THE MISSION OF THE GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT is to provide a better understanding of our world by collecting, preserving and interpreting history and illustrating scientific principles. The Grout Museum collects, preserves and interprets cultural and natural history of the region; the Rensselaer Russell House Museum and the Snowden House preserve and interpret elements of the Victorian age; the Bluedorn Science Imaginarium provides exhibitions and programming that inspire the study of the sciences; and the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum honors the service and sacrifice of Iowa veterans from the Civil War to present.

Childhood has so many different connotations. Mention it to an educator and they will tell you about the developmental stages of childhood; mention it to new parents and they will tell you about sleep deprivation and chaotic schedules.

Mention childhood to people of a certain age and for many, the stressful parts of having or being a child fade into the background; leaving behind the joy and wonder that can be found in those precious few years before we become “grown-ups”.

Whether it is a group of third graders learning about hair wreaths at the Rensselaer Russell House during Museum School, a room full of Webelos exploring science at the Imaginarium, a group of fifth graders hearing the sad story of Waterloo’s five Sullivan brothers or a group of summer campers making rockets and sending them into the sky at the end of the week—the Museum District is a place where “Aha!” moments occur on a regular basis.

The Grout Museum District is a place that can unlock that doorway to the memories of childhood. When it is shared with children, you can relive the wonder and amazement through their excitement and quirky questions about how the world works and what it was like “in the old days”—when grandma and grandpa, the dinosaurs, and cowboys ruled the world—together! Visit the Grout Museum District, alone or with your favorite kid, and discover your inner child.
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- 45 COUNTIES (outreach)
- 31 COUNTIES (school tours)
- 23,742 PEOPLE SERVED (outreach)

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS
- The Cold War Ablaze: Iowans In the Korean War
- Bosnian Portraits: At Home the Cedar Valley
- From the Prairie to the Trenches: Iowans in the Great War

DOLL EXHIBITS
- Happy Birthday-Tea Party
- Hold On To Your Hats

COLLABORATIONS
- Black Hawk County Astronomy Club
- Black Hawk County Veterans Affairs
- Bosnian Exhibits Committee
- Boy Scouts
- Cedar Falls Tourism Bureau
- Cedar Valley Honor Flight
- Cedar Valley Maker Space
- Cedar Valley Sports Authority
- City of Waterloo
- Collins Community Credit Union
- Girl Scouts
- Hampton Inn
- Hawkeye Community College
- Humanities Iowa
- Korean War Exhibits Committee
- KXEL
- Main Street Waterloo
- Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area
- Texas Road House
- UNI Center for Holocaust & Genocide Education
- UNI College of Education
- Waterloo Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier

EXHIBITS

GROUT MUSEUM OF HISTORY & SCIENCE & SULLIVAN BROTHERS IOWA VETERANS MUSEUM

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS
- The Cold War Ablaze: Iowans In the Korean War
- Bosnian Portraits: At Home the Cedar Valley
- From the Prairie to the Trenches: Iowans in the Great War

DOLL EXHIBITS
- Happy Birthday-Tea Party
- Hold On To Your Hats

BLUEDORN SCIENCE IMAGINARIUM

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS
- Transformer Power/Faraday’s Electric Machine
- Attack of the Bloodsuckers
- Nano
- Augmented Reality Sandbox
- 25 Years of Inspiring Minds at the Imaginarium
- Video Tour of the Imaginarium 2007

PROGRAMMING
- Bosnian Cultural Festival
- Boy Scout Badge Days
- Discovery Days
- Dollar Days
- Girl Scout Overnights & Badge Days
- Gallery Talks & Exhibit Tours
- Home School Workshops
- Memorial Day at the Iowa Veterans
- MIA/POW Commemorative Event
- Museum Madness
- National History Day
- Spirit Walk
- Star Parties
- Summer Camps
- Teas
- Weekly Wonders

UPGRADES
- Voices of Iowa: Iowa Farm Stories
- Iowa Veterans Roll of Honor
- Fallen Heroes: A Tribute to Iowans Killed in Action
- Iowa Veterans Honor Roll
GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT VISITORS

TOTAL VISITOR ATTENDANCE

80,190

TOTAL INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

2250

• Over 1,800 Veteran interviews conducted

• Over 450 farm interviews conducted in partnership with Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

• All interviews archived at Grout Museum for use in research, exhibit development, promotion and educational programming

INTERVIEWS BY MILITARY BRANCH

48% ARMY

30% NAVY

14% MARINE CORPS

7% COAST GUARD

INTERVIEWS BY PERIOD OF SERVICE

44% WORLD WAR II

23% VIETNAM WAR

16% KOREAN WAR

11% CURRENT CONFLICTS

3% HOME FRONT

CELEBRATING JOY

Joy Thiel has volunteered her time and teaching expertise for five years at the Grout Museum District. While she has worked with a number of different departments, her greatest impact has been the time she spends with local third graders visiting through the Museum School program. Joy brings over 40 years of teaching experience with her to the District each week; her confidence and skill with students is indispensable. She helps children experience the history of their community through a variety of hands-on activities such as digging for fossils, exploring the Rensselaer Russell House Museum, and grinding corn with the heavy marble millstones (which she can turn with one hand).

Joy’s volunteer effort, totaling nearly 800 hours, has made a lasting impact on the students and school staff that visit the district. The kids love to listen to Joy talk about growing up on an Iowa farm and how different life was when she was a girl with no electricity or running water. When it comes to volunteer work, Joy is motivated by what she calls the “million dollar paychecks”—the appreciation, funny stories, and “lightbulb” moments with children that make the work worthwhile. Joy is vital to the Grout Museum’s mission to providing a better understanding of our world by collecting, preserving, and interpreting history. The Grout Museum District is proud to announce she is a recipient of the Volunteer Iowa Governor’s Volunteer Award 2018.
This year, the department participated in the Cedar Valley West Internship Training Program who sent us Dike-New Hartford high-schooler Nick Apel to participate in a 60-hour internship. Nick is brand-new to the museum world, but proved to be a quick learner and helped the department by documenting a large Rath Packing Company Collection from the 1980s, and by prepping objects for exhibition in “The Cold War Ablaze: Iowans in the Korean War.”

UNI INTERN PROJECT

SPRING 2017 COLLECTIONS INTERN
Nick Apel, Dike-New Hartford High School
This year, the department participated in the Cedar Valley West Internship Training Program who sent us Dike-New Hartford high-schooler Nick Apel to participate in a 60-hour internship. Nick is brand-new to the museum world, but proved to be a quick learner and helped the department by documenting a large Rath Packing Company Collection from the 1980s, and by prepping objects for exhibition in “The Cold War Ablaze: Iowans in the Korean War.”

SPRING 2017 COLLECTIONS INTERN
Hunter Johansen, University of Northern Iowa
Public History Undergrad Hunter Johansen was sent to the Collections Department this spring semester as part of an ongoing intern partnership with the University of Northern Iowa. Hunter is an extremely experienced museum student and took to the department’s work with a natural aptitude. His task was to manage the Veterans Museum’s WWI object collection before returning it to permanent storage following the conclusion of our featured exhibit, “From the Prairie to the Trenches: Iowans in the Great War.”

The WWI collection has been housed at the museum since it opened in the 1950’s, and Hunter had to bring its registration up-to-date. He attached new object labels using modern materials and methods, wrote new descriptions and condition reports (in some cases, he had to create entirely new records), and performed light surface cleaning. He completed 90 percent of the task by the time his internship concluded—exceeding the expectations set for his 120 hours. The museum benefited greatly from Hunter’s help and we expect him to go on to a successful career in the field.

FRIENDS OF THE GROUT HISTORIC HOUSES FUNDRAISERS

- Lillian’s Luncheons
- St. Patrick’s Brunch
- Tour of Classic Homes
- College Hill Arts Festival Booth

“Very moving experience. The museum is great. This rates up with the Smithsonians in DC. Very informative and a great interactive tribute to the Iowan veterans.”

Hermande - TripAdvisor

Graphic Design Intern Kristin Stein working on the 17-18 Annual Report
IN-KIND DONORS

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- James & Virginia Young
- YWCA of Black Hawk County
- Julie Zeil

“The museum was one of the best we have seen nationwide. Additionally impressed with how well the museum facility is laid out for seniors with level floors, adequate restrooms and large font print.”

— Karry Udrg
Minnesota
Hands-On Exhibit Exploration at the Imaginarium

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- John Deere Foundation
- R.J. McElroy Trust
- Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
$319,091.81

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

INCOME
- Grants: 20%
- Store Sales: 3%
- Donations: 20%
- Admissions: 6%
- Facility Rentals: 3%
- LEVY: 40%
- Program Income: 4%
- Government: 1%

EXPENSES
- Total Budget: $1,515,177
- Fixed Operational Expenses: 18%
- Exhibits: 12%
- Collections: 5%
- Capital: 3%
- Marketing: 11%
- Education, Outreach, Programming: 26%
- Administrative: 16%
- Fundraising: 9%

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
$319,091.81

ORGANIZATION

$319,091.81

15

16
“I could not have picked a better place (Snowden House), the people were great to work with, the place was beautiful, and everything was so simple! Thank you Grout Museum District!”

– Mel Craig O’Connell
“This museum is a hidden treat in Waterloo. There are very moving and informative exhibits, well displayed and well explained. The Grout Museum attached is also well worth your time. If you're an Iowan especially, this museum hits close to the heart. Very moving examples of real experiences and sacrifices during various wars and you get a real flavor of how it was then.”

-Columbia, Missouri Visitor - TripAdvisor