Museum Advocacy: A Privilege and a Responsibility + Action Steps for Everyone

The beginning of each year brings a fresh perspective and energy, and a chance to look at the big picture. Advocating for our museums and our field may not take up much, if any, of our daily attention; it rarely shows up on a to-do list or becomes an urgent task we can't ignore. It often seems overwhelming to know where to start, or what difference one voice will make in the din.

At the Kansas Museums Association, we are dedicated to advocacy - to keeping you informed, to reminding you how important it is to lend your voice and support in ways both big and small, to helping you find ways to join the conversation, and to advocating on your behalf.

Right now in Kansas, a change in our state leadership allows a new opportunity to prove how vital museums and cultural organizations are to the richness of our state and its economy. Consider joining with organizations across the state at the Travel Industry Association of Kansas' Destination Statehouse event, and talk with your state representatives.
As the federal government once again reopens (albeit temporarily) we look at the impact that the longest government shutdown in history had on our nation's cultural organizations - not only the federal museums and national parks that were physically closed, but the grant funding to smaller organizations that was cut off, the planned loans that were delayed, the prospect of losing talented museum professionals from our nation's museums when they decide they cannot stand to be put in that position again. Now is a very powerful time to speak directly to our federal officials, and Museums Advocacy Day will see museum professionals from across the country share their stories and advocate for the culture of our nation. Kansas Museums Association Executive Director Lisa Dodson and Board President Zan Popp will lead the Kansas delegation, making sure voices from the heartland are represented.

You can find information about Destination Statehouse and Museums Advocacy Day below, but even if you can't join us in person at these events, we have highlighted ways to get involved that are simple and straightforward, that don't take much time out of your busy schedule. This is the time that a hundred emails or messages sent leave a big impact, so join us in advocacy now!

**Destination Statehouse (formerly TIAK Day on the Hill)**
February 6, 2019
Topeka Statehouse

For more information about the day's agenda and to register, click [here](#).

**Not able to make it to Destination Statehouse? Here are ideas for ways to advocate from where you are!**
- If your local CVB or Chamber of Commerce is headed to Destination Statehouse, send information with them about your museum - highlight visitor numbers, grants or exhibits you have been able to bring in, community or economic impacts, and testimonials from people who have been moved by an exhibit, found answers through researching your archives, or enjoyed your programs.
- If no one from your area is headed to Topeka, call or email your representatives. Voices from museums and the tourism industry will reach a critical mass during the statehouse visit, and reminding your elected officials about what you bring to your community and ways that they can support your mission will help them advocate for you on the floor of the State House and Senate.

**Museums Advocacy Day**
February 25-26, 2019
Washington, DC

Registration is now CLOSED for Museums Advocacy Day, but KMA will be well represented in DC! In the meantime you can:
- Plan now for Invite Congress to Visit Your Museum week!
The congressional recess that happens in August is the perfect time to ask your representatives to visit your museum while they are back in your home district. Work with other museums in your area to plan for a sit down meeting with your elected officials where you can share goals and demonstrate partnerships you have built.

- Ask your representatives to join the Congressional History Caucus. Find more information here.
- Use AAM's Advocate from Anywhere resources to reach out and make your voice heard!

---

**Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board Offers Grants and Scholarships**

Deadlines are approaching for grants and scholarships available from KSHRAB - don't miss out!

**Apply for a Kansas Digital Access to Historical Records (KDAHR) grant today!**

The grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHRPC) and enable small historical records repositories the opportunity to create finding aids, digitize collections, or create/upgrade their websites.

Grants are available up to $3,000.

Get started on your application today! Find more information and grant guidelines here.

Applications are due March 15, 2019!

Know your archives, show your archives, grow your archives! Scholarships available for upcoming archives conferences

Are you or someone you know planning on attending the Society of American Archivists Conference or the Midwest Archives Conference? If so, you can receive up to $500 in scholarships through the Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board! All you need to do is follow this KSHS link and fill out the application! Applications should be submitted AT LEAST 4 weeks before the conference to allow time for review.

For more information on both conferences check their links below!
SAA Conference
Conference dates: July 31 - August 6 in Austin, TX
Conference theme: Transformative!

Midwest Archives Conference
Conference dates: April 3-6 in Detroit, MI
Conference theme: Innovation, Transformation, Resurgence

Visit KSHRAB’s resource page here for a great listing and summary of many archives, history, and records related grants available from federal agencies as well as private organizations and foundations.

Spotlight On: Georgie DeArvil - Volunteer Curator, Lincoln County Historical Society

This year, 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 prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019.

The 2018 KMA Conference was held November 7 - 9, in Independence, Kansas. There were a number of learning opportunities made available to us at the conference. One very valuable session was a most thought provoking noon hour presentation by High School teacher Kile Hileman. Mr. Hileman described his use of his classroom as a working museum at which his students could gain hands-on experience with history. His classroom approach provided his students with the opportunity of touching history, not just reading and/or hearing about history. I learned to be less fearful of letting students handle artifacts.

At our museum we bring in 5th graders one Friday a month for six months to, among other things, learn how to churn
butter, make 19th Christmas decorations and Valentine's Day cards and to do a walk-through in the museum. However, from Mr. Hileman's exciting presentation I discovered better methods we can use to interact with more students and teachers in meaningful ways. For example, we are now planning to take various artifacts to Middle School and High School history classes and science classes, or bring the students to the museum. The artifacts will be appropriate for the course and lesson being taught.

Mr. Hileman created a museum in his classroom. I believe that we can create a classroom in our museum where students can handle artifacts that fit the lesson a teacher is teaching to a class. We can create a 1900's doctor and dentist office and let students handle the tools of the day. We can do the same with a laundry room, a blacksmith shop, an early telephone exchange and switchboard. We can even set up a funeral director's room complete with casket and body-working tools. Students can see and touch a large bull bison's head and stuffed beaver and bobcats captured in our rural county. They can handle the trapping tools and hunting weapons of the mid-1800's. Many of these items can also be taken to a classroom in a school if that works better for the teacher.

It was easy to become excited about the prospects we have for interacting in meaningful ways with the students in our small rural community. Equally exciting is the prospect of giving our museum a re-introduction to our community by exciting the students and teachers about us. Mr. Hileman's presentation was worth the price of the KMA Conference to me, to our museum and to our USD.

Good News! Museum Happenings Across Kansas

Congratulations to the Stauth Museum in Montezuma! A release from the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas highlights a grant they were recently awarded:

Montezuma - The Stauth Memorial Museum of Montezuma is pleased to announce the receipt of a $25,000 grant from The Arthur and Cornelia Scroggins Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas to help with the costs to host four of the six traveling exhibits in 2019. Grants from the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas are made available to charitable organizations in Southwest Kansas. In particular, the Scroggins Foundation Fund is awarded to programs and projects focused on serving youth.

To read the full release, click [here](#).

Webinars and Continuing Education Opportunities
Kansas Historical Society’s Upcoming Workshop
2019 Historic Tax Credit Seminar
February 4
8:00 am - 4:00 pm Central
Kansas Museum of History, Topeka
$15
Register

National Association for Interpretation’s Upcoming Webinars
Show Me the Money
February 26
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Register

American Association for State and Local History’s Upcoming Webinars
Web Archiving: What, Why and How
February 28
2:00 - 3:15 pm
$40 member/$65 nonmember
Register

Connecting to Collection Care’s Upcoming Webinars
Collections Management for Smaller Cultural Institutions
February 12, 19, 26 and March 5
1:00 - 2:30 pm Central
$149
Register

When Copyright and Cultural Collections Converge
February 27
1:00 - 2:30 pm Central
Register

Wisconsin Historical Society’s Upcoming Webinars
Improving Your Museum Store’s Benchmarks
February 8
1:30 - 3:00 pm Central
Register

Slave Dwellings as Seen Through a Hollywood Lens
February 13
1:30 pm Central
Register

The Black-White Swimming Disparity in America: A Deadly Legacy of Swimming Pool Discrimination
February 27
2:30 - 4:00 pm
Register
Advocacy Connection and Museums in the News

Museum topics in the news:

The Shutdown’s Hitting Smithsonian Hard. It’s Losing $1 Million a Week. - Doug Criss, CNN

The US Formally Withdraws from UNESCO, The UN Agency that Aims to Build Peace Through Cultural Understanding - Artfix Daily

Tomb of Tutankhamen: Removing Dust from Wall Paintings - Video, The Getty Conservation Institute

Announcing the Alliance Scholarship for Strategic Foresight - Elizabeth Merritt, AAM’s Center for the Future of Museums Blog

Museum Boards Have Struggled to Diversify. A $4 Million Gift to the American Alliance of Museums Aims to Help - Eileen Kinsella, ArtNews

Putting Museum Power on the Map - Dr. Natalia Grincheva, Pursuit

The Sweater That Helped a Little Girl Survive the Holocaust - Erin Blakemore, History

Rare Audubon Bird Book Displayed at Liverpool Library - Video, BBC News


Why Expired Members Do Not Renew Their Memberships to Cultural Organizations (DATA) - Colleen Dilenschneider, Know Your Own Bone Blog

A German Museum Puts the Questionable Provenance of Its Art on Display - JTJ Friedrichshafen, The Economist

Hacking the Hashtag: Museum Hack’s Social Media Best Practices - Carly Syms, Museum Hack

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