

**WOMEN TO WATCH****Woman with a sense of history**

**who she is:** Maud Lyon, director of the Detroit Historical Museums

**what she does:** Oversees the Detroit Historical Museum, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, Historic Fort Wayne and Historic Moross House

**how she got there:** She wrote a master's thesis called "History That Fits," on period clothing for historical sites. Then, she says, "at Living History Farms [in Des Moines], they needed to costume their staff. I knew how to sew and research. Later I made the leap to being curator -- it started as a project and became an expertise."

**where she's going:** "The project that most captures my imagination now is guiding the celebration of Detroit's 300th anniversary in 2001. It combines my interest in history and commitment to community -- helping people rediscover their sense of place and self."

**advice:** "Whether you want to be a curator, museum educator or exhibit designer, get management skills. Know how to involve people."

**reward of the biz:** "When the light bulb goes off in a visitor's head. In the Motor City exhibit [at the Detroit Historical Museum], there's a computer game where you pick characters of different backgrounds and gender, put them in a time period and see what jobs they could get. One woman playing the game suddenly said, "This isn't a game. This is real."



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*by Cindy Frenkel Kanter*

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