



KMA 2024 Conference

November 6-8

Fort Scott, Kansas

Wednesday, November 6

Registration Open

11:00 am - 4:00 pm • Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Arts Center Lobby

Workshop

9:00 am – 12:00 pm • Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center

Morning Workshop: Rockstar Boxes and Budget Friendly Storage You CAN Create Yourself

Marla Day, Curator, K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum; Jenny Linden-Tracz, Assistant Director, Prairie Museum of Art and History; Hannah Palsa, Intern, K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum; Ava Goss, Intern, K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum

Archival Storage Boxes are expensive to buy and ship. Learn how to make your own, customized to fit your objects and the storage area PLUS, how to properly pack your objects. Each participant will make during the workshop an archival storage box to take with them plus pattern and instructions. They will learn how to create a customized box for their objects and storage space. Participants will see examples of how to further customize the interior of their boxes for their collection needs. Finish your morning session with lunch.

Tour

8:30 – 11:30 am

8:30 am Bus boards from Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center at Fort Scott Community College

Preconference Tour Morning - Mine Creek Battlefield and Mound City Courthouse and The Learning Tree Film Locations

On October 25, 1864, on the banks of Mine Creek, two Union brigades of approximately 2,500 troops defeated approximately 7,000 Confederates from General Sterling Price's Army of Missouri. Federal Colonels Frederick W. Benteen and John H. Philips led the attack in one of the largest cavalry battles of the Civil War and a major battle fought in Kansas. Their dramatic story comes alive at Mine Creek Civil War Battlefield. We will then head to Mound City for The Linn County Courthouse. The courthouse was built in 1886 and is the second-oldest operational courthouse in the state of Kansas. and was also the courtroom scene location for the Learning Tree Film (Directed by Fort Scott, KS native, Gordon Parks.) Finish your tour with lunch at the Ellis Fine Art Center.

Lunch for Workshop and Tour participants

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm • Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center

Afternoon Workshop

1:00 – 4:00 pm • Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center

Rockstar Mannequins You CAN Create Yourself

Marla Day, Curator, K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum; Jenny Linden-Tracz, Assistant Director, Prairie Museum of Art and History; Hannah Palsa, Intern, K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum; Ava Goss, Intern, K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum

Archival Mounts for Historic Dress created using Foss Shape for custom display mounts made by you! The forms can be made to any size and shape and used for more than just textiles, even appearing invisible and designed to be suspended or traditionally mounted.

Each participant will make during the workshop a dress form made of Foss Shape to take with them plus pattern and instruction. You will have a pattern to trace, cut and sew in class, then form will be prepared. The Foss form can then be cut away to support the historic textile invisibly and methods to suspend or support it with a stand will be shown.

Afternoon Tour

12:45 pm – 4:30 pm

12:45 pm Bus boards from Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center

Fort Scott National Historic Site & Bus/Trolley tour of Fort Scott Learning Tree Film Locations

Do not miss the opportunity to explore and see some of the features and attractions in historic Fort Scott. We will visit the scene locations of the Gordon Parks directed historical film The Learning Tree that was filmed in Fort Scott. This was the first major film in Hollywood directed by a black filmmaker. The Learning Tree was placed on the Library of Congress film classic register as one of the top 25 important films. The tour will stop at the Gordon Parks Museum, where attendees will be given a sneak peek of the exhibits and conference session facilities. See the beautiful U.S. National Cemetery #1 and some of Fort Scott's Victorian homes.

Fort Scott National Historic Site 1:15-3:15, Guided Tour by bus/trolley of The Learning Tree Film locations 3:30-4:30pm

Traveling Reception

5:00 – 9:00 pm

5:00 bus loads at Sleep Inn hotel entrance

The Historic downtown evening tour that includes refreshments and entertainment will begin at the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes.

The evening will conclude at the Liberty Theatre, with heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music entertainment, and a short presentation. One drink ticket will be provided, and a cash bar will

be available with additional wine, beer, and cocktails - cash and card will be accepted. A bus from the Liberty Theatre will take guests back to the hotel starting at 9:00 p.m.

Hospitality Room

8:30 – 10:00 pm (or so)

After hours gathering place at the Sleep Inn and Suites near the breakfast area. Feel free to bring your own beverages and snacks!

Thursday, November 7

Registration

8:00 am – 4:30 pm • Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center Lobby

Coffee & Light Breakfast

8:00 – 8:45 am • Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center Lobby

Welcome & Keynote: 2024 Kansas Museums Association Conference – Reconnect & Rediscover Kansas

9:00 – 10:00 am • Auditorium

Jancita Warrington, Commissioner of Native American Affairs for Kansas, Kansas Native American Affairs Liaison

Ms. Warrington will address how the Office supports the Native American community in Kansas, and how museums can work to promote, preserve and protect the Native American legacies in the state.

Break • 10:00-10:10 am

Incorporating Dance in Museum Spaces: Considerations Practical and Philosophical

10:10 – 11:10 am • Auditorium

Deborah J. Hyland, Fort Scott Community College

This talk will address the benefits and challenges of incorporating dance into museum programming. It will focus on practical considerations (acoustics, flooring, music, etc.) as well as less tangible factors (historical accuracy, accessibility, cultural sensitivity, etc.)

Keep Calm and Call Your Attorney – Intellectual Property

10:10 – 11:10 am • Room 139

Conrad Froehlich, Director, Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum; Megan Gannon, Higher Education Law Fellow, University of Kansas

With guidance you too can create, use, and manage intellectual property like a pro! Panelists will discuss how IP is successfully utilized at their museums – copyrights, trademarks, licensing, rights of publicity... From branding and reproduction rights to working with attorneys, licensing managers, literary agents, movie producers, and other advocates. Developing and exploiting these assets can expand a museum's ability to share its stories and mission, reach diverse audiences, protect its identity, and generate new income streams.

Working Together to Promote History

10:10 – 11:10 am • Room 121

Kristine Schmucker, Curator, Harvey County Historical Museum & Archives

Many have come to Newton, Ks with one question - where is Hide Park where the famous Newton Massacre took place? With the new PocketSites app, the answer is a few clicks away! Other questions can also be answered. What happened to the courthouse? Where was the first saloon? The information on the app can help answer those and many other questions. This project included several different entities working together. This session will give some ideas on how cities and historical societies can work together for the benefit of both.

In 2023, the City of Newton received a \$5,000 grant from the National Trust to create a walking tour using an online app. As part of the grant, the Harvey County Historical Museum & Archives worked with the Newton CVB to create the tour. The curator/archivist, paid with grant money, conducted research, picked the photos from the museum's collection and entered the information to the PocketSites app. For this session she will demonstrate how the app works. Panel members will share how PocketTours is used to promote Newton at the same time it is way for the museum to share our history beyond the museum doors. The tour also fosters appreciation for our historic buildings in Newton, Ks.

Break • 11:10-11:25 am

Kansas Arts Network: Statewide Advocacy

11:25-11:40 am • Lobby Meeting Rooms

Lindsay Benacka, Director of Arts and Cultural Services, Kansas Arts Network

This session will include a general presentation about statewide arts advocacy efforts and the newly formed Kansas Arts Network (KAN). We will discuss various advocacy topics that may be of interest to conference goers such as public funding for the arts and culture sector, film incentives, sales tax exemption, etc. As the KAN is an emerging organization, this session will be an open dialogue with attendees to discuss the areas of intersection between the museum sector and local/state government. Although rooted in the arts, the network is all encompassing of cultural organizations and humanities.

AASLH Membership and Introduction

11:45 am - Noon • Lobby Meeting Rooms

Kara Heitz, Clio's Scroll Productions

The American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) is a nationwide professional association for institutions, organizations, and individuals who interpret state and local history. In this session, you will learn about the benefits of becoming an AASLH member, including access to a large online resource center, professional development opportunities, targeted publications, and the annual AASLH conference. You will also learn about the process of applying for the AASLH's prestigious Leadership in History award. You do not have to be an AASLH member to apply, and small museums are especially encouraged to submit an application. Kara Heitz is currently serving as the AASLH awards representative for the state of Kansas and was part of project that won a AASLH Leadership in History Award in 2023.

2025 Conference Announcement and Lunch Buffet

12:00 - 12:45 pm • Lobby Area

Break • 12:45 – 1:00 pm

KMA Business Meeting

1:00 – 2:00 pm • Auditorium

Break • 2:00 - 2:10pm

Building Your Biggest Supporters - Board Development

2:10 - 3:10 pm • Room 139

Ben Saucedo, Kansas Aviation Museum

Building your Board into your biggest cheerleaders takes time and effort, but taking the time to do so will make you much more successful. Take the time to communicate, give deliberate updates, and grow your relationship individually and corporately with your board. You will find engagement and success comes much easier.

Utilizing Your Museum to Engage Community Preservation Efforts

2:10 - 3:10 pm • Room 121

Katharine Hensler, Director, Riley County Historical Museum

Museums and historical societies serve as connectors to the community. While there is a great appreciation for historic cemeteries, they are assets that often get overlooked in our service areas. This presentation will illustrate how we as the keepers of historical data can engage the community to plan for the preservation, conservation, and care of their cemeteries. It will also share the experience of the initiative led by the Riley County Historical Museum staff in establishing an organized cemetery preservation effort in their region which launched in 2024.

NAGPRA Basics and Beyond: What it Means for Kansas Museums

2:10 - 3:10 pm • Auditorium

Rachelle Meinecke, Lowell Holmes Museum of Anthropology at WSU; Nikki Klarmann, State Archeologist, Kansas State Historical Society

The federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was passed in 1990 to ensure the protection and return of Native American human remains and artifacts. In January 2024, new regulations were implemented requiring museums to obtain permission from Tribes before certain cultural items can continue to be curated, researched, and displayed. This session will give a brief overview of NAGPRA and delve deeper into what the new regulations mean for some Kansas museums, so that we can be responsible stewards of Native American collections.

Break • 3:10 – 3:20 pm with refreshments

Funding Kansas Museums

3:20 – 4:20 pm • Auditorium

Steve Nowak, Executive Director, Douglas Co. Historical Society/Watkins Museum of History; Katharine Hensler, Director, Riley County Historical Museum; Amanda Rupp, Executive Director, Ellis County Historical Society

Funding Kansas Museums explores the challenges of maintaining stable operational funding in a changing environment. Based on new research through KMA, the session will share a profile of current funding sources across Kansas museums and how that is changing. Panelists will share ideas on what they have used to attract, stabilize, or increase funding from public sources.

Cultivating Community Stories and Dialogue Through Art & History

3:20 – 4:20 pm • Room 121

Amanda Martin, Director, Wyandotte County Historical Museum

This presentation will share the partnership between the WYCO Historical Museum, The Wyandot Nation of Kansas and Monumenta to exhibit a Native American artist-commissioned interpretation of Fort Conley, the structure built and lived in by the Conley sisters to protect their ancestral burial grounds in Kansas City, KS from destruction. Presenters and participants will explore how this project has been designed to activate community reflection and dialogue about this important Kansas story.

Engaging Education

3:20 – 4:20 pm • Room 139

Katie Winter, Winter School; Megan Embers, Artist in Residence; Winter School

In this session, we want to share ways to make museum content more approachable. Educators from the Winter School, a recently renovated one room schoolhouse in Lecompton, will present different educational access points to our exhibition, History, Notice Me. It will start with an interactive lesson from our curriculum, which includes a history and art-based video essay. We

will then facilitate a group discussion about how other museums share their content through educational materials.

Break • 4:20 - 4:30 pm

Kansas Arts Commission Resources for Museums

4:30 - 4:45 pm • Lobby Meeting Rooms

Kate VanSteenhuyse, Assistant Director, Kansas Arts Commission

This session will provide an overview of Kansas Arts Commission grants, resources, and initiatives that benefit the museum community.

Kansas Tourism and World Cup Soccer Impact

4:45 - 5:00 pm • Lobby Meeting Rooms

Jordan Roemerman, Deputy Director, Kansas Tourism

Hear about the impact of Kansas City being named a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup – what are the challenges and opportunities in bringing a huge international audience to our state and how can we prepare to offer them hospitality and a look at all the great museums Kansas has to offer!

Shuttle transport from Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center to hotels • 5:00-5:20 pm

Thursday Dinner and Auction

5:30-8:30 pm • The River Room Event Center, 3 W. Oak St Suite B, Fort Scott, KS

5:30 pm: Optional Trolley Transportation provided from Sleep Inn Hotel to River Room

5:45 - 6:15pm: Reception (one drink ticket provided; cash bar available that accepts cash and card)

6:15 - 8:30pm: Dinner and Live Auction

8:30: Trolley will begin making loops to return people to Sleep Inn Hotel

Hospitality Room

8:30 – 10:00 pm (or so)

After hours gathering place at the Sleep Inn and Suites near the breakfast area. Feel free to bring your own beverages and snacks!

Friday, November 8

Registration

8:00 am – 12:00 pm • Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center Lobby

Coffee & Light Breakfast

8:00 – 8:30 am • Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center Lobby

Finding Your Visual Voice | Authenticity in Social Media Marketing

8:40 - 9:40 am • Room 139

Hannah Crickman, Director of Marketing, Salina Art Center; Darren Morawitz, Director of Education, Salina Art Center

Join Hannah and Darren from Salina Art Center as we 'Find Your Visual Voice' and talk about the importance of authenticity in your museum's social media marketing. Focusing on breaking down barriers, featuring familiar faces, and maintaining a consistent visual style. Understand how authentic community engagement, such as actively listening and responding, cultivates meaningful connections. Increase your museum's online presence authentically and purposefully, reflecting its mission and values.

Empowering Neurodivergent Visitors: Practical Tools to Prepare Museum-Goers

8:40 - 9:40 am • Room 121

David Turnbull, OTR/L, Ph.D., President, Square Holes Neurodiversity Consulting.
Beth Varner, M.Ed., NCSP, Co- Founder Square Holes, Square Holes; Adam Smith, President, Exploration Place; Leah Palmer, Curator of Education, Johnson County Museum

This session will explore the unique challenges neurodivergent individuals face in public spaces and how museums and cultural institutions can create inclusive environments that alleviate anxiety and ensure all visitors feel welcome and safe. We will discuss the development and maintenance of tools like sensory guides and virtual tours, aiming to enhance engagement and accessibility. Participants will hear firsthand accounts from Kansas museums about their experiences providing resources and events targeted to neurodivergent visitors. Attendees will be equipped with actionable knowledge and steps to take towards making their museums more welcoming and supportive to all visitors.

AAM Core Document: Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response

8:40 - 9:40 am • Auditorium

Anne C Jones, Curator, Johnson County Museum

Disaster and Emergency Response Plans are one of the core documents required for AAM Accreditation. These plans can be the most tedious and daunting to develop as they require the involvement of building staff, the museum director, co-workers, board members, risk management and local emergency officials. This session will provide participants with the tools and template to create a usable plan that can be easily updated and adjusted to suit the needs of the institution and staff. In addition, the presenter will share tips and strategies for creating a culture of safety in museums.

Break • 9:40-9:50 am

Kansas Schools as Art Museums

9:50 - 10:50 am • Auditorium

Elizabeth Seaton, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, Kansas State University; Kara Heitz, Owner, Clio's Scroll Productions, Kansas City Art Institute; Kim Richards, Education Specialist, Kansas State University Museum of Art

Does your museum have artworks once owned by local schools? How can you learn more about these objects, and how can you help students, teachers, and the community reconnect with them as historic artifacts and educational tools? Panelists will talk about how the KSU Beach Museum of Art sought to accomplish these and other goals with its recent exhibition, "To the Stars Through Art: A History of Art Collecting in Kansas Public Schools, 1900-1950."

Managing Collections & Spaces for a More Immersive Experience

9:50 - 10:50 am • Room 121

Carl Brenner, Fort Scott National Historic Site, National Park Service; Emily Fisher, National Park Service

Learn ways to make deeper connections to all visitors using reproductions, historic objects, exhibit spaces, and technology. We will discuss easy fixes to often overlooked barriers and ways to integrate cutting edge technology.

Break • 10:50-11:00 am with refreshments

Learning from Indigenous Experts: Crafting Conscientious Native American History Exhibits and Caring for Indigenous Collections

11:00 am – Noon • Lobby Meeting Rooms

Will Haynes, Director of Engagement and Learning, Watkins Museum of History; Angela Watts, Collections Manager, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas; Raphael Wahwassuck, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation; Tara Mitchell, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Moderated by Kara Heitz, Kansas City Art Institute and Clio's Scroll Productions

Will Haynes of the Watkins Museum of History will discuss the development of a permanent exhibit about Indigenous cultures and local history and seeking guidance from Indigenous experts and communities in order to create an exhibit that is accurate, respectful, and told from Indigenous perspectives. Raphael Wahwassuck and Tara Mitchell of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and Angela Watts of the Spencer Museum of Art will discuss ongoing collaborative efforts regarding a collection of beadwork crafted by Prairie Band Potawatomi artists in the 1930s for a WPA project that are currently in the collections of the Spencer Museum of Art.

Life in Jar: The Irena Sendler Project

11:00 am - Noon • Room 121

Norm Conard, CEO, Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes; Megan Felt, Program Director, Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes; Moderated by Kara Heitz

Hear the incredible story of Irena Sendler, the unsung hero who saved hundreds of children from the Holocaust. Sendler's story along with the teacher and students who brought her story to the world, inspired an Unsung Hero history museum in Fort Scott, KS. The story of Irena Sendler and a replica of the tree she would hide the children's names under are featured at the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes.

Break • Noon – 12:10 pm

Kansas and the US 250th Anniversary Celebration

12:10-12:25 pm • Lobby Meeting Rooms

Dr. Jay Price, Director, Local and Community History Program at Wichita State University

As we continue to get closer to the celebration of the semi quincentennial - the 250th anniversary - of the United States, learn the latest about plans for celebrating in Kansas and resources to help you plan for your museum and community.

Friday Awards Luncheon and Closing

12:30 - 2:00 pm • Danny and Willa Ellis Fine Art Center Lobby Meeting Rooms