Reflecting and Recharged in McPherson and Lindsborg: KMA Turns 50 and Looks to the Future

We could not have asked for a better way to celebrate turning 50 - we were welcomed into two communities that were such friendly and amazing hosts, we spent our time in beautiful and often historic surroundings, we heard from excellent speakers and presenters from near and far, and, best of all, we spent it with many of you - our members and friends. With our attendance pushing 150, this conference was the biggest in recent memory and we appreciate each of you coming to honor our past and look to our future supporting Kansas museums and those who make them a vital part of our cultural landscape.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our 2020 conference, which will take place in Lawrence in November (dates will be announced soon; check the KMA website for updates).
KMA Celebrates Scholarship, Award, and Grant Winners and KMA Legacy Members

Congratulations to all of our conference scholarship, award, and grant winners, as well as our KMA Legacy Members!

Scholarship winners
Scholarship winners were provided a free conference registration as well as a $300 stipend to help cover transportation and lodging. This year's winners (in alphabetical order) are:

**Jennifer Barnes**, Director's Assistant, Morton County Historical Society Museum  
**Gretchen Boyum**, Director of Education and Programming, Salina Art Center  
**Skye Conley**, Graduate Student, University of Kansas  
**Mary Glasgow**, Curator, OZ Museum/Columbian Theatre Foundation  
**Jan Moore**, Director, Sheridan County Historical Society and Mickey's Museum  
**Hannah Schifman**, Visitor Studies Intern/Museum Studies MA Student, Kansas Museum of History  
**Rebecca Schrag**, Exhibition Assistant, Kauffman Museum  
**Dawn Sisson**, Curator/Director, Chase County Historical Society and Museum  
**Ruby Wiehman**, Curator, Fort Bissell Museum (Phillips County Historical Society)  
**Sheila Yrjanainen**, Curatorial Assistant, Coutts Museum of Art
Award winners

The Award of Excellence is presented to an institution whose project or achievements are worthy of special recognition. This year, KMA recognized TWO outstanding projects.

Award of Excellence: Flint Hills Discovery Center for their "Prairie Garden Terrace and Trail." This project's interpretive theme highlights the unique Flint Hills tallgrass prairie and its hidden diversity as worth celebrating and saving. This collaborative project fosters a greater sense of stewardship and emotional connection to the Flint Hills eco-region through strengthening community and visitor understanding and appreciation of the fun and enlightening features of the Flint Hills.

Award of Excellence: Kauffman Museum for "Campaign for a New China: Looking Back on Posters from the Cultural Revolution, 1966 -1976" Exhibition and Programs. This highly collaborative project maximized relationships with Bethel College faculty and students and humanities consultants to create an exhibition that supported learning how China used art to arouse social consciousness while suppressing freedom of expression - themes that continue to be relevant to international issues today.

The Design Award is presented to an institution that demonstrates superior graphic design.

Design Award: Ulrich Museum of Art, WSU for their "Kevin Mullins: Fire in the Paint Locker" exhibition catalogue. This catalogue highlights the artist's career, contributions to the art community, and the exhibition itself through staying true to the late artist's aesthetic and serving as an extension of his work.
The Distinguished Service Award is given to an individual whose achievements are worthy of special recognition.

**Distinguished Service Award: Jan Luth from Exploration Place, Wichita, KS.**

With a museum career of more than 35 years, Jan has in the last 9 years at Exploration Place increased the quality and standard of their programs and projects. This dedication has led to national recognition, increased audience participation, and increased funding to better serve their community. These projects included enhancing the public's understanding of science, encouraging young people to pursue potential careers in STEM fields, and aid in providing the public with better understanding of conserving Kansas' natural resources. Thank you, Jan, for your commitment and dedicated years of service to the Kansas Museum Community.

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**Grant winners**

Grants are awarded to current Institutional members of KMA for project-specific expenditures, such as materials, supplies, services, postage and printing. Tools or equipment can be purchased, but must be required for the specified project. Grant recipients have 1 year from the time of the award to complete their project, and then share a short article which is distributed in the newsletter. Watch for the 2018 grant recipients' articles coming soon!

**Clay County Historical Society** for the grant "Geological Exhibit Upgrade and Expansion."

**Coutts Museum of Art** for the grant "Marble Wall-hanging Rail system."

**Lowell D Holmes Museum of Anthropology** for the grant "Tactile display for vision impaired visitors."

**Phillips County Historical Society** for the grant "Creating new Photographs from old originals."

**Scott County Historical Society** (El Quartelejo Museum & Jerry Thomas Gallery and Collection) for the grant "Museum Archival Supplies."

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**KMA Legacy Members**
This year, the Kansas Museums Association wanted to especially recognize those institutions who were instrumental in supporting KMA when it was formed in 1969 and continue to support our mission today. Certificates were awarded to the following Kansas institutions that were in attendance at the 1969 founding meeting. Institutions marked with *are 2019 KMA members (not all museums are represented in the photo):

Barton County Historical Society
*Boot Hill Museum, Inc., Dodge City
*Dalton Defenders Museum, Coffeyville
Decatur County Historical Museum
*Dickinson County Historical Society
*Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum
*Ellsworth County Historical Museum
Fort Hays State College, Hays
Fort Markley and Indian Village, Seneca
*Harvey County Historical Society
*Independence Museum
Kansas Health Museum, Halstead
*Kansas State Historical Society
*Kansas University Museum of Art
*Kansas University Museum of Natural History
*Kauffman Museum, North Newton
Marion County Historical Society
*McPherson County Museum, McPherson
Menninger Foundation
Mill Creek Museum, Alma
Pioneer Museum, Ashland
Rawlins County Historical Society
*Riley County Historical Museum
*Smoky Hill Historical Museum
Sod Town Museum, Colby
*Wichita Historical Museum
Want to Get More Involved? Sign Up for a KMA Committee!

KMA is excited to start implementing our recently adopted Strategic Plan, and we need your help! Have you wanted to get more involved in KMA, help guide us as we start our next 50 years, and network and collaborate with colleagues across the state? Sign up today, and we will connect you with a committee in your interest area - options include:

- Membership/Communication
- Finance/Development
- Advocacy
- Programming

The Board will be determining committee goals and agendas in early 2020, and the time commitment is low. Click [here](#) to register your interest and indicate the committee/s you would like to join. Reach out to Jamin at [asstdirector@ksmuseums.org](mailto:asstdirector@ksmuseums.org) with any additional questions.

Good News!

Museum Happenings Across Kansas

[Photo from Ellsworth County]

Ellsworth County/Hodgden House Hosts Family Reunion

From Ellsworth County:

The Hodgden Reunion for 2019 was held in June, and was enjoyed by over 30 people throughout the day. Hodgden descendants from several states attended some came from Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. Several family members were in the direct lineage of Perry Hodgden. They certainly enjoyed seeing how very well the Hodgden House has been preserved over the years. Thanks so much to the ECHS for
preserving the complex over the years, and for a wonderful meeting center to be shared and utilize for wonderful celebrations of family!

Have good news? Send it to Jamin at asstdirector@ksmuseums.org - we would love to feature you in an upcoming newsletter!

Upcoming Deadlines from AASLH

December 9: Submit AASLH Session Proposals for 2020 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada September 23-26. The 2020 conference theme is "What Kind of Ancestor Will You Be?" Click here for more information and to submit a session proposal.

December 15: History Leadership Institute applications due. Click here for more information and to apply.

National Visitation Report now available for FREE!!!
AASLH, with the support of museums across the country (including Kansas) has put together a comprehensive report to answer the question, "Do Americans still visit history organizations?" You can download summaries or the full report for FREE here and use them to help demonstrate trends and impacts to your board, elected officials, and community.

From AASLH:
To answer this question, AASLH gathered data from more than 1,250 history organizations throughout the country in Spring 2019. This inaugural National Visitation Report provides an analysis of nationwide visitation trends.

Our findings are presented in two parts. The "Summary" provides a broad overview of our findings along with info-graphics to help you visualize the data. The "Full Report" provides a much more detailed analysis, including tables and graphs describing trends at institutions of different sizes, types, and in different regions. We hope this data offers a useful benchmark for institutions to assess their own visitation and provides a foundation for further study.
Webinars and Continuing Education Opportunities

National Association for Interpretation's Upcoming Webinars:
Earth Day 2020: 50th Anniversary Initiatives
December 3
12:00 pm Central
Register (FREE)

Small Yet Mighty: Writing Interpretive Captions
December 10
12:00 - 1:00 pm Central
Register

American Association for State and Local History's Upcoming Webinars:
Introduction to Audio, Visual and Film Media and Their Care
December 5
2:00 - 3:30 pm Central
Register

Beyond the Spreadsheet: Finance and Organizational Priorities
December 12
2:00 - 3:15 pm Central
Register

Connecting to Collections Care's Upcoming Webinars
Insurance: How to Manage Your Organization's Risk
December 5
1:00 - 2:30 pm Central
Register (FREE)

Texas Historical Commission's Upcoming Webinars
Free Webinar: Incorporating Transportation History into Exhibits
December 5
2:00 pm Central
Register

Advocacy Connection and Museums in the News

Museum Store Sunday December 1 - Find a Store Near You!

Interested in Hosting Reenactors at Your Historic Site? This Free Guide is for You
Need a New Podcast to Binge While Traveling this Holiday Season? StoriesHere Features Museum Leaders from around the Country

National Trust to Use 'Augmented Reality' Headsets to Show How Climate Change will Destroy Their Properties Unless Climate Change is Addressed - Helena Horton, The Telegraph

One Unicorn at a Time, Seattle’s Vu Le Fights for Equity in Nonprofits - Naomi Ishisaka, The Seattle Times

Baltimore Museum of Art Will Collect Works Exclusively by Women in 2020 - Brigit Katz, Smithsonian.com

Lost Masterpiece Found Broken in Two in Gallery Storage, After BBC Expert Identified it From Cow’s Backsides - Anita Singh, The Telegraph

Venice Scrambles to Save its Treasures as Floodwaters Again Submerge the City - Associated Press, The Los Angeles Times

Hitler’s House in Austria to Become Police Station - BBC News

University of Kansas Adds Joint Museum Studies/African & African-American Studies Master's Degree Option

Minor Offenders Can Substitute Jail Time for an Art Class at the Brooklyn Museum - Hakim Bishara, Hyperallergic

The Unprecedented Effort to Preserve a Million Letters Written by U.S. Soldiers During Wartime - April White, Smithsonian.com

Museums Are Trying to Fireproof Themselves in the Age of Climate Change - Cole Kazdin, VICE

Where Can You Find Things Like Giant Sequins and Fake Dirt? Check Out the Great Big Exhibit Resource List! - Paul Orselli, ExhibiTricks Blog


A Museum in Wales Had a Botticelli Right Under Their Noses and Didn’t Realize it Until This Helpful TV Art Detective Told Them - Javier Pes, ArtNet

Contact Information
Lisa Dodson, Executive Director
Email: director@ksmuseums.org