In Case You Missed It:
The Latest News from KMA

As the first month of the year comes to a close, check out what KMA is working on!

Membership renewal: KMA’s membership is on a calendar year basis, so now is the time to sign up! Get news and updates, help guide our organizational planning, receive valuable discounts, and much more. To sign up, click here. There is an option to receive an invoice if you need to pay with a check.

Request for proposal - 2021 Conference: This week we opened the RFP for our 2021 conference. Bringing KMA to your town is a great way to collaborate with other museums and show off all that you have to offer! To learn more about what is required to be a host museum and to apply, click here. Application deadline is April 1, 2020.

Ad newsletter: KMA’s ad newsletter is a low cost, high visibility way to get the word out about programs, share details of museum supplies and furniture you have to sell, and keep your business visible outside of the conference. New this year - get 6 ads for the price of 5 when you sign up to advertise in each issue in 2020! Hurry - this deal expires a week from today on February 7. Click here to get started. Contact asstdirector@ksmuseums.org with questions!

Planning Underway for the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026

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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 Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting
May 17-20, 2020
San Francisco, CA

Mountain Plains Museums Association Annual Conference
September 2-5, 2020
Sioux Falls, SD

American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting
September 23-26, 2020
Las Vegas, NV

Kansas Museums Association Conference
November 4-6, 2020
Lawrence, KS

Employment Listings

Museum Director
Johnson County Museum, Overland Park
NEH Receives Funding for 250th Anniversary: Included in NEH’s appropriation for FY 2020 is $4.17 million for the agency’s "A More Perfect Union" initiative. The funding is part of the agency's $162.25 million budget, an increase of $7.25 million from last year and the largest increase in a decade. Read more.

AASLH Receives Grant to Help Small Historical Organizations’ Plan for the 250th Anniversary:

AASLH received a $150,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop planning and educational resources to help small historical organizations prepare for the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.

The fifteen-month grant will enable AASLH to develop and share new resources for history museums, historical societies, historic sites, and other institutions as they prepare for the Semiquincentennial. AASLH will work with partners throughout the nation’s history community to develop guiding historical themes for the commemoration, gather and share new data on the state of the field, and create new educational resources to support local historical organizations. In addition, AASLH will continue to convene partners at fellow associations, federal agencies, and other prominent scholarly and public history organizations to strengthen national planning efforts.

Support from NEH will allow AASLH to continue and expand its role as the history community’s leader for the Semiquincentennial, emphasizing relevant, inclusive history and the essential role of state and local history organizations across the United States. Over the past few years, AASLH has provided feedback and expertise to the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission at important junctures and facilitated communication among national
Transitions at Kauffman Museum

The Kauffman Museum Association Board is pleased to announce that current Curator of Education, Andi Schmidt Andres, has agreed to serve as Acting Director of the museum for 2020. Previous Director, Michael Reinschmidt resigned from his position in early January. The staff team of Curator of Exhibits Chuck Regier, Museum Technician David Kreider, Museum Assistant Kristin Schmidt and Exhibition Assistant Rebecca Schrag are moving forward to create new exhibits and provide dynamic public programs for families, children, college students, and other community groups. Student assistants, an intern and loyal volunteers continue to contribute to the vitality of Kauffman Museum. Stay up to date by following @KauffmanMuseum on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. For more information or if you have questions, check out the museum’s website (kauffman.bethelks.edu) or contact Andi at the museum at asa@bethelks.edu or 316-283-1612.

Spotlight On: Ruby Wiehman - Curator, Fort Bissell Museum/Phillips County Historical Society

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 Ruby Wiehman:

In August when I received the news that my application for a scholarship had been successful, November seemed so far away. However, all too soon the time slipped by and I was on my way to McPherson. I was pregnant with expectation for the 50th annual Kansas Museums Association Conference! I was not disappointed and there were many highlights, but I want to focus on three.

The pre-conference workshop with National Geographic photographer Jim Richardson held in the McPherson Museum kicked off the events for me. I had met Jim before at his gallery, but this was different. Here he was imparting his knowledge to us, to make photography using our smartphones easier and better. When United Pacific's Big Boy steamed into Hays on November 21st, I was there beside the tracks with my smartphone. I thought if he can do it, so can I. In the 120 seconds that the train approached and passed us, I had taken approximately a photo per second using his method and could select the best ones from that. I have also started using his wide-angle mode to capture better images of our museum displays. It was a very useful and hands-on workshop and our newly acquired knowledge could be applied immediately!

On Wednesday evening we were blown away by the traveling reception held in Lindsborg - both figuratively and also literally, as the forecast icy cold front moved in with freezing winds. The idea to have different courses of the meal in different venues, was superb. The starters and wine to warm the inners at Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, were a wonderful start to the evening. We started to meet people whilst admiring the wonderful art. Being bused to the next venue at the Red Barn made us forget about the cold. The wonderful story of the very talented and versatile artist Lester Raymer was shared with us, while we mingled and chatted in the cozy protection of his workshop/home against the cold outside. Our third stop was at the 1904 World's Fair Swedish Pavilion on Heritage square, where we enjoyed divine Swedish treats for dessert. When Kenneth Be played his last tune on the lute, I could actually visualize young girls in their Swedish national costumes dancing light-footedly to the music. All too soon we had to leave and get back in the bus to get back to our hotel.

Probably the most enjoyable talk of the whole conference for me, was Thursday's Keynote Speaker Dylan Thomas with the topic of finding magic in the mundane. My jaw literally dropped at some of the slides with their accompanying stories that he told. The
enthusiasm that he oozes with every story he tells, made many of us buy his book and have it autographed. I for sure wanted to know more and he could have spent another hour or more behind the podium.

I headed home with many newly formed friendships, a head full of new ideas and a heart bursting with pride to be a member of KMA. Thank you for a wonderful 50th conference!

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### 2018 Grant Update: Onaga 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.

**Onaga Historical Society - Project Reframe**

A small museum on a very tight budget, what should we do with documents and photos that need preservation? After all, the Museum has "gotten by" with these artifacts of the area's history just "being there" in the elements and no one has particularly thought much about it. Until one attends a KMA state conference and speakers talk of the "soul" of an artifact in the museum and how it represents the past to the future, names take on meaning and stories to be told. Suddenly, you think, gosh, maybe we should do something differently with these items. With that thought process in mind, the Onaga Historical Society applied for a grant to begin reframing historical pieces in the Museum. The first pieces to be framed were documents establishing the military legacy in our community which included charters for the American Legion Auxiliary.
Legion and Auxiliary. Once framed and viewable, these documents have helped the Onaga Historical Society determine additional veterans from our community and who was influential in the community. Many times their names come up in conjunction with other exhibits we are working on. Descendants of those listed on these framed documents marvel at seeing a name they are connected to and the history this person represents to them in their ongoing history.

The project entailed determining which items in need were the priority pieces to be framed. It was by consensus to start with these particular documents. Since that initial "seed" grant, the Society has continued to reframe items primarily from the military exhibit in the Museum. All framing is done at Candlewood Frame Shop in Manhattan, Kansas.

Many of the documents and photos in the Museum have been framed, but with masking tape or duct tape holding the back of the frame in place, scotch tape holding the picture in the frame, etc. These practices worked in the past but need to be redone for the future preservation of our artifacts. As funds allow, we continue to frame/reframe additional items in the Museum. Our Society now understands the importance of spending money on properly preserving these items, not just "getting by"!

Webinars and Continuing Education Opportunities

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

Facebook Live for Interpretive Programs: Analysis and Tips
February 11
12:00 - 1:00 pm Central
Register

21st-Century NAI Recertification
February 20
12:00 - 1:00 pm Central
Register

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

History Check-in: African American Women's Suffrage
February 11
2:00 - 3:15 pm Central
Register

Best Practices for Working with a Board of Directors
February 20
2:00 - 3:15 pm Central
Register
Connecting to Collections Care's Upcoming Webinars
Identifying and Preserving Motion Picture Film: What It Is and How Can I Save It?
February 20
1:00 - 2:30 pm Central
Register

Texas Historical Commission's Upcoming Webinars
Free Webinar: Sealing the Deal--Making a Compelling Case for Funding with Private Foundations
February 11
2:00 pm Central
Register

Free Webinar: Bringing Objects & Artifacts to Life
February 27
2:00 pm Central
Register

National Art Education Association's Upcoming Webinars
Creating a Safe Space: Our LGBTQ+ Students and Their Allies
February 20
6:00 - 7:00 pm Central
Register

Advocacy Connection and Museums in the News

National Archives Exhibit Blurs Images Critical of President Trump - Joe Helm, The Washington Post

Wichita Museum Exhibits Native American Creation Tale Before it Heads to the Smithsonian - Amy Geiszler-Jones, The Wichita Eagle

You Can Now Explore Every MoMA Exhibit Since 1929 for Free Online - Kelly Richman-Abdou, My Modern Met

Universities Must Open Their Archives and Share Their Oppressive Pasts - Evadne Kelly and Carla Rice, The Conversation

Nomenclature Available as Open Data - Free Downloads In a Number of Formats - AASLH Blog

Artist Inserts People From Classical Paintings Into Today's World, And the Result Is Surprisingly Good - Hidreley, Bored Panda
The Smithsonian Just Opened a Manila Envelope and Discovered Four Yayoi Kusama Paintings It Had No Idea Existed - Brian Boucher, ArtNet

A VW Beetle Spotted in the Insect Collection at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History - Christopher Jobson, Colossal

How Do You Move 100+ Monet Masterpieces? Very, Very Carefully - Stephanie Wolf, NPR

Border Patrol Museum Visitors Want to Talk Current Events. The Staff Doesn’t. - Robyn Ross, The Washington Post

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