KMA's 50th Annual Conference - Registration NOW OPEN!!!

Make plans now to join friends and colleagues from across the state at KMA's Annual Conference in McPherson and Lindsborg! This year's theme, Growing in a World of Change will explore ways for us to stretch, think outside the box, improve the quality of our programming and our reach in our communities. As we celebrate our 50th Annual Conference, we will honor our past and work together to envision the future of museums in Kansas. KMA's conference offers a slate of excellent sessions, internationally recognized speakers, a workshop and tours as well as chances for collaboration, networking, and renewal. This year's agenda includes:

- **A workshop** from National Geographic Photographer Jim Richardson and Digital Media Specialist Cole Finley, who will help you improve your mobile phone photography and optimize your social media efforts.

- **Two tour options:** see historic McPherson on a trolley and visit McPherson College's automotive restoration program and the restored McPherson Opera House OR taste beer from 3 Rings Brewery as you travel to the
Kansas Motorcycle Museum.

- **Keynote speeches** from **Dylan Thuras, Cofounder of Atlas Obscura** on finding magic in the mundane, **Marci Penner of the Kansas Sampler Foundation** on attracting Kansas Explorers Club members to your community, and **Wes Jackson from The Land Institute** on sustainability and museums as knowledge keepers.

- **Sessions** on topics ranging from creating virtual tours, cultivating donors, creative reuse in building exhibits, sustainability and so much more!!!

- An **Annual Dinner and Benefit Auction** where we will raise our glasses to **50 years of the Kansas Museums Association**!

Spaces for the workshop and tours are limited, so register today!

Click [here](#) to see a full description of all events, sessions, and speakers.

Click [here](#) to register - **early bird registration ends October 23**.

Click [here](#) to register as an exhibitor or sponsor.

To apply for a **grant**, click [here](#). Application deadline is **Friday, September 6**

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**Grant News**

**IMLS Funds New and Improved Assessment Program for Small, Mid-Sized Museums**

The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) has helped more than 5,000 small and mid-sized museums of all types strengthen operations, plan for the future, and meet standards. This year, MAP announced changes and new opportunities including:

- Two new Assessment types will be offered: Education & Interpretation and Board Leadership. Learn more about MAP assessment types [here](#)
- The existing Organizational, Collections Stewardship, and Community & Audience Engagement assessments are getting fresh updates
- **DEAI** (diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion) components will be integrated into all assessments
- Museums will have more time to complete the Self-Study Workbook and activities, which will be spread throughout the year long process
- Museums will have more touch points with the Peer Reviewer throughout the process
- New activities and tools will help move museums from increasing awareness to taking action and implementing change
• Enhanced training and peer-to-peer engagement for the Peer Reviewers
• Adjusted fee scale, but still low cost and affordable for smaller institutions

What's not changing? The tried and true core structure of MAP-the self-assessment, site visit by a peer, and a recommendation-laden report-remains in place.

Online application form opens in early fall, so check back at the link here for more information. The application deadline is December 1.

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Additional IMLS Grants

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is now accepting applications for six different grant programs, including Museums for America and Museums Empowered, among others. Deadlines for all six programs are due November 15, 2019. Learn more here.

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NHPRC Grants

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is offering five types of grants. Of special note are the "Archives Collaborative: Implementation Grants," meant to enhance the capacity of small and diverse organizations with historical records collections, and the "Public Engagement with Historical Records," which fits a wide array of organizations and closely parallels the goals established in the "History Relevance" initiative. Deadlines range from early October 2019 to July 2020. Learn more here.

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Calendar Notes

September: National Preparedness Month - This year’s theme is Prepared, Not Scared. For resources for you and your museum, click here.

September 18: Ask a Curator Day - Engage with social media followers during this internationally recognized day to ask and answer all those burning questions the public has! Click here for details.

September 21: Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day - It’s not too late to register your museum or get a ticket to visit another! Click here for information and to register.

Spotlight On: Megan Sothan - 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 (or just outside!); 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 Megan Sothan:
The Value of Hidden Treasures: Musings on a Conference Theme

Hidden Treasure...it's a phrase that speaks to the imagination. One that summons images of ancient kingdoms, tales of adventure, and moments of bold daring. We conjure fantasies about vast fortunes secreted away, that only the bravest and brightest of adventurers will discover. Hidden treasures are secret, special, and only known to a few.

You might think that from this introduction I am gearing up to wax philosophical about a favorite book or movie, but in actuality, I am here to relate my experience from my attendance at the most recent Kansas Museums Association annual conference. For all those that attended the 2018 KMA Conference, the phrase "Hidden Treasures" will be quite familiar.

But that still leaves us with a question - what on earth does the idea of hidden treasure have to do with a museum conference?

By virtue of its name, a hidden treasure is something valuable but relatively unknown; whether by accident or design. At the 2018 conference, we used the conference theme of "Hidden Treasures" to explore the idea that our museums and institutions are hidden treasures just waiting to be uncovered. This was accomplished through workshops and sessions that allowed us to share our stories, experience, and knowledge with our peers. Through this exploration, we were encouraged to find the treasure hidden within our institutions - whether it was inspiration for a future program or exhibit, ideas to engage with our audience in a new way, or reinforcement of something we are already doing well.

As an administrator at a small museum, having a resource like the KMA conference is an invaluable tool for professional growth. Due to distance and funding, it is not always feasible for staff at smaller museums to attend national-scale conferences.
Thankfully, unlike the tales of secret fortune found in stories of adventure, the Kansas Museums Association is not hiding their treasures. As an organization, they make available an impressive amount of knowledge and resources to the regional museum community. The 2018 conference was an excellent example of the amount of effort that is put into outreach to provide quality continuing education opportunities.

I feel especially honored to have been selected as a scholarship recipient to this wonderful conference, since I currently work in a Nebraska museum. KMA allows their generosity to extend beyond state lines - showing a true commitment to share their wealth of knowledge to benefit all museums.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this organization - I look forward to KMA 2019!

Good News! Museum Happenings Across Kansas

The first Historical Performance Showcase Festival was held in Admire at the beginning of August. Performers demonstrated their skill and knowledge as they portrayed historical figures including Victoria Westman and Amelia Earhart, and they also hosted workshops on becoming and hosting historical performers. To read the full article, click here. Congrats to all those involved!

Marla Day, Curator of the K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum, has been named a professional reviewer for the Hometown Treasures program. Hometown Treasures is a function of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, and it, "looks to stimulate preservation activity nationwide, preserving objects of historical and cultural significance, identifying potential collections for the museum, and developing collaborations among cultural institutions and communities across the country."

Day will join others to review textiles during the Save our African American Treasures event in Denver, Colorado. Click here to read the full announcement. Kudos to you, Marla!

Humanities Kansas Invites Applications for Crossroads Conversations
The Humanities Kansas *Crossroads Conversations* program catalog is a curated list of fun and informative presentations, discussions, and workshops from Kansas scholars on rural, urban, and suburban dynamics in the sunflower state. Applications are now open to join their roster of speakers. For a list of speaker themes and application guidelines, click [here](#). The deadline for submissions is **September 27**.

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**Webinars and Continuing Education Opportunities**

**National Association for Interpretation's Upcoming Webinars**
- **Combating Erasure Through Interpretation**
  - September 10
  - 12:00 - 1:30 pm Central
  - [Register](#)
- **Telling the American Indian Story**
  - September 17
  - 12:00 - 1:00 pm Central
  - [Register](#)

**American Association for State and Local History's Upcoming Webinars**
- **Introducing the Inclusive Historian's Handbook**
  - September 19
  - 2:00 - 3:15 pm Central
  - [Register](#)

**Connecting to Collections Care's Upcoming Webinars**
- **Archival Processing - Principles and Practical Strategies**
  - September 5
  - 1:00 - 2:30 pm Central
  - [Register](#)
- **Practical Book Repair**
  - October 3
  - 1:00 - 2:30 pm Central
  - [Register](#)

**Texas Historical Commission's Upcoming Webinars**
- **Becoming a Better Leader--Building Practices & Capacity to Care for Yourself & Your Team**
  - September 5
Environmental Monitoring for Museums--The Basics
September 19
10:00 am Central
Register

National Art Education Association’s Upcoming Webinars
Maximizing the Museum Experience: Tips for Successful Field Trips
September 11
6:00 - 7:00 pm Central
Register

Advocacy Connection and Museums in the News

Ebony Photo Archives Sold for $30M, with Plan to Donate Collection to Smithsonian and Other Museums to Ensure Public Access - Robert Channick, Chicago Tribune

Atlanta's High Museum has Launched a 'Dating App' to Match Visitors with the Perfect Artwork - Ellen Gutoskey, Mental Floss

Digitization Partnership Supports Veteran Claims, Access to Records - Press Release, National Archives

Historic Site and Museum Visitation is Rising - Report from Humanities Indicators

New Species of Dinosaur Discovered after Decades in Museum - Amy Woodyatt, CNN

Can the Arts Be a Model for History? - Max van Balgooy, Engaging Places

National Park Service Awards $1.65 Million for the Return of Native American Remains and Sacred Objects - Press Release, National Park Service

The Best History Podcasts to Listen to Right Now - Eliana Dockterman, Time Magazine

The Library of Congress Needs Your Help Transcribing Suffragist Papers - Brigit Katz, Smithsonian Magazine

The 1619 Project - The New York Times Magazine

How Museums Make Their Fake Foods Using Real Recipes - Stephanie Burt, Atlas Obscura

The 10th Archivist of the United States Talks Bringing the National Archives into the Future - Lia Assimakopoulos,