Five Years of Progress

National Museum of Language
Museum History

- 1971: NSA exhibit
- 1998: established as 501(c)3
- May 2008 – opened doors
- 2013 is 5th anniversary
- Tuesdays & Saturdays and 2 Sundays
Themes of the Museum

• Universal Aspects of Language
• Language in Society
• Languages of the World
Universal Aspects of Language

- Origins of language
- Physiology & psychology of language
- Acquisition of language
- Recording of language
Languages of the World

- Language families
- Language evolution
- Specific languages
- Linguistic heritage of America
- Endangered languages
Language in Society

- Linguistics
- Education
- Literature
- Translation & interpretation
- History, religion, law, commerce, & diplomacy
- Science & technology
Exhibits

- Writing Language: Passing it on
  - Alphabetic Writing
  - Pictographic Writing
- Emerging American Language in 1812
  - Noah Webster
  - Native American Words
- Glimpses of the French-Speaking World
  - French in the Americas
Writing Language: Passing it On

- **Alphabetic Writing Systems**
  - Sumerian, Phoenician, Hebrew & Arabic
- **Pictographic Writing Systems**
  - Chinese & Japanese Calligraphy
Emerging American Language in 1812

ABCs of Americanisms: English words appearing in the US.

Noah Webster: First American Lexicographer

Spelling Changes
Noah Webster advocated

Accepted Changes
- analyse → analyze
- centre → center
- gaol → jail
- honour → honor
- humour → humor
- mask → mould
- publick → public

Not Changed
- ache → ake
- soup → soop
- sleigh → slay
- sponge → spunge
- tongue → tung
- tough → tuf
- cloak → cloke
determine → determ
- women → wimen
Which words are of Native American origin?

- Kayak
- Terrapin
- Jerky
- Moccasin
- Opossum
- Chesapeake
- Squash
- Hickory
- Moose
- Quahog
- Squaw
- Narragansett

- **Kayak**: From the Algonquian word *akaukawak*, meaning "a flat-bottomed canoe".
- **Terrapin**: From the Algonquian word *terapin*, meaning "turtle".
- **Jerky**: Derived from the word *jerky*, referring to a dried and spiced meat or fish, often originating from Native American cultures.
- **Moccasin**: From the Algonquian word *mokosie*, meaning "moccasin".
- **Opossum**: From the Algonquian word *oposum*, meaning "opossum".
- **Chesapeake**: Named after the Chesapeake Bay, which was first documented by the Algonquian people.
- **Squash**: From the Algonquian word *squash*, meaning "wild squash".
- **Hickory**: From the Algonquian word *hickory*, meaning "hickory tree".
- **Moose**: From the Algonquian word *mooz", meaning "moose".
- **Quahog**: From the Algonquian word *quahog*, meaning "hard-shelled clam".
- **Squaw**: From the Algonquian word *squaw*, meaning "woman".
- **Narragansett**: From the Algonquian language, used to describe the Narragansett people.

The Algonquian language was spoken in what is now Virginia. The Narragansett language was once spoken in what is now New England. Quahog shells were used by Native American tribes in making beads which were strong together and used as war paint or "moosey".
Glimpses of the French-Speaking World

- La Francophonie
- Where is French spoken today?
- Creoles and Dialects
Educational Programming

- K-12 School Visits
- Customized Tours
- Summer Language Camp
  - Arabic, Chinese, French, Native American, & Spanish
Electronic Resources

- LanguageMuseum.org
- Events listings and registration
- NML Library Catalogue
- Online Exhibits and Podcasts
- Links to YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Wiki
- Quarterly Newsletter
Museum Speaker Series

- Black American Sign Language
- David Crystal on Language Museums
- Translating Chinese Poetry
- Cherokee Syllabary
- World Englishes
- Arabic Calligraphy
- Language in Ethiopian Art
2013 Speaker Series

- February 3: Robert Miller; **Oral Literature and Performance in Ancient Israel**
- March 3: Abbas Mousavi; **Introduction to Arabic Calligraphy**
- April 21: Michael Erard; **Postmonolingualism and the Polyglot Urge: What it Means and What's Left Behind**
Museum Library Collections

- Allen Walker Reed:
  - Slang, word origins, peculiarities of English: 500 titles
- Ann Kietzman:
  - Foreign language children’s books: 250 titles
- Native American Languages:
  - Initiated and being built by Gary K. McCone
Museum Funding

- Memberships
- Donations
- Grants

**CHALLENGES:**
- All volunteers
- Recruitment of volunteers
- Sporadic nature of funding
- Space

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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>$5000 and up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student/Senior Member</td>
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Governance

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Future: The Next 5 Years

- Mission Statement
  - Being revised in 2013
- Increased Funding
  - More grant applications
- New Location
  - Larger and less expensive
- New Exhibits
  - Continuation of successful activities
The ILR Connection

What you can do for NML

• Programs
  • Speak
  • Docents
• Ideas
  • Funding
  • Exhibits
  • Location availability
• Promotion
  • Word of Mouth
  • Link from website

What NML can do for you

• Programs
• Speaker Series
• Networking
• Public Awareness
  • (Govt.) Careers in Language
  • Promotion of Language Study
  • Awareness of the ILR and its role