

EXCHANGE

Kansas Museums Association

Preserving & Promoting History - Art - Science for Kansas Communities

eNewsletter

May 2012

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to serve as your Executive Director and I want to share with you a few upcoming events that will impact my service to KMA in June. On June 1 - 10 I will be on vacation. I will be going with my husband, Dave, and my daughter, Erin, to Yellowstone National Park. Erin graduated from Wichita State University in May and she is spending the summer working in Yellowstone. She will live in a dorm with young people from around the world and we hope she will have an experience that she cherishes for her lifetime.



On June 18th, I have to have a fusion on three spinal disks in my neck. This surgery will require me to be at home recovering for about two weeks. I anticipate I will be able to check the KMA e-mail and respond to calls in about a week after the surgery.

I am planning for the July KMA Director's Forum entitled, *Leadership and Civic Engagement: Creating Museums for the Future*. More information will be coming out very soon.

Thank you for patience with me this month as I take care of these personal issues. I sincerely appreciate the help and support you provide to KMA and to me personally. Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Lisa

Mountain-Plains Museums Association Offers Scholarships to Annual Meetings

MPMA offers the following scholarships:

- Emerging Professional: An individual with less than 3 years in the museum profession.
- Mid-career Professional: An individual who has worked 3-10 years in the museum profession.
- Student: A graduate student (or an undergraduate student of

In This Issue

[MPMA Scholarships](#)
[Tech Soup](#)
[MAP Deadline July 1](#)
[Deaccessioning Workshop](#)
[KSHS Free Workshop](#)
[AASLH Small Museum Scholarship](#)
[KMA at Sampler Festival](#)
[Archivist Links](#)
[Free E-Books](#)

exceptional quality and initiative) currently enrolled in Art, Art History, Anthropology, Museum Studies, History, or the equivalent.

- Retired Museum Professional: An individual who worked at a museum for 10 years or more and who was working at a museum when they retired.

Scholarships for the 2012 year are funded by auction proceeds from the conference held the year before.

[Download Scholarship Application](#)

Tech Soup: Information Technology Resource for Small Non-Profits

Today, more than 175,000 organizations have registered with TechSoup. Small non-profits can save on IT costs with the help of donated tech products from our 45 donor partners like Microsoft, Adobe, Cisco, Intuit, and Symantec.

Signing up is easy! To get started with TechSoup product donations:

1. Join TechSoup as an individual member.
2. Register an organization or associate with an existing organization.
3. Submit qualification documents.

[For More Information](#)

Museum Assessment Program (MAP) Deadline July 1, 2012

The MAP program is crucial for any organization looking to gain a sense of standing against museum benchmarks and assess its strengths and weaknesses. The self study, site visit and report assisted our staff, volunteers and board in necessary education growth. The report will be an invaluable tool for our museum long into the future." - Leo Landis, Education Director and Curator, Salisbury House and Gardens, Des Moines, IA

The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) is an IMLS funded program available to small and mid-sized museums of all types. During MAP your museum conducts a self-study, consults with a museum professional who will provide a customized site visit and report and gains the tools to become a stronger institution.

- * The MAP process is customized to your museum.
- * The application is easy to complete and 98% of museums that apply get accepted.
- * Choose one of three assessment types: Organizational, Collections Stewardship or Community Engagement.

IMLS -funded MAP grants provide \$4,000 of consultative resources and services to participating museums. Become the next museum to take advantage of MAP. The upcoming application deadline is July 1.

[AAM Awards Announced](#)
[Bulletin Board](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Employment](#)
[Transitions](#)

[Butler County History Center/Oil Museum Welcomes Jillian Overstake, Executive Director](#)

[Kansas Cosmosphere Announces New Leadership Team](#)

[Wichita Art Museum Welcomes Patricia McDonald, Executive Director](#)

Resource

VINTAGE AMERICAN ADS ONLINE. Vintage American Ads Get Online Archive - Heard on the Runway - WSJ. This past September, Jay Paull, a vintage ad enthusiast based in Reston, Va., launched an online archive <<http://www.jaypaull.com/>> to showcase his collection of more than 10,000 American advertisements dating from the 1830s to the 1920s.

Bulletin Board

Flat Files Wanted
Walter P. Chrysler Home & Museum in Ellis, KS needs a cabinet with shallow drawers that would be used for filing and keeping old calendars or magazines. If you have one to donate, please e-mail [Dena Patee](#).

Buffalo Wanted
Exploration Place in Wichita, KS needs a buffalo for an exhibit. If you have an "extra" and want to help please e-mail [Jan Luth](#).

To post a request on our

For More Information (Click Here)

Lauren Silberman
Coordinator, Museum Assessment Program
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lsilberman@aam-us.org

MAP is administered by the American Association of Museums and supported through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Deaccessioning: It's Not A Four-Letter Word **Small Museums Online Community**

Thursday, June 7
2 to 3 p.m. Eastern (login at 1:45 p.m.)

Has anyone from your organization ever suggested that you should just throw away some of the collection to make room for new stuff? While almost every museum has some items that really shouldn't be there, deaccessioning (the process of disposing of, selling or trading objects from a museum collection) should not be undertaken lightly. Learn about the process of deaccessioning, from making the initial decision to choosing the method of disposal, and everything in between. This Small Museum Online Community Event features Anne Ackerson from the Museum Association of New York and Kathleen Byrne from the National Parks Service.

Learning Times will host this online event. If you've never participated in a Learning Times Event/Webinar, please go to <http://aaslhcommunity.org/tech-check/> right now to test your computer and ensure you can connect.

On Thursday, June 7, about 15 minutes before the event starts, go to <http://aaslhcommunity.org/office/> to attend. You only need to enter your name and city to participate.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Kathy Lang, AASLH Small Museums Committee member and SMOC Mayor for Events, at Kathy_Lang@nps.gov.

To learn more about the Small Museums Online Community, check out this 5-minute **virtual tour**.

Kansas Historical Society Workshop **Our Town: Preserving Local Museum, Archives, Collections,** **and Historic Buildings**

July 13-14
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This two-day, 16-hour workshop led by Kansas Historical Society professional staff will prove useful to anyone interested in historic preservation, especially local historical society and museum stewards.

Call Marsha to reserve your spot * 785-272-8681, ext. 240
No registration fee * Lunch is on your own

Bulletin Board, please e-mail information to Lisa.

Important Dates

KMA Director's Forum
July 2012
Manhattan, Ks

2012 KMA Annual
Conference October 26-26,
2012 Newton - North
Newton

American Association of
Museums Annual
Conference
April 29-May 2, 2012
Minneapolis - St. Paul, MN

Association of State and
Local History
October 3-6, 2012
Salt Lake City, UT

Mountain-Plains Museums
Association Conference -
Corpus Christi, TX
October 1-5, 2012

Employment Listings
Butler County History Center
- Curator of Education

Send employment listings
to
director@ksmuseums.org

Exchange Submissions

Newsletter Submissions are due the first of the month.

Newsletter is published monthly around the 15th of each month.

Send information to
director@ksmuseums.org

Facebook



Click on icon above to find the Kansas Museums Association on Facebook

KMA Links

www.ksmuseums.org

Information Flyer

Small Museum Scholarship Application
AASLH 2012 Annual Meeting
Salt Lake City, Utah
October 3-6
Deadline: June 30

Board of Directors

Join Our Mailing List!

Email

director@ksmuseums.org

The American Association for State and Local History will hold its 2012 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. This year, participants will explore the empowering, challenging and special connections between people and place. This year's Annual Meeting, Crossroads: Exploring the Vibrant Connections Between People and Place, will examine the personal, communal, and organizational journeys that lead to vibrancy and authenticity. Learn how these journeys allow us to achieve meaningful social change and sustainability. Join us as we welcome speakers Pat Croce, Laura Thatch Ulrich, and Will Bagley and explore the theme together.

Unfortunately, many working in our nation's small museums feel as if we can only dream of attending this meeting. In a perfect world, boards would grant every request to fund our professional development. Institutions of modest means, however, may not have the resources to help us become effective stewards of our community's memory.

Websites, listservs, and social media constantly offer new sources of technical and psychological support, but nothing is better than the face-to-face fellowship of sharing survival strategies. Every year, increasing numbers of Annual Meeting sessions address issues specifically affecting small museums. These sessions can be as practical and wide-ranging as training, marketing, and strategic planning. Other sessions focus on creative ways to forge and re-energize relationships with the surrounding community.

Now in its seventh year, AASLH's Small Museums Committee is offering scholarships to any AASLH members who are full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small museums. The \$500 scholarship will cover the cost of the conference registration and the Small Museums luncheon. Any remaining funds may be used to offset travel and/or lodging expenses.

To qualify, the applicant must work for a museum with a budget of \$250,000 or less. They also must either be an individual AASLH member or work for an institutional member. [Download Application Form](#)

The deadline for applications is June 30. The committee will email award winners by July 15. For questions, please contact Bruce Teeple, Small Museum Scholarship Subcommittee Chair at mongopawn44@hotmail.com

KMA Photos from the Kansas Sampler Festival
May 5-6 in Liberal



Marci Penner (Executive Director, Kansas Sampler Foundation), Laura Phillippi (KMA Workshop Chair),
Katie Herrick (KMA President)



Linda Schmitt (Past KMA Board member and Executive Director, Reno County Historical Society)

Thanks to Laura Phillippi for sending these photos to the *Exchange*

Archivist of U.S. Links Libraries Archives and Museums

Archivist of the United States, says that one of the core challenges facing today's librarians, archivists, and museum curators is the need for them to work across disciplines to deliver the integrated, seamless level of service that tech-savvy users are increasingly coming to expect.

"We are all in the same business: protecting, collecting, and allowing the use of information," he told a packed audience during a "Harvard Library Strategic Conversation" on integrating libraries, archives, and museums (an initiative referred to as "LAM") held Monday at Longfellow's Askwith Hall.

What came across clearest during the discussion is that user expectations are driving the movement toward LAM integration, and that professionals in all three disciplines are accelerating their efforts to make it happen.

[Read More](#)



Kansas Sports Hall of Fame KMA 2011 Institutional Grant Makes "Alphabet Soup"

The Kansas Sports Hall of Fame is proud to announce the opening of a new exhibit made possible by the Kansas Museum Association's 2011 Institutional Grant Fund. The grant made the dream of the exhibit, titled "Alphabet Soup: Letter Jackets across Kansas," come alive for Kansans of all ages to enjoy.

This exhibit was created by one of our most talented interns, Jordan Poland, as part of his academic work in the Public History Program at Wichita State University. Originally designed to be installed at the Kansas Sports Museum in Newton, Kansas, the exhibit ran into some complications which delayed its opening. Thankfully, the funds provided by the Kansas Museum Association ensured that the exhibit would go forward and in mid-May of 2012, the exhibit was opened at the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame located at the Wichita Boathouse in Wichita, Kansas.

The exhibit tells the history of an article of clothing that so many of yesterday's and today's athletes have worn: the letterman's jacket. The letterman's jacket has a long history in this state and is an outward expression of pride and accomplishment for both the wearer and his/her community. These jackets have evolved throughout their history from humble letterman's sweaters worn in the early 1900s to the patch-laden, heavy jackets we see today. The exhibit tells the story of the letterman's jacket in Kansas and gives visitors an opportunity to see a portion of the Hall of Fame's collection that has never been on display.

The exhibit would not have been possible without the Institutional Grant from the Kansas Museum Association. The grant allowed us to purchase two special body forms that could support the weight of modern letter jackets. The body forms are free-standing and fit inside the existing wall cases which will allow them to be used for years to come. Without the grant, the purchase of these body forms would not have been possible at this time and the exhibit would have been put on hold.

"Alphabet Soup" has already created quite a stir at the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame; we were featured on KSN, the local NBC affiliate, and in

just one week we have already had numerous visitors come specifically for the exhibit. We are grateful for the grant that allowed us to display this exhibit and explore an overlooked topic in Kansas sports history. We thank the Kansas Museum Association for the financial assistance and hope to see you at the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame for the special exhibit, "Alphabet Soup: Letter Jackets across Kansas."

E-Books Free for Few Months

To lure you into trying Left Coast eBooks, we're making several of our titles, including *The Power of Touch: Handling Objects in Museum and Heritage Context* (Elizabeth Pye, Ed.), available for free for the next few months.

Please go to our website under the Free eBook link and provide us with your name and email address. Instructions for downloading your free eBook and the program with which to read it will come to you shortly thereafter. Files are delivered in PDF format through Digital Editions, a free downloadable program from Adobe. Then check our [website](#) to see which of your favorite titles are now available for purchase as eBooks. They are readable on a variety of devices attached to your account -computers, tablets, smart phones. A percentage can be printed or cut/ pasted into other documents. You can either buy the book or, if your needs are time-limited, rent it at half price for up to 6 months. Full details of the program can be found on our website under "About eBooks. " eBooks are regularly sold at a 15% discount on our website.

If you have any questions about our eBook program, please contact Stefania R. Van Dyke, Museum Studies & Practice, Left Coast Press, Inc. at Museums@LCoastPress.com

AAM Announces 2012 Excellence in Exhibitions Competition Winners

The winners of the 2012 Excellence in Exhibitions Awards again highlight innovation and scholarship and the ability of U.S. museums to explore timely subjects in profound new ways. The Detroit Institute of Arts leads the list of those museums honored in this, the 24th year of the prestigious competition.

Excellence in Exhibitions competition recognizes exhibitions for overall excellence or for stretching the limits of exhibition content and design through innovation. Entries are peer reviewed based on criteria in seven major categories: audience awareness; content and education; curatorship and collections; evaluation; interpretation and communication; design and production; and human comfort and accessibility.

"I was really impressed with the 18 entries that we received for the Excellence in Exhibitions competition this year," said Elizabeth Kunz Kollmann, senior research associate at the Museum of Science, Boston and coordinator for this year's competition. "Not only did they represent a broad range of topics from rock and roll music to folk art

to state history, they also showed a commitment of these museums to exceptional design, addressing visitor needs, providing extraordinary educational opportunities, and tackling tough content."

Awards are sponsored by four of AAM's Professional Networks including the Committee on Audience Research and Evaluation (CARE), Curators Committee (CurCom), Education Committee (EdCom) and National Association of Museum Exhibition (NAME).
2012 Awards

Overall Excellence: Detroit Institute of Arts, Through African Eyes: The European in African Art, 1500 to the Present

This temporary exhibition examined works of art created over 500 years that serve as a visual record of diverse, evolving relationships between Africans and Westerners. The core intent of the show was to present Africans' perspectives on a range of topics, including pre-existing beliefs about whiteness, trade and settlement, slavery and colonization, assimilation and resistance, and contemporary economic, political, and cultural globalization. The Excellence in Exhibitions Competition chose this exhibition as its overall winner because of the project's excellent integration of visitor research and evaluation, inventive design, and clear presentation of challenging content.

Special Distinction - Eloquent Presentation of Topic: Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center, Across the Wire: Voices from Heart Mountain

This permanent exhibition explores the stories of World War II internment camps in the United States. Exhibits and displays reveal how rights were denied to Japanese Americans during WWII. Visitors are prompted to think about the relevance of the Heart Mountain experience to current events and the debate about the balance between freedom and national security. The Excellence in Exhibitions Competition chose this exhibition for an award of special distinction because of its sensitive and eloquent presentation of a difficult topic.

Special Distinction - Innovative Reframing of Collections: Natural History Museum, Los Angeles County, Dinosaur Hall

This permanent exhibition brings science to life in ways that are relevant and interesting to audiences and highlights the latest discoveries and the process of scientific discovery about dinosaurs. The exhibition is organized around the major questions that drive scientific research on dinosaurs today such as: "What are dinosaurs?" "What was their world like?" "What were they like as living animals?" and "What happened to them?" The Excellence in Exhibitions Competition chose this exhibition for an award of special distinction because of its inventive and inspired framing of an often-told museum topic.

Special Distinction - Exemplary Inclusion of Community Voices: Oakland Museum of California, Coming to California

This permanent exhibition provides a history of California's people from pre-contact Native cultures to today. The overall goal of the exhibition is to provide a new type of public space within the museum—an inclusive place of inquiry, reflection, and public conversation about the history of California, with room for ongoing contributions by the museum's communities over time. The Excellence in Exhibitions Competition chose this exhibition for an award of special distinction because of its strong commitment to addressing community needs and including community voices.

*Honorable Mention: The New York Public Library, Three Faiths:
Judaism, Christianity, Islam*

This temporary exhibition highlighted the New York Public Library's collection of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic materials with the goal of sharing information about the histories, connections, and differences between the three Abrahamic religions; fostering appreciation for the creation of these materials; and engaging diverse audiences. The Excellence in Exhibitions Competition chose this exhibition for an honorable mention award because of its topical significance, beautiful design, and inclusion of an interactive exhibit space.

Contact Information

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316-765-9197

Email director@ksmuseums.org

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Upcoming Events

Event Title

P.O. Box 782620

Wichita, Kansas 67278

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