



Media Contact

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P.O. Box 5, 107 E. Michigan Ave. Marshall, MI 49068

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Overview

The American Museum of Magic is home to the largest collection of magic memorabilia open to the public in the Western Hemisphere. It tells the stories and preserves the treasures of performers that entertained residents of the smallest communities and audiences in the grandest theaters. Thousands of artifacts illuminate the stories of Houdini, Blackstone, Thurston and many others, prompting magic historian and illusionist Jim Steinmeyer to hail it as “the Smithsonian of American magic.”

History

For more than 40 years the American Museum of Magic has delighted the public with all the wonders of magic, celebrating the contributions and life stories of magicians from around the globe. The American Museum of Magic was founded in 1978 by Robert Lund, a Detroit-area journalist, and his wife Elaine. For decades, the Lunds had lovingly amassed a private collection of magic artifacts and ephemera, a collection that ultimately grew to be one of the world’s largest and greatest in the field. The Lunds operated the museum until Robert Lund’s passing in 1995 and Elaine’s passing in 2006, at which time the museum was formed into a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that still operates it today.

Visitor Experience

Walk-in visitors to the museum can self-guide or a staff member/volunteer is available to give a guided tour. The American Museum of Magic has two floors of original props, posters, and other memorabilia ranging from the 16th century to modern day. Visitors will learn about how magicians evolved from street performers to stars of the stage – respectable enough for even royalty to attend their shows! They’ll also hear about the history of vaudeville and its impact on the rise of the film industry.

The oldest object on display is a first edition of *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* from 1584 – the first printed English book to explain how magic tricks are performed. More modern objects at the museum include a set of suits worn by magicians Penn & Teller. Other exhibits include items that belonged to Harry Houdini, such as an oversized milk can he used for his famous Milk Can Escape and a crate used for an underwater escape. Visitors can even squeeze themselves into a replica of the Milk Can Escape to see if they can fit, too! Visitors are also welcome to don costumes and practice their magic skills on the Magic Box Theater stage.

Each Saturday at 1:00 pm, the museum hosts a free magic show with admission as part of our Saturday Magic Show series. Shows are family-friendly and no reservations are required.

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Group Tours and Field Trips

Group Tours and field trips are available throughout the year. Reservations at least two weeks in advance are encouraged. Group tours are not restricted to the museum's open hours. Groups also have the option to include a magic performance as part of their experience. Performances are available for all ages – from children to adults. Please contact us for pricing.

Research at the Lund Memorial Library

The American Museum of Magic houses a vast collection of books, photographs, and archival materials related to magic and magicians at the Lund Memorial Library. While the library is not open to the public, research appointments can be made by contacting the Museum in advance.

Location: The American Museum of Magic is in the heart of downtown Marshall at 107 East Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI 49068.

Hours: From April through November, the museum is open 10 am to 4 pm Wednesdays through Saturdays and 12 noon to 4 pm Sundays. From December through March, the museum is open every other Saturday at 1 pm for public tours. For specific dates, please see our website americanmuseumofmagic.com. Group-tour bookings are available throughout the year.

Admission: Adults \$5, 12 years and under \$3.50, under 5 years free.

Parking: Free public parking is available on East Michigan Avenue. There is also a free public parking lot directly behind the museum.

Accessibility: The museum is housed in a historic 1860s building and the second floor can only be accessed by a stairway. The museum is arranged to accommodate tour groups that are not able to access the second floor.

Rentals: The museum may be rented for special events such as receptions, meetings and parties. Please contact us for more information.

The American Museum of Magic is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. It is supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

