2019 Request for KMA Conference Session Proposals
Growing in a Changing World: KMA Celebrates 50 Years

KMA Conference attendees learn and collaborate at a workshop

KMA is excited to announce the theme for the 2019 Annual Conference and open the application for session proposals. Make plans now to join us in McPherson and Lindsborg and share your knowledge with colleagues in the museum community!

How are you Growing in a Changing World? How can museums sustain what they have and proactively embrace the uncertainty of the future? Share your stories of growth and change as well as other current local, regional, or national issues in the museum field.

The Kansas Museums Association is looking for your ideas that explore successes, challenges and opportunities for this year's 50th conference. Of particular interest are session
topics and round table groups about education and programming, collaboration, audience development, collections care, exhibits, administration and board engagement, volunteer management, preservation, conservation, financial stability, and any other topic related to the diverse and dynamic museum work happening in Kansas.

You supply the idea, and the KMA Program Committee can help you find additional speakers, if necessary. Make this the best educational experience of the year and the best KMA conference ever. Help us celebrate 50 years by being a part of the 2019 KMA Annual Conference.

Do you have a great proposal, but can't afford to come? Submit your proposal and apply for a scholarship. Scholarships and travel funds are available.

***** For more information on scholarships please look for upcoming emails from KMA.*****

Join us November 6-8 in McPherson and Lindsborg! Deadline for proposal submission: **June 22, 2019**
To see the form and submit a proposal, click [here](#).

---

**The Short List - Links to the Opportunities You Need, Without the Stuff You Don't**

We want to connect to the resources you need so you can take what is helpful and get on with your day. Here, we've categorized the information to help you find what you're looking for, provided the essential facts at a glance, and linked to the details. Short, sweet, and to the point!

**Blue Star Museums**
You can register now to join the Blue Star Museum program, which highlights museums across the country who are offering free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, throughout the summer. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Check out the neat **Parent Toolkit** they've developed to help guide families before, during, and after their visit here.

**May Day**
A reminder that tomorrow is May Day, a day designated for disaster preparedness. For a refresher course, watch this [Connecting to Collections Care video](#) on YouTube, and share this graphic from the DC Public Library's Twitter Feed last year on May Day with your followers to remind them of simple steps they can take to protect their important documents and photos.
Preservation month
May is Preservation Month, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation has great resources for learning about and supporting preservation. Check out their thoughts about how the fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral reminds us of the need to act now, join their campaign to save Washington DC’s Tidal Basin, and follow #thisplacematters on Twitter.

AASLH Needs Your Help! Share Your Continuing Education Needs and Complete Visitation Survey Today

Continuing Education Survey
The American Association for State and Local History received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for long-range continuing education planning. They want to know how you like to learn and what opportunities you would like to see offered. Complete the 10-15 minute survey here and enter for a chance to win a $100 Amazon gift card!
A big THANK YOU to those who have completed AASLH's Visitation Survey! The data being collected will be shared with the field and it can be valuable to your institution to be able to see trends and develop programming accordingly. TODAY IS THE LAST DAY to take the short survey if you have not already done so - click the link here for more information and to complete the survey.

Reminders: Deadlines Approach for Mountain-Plains Museums Association Submissions

Current Research from the Field Competition
MPMA wants to help you share your research with the field. Submit your proposal by May 17 and three will be chosen to present at the 2019 MPMA Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 22-25 and will be given a complimentary 1 day registration. For full details click here.

Award Nominations
Individual, competitive, and special interest awards nominations are open here. Deadline is June 1.

Spotlight On: Hannah Mahnken - Registrar, Smoky Hill Museum

In 2018, eight deserving applicants received scholarships from KMA to cover their registration for the annual conference, as well as a stipend for travel and lodging. Our scholarship recipients hail from across the state; some are young professionals and some have years of experience but they all joined us in Independence eager to learn and grow with their colleagues in the profession. We will be featuring articles that they wrote about their experience in the coming months to highlight the connections made and lessons learned as KMA celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2019.

__________________
From Hannah Mahnken: I am a preservationist. I have had the privilege of working closely with conservators who trained me how to recognize the way environments and people affect the physical treasures of the past. Over time, I learned how to help circumvent these threats. These earned skills plus my preference for organization make me a good fit for my role in collections work, but they are not what drew me to the museum field. My passion is storytelling-telling difficult, relevant stories to be precise.

I love how Keil Hileman takes my two loves of artifacts and stories in his classroom and uses them to create relevance. Yes, my heart hurts a little to see artifacts handled sans gloves, but which is more impactful? Seeing a slave shackle made for a child behind glass, or a student holding it in their own hands, comparing the size to their own wrists, and digesting how the reality of slavery still impacts us today. In that moment, history is real. History is relevant.

As trained historians, we do not have to look far to see how the events of the past shape our often tumultuous present. Those not in our field may view history as only a series of dates they had to memorize for a test that hold no current meaning. Others may choose to only look to the past through rose-colored glasses, feeling nostalgic about a time that was not as great as they may like to remember. As learning institutions, we should strive to rattle this view of history and challenge complacent narratives. The "skeletons" in our closets like slave shackles become skeletons when we shut down public discourse around them. When we become ashamed of our history, we place these less than desirable manifestations of the past into corners of our exhibits, or worse, pretend they and the events that surround them never existed at all.

Telling difficult histories is not easy. There is a wrong way to go about these conversations. We need to rely on one another to avoid alienating our audiences. Reach out to other organizations that have been successful in telling a story you would like to tell. Ask for advice, strategies, and lessons learned. Enroll in a workshop or webinar. Peruse a list of museum books that offer ideas to tackle difficult histories. Extend the great conversations I overheard at the conference throughout the coming year.

We will experience pushback from people who would rather tuck these skeletons away. But we will also open meaningful dialogues and maybe even become more inviting to communities we may have previously underserved. As Carol Kammen states in the foreword of Defining Memory: "knowledge of the past, and of who we are today, is not something only an expert knows, but is something for which we all search and to which we all contribute." By relying on one another as institutions and being open and honest about our
2017 Grant Update: McPherson Museum and Arts Foundation

Each year, KMA awards grants to museums to help fund small projects that improve their museum operations. The museums, in turn, share a summary of their projects with the greater KMA membership as a way to give back and spur ideas for others. Over the next few months we will be featuring the projects funded with 2017 grants.

McPherson Museum and Arts Foundation: Textile and Archival Preservation Project

This past year the McPherson Museum and Arts Foundation had two areas that we were seeking grant help with from the Kansas Museums Association Institutional Project Grants program. The first area dealt with our textile collection. The MMAF has an extensive collection of quilts, wedding dresses, and military uniforms from the McPherson community. Since we moved into our new facility a few years back these items have been donated in an ever increasing frequency. So much so that we were running out of supplies to properly take care of them.

The other area that we were seeing help in was in our archives. In 2017 the MMAF received the McPherson All Schools Day collection consisting of hundreds of photos, ephemera, and three-dimensional artifacts that all needed to be cataloged and then protected by archival quality materials before being filed.
These collections, especially the All Schools Day collection, are important in telling the history and culture of the McPherson Community. The All Schools Day celebration is the oldest community celebration of its kind in the United States and is an integral part of the makeup of McPherson. It is estimated that upwards of 35,000 visitors come to town the day of the parade. Preserving these pictures and other items is paramount in preserving the ASD history. Before, the various items were scattered across the community in private collections. By having a central location where the collection is protected it will allow us to make available to researchers, interested citizens, and this rich part of McPherson history.

Thanks to the KMA Institutional Project Grant we received, supplemented with private funds from donors, we were able to organize both the textiles and the ASD collections by cataloging the items and the storing them in the appropriate archival quality materials. The MMAF is grateful to the Grant Selection Committee and the Kansas Museums Association for selecting us a recipient for the 2017 Institutional Project Grant.
Preserving US Military Heritage - World War II to the Cold War Symposium
June 4-6
Fredericksburg, TX
$325
Register

National Association for Interpretation's Upcoming Webinars
Talk Less, See and Do More! Writing and Running Great Programs for People with Intellectual Disabilities
May 7
12:00 pm Central
Register

American Association for State and Local History's Upcoming Webinars
Introduction to Financial Management
May 28 - June 25
$150 - $250
Register

Writing for History Publications
May 30
2:00 - 3:15 pm Central
$40 - $65
Register

Connecting to Collections Care's Upcoming Webinars
An Introduction to Herbaria and Herbarium Practices
May 9
1:00 - 2:30 pm Central
Register

Wisconsin Historical Society's Upcoming Webinars
Cleaning Gravestones
May 8
1:30 - 3:00 pm Central
Register

Architectural Paint Analysis: Color and More!
May 15
1:30 - 3:00 pm Central
Register (link not yet available; check back)

Texas Historical Commission's Upcoming Webinars
Digital Strategy on a Budget
May 14
10:00 am Central
Register
Find more FREE recorded and archived webinars from THC here (scroll down).

Information School - UW Madison's Upcoming Webinars
Fake News, Real Talk: Engaging Your Patrons on Fake News and News Literacy
May 14
12:00 pm Central
Register

Advocacy Connection and Museums in the News

Museum topics in the news:

Celebrate the Centennial of the 19th amendment with tweets from KSHS - Megan Rohleder, Kansas Memory Blog

Baby T Rex Goes on Sale on eBay, Sparking Paleontologists’ Outcry - Sam Wolfson, The Guardian

US Department of the Interior's Toolkit for Working with Partners to Manage Museum Collections - Elizabeth Varner, American Alliance of Museums

Archivists Race to Digitize Slavery Records before the History Is Lost - Rupa Shenoy, Public Radio International

How Will British Museums Survive if They Subject Every Donor to an Ethical Audit? - Mark Lawson, The Guardian

Museums as a Pink Collar Profession - Joan Baldwin, American Alliance of Museums

Art Institute Postpones Major Native American Pottery Exhibit Over Cultural Insensitivity Concerns at the Last Minute - Steve Johnson, Chicago Tribune

MASS Action Toolkit: Join the Reading Group - The Incluseum

LACMA, the Incredible Shrinking Museum: A Critic’s Lament - Christopher Knight, The Los Angeles Times

Game Changer: Social Media Followers Report Better Experiences at Cultural Organizations - Colleen Dilenschneider, Know Your Own Bone blog

Art Industry News: Metropolitan Museum of Art Hires Marie Kondo to Deaccession Works that Don't 'Spark Joy' + Other Stories (April Fools!) - Artnet News
Contact Information
Lisa Dodson, Executive Director
Email: director@ksmuseums.org

Jamin Landavazo, Assistant Director
Email: asstdirector@ksmuseums.org

Phone: 316.978.6535 (Morgan Barnes, KMA at WSU)

Copyright © 2019 Kansas Museums Association