us, and each endowment continues to provide critical operating support to the Museum every year.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE



CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

COVER: *Workers atop scaffolding at Douglas Aircraft Company plant construction site,
later the site of O'Hare International Airport, Chicago. 1943*

Hedrich-Blessing Collection, Chicago History Museum, HB-07312-E