

“Fisherman’s Friend” by Frank Streetart  
From “Väst kust - Observations From the Swedish West Coast”  
Friday, June 21 - Sunday, Aug. 18

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# Greetings from the Executive Director

## Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of *Flaggan* in 2024. Most of our communication is now digital and we hope that you are able to stay connected to the Museum with emails and postcards. In this issue, we have covered a lot of information about our new exhibit *We Are America* along with upcoming events and plans for this summer. Much to read, learn and hopefully enjoy.

We have also included a copy of the Annual Report 2023 for all of our members. It's inserted in the middle and contains summaries of what happened during the year of 2023. Although we were on hold for the new *We Are America*, many other things took place and we are pleased with the results.

Although the construction of the Museum Café was finalized in 2023, we had to wait for clearance of all inspections before we were able to hire a baker and staff to open the Café. The timing worked out so well that the ribbon cutting could take place during the Annual Meeting. A soft opening of the Café during the first weekend of May has been followed by regular hours Friday through Sunday. It's exciting to be able to say we are open after many months of answering "soon." Hopefully we will be able to keep Café hours the same as the Museum hours during the summer. So far the reception has been very positive, and Swedish home-baked items are popular. There is a toss-up between the Kanelbullar (Cinnamon rolls) and Kardemummabullar (Cardamom rolls). They are both popular. We all have favorite Swedish treats and we welcome everyone to send us suggestions of items you want to have available in the Café. Our baker has quickly learned our way of making the rolls, and we are adding new items every week. The name is currently the Museum Café and we have a few suggestions for specific names. The QR code with a link to our survey is on the next page. There is a list of ideas for names and room to add additional suggestions.

Along with the second floor work on *We Are America* we uncovered beautiful wood flooring in the second floor hallway when we removed the carpeting. It continues to amaze us, the wonderful condition of the wood floors once sanded and stained. The hope is to uncover even the third floor hallway in the near future.

It is great to have the Honorary Consulate of Sweden at the Museum since early March. Anna Engström Patel, Vice Consul, moved into the middle office on the second floor and has been greeting many Swedish citizens during the last two months. In May we also had European Union election voting available on four different days. The Genealogy room was previously in that office. We plan to turn the room that previously housed the *Dream of America* office into the Genealogy room. The Consulate serves six different states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Swedish citizens come to pick up passports, register their children for personal numbers, inquire about citizenship, and ask questions relating to Sweden among other things. Anna handles most of the business and when needed I can help in my capacity as the Honorary Consul.

We at the Museum are fortunate to be able to collaborate with both

Team Sweden and many of the other Swedish-American organizations. We went to Rockford for Midsommarfest on June 15, and Geneva for Sweden Väst on June 22-23, and we will go to Scandinavian Day in Vasa Park on Sept. 8. In addition Vasa Park has a Kubb Tournament on Sunday, July 28. It would be fun to have one or two Museum teams participating. The event is listed in our Calendar of Events. We were at the Andersonville Farmers Market on Catalpa between Clark and Ashland on June 19 and we will also be there on Oct. 16. We celebrated Midsommarfest in Andersonville and we hope that many of you came and enjoyed the Festival.

This fall the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) is holding the annual SACC Summit in Chicago. The Museum and the Consulate, together with other Team Sweden partners (SWEA, North Park University, and Business Sweden), will help welcome their attendees to Chicago. A link to SACC is on our website and you can register to attend the Summit in September. As an outcome of our Nordic House project with the Nordic consulates, SACC and other Nordic chambers have events for the “Young Professionals” throughout the year and their events are usually for anyone between 21 and 35.

Save the Date for our annual fundraising Aspire Gala 2024 on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024. More to come via email and mail from our Co-Chairs Liz Peterson and Tim Yocum.

Enjoy the summer here in Chicago, in Sweden or wherever your summer travels take you.



Help us decide on a  
name for our café!

*Karin M. Abernethy*

### **Mission Statement**

*Through its arts and educational programs and its permanent collection, the Swedish American Museum interprets the immigrant experience for children and adults and promotes an appreciation of contemporary Swedish-American culture.*

### **Hours**

**Museum & Museum Store**

Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Children's Museum**

Tuesday - Thursday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Café**

Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## **Closed on Mondays**



# Exhibit News

## *Västkust - Observations From the Swedish West Coast*

*By Frank Streetart*

Original works and art prints by stencil artist Frank Streetart, and photos of Frank's art in locations throughout Sweden. The focus lies in the people, animals and nature of the Swedish West Coast, with an ongoing element of contrast between the traditional and the unexpected.

Open Through Sunday, Aug. 18



“The Longing”



Verdandi  
Lodge No. 3, I.O.S.

Ulla and Bertil Brunk  
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## We Are America

*We Are America* explores the story of Swedish immigration to Chicago and the lives Swedish immigrants built in the U.S., from employment to recreation to religion to home life. Through personal stories and interactive elements, visitors will learn how immigration stories shaped not only the immigrants' lives themselves, but also how they helped to shape Chicago into the city it has become today. Immigration stories from other countries are also shared: we worked with partners from the Chicago Cultural Alliance to feature immigration stories submitted by the Japanese American Service Committee, Korean Cultural Center of Chicago, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Dominican-American Midwest Association, and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society. Thank you for your support of the Museum throughout our work on this new core exhibit. We hope you enjoy the result.





# A Day in the Life of a Museum Intern

The Museum is fortunate to have a robust collections intern program where undergraduate and graduate students work alongside staff to gain hands-on experience in collections care. With our intern program, the permanent collection is used in a teaching aspect as interns are given the opportunity to gain experience through projects such as inventory, digitization, research, and data clean-up. Interns help contribute to the preservation of our collections, the preparation of artifacts for exhibits, and public access to our materials with the help of a mentor. Internships are opportunities for students to learn and grow. They not only benefit the interns themselves as they prepare for a professional career in the museum field, they are also incredibly valuable to the Museum as it brings in new knowledge and perspectives. Each intern contributes with their unique talents and skills. The projects that our interns do are important and needed. With their help, we are able to preserve the history of Swedish-Americans in Chicago, the Swedish-American immigration story, and the history of the Andersonville neighborhood.

*-Phoebe Yates and Lisa Lindström*

## Beyond The Exhibit: A Story of My Swedish American Museum Internship

*By Aiesha Wright*

During the first week, it was all about becoming acquainted with everything I needed to know. The best way to kick things off was with a guided Museum tour led by my supervisors, Phoebe Yates (Curator) and Lisa Lindström (Collections Manager). They took me from the basement up to the third floor. In particular, they showed me what would be my designated workspace for the entire internship. The basement was a fascinating maze of containers and movable shelves, where all the assignments that required some moving and grooving took place. It was like stepping into a treasure trove filled with paintings, textiles and china.

Next, I was taken to a smaller area adjacent to the main zone, where there were boxes filled with folders that contained its own treasure trove of mostly flat objects, ranging from postcards to snippets of newspapers and photographs. This discovery aligned perfectly with my reason for working at the Museum - my task was to digitize these valuable artifacts. However, digitization was a comprehensive process, involving various steps leading up to the final point. To add items to their digital database in "PastPerfect" - a hub of crucial information about location, history, and other pertinent details - I went through bins filled with paintings. My responsibility included taking the paintings from the bins and lining the bottoms with protective foam. I then organized the paintings chronologically, from more recent to historic, within each bin. For each painting, I diligently noted down its object ID, and if it was unattached, additional steps were needed. I used a 1-5 scale to assess and jot down the condition of each painting, with 5 being the worst. Throughout this process, I worked with dedication, handling 14 bins, each containing 18+ paintings and photographs of different sizes and types.



*Photo Credit: Aiesha Wright*

In the 2D archives room, my routine involved selecting a container of folders, each labeled under a specific theme, and taking it to the scanner. There, I meticulously scanned the front and back of each object, carefully troubleshooting for any issues that might arise with different types of objects and how the scanner responded. My attention to detail was essential, as I was careful to label each item correctly, ensuring everything was accurately recorded.

Another exciting part of the digitization project was capturing photos of objects within a small white photo booth located in the basement (where I am currently typing this!). Armed with a Canon camera, I took pictures of the 3D objects from different angles, adjusting ISO settings to capture the right lighting and darkness aids. Making sure to include our color comparer/label in the images, I then transferred the photos to the computer. Using Photoshop, I carefully created three copies of each image, tailoring them to specific requirements and designated locations. Once everything was perfectly edited, I added the final photo into the system. This way, whenever someone searches for a particular item, they get a delightful visual aid to accompany the information.

In addition to my digitization responsibilities, I had the fantastic opportunity to contribute to the Museum's social media presence. For Instagram, I focused on displaying accessioned objects, capturing captivating photos while crafting engaging captions of up to 250 words for each item. The challenge was to make the content interesting and visually appealing to the platform's audience. Additionally, I worked on various writing projects for the gift shop displays, creating compelling descriptions to highlight the unique products. Throughout my journey at the Museum, I had some remarkable experiences and side quests. During my first week, I was fortunate to work during the Midsommarfest, an event filled with vibrant flowers, delicious food, and rapid shirt selling. As my internship progressed, I had the opportunity to visit other museums and explore their impressive collections, including The Haitian American Museum of Chicago and The Leather Archives Museum.

Reflecting on my time here, I can confidently say it has been a lovely and fulfilling experience. The Museum staff and fellow interns have been amazing, creating a supportive and inspiring environment. This internship holds a special place in my heart, and I'm certain it will become one of my cherished core memories. I am truly grateful for the insights into Swedish and Swedish-American culture that I gained here, as well as for the opportunity to discover the enchanting neighborhood of Andersonville.



*Photo Credit: Aiesha Wright*

# Curator's Corner

## *We Are America*

by Phoebe Yates and Lisa Lindström

In 2020, the Museum received a grant from the Institute of Library and Museum Services to renovate our core exhibit *Dream of America*. Over the last three years, we have been working hard and are excited to share that *We Are America*, the Museum's new core exhibit, is open!

### What can you expect from *We Are America*?

*We Are America* explores Swedish immigration to Chicago. Visitors will see displays such as a steamship deck, a 19th-century Swedish stuga, an early 20th-century Swedish-American woodshop, and a mid-century Swedish-American kitchen. Through artifacts, images and interactives, visitors will learn about the lives Swedish immigrants built in the U.S., from employment to recreation to religion to home life.

You will see familiar faces such as the Karlsson family on a ship deck welcoming you, and Elin and Birgitta Hedman on a bench at Ellis Island. New stories are highlighted, including Thor Rydholm, a young Swedish-American from Lee County, Illinois who served in the U.S. military during World War I, and Anna Elisabet Martinsson, a young woman who traveled to America by herself aboard the SS Stockholm in 1925. Each story illuminates how Swedes created community in a new land.

There will be age-inclusive interactives including a map showing the routes taken from Sweden to Chicago, a Swedish children's game, a touch screen to explore Swedish clubs, and more.

At its core, *We Are America* is about immigration. In addition to exploring immigration itself, the exhibit discusses the evolution of immigration policies and trends. Much of how Chicago has developed is due to immigrant groups. What would Andersonville look like without its Swedish heritage?

We wanted to provide visitors an opportunity to compare the Swedish immigration story with others. We worked with partners from the Chicago Cultural Alliance including the Japanese American Service Committee, the Korean Cultural Center of Chicago, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, the Dominican-American Midwest Association, and the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society. Each institution submitted immigration stories which are included.

### Layout and Design

We worked with Miles Lindblad, Amy Reichert, Jordan Mosher, Tamara Biggs, Mark Ramirez and Mark Schall. By removing a few walls, we expanded the gallery and designed a layout that takes advantage of the extra space. Exhibit design and layout are centered on how to best express an exhibit's overarching message, sometimes called the "big idea." Here, the "big idea" is how the immigration story is foundational to the American experience.

Much like *Dream of America*, *We Are America* is arranged chronologically in order of an immigrant's journey. The exhibit is divided into four sections to maximize visitor orientation. The first looks at the immigration process, including motivations for immigrating, the journey itself, and becoming a citizen. The second explores finding a job, home, and community. The third focuses on the role of ethnicity in public and private lives. The final section shares how immigrants have shaped Chicago and American history and culture and allows visitors to add their own story.



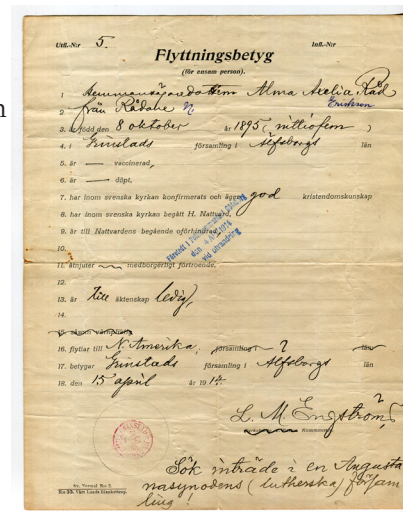
*Layout from above*  
Amy Reichert Architecture and Design



## Selecting Artifacts

Artifacts selected for display were chosen due to their relation to the exhibit theme. Each object tells a unique story which connects to the “big idea” of how the immigration experience is central to the fabric of America.

*We Are America* is primarily based on artifacts from the Museum’s own Permanent Collection. Over 100 new objects will be displayed and some displays will rotate with new items on a regular basis. This not only invites visitors to return and allows more stories to be shared, but it is part of our preservation efforts to ensure longevity of our objects.



*This flyttningsbetyg (Moving Certificate) was used by Alma Axelia Råd Erickson. It was issued by a parish minister in 1914. Moving certificates were required for emigrants. They were presented to an emigrant agent to receive an emigrant contract and ticket. At departure, they were shown to police to show legal permission to leave the country. Object # 1997.81.9*

## Cases and Object Mounts

Artifacts are delicate and require special care. That is why many museums use enclosed cases for display.

In *We Are America*, cases will be used for fragile artifacts that need additional protection. The Museum has worked closely with architects to ensure that cases provide viewing access for people both seated and standing. Height, colors, and glare have all been considered.

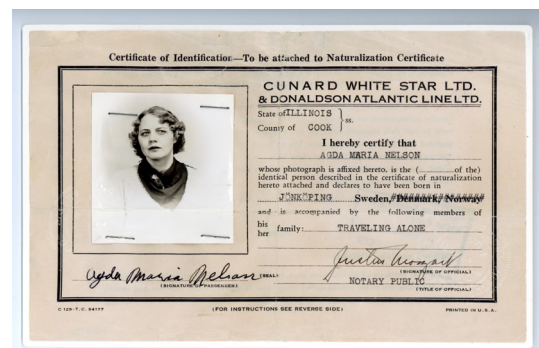
Some items in *We Are America* need mounts: supportive structures used to suspend an object while minimizing damage. We worked with two professional mount makers. Mounts are made to specification based on object needs. While some items may be hung on the wall, others benefit from a supportive backing to be propped up. Visual access and minimizing damage must be balanced. Mannequins will be used to display clothing such as military and nursing uniforms, and traditional folk costumes.

## Conservation

The Museum has contracted with paper conservator Carol Turchan and Third Coast Conservation to mount, clean and prepare several objects for display in *We Are America*. The role of conservators is to ensure that the objects on display are stable and protected. They assess the artifact’s condition, define preservation needs, and take steps for repair and treatment. Our objects have been treated with reversible methods to resemble their original state.



*Before conservation treatment: this fragile item shows extensive signs of aging and wear.*  
Object # 1993.22.2



*After conservation treatment: this item has been treated and mounted. It will be displayed in a case for protection from light and handling.*  
Object # 1993.22.2

## See You Soon

Thank you for your patience and support throughout this process. We hope you enjoy our new core exhibit!

# Museum Store

## Commemorating *We Are America*

By Kristen Larson

In honor of our reinvigorated core exhibition, *We Are America*, I contacted Ekelund to commemorate the occasion with a custom table runner. The 100% organic cotton runner, titled “Immigration,” illustrates the typical immigration journey of a Swedish immigrant traveling in the early 20th century. The design features four iconic stopping points along the route: Gothenburg customs house, a Swedish American Line ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean, Ellis Island, and finally the Swedish American Museum façade as it appears in the present.

Ekelund is the world’s oldest weaver family business, dating back to the 15th century. Production continues to be locally sourced and produced in Horred, Sweden. His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf bestowed the title of Purveyor to the Royal Court of Sweden continuing the title from the previous reigns of Gustaf VI Adolf and Gustaf V, with the first delivery to the royal court occurring in 1878. Investing in organic cotton farming and harvesting, Ekelund has achieved the Global Organics Textile Standard (GOTS) for creating environmentally certified textiles. GOTS criteria for textile eco-labelling set requirements that ensure ecological and social status with full traceability. Ekelund has worked hard since the 1990s to continue to minimize their carbon footprint.

Many of you are acquainted with your ancestor’s immigration stories and journeys through your genealogy work; we hope this runner can help you pass on those family histories to the next generation.



*We Are America*  
commemorative Ekelund table runner

## A Staff Update

By Lydia Taylor

It is with great excitement that I step into the role of Store Manager for the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store. Having previously worked for the Swedish American Museum as part of the Nordic House project, accepting this position has been a welcome return to the community. I grew up with a desire to embrace my heritage, prompting me to pursue a degree in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

This is not the sort of degree one gets as a career starter, as jobs in this field are rare. Having the opportunity to work for an organization that preserves Swedish-American culture is a dream come true for me, and I’m very fortunate to have a place here.

A part of the Scandinavian mindset that I closely identify with is the way seasons are embraced. Honoring the cycle of the year and the holidays that come with them is very important to me personally. Spring was, of course, the best time of year to celebrate new beginnings. As nature was starting anew, so too was I. It is now summer and I am settling in here at the Museum. As I continue to grow into my role, I remain grateful for the support of my wonderful colleagues and our volunteers, as well as the solid foundation that was built by my predecessors.

The spirit of the Museum Store is strong, which is something I love about it! I aim to maintain this spirit, meaning you can expect to find the same classic staples and old favorites when it comes to food, textiles, décor, and more. With that said, I look forward to expanding our offerings and sourcing new and exciting products that embody the Museum’s mission and highlight the best of what Scandinavian/Scandinavian-American makers have to offer.

That is all from me today. I hope to see you soon at the Museum Store! Happy Summer!



# Volunteer Updates

by Layne Borden

Volunteers are the unsung heroes of the Museum, dedicating their time and energy to making a positive impact in our community. We've made some changes to the volunteer experience to allow volunteers to give feedback on their time at the Museum. The three main changes we started throughout the past year were restarting the Volunteer Committee, introducing Volunteer Fika, and implementing Post-Event Surveys. These initiatives not only strengthen the bond among volunteers, but also contribute to the overall success of community-driven events by allowing us to fix any blind spots we may have within the systems in place.

The Volunteer Committee was reinstated and has met to discuss volunteer orientation. The Museum has recently received an uptick in volunteers from outside of our pre-existing community and we have found the need to teach volunteers not only about their role at the Museum, but about the Museum's mission and history as well. The Committee has also met to discuss updated volunteer guidelines and the conversion to a new sale system.

We started Volunteer Fika, as it provides a relaxed setting for volunteers to unwind, share experiences, and build connections. This informal gathering nurtures camaraderie and acts as a platform for volunteers to express their thoughts and suggestions. It allows the Volunteer Coordinator to discuss future volunteer opportunities.

The journey doesn't end with a Museum event; it extends into the feedback gathered through post-event surveys sent out afterward. These surveys play a crucial role in helping us understand volunteers' experiences, identifying areas for improvement, and acknowledging outstanding contributions. By actively seeking feedback, we are committing to continuous improvement, ensuring that future events are even more successful and rewarding for volunteers.

We're always looking for more volunteers to join our community. If you'd like to apply to volunteer, please visit our website at [www.swedishamericanmuseum.org/volunteering](http://www.swedishamericanmuseum.org/volunteering) or scan the QR code below.



*Volunteers helping at Julmarknad*





# Communications & Marketing

by JJ Kells

When I was 5, I received a book about world atlases and it made me more excited than almost any other gift. Since I was a little kid, I've been fascinated with the world. I obtained special permission in high school to take extra foreign language courses (Italian, Spanish, and French) and I dove into German in college. I later worked as a flight attendant for 3 years and rode, ran, or walked to as many locations as I could while abroad. A significant portion of my reading collection consists of books on history, culture and language.

After completing my communications degree, I asked myself to think of the most rewarding place to bring my efforts. My mind traveled throughout the city and landed at the Swedish American Museum. I am humbled and grateful that they allowed me to disembark there and that I joined this incredible team.

As the granddaughter of a Jewish woman who was forced to flee her home during the period of World War II, I am privileged to be immersed in a place that honors immigration stories - whether they began in Sweden or elsewhere - in a manner that caters to and enlightens both adults and children.

My greatest passions within digital communication are design, photography and creative writing. It is an immense benefit to be able to utilize these interests specifically to share stories of Swedish heritage and tradition with the local, and global, community.

When I'm not working at the Museum, you might find me out for a run, catering to my love for animals, immersed in a book, or enjoying iced tea. I'm fortunate that my work here aligns with many of my personal interests.

My favorite aspects of the Swedish American Museum include the vibrant winter holiday activities, the available information on how immigration shaped both Chicago's and Andersonville's development, and the opportunity to learn some of the Swedish language. Additionally, it has been a pleasure to communicate and collaborate with Museum staff, interns, volunteers, guests, and featured artists and speakers. This year, I had the wonderful opportunity to collaborate with Tilde Hellquist, an intern from Sweden, who has been instrumental in helping with Museum communications. Tilde's design and writing skills have been a significant contribution and have helped generate engaging marketing materials fitting for all ages. She was consistently willing to help out at the Museum in any other way she could as well.

I am excited to continue interacting with and learning from everyone who is a part of the Swedish American Museum. I hope to grow in my skills at letting everyone know about the many unique educational, social and cultural opportunities that the Museum offers.



*Being a part of the Museum staff is an enriching experience that has aided me in expanding my communication skills, and taught me about Swedish history, culture and language.*



*In addition to helping with communications, Tilde has assisted with exhibits, education, and within our new café space, sharing the concept of fika with Museum guests.*

# Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration

*By Jack Rogalla*

The Children's Museum has been teeming with school tours, birthday parties, stories, crafts, and holiday events. On the last Thursday - and now also Friday - of each month, we host Hejsan!, where we read a story and create a craft.

What is it like to attend a school tour at the Museum? First, we give a big "Välkommen!" in the gallery, where you are introduced to me, Jack, and our educators, Sarah Schar and Barb Miller. We are dressed in 1800s Swedish attire, with vest, cap, dresses, and aprons. The class is split into three groups.

My group starts in the second floor exhibit. We discuss why people left Sweden and what attracted them to America. You learn about what conditions were like to travel across the Atlantic Ocean and what awaited you upon arrival at Ellis Island. You learn about what to pack to survive the journey, see a model steam ship and real trunks, and learn about Elin and Birgitta who ran into trouble when their husband/father was late to meet them.

Barb's group works in the classroom up on the third floor. You discuss what objects one commonly packed in their trunk to bring to America, such as food, clothing, family heirlooms or the Bible. You then make your own trunk out of construction paper; choose wisely which five items out of twelve possibilities you decide to pack. Don't forget to put your name and destination on the front so it doesn't get lost on the ship!

Sarah's group begins in the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration, where you travel back in time to the late 1800s. You experience daily life in a Swedish "stuga," milking the cow, baking bread, and washing clothes before bidding "hej då!" and journeying across the ocean and to Minnesota. During your trip, you spend time on our steamship, and upon arrival, you learn what new immigrants experienced in America. The students rotate through all three sections and, hopefully, by the end they have gained some insight into the extensive immigration process.

We modify our tour for all age groups. Younger children learn to sing and dance the classic folk song "Så Grodorna" and create Dala horse puppets. Students in junior high and up receive a more thorough history of Swedish immigration including how Swedish immigrants built a community in Chicago. If this sounds like something your students or child would enjoy, please recommend the Swedish American Museum to your school administration or your child's teacher.



*Barb, Jack and Sarah*

## Summer Camp

Just because the school year ends does not mean the Museum gets any less busy. Preschools continue to schedule visits and we also host summer camps! Our Midsommar Camp took place in mid-June and our Swedish Sommarläger will take place Aug. 5 - 9, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. These camps offer a week of fun at the Museum for children ages 6 - 12. During Swedish Sommarläger, we will play Viking games, do traditional arts and crafts, dance, tell stories, enjoy Swedish food, and learn a little of the Swedish language along the way.

Register for Summer Camp at [www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/SummerCamp](http://www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/SummerCamp) or by scanning the QR code.



# Winter 2024 Development Grant

The City of Chicago supports the success of its individual neighborhoods by offering development grants that may be used for pre-development, construction or renovation efforts. On January 30, 2024, Mayor Brandon Johnson announced 61 development grant finalists that included restaurants, art centers, wellness centers and more. The Swedish American Museum is extremely grateful to have been selected and awarded a \$250,000 grant.



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## SACC Summit 2024 In Chicago

*Wednesday, Sept. 18 - Thursday, Sept. 19*

The Summit is the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce annual flagship event in which executives from Swedish-American organizations and other Swedish leaders unite to listen to keynote speakers and panels, and engage in discussion, all meant to help participants reach their development goals.

During the SACC summit, there is a private boat tour with members and friends of the Swedish American Museum. Learn about Chicago's architecture while enjoying a boat tour on the river with entertainment. To register, visit [www.sacc-chicago.org/sacc-summit-2024](http://www.sacc-chicago.org/sacc-summit-2024) or scan the QR code below.



### SACC SUMMIT: WENDELLA RIVER CRUISE

Join us for a fantastic evening on the beautiful Chicago River, taking in the stunning architecture while enjoying drinks and mingling with the Swedish-American business community across the U.S.

**When:** Thursday September 19, 7:45-10:00 P.M.  
**Where:** 400 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago  
**Price:** \$85, open bar included.

Please note that the Wendella River Cruise is included in the purchase of a SACC Summit Ticket. To read more about the SACC Summit, please visit our website: [www.sacc-chicago.org/sacc-summit-2024](http://www.sacc-chicago.org/sacc-summit-2024)

"Wendella is founded by Swedish immigrant Bo Albert Borgstrom at Navy Pier. The original Wendella was a 65-foot long, wood-hulled vessel that carried 86 passengers, and tickets cost 25 cents.

For over 80 years, Wendella has provided visitors and locals alike with the ultimate Chicago experience. Offering premier Chicago River & Lake Michigan tours and cruises, they blend nostalgia for Chicago's rich history with modern experiences to provide a fun day on the water, whatever the occasion." ([www.wendellaheritage.com](http://www.wendellaheritage.com))

To register for the event, please visit our website: [www.sacc-chicago.org/events](http://www.sacc-chicago.org/events)



# Programs & Events

## RECURRING EVENTS

### BOOK CLUB ONLINE

We discuss books from the Nordic countries that can be bought in the Museum Store.

*Last Saturday of the month, 2 p.m.*

- Aug. 31: *The Mercies*  
by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
- Sept. 28: *Independent People*  
by Halldór Laxness
- Oct. 26: *Nordic Visions*  
edited by Margrét Helgadóttir
- Nov. 30: *The Farm*  
by Tom Rob Smith
- Dec. 28: *Everything Is Not Enough*  
by Lolá Ákínmáde Ákerström

### COOKING CLASS ONLINE

Participants are taught Swedish recipes and can cook along with the group and ask questions along the way. Look out for new classes on the Museum website.

- *Mondays, 4 p.m., Online:* Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18
- *In Person Baking:* Tuesday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m.

### DINNER & A MOVIE AT THE MUSEUM

We screened a wide variety of films and have had guest speakers join in the discussion of the movie afterward. Look out for movie picks on the website.

- *Thursdays:* Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5

### GENEALOGY ONLINE

*Fourth Saturday of the Month, 10 a.m.*

- Sept. 28: Timothy Boyce discusses *The Viking Ship*
- Oct. 26: Thomas MacEntee discusses *Artificial Intelligence*

### HEJSAN! AT THE MUSEUM

*Last Thursday (2 p.m.) and Friday (11 a.m.) of the month*

A storytelling and crafting hour. Children of all ages are welcome. Listen to a story and make a craft with staff. Free with Museum admission.

\*Note that when Thursday is the last day of the month, the Friday Hejsan! will take before Thursday's!

- July 25 and 26: *Three Little Vikings*  
by Bethan Woollvin

### SCANDINAVIAN JAM

An afternoon of traditional roots music. We teach by ear, review and share tunes. We take suggestions and love meeting new people.

*Sundays, 1 p.m. IN PERSON*

July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17

If you're interested in learning about online Scandinavian Jams, contact Mary Allsopp at [mallsoff@rocketmail.com](mailto:mallsoff@rocketmail.com)

### WE ARE AMERICA GUIDED TOURS

Guided tour, approximately 45 minutes, of the

Museum's new core exhibit, *We Are America*.

*Second Saturday of the Month, 11 a.m.:* Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14

### NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOURS

Experience the exciting neighborhood surrounding the Museum in this walking tour hosted by Museum member and volunteer Kris Pierre.

*Last Thursday of the Month, 1 p.m.:* July 25, Aug. 29

*Sunday, 1 p.m.:* July 14, Aug. 18

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### HILDUR HÖGLIND CONCERT AT THE MUSEUM

*Thursday, Aug. 22, 6 p.m.*

Musician and songwriter Hildur Höglind, known for her range of melodies and her illustrative lyrics, will be performing. Hildur has had great success in music competitions around the world and her talents have been recognized by Queen Elizabeth II of England.

### PETTER WAHLBÄCK CONCERT

*Friday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.*

Petter's music ranges from old Swedish folk songs to that of modern singer/songwriters, performed on the troubadour. You'll hear music from Cornelis Vreeswijk, Lillebror Söderlundh, Dan Anderson, and others.

### SCANDINAVIAN DAY FESTIVAL VASA PARK, SOUTH ELGIN, IL

*Sunday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

We will be at the 44th annual Scandinavian Day Festival, which celebrates the five Nordic countries.

### THE MUSEUM AT THE ANDERSONVILLE FARMERS MARKET

*Wednesday, October 16, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.*

We will be selling Swedish-inspired food and items for the kitchen. Located on Catalpa Avenue between Clark Street and Ashland Avenue.

## SAVE THE DATE

### ASPIRE! ANNUAL GALA

*Saturday, Nov. 2*



## Swedish Language Classes *Online*

The Museum offers various levels of classes to meet you where you're at.

### FALL SESSION

SEP. 16 - DEC. 9

\*No classes the week of Nov. 25 due to the Thanksgiving holiday

**BEGINNERS I** is on Monday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**BEGINNERS II** is on Tuesday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**INTERMEDIATE I** is on Wednesday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**INTERMEDIATE II** dates and times TBA

## Summer Camp: Swedish Sommarläger

*Monday, Aug. 5 - Friday, Aug. 9, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

*Ages 6 - 12*

We will play Viking games, do traditional arts and crafts, dance, tell stories, and learn a little Swedish along the way.

## Svenska Skolan and Bullerbyn At the Museum

### Svenska Skolan:

*Approximately every other Sunday, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

Svenska skolan is for children of school age (Kindergarten – High School) who speak Swedish. Children learn about Swedish history, geography and culture. The 2024-2025 year starts Sunday, Sept. 8 at the Scandinavian Day Festival at Vasa Park in South Elgin, IL. For information email Karin Moen Abercrombie at [kabercrombie@samac.org](mailto:kabercrombie@samac.org)

### Bullerbyn:

*Same dates as Svenska Skolan, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.*

We sing, read stories, and have fun. Children aged 6 months to 5 years are welcome to attend with parents. Only Swedish is spoken!

## Special Exhibits

### THE LAST SWEDES: HALF-CENTURY OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF SWEDISH-AMERICANS IN BROOKLYN, NY

By Per-Olof Odman

*Open Through Sunday, Sept. 29*

A photography exhibit by Per-Olof Odman featuring Swedish-Americans living in Brooklyn, NY in 1974. Through his photos, Odman captured the last remaining residents of a once bustling Swedish neighborhood of Bay Ridge. Never before shown in the U.S., this exhibit invites visitors to draw parallels between Bay Ridge and Andersonville and notice differences between the two historic Swedish neighborhoods.

### VÄSTKUST: OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SWEDISH WEST COAST

By Frank Streetart

*Open Through Sunday, Aug. 18*

Original works and art prints by stencil artist Frank Streetart, and photos of Frank's art in locations throughout Sweden. The focus lies in the people, animals and nature of the Swedish West Coast, with an ongoing element of contrast between the traditional and the unexpected.

### RADICALLY MARIMEKKO

By the American Swedish Historical Museum

*Friday, Aug. 23 - Sunday, Nov. 24*

For over 70 years, Marimekko has infused art into the clothes and interiors of our everyday lives. Rising from the ashes of WWII, Marimekko's colorful fabrics and openness to experimentation brought together the textile traditions of Finland with innovative and bold designs based on the changing tastes and aesthetics of the contemporary art world.

### THE ART OF FIKA

By Jan Padover

*Friday, Oct. 4 - Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025*

What is fika and why is it so popular amongst Swedes? This exhibit dives into the history of fika and displays Jan Padover's watercolors of popular Swedish fika treats.



Scan to view  
Museum events  
on our website.

# WE ARE AMERICA

Our new core exhibit, *We Are America*, tells the story of Swedish immigration to Chicago, from the decision to make the journey to settling into new social communities. Discover how Swedish immigration has shaped Andersonville, and Chicago as a whole. Explore personal stories and interactive elements in this exhibit that caters to all ages.



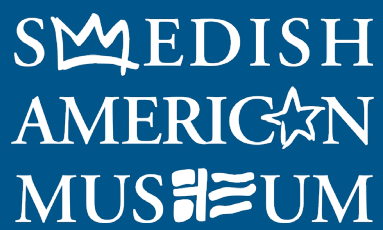
Exhibit Sponsored By  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Swedish American Museum 40th Anniversary Campaign  
Morlights, LLC

Many thanks to our community who volunteered their time and donated their stories and items to the Museum.  
Thank you to our exhibit team and to all those who made this exhibit possible!

Karin Moen Abercrombie - Executive Director  
Phoebe Yates - Curator  
Lisa Lindström - Collection Manager  
Tamara Biggs - Project Advisor, Installation Lead  
Miles Lindblad - Architect  
Amy Reichart - Exhibit Designer  
Jordan Mosher - Exhibit Designer  
Mark Ramirez - Graphic Designer  
Mark Schall - Contractor  
Patience Baach - Exhibit Evaluator

Katie Biggs-Wrona - Mannequin Artist, Installation Team  
Erin Bliss - Mountmaker, Installation Team  
Kassadi Locke - Graphic Design Intern  
Carol Turchan - Paper Conservator and Mountmaker  
Geneva Wrona - Fabricator, Installation Team  
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