

Public Meeting

**The future of the
Philadelphia History Museum
at the Atwater Kent**

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

David Rasner

Chairman of the Board of Trustees
The Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kent



Mission

The mission of the Atwater Kent Museum is to use this extraordinary collection that reflects Philadelphia's rich history and the diversity of its people and neighborhoods to engage Philadelphians and regional visitors to explore the past to better understand the present.

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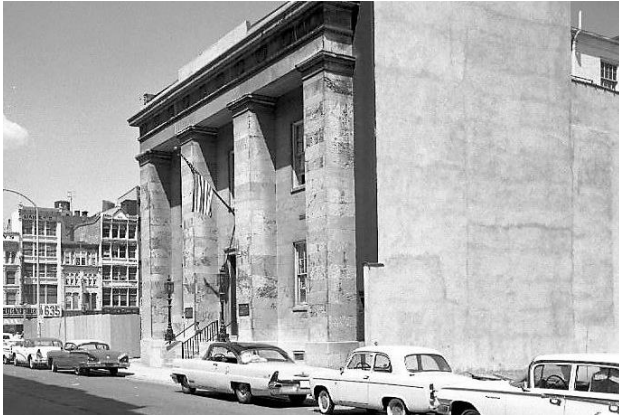
Chief Cultural Officer, Executive Director of the
Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy
City of Philadelphia

David Rasner

Chairman of the Board of Trustees
The Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kent

Jeffry Benoliel

Vice Chair, Board of Directors
The Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kent



Museum Highlights & Timeline

- 1938-1980's – Founding and Early Years
- 1990's-2000 – Challenges and Changes
- 2000-2010 – Actions and Strategies
- 2010-Present – Proposed Solutions and Plans



Page Talbott, Ph.D.

Consultant
Talbott Exhibits & Planning

The Collection



Quaker dolls



George Washington's chair



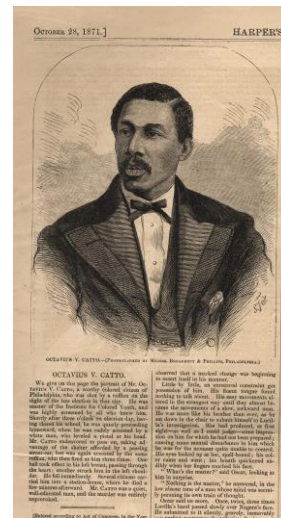
Philly the dog



Wampum Belt



A Saturday Evening Post cover from the Curtis Museum



O.V. Catto obituary



Joe Frazier boxing gloves



Abraham Lincoln's hat

The Collection

7,500 Printed works on paper

42,000 Photographs

2,000 Drawings

1400 Paintings

13,000 Science, service, health-related objects

110 Linear feet of manuscripts

6,000 Articles of clothing/textiles

5,000 Dolls, toys and games

1000 Military-related artifacts

4500 Furnishings and household accessories



A fire hat, CIGNA collection



Mule and horse by Edward Muybridge, Commercial Museum



Eugene Michener's cornet



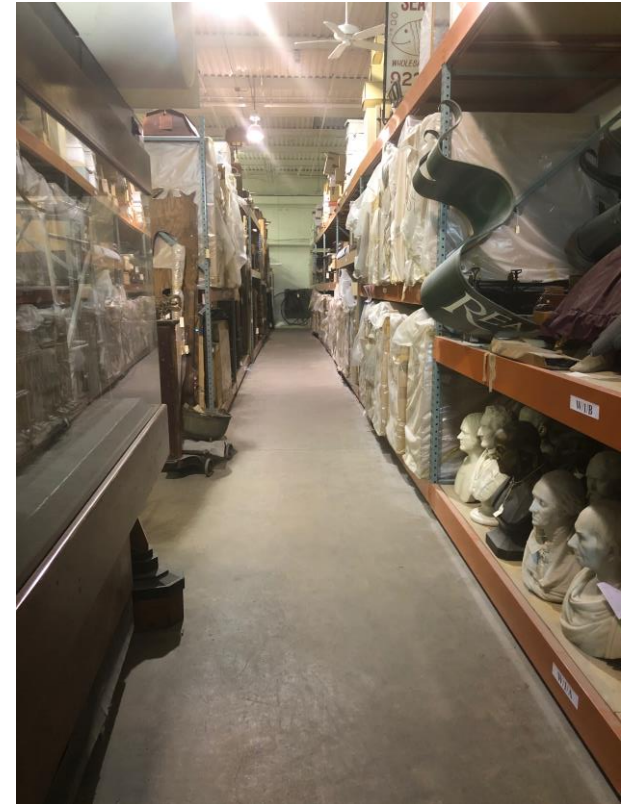
WW II Album



"Leticia Penn's" doll

A Collection of Collections

- Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- Balch Institute
- Curtis Publishing Museum
- Commercial Museum
- CIGNA Insurance
- Friends Historical Association Collection



Challenges of Collection



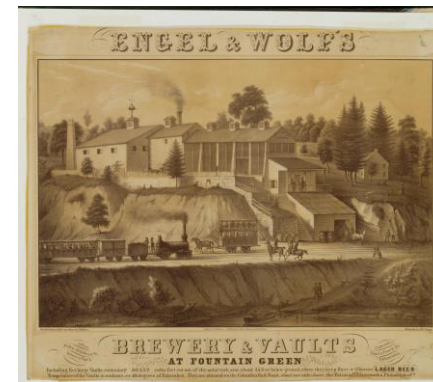
A portion of the files containing information about the PHM Collection.

Opportunities of Collection

- Immigration
- Race relations
- Urban Development



A Chinese immigrant family in Philadelphia.



Engel and Wolf's Brewery



John Brown's Pike

Rosalind Remer, Ph.D.

Vice Provost & Executive Director
Lenfest Center for Cultural Partnerships
Drexel University

Proposed Plan: Transfer the Collection

- The City to transfer the collection to Drexel University, which would become the owner and fiduciary trustee of the collections.
 - Keep the collections in Philadelphia
 - Increase accessibility
 - Ensure they are intact to tell diverse stories

Proposed Plan: Drexel's Action Steps

- Complete Collections Evaluation
- Develop an Active Collections Loan Program
- Develop a Digital Portal to the Collections for Collections Discovery

Proposed Plan: Collection Evaluation

- Drexel will establish a Collection Evaluation Committee to advise on the historical value of the objects in the collection.
- The Collection Evaluation Committee will recommend objects in the collection to be deaccessioned.

Proposed Plan: Ensuring Continuity

- A Transition Oversight Committee will be established. This Committee will provide input and deliberation on any items considered for deaccessioning, and recommend items for deaccessioning from the collection to Drexel's Board of Trustees, in accordance with Drexel's deaccessioning policies.
- The committee will also advise on the development of the loan program and the establishment of the Digital Portal.

Why Drexel?

- A safe harbor for the collection
- Increased digital and physical access to the collection
- Programs & Partnerships

Why Drexel?: Drexel University's Collections



The Drexel Collection



Drexel University Archives & Special Collections



*Robert and Penny Fox
Historic Costume Collection*

Why Drexel?: Drexel University's Collections



*The Academy of Natural Sciences
of Drexel University*

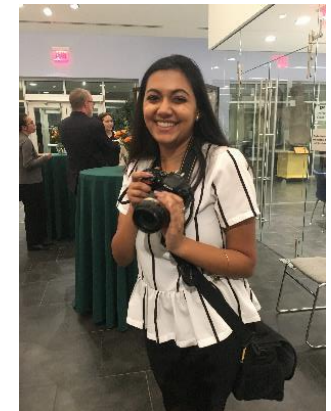


*The Legacy Center Archives & Special
Collections (College of Medicine)*

Why Drexel?: Educational Programs



Arts Administration & Museum Leadership



How will Drexel Support Stewardship of the Collections?



David Rasner

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philadelphiahistory.org

Available March 1st

- Outline of the proposed plan
- Public Meeting PowerPoint
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Comments on the plan are due March 20th

Thank You