Look at us GROW! Check out the Latest KMA Conference Updates

KMA Conference attendees during a 2018 Annual Conference Session


The Kansas Museums Association will celebrate its 50th Annual Conference this fall, and we want you to be there to celebrate the memories, learn with colleagues, and help us envision the future. The call for session proposals is now open, and we are inviting you to share your expertise with us!

- Find the session application form [here](#). Deadline for applications is **June 22**
- Don't think your topic can fill a 75 minute session? Submit an [application](#) for a 30 minute roundtable
- Looking for panelists or co-presenters? Contact Program Chair [Andi Andres](#), who can help connect you with speakers

In This Issue

- Conference Updates
- Upcoming Commemorations
- Spotlight On
- Grant Update
- Continuing Education
- Museums in the News

Bulletin Board

Do you have a request or something to share? Deaccessioned artifacts, props, storage furniture, or other items? Let KMA get the word out!

E-mail [Jamin](#) with information.

Important Dates

- **American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting** August 28-31, 2019 Philadelphia, PA
- **Mountain Plains Museums Association Conference** September 22-25, 2019 Albuquerque, NM
- **Kansas Museums Association Conference** November 6-8, 2019 McPherson and Lindsborg, KS
- **American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting** May 17-20, 2020 San Francisco, CA

Employment Listings

- **Museum Director** Stillwater History Museum at
Have a great idea for a session to present, but can’t afford to attend? Submit your application and watch for information about KMA scholarships coming soon.

Questioning the importance of professional development when it’s enough work just to keep the lights on? Read this article from the Executive Director of a small museum who also works with the steering committee for AASLH’s Small Museum Affinity Group on how she makes it work.

Growing Towards the Future - RFP for 2020 Conference Location

It’s not too early to have a VISION for 2020! Does your vision include KMA hosting its annual conference in your town? Click here to view the guidelines and requirements and apply today! Application deadline is July 1.

Growing with KMA as You Grow Your Business - Sponsor and Exhibitor Registration Now Open!

Sponsors and exhibitors have played an important role in KMA’s conference history, and this year will be no different! Join us as we celebrate 50 years of learning, connecting, and growing by sponsoring or exhibiting in McPherson and Lindsborg. There are many levels of involvement to choose from and many chances for meaningful, face-to-face interactions - click here for more information and to register!

Take Note: Commemorations on the Horizon

19th Amendment Commemoration
June 2019 will be one year before the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment and planning for commemorative activities have already begun at many institutions. In preparation for this important event, the AASLH Women’s History Affinity Committee present the AASLH 19th Amendment Centennial Value Statement. For more information and resources about women’s history, visit the Women’s History Affinity Community page or browse the AASLH Resource Center.

Apollo 11 Moon Landing Commemoration
This summer is the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11’s historic Moon landing. If you’re planning events or exhibits celebrating the space program, the Moon, or just 1969, be sure to check out https://spacestem.nasa.gov for free resources, images, and lessons from NASA. Submit your event or exhibit to NASA’s Anniversary map/calendar. Do you incorporate STEM into your programming? Join NASA’s Museum Alliance: https://informal.jpl.nasa.gov/museum.

Contact Amelia.J.Chapman@jpl.nasa.gov for more information.
Spotlight On: Brett Whitenack - Curator/Director of Operations, McPherson 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 Brett Whitenack:
The annual Kansas Museum Association Conference is the premier showcase of what KMA is all about. A gathering of like-minded museum people coming together to share innovative ideas, technological advances, and to get inspiration from sessions and guest speakers. It is also a chance to meet up with old friends, make new acquaintances, and recharge our batteries with the information we gather at the conference to share with our colleagues back home.

While I have attended KMA conferences in the past (not nearly as many as I would have liked due to the budget constraints of being a small museum), being able to attend this year was especially meaningful as a scholarship recipient. This allowed me to really focus on the conference without having the worry in the back of my mind of how the McPherson Museum was going to afford it.

As I attended the sessions on both days I was impressed by the quality and diversity of the subjects presented and learned something from each one. It was sometimes difficult in deciding between which session to attend when they coincided with each other. However, there was one that was especially interesting and that I'm sure I will be referencing the information I received from it in the future.

I found the information in Photographing Collections and FADGI Standards session explained in a clear manner that was easy to understand. Especially helpful were the presenters showing examples of the equipment that the KSHS uses and how it is set up for photographing either artifacts or documents. The handout that was provided listing the best cameras and tools to use, along with approximate costs involved and websites where the equipment could be purchased, was much appreciated. I am looking forward to start implementing the guidelines they set forth for imaging the collections in our own museum.
Another aspect of the conference that I thoroughly enjoyed was the chance to participate in a session as part of a panel with other museum colleagues in presenting Lessons Learned: Stories of Sweet Success and Dismal Failure. Our panel was comprised of the winners from the 2017 Institutional Project Grant Program. We each gave a short presentation where we outlined our projects, the steps taken to complete them, and the success and/or failures we may have had along the way in completing the requirements necessary for obtaining the grant. On a personal note, this was very meaningful to me as I felt a part of what KMA is all about - the coming together and sharing ideas with my fellow museum peers. And it was a way of giving back, in some small way, to the institution of KMA that has done so much for me.

I cannot begin to thank the Scholarship Committee, and KMA Board of Directors enough for choosing me as one of the recipients for this year’s scholarship. I also want to thank those responsible in Independence for hosting a wonderful KMA Conference. If you haven't attended a KMA conference before, or if it has been a while since you were last at one, I urge you to consider coming to next year's conference. I guarantee that you will come away learning something worthwhile to take back to your institution and you will make new friends or renew old connections. As one of cohosts for next year, the McPherson Museum and I look forward to seeing all of you in 2019!

2017 Grant Update: K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum

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.

K-State Historic Costume and Textile Museum - Nelly Don
Clothing Storage and Access Improvement Project

Nell Quinlan Donnelly founded a garment business based in Kansas City. The Donnelly Garment Company flourished for over 50 years and became one of the largest American dress manufacturing labels during the 1940s and 50s.

The Nelly Don collection is the museum’s most requested tour and presentation topic. The museum’s holdings of Donnelly Garment Company objects range from dresses, skirts, jackets, blouses, her patented Handy Dandy aprons, to items made for the military during WWII. The garments cannot be on public display on a continual basis as this would cause unnecessary harm. A careful review of the museum’s Nelly Don Collection revealed they are in excellent condition.

The project proposal improved the access and storage using rolling racks and archival quality wide shouldered covered hangers. The racks can be moved to a meeting room for presentations to accommodate large groups and then returned safely and easily to storage. The archival wide shouldered covered hangers provide a safe and stable method for the Nelly Don garments to remain on hangers in storage. Although nothing replaces the look of a garment displayed on a form, using a wide shouldered hanger provides a more dimensional shape than a common hanger for use during a presentation. The hangers can simply be held up to be shown and shared with participants.

Grant funds purchased 90 broad shouldered hangers, cotton stockinette to cover each hanger, ¼" twill tape, and two Z-style rolling racks. The stockinette material was prewashed and dried, then each hanger covered and sewn by hand. Waist hanger loops were sewn to the inside of each dress to lessen the weight of the garment while hanging. Each rolling rack holds approximately 35 covered hangers with garments with a little space between each garment.

While staff and volunteers were working on the project, each garment was placed on a form and digital photographs taken showing an overall look, detail shots, and images of the garment label. Once the images were edited, they were uploaded to the
museum's database management software along with any revisions to the garment description.

The project rehoused what had been stored on one rolling rack and shelf that housed a few hanging Nelly Don garments, four boxes of garments, and an oversized box with Donnelly Garment Company ephemera. The new storage provided two additional rolling racks and all new archival grade hangers for the garments. An additional benefit of the project—we were able to improve information and images in our database about the Nelly Don collection as we progressed.

---

**Webinars and Continuing Education Opportunities**

**Northeast Document Conservation Center:**
The NEDCC is presenting **DIGITAL DIRECTIONS: Fundamentals of Creating and Managing Digital Collections**, August 19-20 in Overland Park, Kansas. Registration is $300 for students, $395 for early birds - TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION! Scholarships are available.

**National Association for Interpretation's Upcoming Webinars**

**What Does Audience Inclusion Truly Mean?**
June 11
12-1 pm Central
Register

**Using Guest Input to Create Meaningful Sensory Inclusive Staff Training**
June 27
12-1 pm Central
Register

**American Association for State and Local History's Upcoming Webinars**

**Get Ready to Plan Strategically**
Advocacy Connection and Museums in the News

America is Losing its Memory - T.J. Styles, The Washington Post

A New Civil War Museum Speaks Truths in the Former Capital of the Confederacy - Andrew M. Davenport, Smithsonian.com

Historic Sites at Risk With Proposed Changes to The National Register of Historic Places - David Anderson, Forbes

Beyond Romantic Advertisements: Ancestry.com, Genealogy, and White Supremacy - Adam H. Domby, Black Perspectives

What it Felt Like: If 'Living History' Role-Plays in the Classroom Can So Easily Go Wrong, Why do Teachers Keep Assigning Them? - Rebecca Onion, Slate

'The Clotilda' the Last Known Slave Ship to Arrive in the U.S., Is Found - Allison Keyes, Smithsonian.com

'The Louvre is Suffocating': Staff at Paris's Top Museum Go on Strike as Visitor Numbers Surge - Kate Brown, ArtNet

I.M. Pei, Venerated Architect Behind Iconic Museums, is Dead at 102 - Alex Greenberger, ArtNews
Free Access to All the Papers in Our Special Issue on Young Children's Museum Geographies: Spatial, Material and Bodily Ways of Knowing - Under Fives in Museums

**Should These Clothes Be Saved?** - Vanessa Friedman, The New York Times

**Do Volunteers Still Have a Place in Museums and Cultural Organizations?** - Piotr Bienkowski, Apollo Magazine

**Why There? Figuring Out the Presence of America's History Organizations** - Max van Balgooy, Engaging Places

**How Museums Tidy Up** - Ellen C. Caldwell, JSTOR Daily

**A Previously Hidden Cupid in One of Vermeer's Most Famous Paintings is Being Restored** - Wallace Ludel, Artsy

---

**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