

NATIONAL
CZECH &
SLOVAK
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY



Smithsonian
Affiliate

Be relevant.
Become essential.
Aim high. Celebrate life.

The NCSML inspires all people to connect to Czech and Slovak history and culture. The stories we share impact people of all nations and backgrounds, and they connect yesterday with today and tomorrow.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



In 2018, the family of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library—staff, Board members, volunteers, donors, and community partners—advanced the NCSML's mission by providing thousands of people with transforming experiences. In this annual report we are proud to show some of the many ways we did that. Together, we:

- Celebrated and cherished Czech and Slovak *history* and *culture*
- Engaged with families and became more deeply embedded in the *community*
- Connected people to *cultures worldwide* and to other ways of life
- Influenced the *education of future generations* by teaching the true meaning of *freedom* and *democracy*

My sincere thanks to all of you for helping to make 2018 a banner year in NCSML history.
Děkuji! Ďakujem!

Cecilia Rokusik

NCSML President and CEO

13,032

Welcomed more than **13,032** museum visitors.



We engaged **13,286** attendees through business meetings and social events.

12,982 people attended **111** family, community, and outreach events and programs.



The museum's **108** dedicated volunteers served more than **8,000** hours in 2018.



912 people attended Summer Family Free Day in July.

More than 900 people took part in the annual Summer Family Free Day on July 28. Attendees enjoyed family-friendly activities, free visits to the NCSML's galleries, live music, and food. The theme for activities was innovations from the decade of the 1910's, which tied to the NCSML original WWI exhibition *Guts & Glory: The War Train that Shaped a Nation*.



Most successful BrewNost to date.

Not only did BrewNost mark its 15th anniversary in 2018, but it also raised more funds than ever before to support the NCSML's educational mission. This was the first BrewNost hosted by President/CEO Cecilia Rokusek, and the live auction once again was called by Nicholas "Nicho" Lowry, known for his frequent appearances on the PBS series "Antiques Roadshow."



Presented **5** History on the 8's lectures.

A November lecture by best-selling author Mark Kurlansky, who wrote *1968: The Year that Rocked the World*, was the final talk in the NCSML's 2018 series History on the 8's. The series featured five acclaimed national and international authors and scholars who put the pivotal events of 1918, 1938, 1948, and 1968 into historical context and showed how they continue to shape our lives in 2018.



2003 people took part in Old World Christmas Market.

During Dec. 1 and 2, more than 2,000 people attended the ninth annual Old World Christmas Market, where visitors saw live music and dance performances, enjoyed free family activities, visited the exhibit galleries for free, shopped for specialty imports and handmade gifts, and indulged in seasonal treats. The Market—part of Deck the District, a neighborhood holiday celebration—featured 27 vendors.



Library space welcomes **more visitors**.

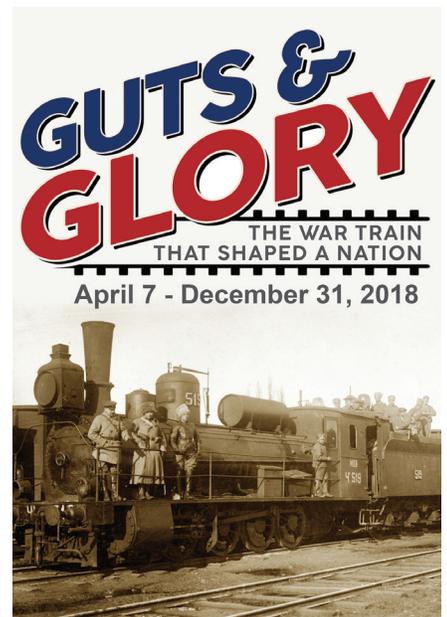
The reorganization of the Library Reading Room created a new exhibit space and expanded room for programs. This allows more community members to use the Library. A new digital sign outside the Library entrance attracts visitors and provides timely information.



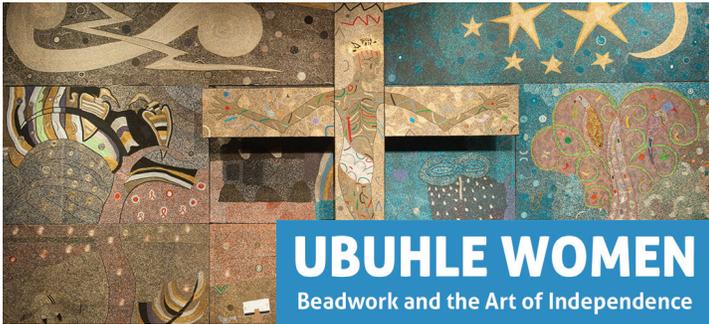
Offered **11** new exhibits in 4 galleries, including 3 in our new gallery space in the Library.



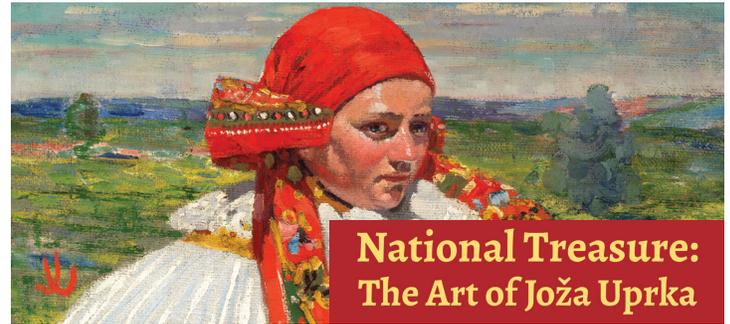
In April the NCSML opened its original exhibition, *Guts & Glory: The War Train that Shaped a Nation*. It told the WWI story of the Czech and Slovak Legion in Russia, their epic and heroic mission, and their role in the creation in 1918 of the new nation of Czechoslovakia. The exhibit also marked a unique and innovative collaboration among a historian, a graphic novel illustrator, and students and teachers from two Cedar Rapids high schools.



80 students and teachers from Iowa BIG and Metro STEAM Academy high schools in Cedar Rapids produced replica train cars and virtual reality experiences in the exhibition *Guts & Glory: The War Train that Shaped a Nation*.



The NCSML was proud to present *Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence*, an exhibition that showcased a form of bead art developed by a community of women living and working together in rural South Africa. Featuring pieces that employ Czech glass beads, the exhibit shows what the artists call “paintings in beads.” The Ubuhle community was established in 1999 to create employment for rural women, providing them with a route to financial independence.



In the first solo exhibition of the art work of Joža Uprka in the United States, the NCSML displayed 60 oil paintings, posters, and mixed media pieces in the exhibit *National Treasure: The Art of Joža Uprka from the George T. Drost Collection*. Joža Uprka (1861-1940) was a Czech painter and graphic designer whose work often portrays the folk life of Southern Moravians during the late 19th and early 20th century. George Drost, the donor of the pieces on display, is chair of the NCSML Board of Trustees.



25 students took part in our first-ever tour for the visually impaired.

50 teachers took part in professional development at the museum.

We hosted nearly **3,000** students and teachers for study trips.



The NCSML signed an affiliation agreement with Palacký University Olomouc in the Czech Republic to expand student and faculty exchanges and joint research projects.

68 77 89
ARTS CULTURE
SOCIAL CHANGE

At special events in Washington, D.C., hosted by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the NCSML unveiled a new curriculum for high school students. *68.77.89: Arts, Culture, and Social Change* is a set of lessons and activities designed to use the stories of artists, students, and everyday individuals to teach about how a nation peacefully transitioned from 41 years of communist rule to democracy in 1989. More information is at 687789.org.



Outreach hits an all-time high, engaging **41,527** people.

The NCSML reached more people than ever, including a national audience through traveling exhibits. In fact, in 2018, 36,134 people saw and engaged with our traveling exhibits around the nation. Our total outreach engagement was 41,527 people. This includes outreach to youth, college students, fairs, and festivals in Iowa and surrounding states.

The NCSML becomes a Smithsonian Affiliate!



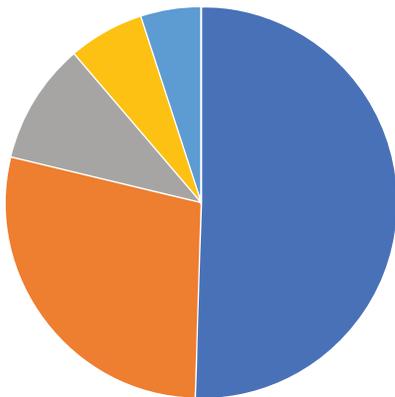
The NCSML has been designated a Smithsonian Affiliate, joining a national network of museums, educational institutions, and cultural organizations in connecting with the Smithsonian Institution through an affiliation.

“This affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution recognizes our excellence in programs, exhibits, educational activities and in cultural and historic preservation,” said NCSML President and CEO Cecilia Rokusek. “It will enable us to work closely with the Smithsonian in securing additional programs, exhibits, and professionals from the Smithsonian to collaborate with our NCSML staff. And there will be benefits for our members, who will have the opportunity to have joint memberships in the NCSML and the Smithsonian.”

There are more than 200 Smithsonian Affiliates in nearly every state, plus Puerto Rico and Panama. The Smithsonian Affiliations program works with Affiliate partners on identifying and borrowing artifacts from the Smithsonian's vast collections, identifying traveling exhibitions, and featuring scholars and educators in public programs. Smithsonian Affiliations offers a two-in-one membership that provides a range of Smithsonian benefits to Affiliate members. In the affiliation partnership, Affiliates and the Smithsonian collaborate to create life-long learning experiences designed to educate and inspire. Visit NCSML.org/membership to learn more.



Photo credit: Eric Long, Smithsonian



Sources of funding

	50.50%	— Donations
	28.25%	— Endowment Draw
	10.00%	— Event Services
	6.25%	— Museum Store
	5.00%	— Admissions & Programs



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