

Institutional Fact Summary

History. Since 1974, the Chippewa Valley Museum (CVM) has operated as a regional history museum in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Mission. Our mission is to “discover, collect, preserve, and interpret” all aspects of past and present life in the Chippewa Valley.

Governance. CVM is a private, non-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) status.

Administration. Ultimate responsibility for CVM is held by a 15-member Board of Directors elected by the membership. As required by Bylaw, the Board delegates responsibility and authority for daily operations to the Director, who serves as chief executive officer. The Chippewa Valley Museum Foundation (CVMF) is responsible for development and oversight of endowment and other investment funds. CVMF also has a board of 15.

Physical facilities. CVM’s main facility is an unassuming 22,000 square foot (s.f.) steel structure built in 1974 with a 1982 addition. A warehouse provides 5,000 s.f. for collection and general materials storage. We manage the Anderson Log House (1860s), Sunnyview School (1880); and Schlegelmilch House (1871-1906). Major changes to the facilities are in progress under the 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign, including renovation of 75 percent of the main building, a 4,000 s.f. addition and construction of a 2,700 s.f. climate-controlled collections storage building.

Collections. The collections include 16,212 artifacts; 25,740 archival items; and three historic structures.

Staff size and composition. Staffing at CVM is provided on a regular basis by 14 employees (12 full-time equivalents). Currently there are also several limited-term positions associated with the 25th Anniversary projects. We also enjoy the services of 288 volunteers who work in all areas and last year documented 10,411 hours of service.

Accreditation. CVM is accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM).

Public Program. CVM offers three long-term exhibits and manages three historic structures open to the public. We create original short-term exhibits primarily for installation at CVM. However, some are adapted for travel. We also present some exhibits produced by others. The CVM website <http://www.cvmuseum.com> includes on-line exhibits and historical and visitor information. Our newsletter *Currents* features historical articles and museum information. In FY02, 93 programs and 16 History Theater touring performances attracted 7,441 participants. CVM Press publications are distributed widely in Northern Great Lakes states. *Hmong in America* has national distribution.

Size and nature of audience. Last year 27,046 individuals attended CVM exhibits and programs. Typically approximately half of CVM’s on-site visitors live in Eau Claire and Chippewa counties, which have a combined population of 141,400. Twenty-five percent of our visitors reside elsewhere in our very rural region which encompasses all or part of 20 counties in northwestern Wisconsin. Thirty-one percent live beyond the region. Approximately 40 percent of our on-site visitors are under 18. Classroom groups accounted for 6,703 visits and 10,165 student/hours of educational services in FY02.

CVM is frequently a source of advice and technical assistance for 40 neighboring historical groups. CVM has a substantial electronic audience. There were 28,377 visitors to our website in FY02.

Cost to participants. Admission to CVM is \$4.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 3-18. Registrations for activities and special events offered on a fee basis are priced according to the cost of providing the program. Many programs are offered free or with museum admission. Admission fees are waived on Tuesday evenings from 5:00-8:00.

Number of publications. CVM has published three books as companions to major exhibit projects, four curriculum guides, and an historical auto tour guide.

Evidence of success. CVM was accredited by AAM in 1987 and re-accredited in 1999. We enjoy the support of 1,644 members and 288 volunteers. We have been successful in highly competitive funding programs offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Wisconsin Arts Board, Humanities Council, and Sesquicentennial Commission. CVM has received awards from the American Association for State and Local History for exhibits and collections care and from the Wisconsin Historical Society for publications. The multimedia “object theater,” *Chippewa Valley Potluck*, received the 1998 Governor’s Award for Excellence in Public Programming in the Humanities. In 1998, CVM launched the five-year 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign, which now has \$2.047 million toward a \$2.136 goal.