In Case You Missed It: KMA Statement on Social Justice and Racial Equity + Resources for Museums and Staff

From the Kansas Museums Association Board of Directors:

The KMA mission is: To promote museums and to provide leadership, advocacy, and training for the Kansas museum community.

The Kansas Museums Association (KMA) Board of Directors is deeply concerned about systemic racism in our country against Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and people of color. Our commitment to racial equality and inclusion cannot be only during moments of crisis, but must extend to amplify social justice practices and work to see a future where the world is a more equitable place. KMA is committed to engaging in and facilitating education and frank discussions to create meaningful museum experiences in which every person is supported, welcomed, and treated with dignity and respect.

We strive to ensure that all voices are lifted up through the lenses of art, science, and history.

In This Issue

KMA News and Updates
COVID-19 Updates
Good News
In Memoriam
Grant Report
Spotlight On
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

Mountain Plains Museums Association Annual Conference
September 22-25, 2020 Virtual Meeting

American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting
September 23-26, 2020 Virtual Meeting

Kansas Museums Association Conference
November 4-6, 2020 Virtual Meeting

American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting
May 9-12, 2021 Chicago, IL

Employment Listings

No current openings
During moments of crisis, but must extend to amplify social justice practices and work to see a future where the world is a more equitable place. KMA is committed to engaging in and facilitating education and frank discussion to create meaningful museum experiences in which every person is supported, welcomed, and treated with dignity and respect. We strive to ensure that all voices are lifted up through the lenses of art, science, and history.

For more information and resource updates moving forward, see the KMA website at ksmuseums.org. To share a resource there, contact Jamin Landavazo. If you have questions or want to engage in meaningful dialogue that moves the association and your peers forward please contact Executive Director Lisa Dodson or Assistant Director Jamin Landavazo.

Submit Session Proposals
Better Together | Kansas Museums Association Annual Conference | November 4-6, 2020 | Virtual

During these unprecedented times, working together our impact can far exceed what we can accomplish alone. Share unique ways that you collaborate within your own institution, with other museums, and with organizations outside the museum field. Share pertinent ways that you reach out to new or underrepresented populations. How do you work together to strengthen relevance and reach in your community?

Of particular interest are session topics about education and programming, collaboration, audience development, collections care, exhibits, administration and board engagement, volunteer management, preservation, conservation, financial stability, and COVID 19 processes, procedures and lessons learned.

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!

Join us online November 4-6!
Deadline for proposal submission: **July 13, 2020**
To see the form and submit a proposal, click **here**.

Apply Now to Host the 2022 KMA Conference in Your Town
KMA wants to bring the conference to YOUR town in 2022! The RFP for hosting KMA’s Annual Conference is now open. Click here for details - submission deadline is **September 30, 2020**.
COVID-19 Updates

AASLH Transitions to Online Annual Meeting for Fall 2020:
From the American Association for State and Local History -
Due to the ongoing uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, AASLH will hold its 2020 Annual Meeting this fall online instead of gathering in person in Las Vegas. We are working with the Tropicana Hotel and our 2020 Host Committee to find a time in fall 2023 to return to Las Vegas. For more information, visit AASLH's conference page here.

____________________________

Congratulations to NEH CARES Act Grant Recipients from Kansas: The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has announced the awarding of $40.3 million in new CARES Act economic stabilization grants to support essential operations at more than 300 cultural institutions across the country. The application process was highly competitive, and 317 awards were made from over 2,300 eligible applications. Congratulations to two Kansas museums who were awarded with grants!

NEH CARES Grant Awards in Kansas
Douglas County Historical Society
Project Title: Reinventing the Museum for a Time of Social Distancing Project
Description: The retention of six staff members to produce online programs and develop outdoor programs that meet guidelines for social distancing.

University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.
Project Title: Spencer Art at Home: Sustaining Public Access to Art, Ideas, and Experiences with the Spencer Museum of Art
Project Description: The retention of seventeen positions to create the museum's online public programs, K-12 and college instruction, and exhibitions.

To read the announcement and see a full list of awardees, click here.

Good News!
Museum Happenings Across Kansas

We could all use some good news now, right? Here are a few examples of our Kansas museums developing new programming, new ways of reaching their audiences, and new ways of helping their communities in this month's edition of Good News!

The Kansas African American Museum - Wichita
TKAAM didn't let COVID get in the way of their Juneteenth
celebration! Instead, they produced the JuneteenthICT 2020 Virtual Parade, an event held on Facebook. The video is available [here](#), and features a number of speakers, discussions of local history, historical photographs, musical performances and more - it is a must see. Dr. Lona Reeves, Education Director, also spoke to a local TV news crew to educate a wider audience about the origins of Juneteenth. We appreciate your work!

**Kansas Sampler Foundation - Inman**
The Kansas Explorers Club is known for looking for hidden gems and sights off the beaten path - and that includes museums! KSF sent out a newsletter to their Explorers Club members highlighting a few "must see" museums recently. Whether you are ready to get out and explore or just planning from the safety of your home, check out their link [here](#) for more ideas for a road trip of your own!

**Coffey County Historical Society & Museum - Burlington**
Watch the [YouTube video](#) that they shared on Opothleyahola, a member of the Lower Creek tribe who was forced into relocation in "Indian Territory" (present day Oklahoma) via the Trail of Tears. As the Civil War began he wrote to President Lincoln to plead for aid and protection, but as he and 10,000 other Indigenous People and 600 slaves relocated to Kansas to receive the promised aid, they found little but hardship. Thank you for sharing this important story from Kansas history.

**Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum - Chanute**
You might not be taking a trip this summer, but you can follow Martin and Osa Johnson virtually on their journeys! The museum's [Facebook page](#) has been sharing images from a trip the Johnsons took to North Borneo, featuring the people, animals, and landscape. From fishing adventures to lion cubs, it's worth a look!

**University of Kansas Natural History Museum - Lawrence**
KU's Natural History Museum has been taking their programming to the people! In their [Citizen Science Projects](#), they have invited community members to record biodiversity observations, interact with other enthusiasts, and learn about organisms literally in their own backyards. They have had 684 species observed - how cool! In their [Museum from Home](#) program, they have rounded up books, videos, hands on activities and more to explore while the museum is closed.

**Alice C. Sabatini Art Gallery, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library - Topeka**
Themed months help visitors dig deep on a particular subject - this month's is the ocean! [The site](#) helps you explore ocean themed art, contains quests to help you engage with the subject and create your own story, and rounds out with ocean reading lists from picture books to Young Adult reading. Delve into their other themes as well - you will be glad you did!
Do you have more good news to share with us about what your museum is doing during this time - or anything else? Send us an email and we will feature you in next month's newsletter!

In Memoriam: Robert W. Richmond

Robert W. Richmond, former president of AASLH (1985-86), Award of Distinction recipient, and former Assistant Executive Director and Treasurer of the Kansas State Historical Society, passed away at age 92 last month. To read the full obituary, click here.

2018 Grant Report: Tonganoxie Community Historical Society

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 2018 grants.

The Tonganoxie Community Historical Society was awarded a $500.00 KMA Institutional Grant for a project to upgrade storage facilities for oversized archives and artifacts. We wanted to provide storage and better accessibility to our large maps, panoramic photographs, and blue prints and site drawings.

Previously these large items had been rolled or placed loose in the large map storage cabinet. It was difficult to locate an individual item and fragile paper was difficult to open flat after having been stored in a roll. After consultation with specialists, we decided to flatten the maps and other large pieces with weights. This took some time.

Next, the flattened materials were placed in labeled folders
carrying both the Past Perfect accession number and the title and date of the map. Only three very large items are not in folders as they were too large to store in a flat manner. Hanging on the side of our map cabinet is a list of the contents with drawer number for location which enables a researcher to locate a particular document.

We are grateful for this grant that allowed us to properly store our oversized items making them more accessible to our researchers. We find the maps are used more frequently and this project has stimulated interest in adding more maps to our archive.

---

**Spotlight On: Dawn Sisson, Curator, Chase County Historical Society and Museum**

In 2019, ten 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 McPherson and Lindsborg eager to learn and grow with their colleagues in the profession. We will be sharing recaps of their experiences throughout the year as we look forward to the 2020 conference.

---

**From Dawn Sisson:**

Do you want to go someplace where you feel like you fit in and everyone understands you? That is how I feel when I attend the Annual KMA Conference.

The 2019 conference was unique in the fact that we were bused from McPherson to Lindsborg to the events and workshops. Honestly this time spent on the buses was very beneficial for me. I made conversation Cheryl from Riley Co. who led me to a conversation with Susan at Flint Hills Discovery Center on a project we had shared interest in. Then Brett from McPherson has already emailed me a link to join a forum online helping me answer a photograph question. I also swapped information with Katie from Stanton to get more information on their traveling coalition of museums in her area. Lisa from Emporia approached me about "collaborating" and we plan to get together in the near future. Networking, helping
What have I brought back to put to use in our museum? I currently am working on a collections policy. During the workshop "Stewards of the Past" I learned, though a delicate topic, deaccessioning is sometimes needed and a policy on how to collect more effectively will lessen the need for deaccessioning. The group was given the name of a book as a resource, "Things Great and Small Collection Management Procedures", by John Simmons, to help us through the process.

During the round table sessions I visited with Abigail from humanitieskansas.org. The Chase County Historical Society and Museum has produced two videos, a video on the local cattle industry "Rediscovering the West" and a second on the Quarry industry "Chase County's Hidden Wealth". We have been trying to decide how we could fund more local history video topics. The grant funds they offer would be a source of accomplishing this goal. We have begun the process of working on a grant application.

I am looking forward to presenting "Thinking Differently: Measuring for Improvement" I participated in during my first workshop. I feel this will help me and the board to stay focused on the main goal(s) to accomplish our mission. I look forward to ordering the book suggested, "The Essential Guide to setting Goals....", by David Grant, to help me with this task.

These are just some of the great resources and experiences I acquired. The Conference is 3 days packed with fun, comradery and learning. It has a feeling of being part of something bigger, like a museum family. Thank you for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. It would not have been possible otherwise for me to attend all 3 days. I am so glad I didn't "Miss Out on Anything!"

---

**Webinars and Continuing Education Opportunities**

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

**Creating a Flint Hills Fandom: Taking Interpretation to the Masses**
June 30
12:00 - 1:00 pm Central
[Register](#)

**Is it Working? Interpretation Assessment Methods**
July 14
12:00 - 1:00 pm Central
[Register](#)
Can We Talk? Effective Climate Conversations  
July 21  
12:00 - 1:00 pm Central  
Register

Connecting to Collections Care's Upcoming Webinars  
Care of Historic Silk  
July 22  
1:00 - 2:30 pm Central  
Register

Texas Historical Commission's Upcoming Webinars  
How to Develop Effective Social Media Content to Engage Your Visitors  
July 9  
10:00 am Central  
Register

Grant Evaluation: Setting Goals and Measuring Impact  
July 22  
2:00 pm Central  
Register

UW Madison Information School's Upcoming Webinars  
Civic Engagement During the Time of COVID-19  
July 14  
12:00 - 1:00 pm Central  
Register

Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists' Upcoming Webinars  
Conference Videos  
The ARCS Board decided to make conference recordings available to everyone for the next few weeks. These resources, which are usually only available to active members, can be accessed using the links below.

- 2019 Conference Videos and Presentations  
- 2017 Conference Videos and Presentations  
- 2015 Conference Audio Recordings and Presentations

Additional Webinars  
* File Storage for Digitization, June 30, 1:00 pm Central, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, register
Crowdsourcing and E-Volunteers: Two National Examples, June 30, 2:00 pm Central, Southeastern Museums Conference, register

Small but Mighty: Navigating the New Normal as a Small or Mid-sized Museum, July 1, 1:00 pm Central, Cuseum, register

Disability and Digital Access, July 1, 1:00 am Central, Ford Foundation, register

Do's and Don'ts of Communicating with Your Community During COVID-19, July 1, 1:00 pm Central, Grantspace, register

Gender Equity in the Museum (and Arts) Workplace, July 2, 1:00 pm Central, College Art Association of America, register

File Specifications for Digitization, July 7, 1:00 pm Central, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, register

Introduction to Proposal Writing, July 8, 1:00 pm Central, Grantspace, register

Foundations and Funding: Changes in Philanthropic Giving During COVID-19, July 9, 11:30 am Central, Western Museums Association, register

Is the Time Right for a Capital Campaign?, July 14, 12:00 pm Central, Mission Advancement, register

Metadata for Digitization, July 14, 1:00 pm Central, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, register

Integrated Pest Management, July 16, 1:00 pm Central, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, register

Using a Standardized Tool to Understand the Visitor Experience, July 16, 2:00 pm Central, California Association of Museums, register

In-House Digitization vs. Outsourcing and Quality Control, July 21, 1:00 pm Central, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, register

Digitization Equipment Selection, July 28, 1:00 pm Central, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, register

Advocacy Connection and Museums in the News

A New Approach to Diversity and Inclusion - Janet B. Reid, Ph.D. and Vincent R. Brown, Psychology Today
The New 3 Rs: Resilience, Responsibility and Risk - Avi Decter and Ken Yellis, AASLH Blog

Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery website

Museum Women, Working, and COVID-19 - Joan Baldwin, Leadership Matters

The Best Online LGBT Exhibitions for Pride Month - Nadja Sayej, The Guardian

Native Knowledge 360: Transforming Teaching and Learning About Native Americans - Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

From Heirloom Harvests to Victory Gardens: Museums Feeding Communities During COVID-19 - Michelle Moon, AASLH Blog

Yard Work: 6 Feet Away Gallery Brings Art to the People, and Vice-Versa - Shelton Hull, VOID

The Walker Art Center Officially Cuts Ties with Minneapolis Police-Will More Museums Follow Suit? - Lilly Smith, Fast Company

Archives Department Acknowledges Role in Distorting Alabama's Racial History - Mike Cason, AL.com

Will Historic Preservation Survive COVID-19? - Dante Ciampaglia, ADPro

Archivists' Guide to Archiving Video - Witness

Community-Based Approaches to Archives From the Black Lives Matter Movement - Yvonne Ng, Witness

Injustice in Science [Museums] - Ivel Gontan, Museum 2.0

Security and Operational Priorities for Reopening Cultural Institutions - Darrell Utt and Bill Edwards, American Alliance of Museums

In a Post-COVID World, What Museums Do Outside Their Walls Will Become as Important as What They Put on Them - Madeleine Grynsztejn, ArtNet

COVID-19's Impact on Nonprofits' Revenues, Digitization, and Mergers - David La Piana, Stanford Social Innovation Review

Contact Information
Lisa Dodson, Executive Director