

TOGETHER *BEYOND*



GREENSBORO
HISTORY
MUSEUM





**Together with
our diverse communities,
the Greensboro History Museum
collects objects and stories,
connects generations, and
challenges people to explore
our city's past, present,
and future.**

*I've been here so many times, and
every time I learn something new.*

Dr. Omar Ali, Historian & Honors Dean, UNC Greensboro

Who We Are

The Greensboro History Museum – AAM-accredited and a Smithsonian Affiliate – is a division of the City of Greensboro Libraries & Museum Department and operates as a public-private partnership with the nonprofit GHM Inc.

What We Do

The museum sparks wonder through bold exhibitions and creative public programs. We nurture civic engagement and lifelong learning. We encourage dialogue, and we care for all that is entrusted to us.

Our Impact

We make a difference for people across Greensboro and beyond by building on the past to envision and create a shared future. We create and support legacies for families, experiences for students, and program collaborations with community partners. We contribute to an exceptional quality of life in our city.



Collect

The museum cares for more than 30,000 artifacts and 750,000 archival items, pieces of history that tell the story of our city and its people across centuries.

A soldier's cap from a Revolutionary battle. First Lady Dolley Madison's slippers and George Washington's spurs. Original Vicks VapoRub recipe books. Robes worn by North Carolina's first Black Supreme Court Justice. A covered wagon and a Cadillac. Pandemic masks and protest murals marking history happening now. We preserve these treasures and make them accessible and meaningful.



Making a Difference

For Judy Walmsley, supporting museum collections matters. "The museum needs me, and I need the museum," she says. The longtime volunteer docent knows the power of objects. Leading school field trips around the galleries, she has seen eyes light up as students step into the *Voices of a City* exhibition or the Hockett Blacksmith Shop. Through GHM's **Adopt an Object** program, she funded much-needed repairs to a World War II bomber jacket in honor of her father, a veteran of the war. Her gift to preserve remarkable collections is connecting generations.



Connect

Greensboro's history is woven from the experiences of many different communities. Our free public programs, special initiatives, and educational opportunities bring people together across generations to share memories and explore perspectives on the past and present.

The museum offers more than three dozen public programs every year. We host nationally known historians and community experts. We bring history to life with Lifted Voices living history days and spark serious fun with GHM After Hours events like Gerrymander Madness and Brewseum.

Making a Difference

The museum is "always so open to supporting programs highlighting communities in Greensboro," observes writer Tina Firesheets, who organized an AAPI film festival at GHM in 2024. The museum's annual Lunar New Year festival, which drew more than 1,000 attendees in 2025, "is something that the entire community is able to participate in, and that's just really special," she says. **Program sponsorships** make these community programs possible. In 2023 and 2024, generous support from Bibey Machine Company helped transform GHM into a WWII service club as part of our 1940s Flashbacks.





Challenge

A city shapes its future by understanding its past. Sometimes the realities of that past can be difficult, but award-winning museum exhibitions and initiatives provide historical context and encourage dialogue around challenging topics for students and lifelong learners alike.

Since 2019, the Project Democracy 20/20 initiative has promoted civic knowledge and civic engagement. Our 2020 exhibition *Pieces of Now: Murals, Masks, Community Stories & Conversations* responded to protests and the pandemic. NC Democracy: Eleven Elections and the Gerrymander Madness virtual reality game highlighted voting rights.

Making a Difference

Every year, thousands of K-12 students from across central NC experience free, engaging field trips at the museum. As social studies coordinator for Guilford County Schools, Tia Thompson values how GHM supports teachers and helps students connect with history and civics without shying from challenging topics: "The democracy pieces are what makes this such a powerful place." Thanks to funders like NC Humanities and the Women's Professional Forum Foundation of Greensboro, the museum has created democracy education trunks and hosted Smithsonian National Youth Summit hubs.





Together

Creative collaborations with community partners power all our work at GHM. The museum is a place for people to connect with new neighbors, explore what gives Greensboro its identity, and nurture possibilities for our shared future.

We bring people together at the museum and across the city, connecting with organizations large and small. Working with Bicycling in Greensboro, we create an annual Juneteenth History Bike Tour for riders at all levels. We also collaborate with Greensboro Pride Festival, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, NC Folk Fest, and other partners on signature events across the city.

Making a Difference

James Griffin of the Warnersville Community Coalition knew the important history of his neighborhood, built as a Freedmen's community after the Civil War. He and his neighbors worked with GHM to develop *Warnersville: Our Home, Our Neighborhood, Our Stories*. The exhibition didn't just win national awards. It also prompted the City of Greensboro to create a new kind of historic designation, naming Warnersville its first Heritage Community. "The museum has done so much for our community," Griffin says.



100 Years & Counting

For more than a century, we have been making a difference to our city as a vital community organization.

- 1924 Volunteers establish the Greensboro Historical Museum Society.
- 1925 One-room display of about 200 artifacts opens on Armistice Day.
- 1930 New quarters in old Cypress Street School with four rooms.
- 1939 Move to new Richardson Civic Center on Summit Avenue.
- 1947 O. Henry Memorial Room dedicated to renowned Greensboro writer.
- 1958 Seven new display areas open for Greensboro's 150th birthday.
- 1961 Junior League of Greensboro funds first paid museum director.
- 1964 Museum expands into entire building and neighboring Richardson Park.
- 1974 Late-1700s Isley House moved to park and restored.
- 1975 Museum Guild organizes to support educational activities.
- 1982 Publication of *Greensboro: A Chosen Center* book.
- 1984 Museum earns accreditation from American Association of Museums.
- 1990 New wing financed by municipal bond opens.
- 1996 John F. Wicker Endowment established to support expanded programming.
- 2003 *From Cambodia to Greensboro* exhibit highlights new immigrants to region.
- 2009 B. Craighead Davidson Endowment bequest funds internships.
- 2010 Award-winning permanent exhibition *Voices of a City* opens.
- 2017 Name change to Greensboro History Museum.
- 2021 Rapid-response exhibition *Pieces of Now* wins national acclaim.
- 2024 Speakeasy Night kicks off GHM100 centennial celebration.



Looking Ahead

The Greensboro History Museum will empower people to seek wisdom and community. The GHM 2024-28 Strategic Roadmap to that vision builds on the strategic areas of the Greensboro Public Library, Conduit to Destiny®.

Community

Strengthen community through neighborhood empowerment and collaborative engagement.
Strategic engagement beyond museum walls. Networks to collect, document, and preserve city history and cultural heritage. Expanded partnerships around common goals, such as connecting Cultural District programming.

Adaptability & Innovation

Cultivate a sustainable future through adaptation, innovation, and evolution.
Improved accessibility and accommodation for different learning styles and physical needs. Refined metrics for measuring impact. Physical improvements that promote museum as a place for all. Robust, sustainable fiscal development plan for GHM Inc.

Growth & Learning

Stimulate and inspire growth, learning, and transformation.
Creative uses of historic buildings. Reenergized exhibitions to promote curiosity and wonder. Resources to promote better understanding and appreciation of our political system and civic life. Innovative programming that connects generations and communities.

Resources & Technology

Create and promote discovery through fostering imagination and innovation.
Active collecting, thoughtful care, and ethical repatriations. Digital and print communications that connect with legacy supporters and new audiences. Technology to improve access and engagement. Creative opportunities that inspire interns, volunteers, and lifelong learners.

*It's a place you can learn about
Greensboro's past, but you can also learn
about where Greensboro is going.*

Nasha McCray, Assistant City Manager

Come along with us

Visit – Discover our exhibitions or take part in a free program

Belong – Become a member of GHM Inc.

Support – Adopt an object or sponsor a program or initiative



Learn more and find
our video series at
ghm100.org



**130 Summit Avenue at East Lindsay Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401**

**Open Tuesday-Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday 2-5 pm
Free admission**

GreensboroHistory.org

