

**FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC.  
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009**

The fiscal year 2008/2009 was a challenging and at the same time a rewarding period for the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. Our mission to support Michigan Historical Center operations took on added significance because of the fiscal difficulties facing the State of Michigan. The success of the Friends program this year is due to the support of our membership, the dedicated efforts of the Board of Directors, the cooperative efforts of many dedicated employees of the Michigan Historical Center along with the Executive Director and the Board members of the Michigan History Foundation.

Among the purposes for which the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. was organized is to "receive and administer funds for the betterment of the Michigan Historical Center and other Michigan organizations devoted to the fostering and preservation of Michigan History; to promote the educational and interpretive activities of the Historical Center and other Michigan organizations that promote the preservation of Michigan History; and to support the museum, docent organization, archives and archaeology programs conducted for the Michigan Historical Center. Therefore, I am proud to report some of our activities in support of the above listed goals:

Co-sponsored: Museum Legislative Reception - May 2009

Sponsored: Annual Veterans Day Program and Massing of the Colors – Nov. 2008

Co-sponsored: Evening With Jeff Haas fund raiser-Oct. 2008

Participated: Elijah Myers dedications at State Capitol and Woodlawn Cemetery

Established: Friends Travel Program in cooperation with Collette Travel

Participated: Book Fair fund raiser with Barnes and Noble

Contributed: \$825 for Jackson Cascades Civil War Reenactment program-2008

Contributed: \$500 for Museum Harvest Fest Program-2008

Contributed: \$1000 for Museum Winter Fest Program-2008

Contributed: \$1000 for Museum Archaeology Day Program-2008

Contributed: \$500 for Museum Haunted History Program-2008

Contributed: \$1000 for Museum Docent Symposium-2008

Contributed: \$1000 for Museum Statehood Day Program-2009

Contributed: \$500 for Museum Community Outreach Program-2008

Contributed: \$500 for Museum Archives Projects-2008

Contributed: \$200 for Historic Fort Wayne Projects-2008

Contributed: \$750 for Museum Michigan Travel Mixer Program-2009

Contributed: \$450 for Michigan Historical Society Awards-2008

Allocated: \$450 for Michigan Historical Society Awards-2009

Allocated: \$700 for Museum Be a Tourist Program-2009

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Summer Sizzles Day Camp-2009

Allocated: \$700 for Museum Harvest Fest program-2009

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Archaeology Day Program-2009

Allocated: \$700 for Museum Haunted History Program-2009

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Winter Fest Program-2009

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Docent Program-2009-2010

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Statehood Day Program-2010

Allocated: \$1000 for Museum Scout/Week-end Programs-2009

Allocated: \$500 for Museum Community Outreach Program-2009

The Friends of Michigan History Walker Tavern affiliate is working in support of the Hewitt House renovation which will require nearly \$60,000 to complete. The Walker Tavern group has committed \$7,500 over a three year period to the renovation fund in addition to other significant contributions in time and money.

Our Fayette Historic Town Site affiliate continues its solid support of programs at Fayette. Among other projects they are engaged in raising funds to restore Building #4 "to house archaeology findings related to Native Americans of the Fayette area". Their goal is to raise \$12,000 over the next two years for this project.

The two affiliates have over \$20,000 collectively in their treasuries. These funds will support program and facility enhancements at each location.

The Friends have contributed or allocated over \$17,000 during this fiscal year in support of Michigan History related operations and programs.

The Friends face serious challenges for 2009-2010. The state of the general economy has necessarily reduced the State of Michigan's ability to fully fund history related programs. At a time when Friends contributions of support for these programs increases in importance, the Friends face, because of the economy, a reduction in our membership. We now have approximately 460 dues paying members compared to a total of over 600 at this time last year. Our need to expand our membership has never been more important to the survival of quality state museum programs. Please do whatever you can to help increase our membership.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt personal thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Francis "Bus" Spaniola  
President