Joliet Area Historical Museum receives $15,000 grant from Caesars Foundation

The City of Joliet congratulates the Joliet Area Historical Museum on the receipt of a $15,000 grant from Caesars Foundation to be used toward the construction of the Museum’s newest permanent exhibit, Strike Up the Band!

A formal presentation of the grant award took place at the Museum’s Route 66 Visitors Center. Representing the Caesars Foundation from Harrah’s Joliet Casino and Hotel were Darren VanDover, Senior Vice President and General Manager, and Scott Jones, Director of Human Resources who presented the Joliet Area Historical Museum with the $15,000 grant. Representatives from the City of Joliet and the Museum were also present at the check presentation ceremony.

The new Strike Up the Band! exhibit is a key addition to the Museum’s goal to further enhance educational programming, special events, exhibits, and the overall visitor experience. In addition to the interactive band exhibit, the Museum is developing state-of-the-art, station-based companion programming where visitors and students learn about the history of the Joliet Township High School Band Program and its impact on the nation-wide school band program movement.

Most recently, in August 2013, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) awarded the Museum’s Strike Up The Band! 100 Years of the Joliet Township High School Bands special temporary exhibit their most prestigious honor – the Award of Merit in recognition for achievement in interpretation and preservation of state and local history.

In recognition of the Caesars Foundation’s generous support for this new exhibit, the Joliet Area Historical Museum will acknowledge Caesars on a permanent Wall Plaque located at the entry of the Exhibition.

Through its exhibits and educational programming, the Joliet Area Historical Museum incorporates quality principles and best practices to connect visitors to the rich cultural history of the area and to the experiences and contributions of its people, from Native American tribes who first settled here through 20th Century inventors and space explorers.

In 2013, the Joliet Area Historical Museum and the Route 66 Visitors Center welcomed nearly 24,000 visitors from 37 states and 34 foreign countries. This success in attracting visitors is particularly important during a time when many cultural and tourism institutions are seeing less growth in visitors and many even a decline.

James D. Hock
City Manager

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.cityofjoliet.info or call 815-724-4000. The City of Joliet’s Media Releases are always available on our website.