

MAMA News

April 2, 2018



Advocacy Day 2018

Museum and Archive Advocacy, report by Candy Sall, MAMA President

Museum Advocacy Days were February 26-27 in Washington DC, and I was able to attend this year in person to talk about the importance of museums and archives. Our Missouri delegation: Mid-America Arts Alliance, a museum person from Joplin now working at the DC Textile museum, and I, were able to visit both senators and 6 of 8 Missouri representatives. The visit was and continues to be a success. Several Missouri representatives signed on to the letter supporting funding for the Office of Museum Services after our visit. Now the senators are working on a companion letter to support OMS.

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Advocacy Alert

We now ask you to contact your senators and ask them to sign the Office of Museum Services letter being circulated by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand today. If you can ask now, that helps build on our momentum. The deadline is April 9th, but earlier is better. You can find a template to ask by email here: <http://www.congressweb.com/AAM/54/> or give your senators' office a call.

National History Day - Judges Needed

Help Students Explore History through National History Day! Judge at the State Contest in April

If you enjoy history, learning new things, and helping others, then you are ready to be a judge at the National History Day in Missouri state contest on April 28 in Columbia.

Volunteer judges are vital to the contest, offering feedback to students on their research projects and helping top finishers prepare for the national contest in June. Judges can expect to spend the day interacting with students from across the state in grades six through twelve. NHDMO's five competitive categories—documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, and website—offer something for everyone.

Judges may volunteer for either a half-day or full-day shift. In appreciation, the State Historical Society of Missouri, which sponsors NHDMO, will provide a light breakfast, lunch, and a travel stipend of up to \$50 for those whose round trip exceeds 75 miles.

Roughly 150 volunteers are needed, so bring a friend and explore the University of Missouri campus after you are finished helping Missouri students. Thank you in advance for sharing your time! For more details or to sign up, visit nhdmo.org/judges or call 573.882.7083.

News

Springfield Art Museum Earns Accreditation from American Alliance of Museums

The Springfield Art Museum is pleased to announce that it has earned accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums at the February 2018 meeting of the Accreditation Commission. Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, only 1,070 are accredited. The Springfield Art Museum is one of only 19 accredited museums in the state of Missouri, and is the only accredited museum in all of southern Missouri.

Museum Director Nick Nelson notes, "Moving through the process of accreditation has been a challenge and reward in and of itself. We found reference in Board meeting notes going back to the 1980s that reference a desire to achieve AAM accreditation. It is extremely gratifying to be able to bring this long-held intention to fruition. It is particularly meaningful for staff and Board to gain this milestone during our 90th anniversary year, in the midst of planning for our next 90 years of excellence in service to our community."

As the ultimate mark of distinction in the museum field, accreditation signifies excellence and credibility to the entire museum community, to governments and outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for over 45 years, the museum accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and

public accountability. Accreditation helps to ensure the integrity and accessibility of museum collections, reinforce the educational and public service roles of museums, and promote good governance practices and ethical behavior.

“Accredited museums are a community of institutions that have chosen to hold themselves publicly accountable to excellence,” says Laura Lott, Alliance president and CEO. “Accreditation is clearly a significant achievement, of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud.”

Accredited institutions enjoy not only national recognition for their commitment to excellence and the highest professional standards of museum operation and public service, they also receive increased credibility with funding agencies and donors, improved relationships with other museums resulting in more loans and travelling exhibitions, attract support for capital improvements, and are viewed as a better risk by the fine arts insurance industry.

<http://www.sgfmuseum.org>

Workshops

Cultural Heritage Workshop - Free!

Friday, April 27, 9:00-4:00, Brunswick

Learn how heritage and culture benefit community and economic development. The goal of this workshop is to provide the tools and resources necessary for communities to start or revive cultural heritage programming in their areas. Lee Ann Woolery, formerly of UM Extension, will be the facilitator at this workshop. She has an extensive background in cultural heritage and arts community programming, and led our three pilot workshops last year. Arthur Mehrhoff will be a guest presenter, as well as Matt Bivens, who is working with us on an interpretive plan for Luxenhaus Farm. The workshop will also include networking opportunities and applied activities. We had a great response to our pilots, and I'm very excited to begin fully implementing them throughout the state.

Register at <http://www.chworkshop.eventbrite.com>

Scholarships

**Small Museums Scholarship for the 2018 AASLH
Annual Meeting and Online Conference
Deadline: June 8**

The American Association for State and Local History will hold its Annual Meeting and Online Conference in Kansas City, MO from September 26-29, 2018. This year's theme is *Truth or Consequences*. Museums and history sites have been ranked among America's most trusted institutions in an age where trust continues to erode and truth sometimes becomes murky. Our history organizations maintain the trust if we continue to tell the truth. But what is truth when our work is based on interpretation of the historical evidence and interpretations change? How do people know what to believe?

Now in its twelfth year, AASLH's Small Museums Committee is offering scholarships to any AASLH members who are full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small museums. Each \$700 scholarship will cover the cost of both the conference registration and the Small Museums luncheon. Any remaining funds may be used to offset travel and/or lodging expenses. Acceptance of the scholarship is contingent upon recipients submitting a post to the AASLH Big Ideas for Small Museums blog about their Annual Meeting experience.

<http://blogs.aaslh.org/2018-small-museums-scholarships/>

Events

Closing the Gap: An Intergenerational Exploration of Educational Equity

Saturday, April 7, 1:00 pm, Missouri History Museum, St. Louis

What does it mean to be a student in today's education system? How do issues of race play out on social and administrative levels? How do the experiences of today's students of color differ from previous generations, and what lessons can be learned by sharing those experiences?

Join in for an engaging and fun afternoon participating in peer-to-peer and intergenerational activities and dialogues that explore these questions.

http://mohistory.org/events/closing-the-gap-an-intergenerational-exploration-of-educational-equity_1523124000

Blood River Rising: The Thompson-Crismon Feud of the 1920s

Thursday, April 12, 7:00 pm, Missouri State Archives,
Jefferson City

When 86-year-old Hadley Thompson insisted rural historian Victoria Hubbell look into why two Miller County citizens were murdered back in 1924, she was skeptical at first. Not only had the murders taken place nearly a century before, but the culprit was never in question. What difference could a motive make now? That opinion changed over time, however, with Thompson's insistence that an active Ku Klux Klan group in the Missouri Ozarks fueled a feud between his family and their neighbors, the Crismons. "The Klan [in the area] weren't never about race. It were always about power and greed." The unlikely duo of Thompson and Hubbell tramped through fields, combed old newspapers and traveled down dusty gravel roads to uncover what made friends and neighbors turn against each other during the turmoil filled years following World War I. Using extensive interviews and primary source materials, Hubbell pieces together a picture of this shadowy part of Missouri's past in her book, *Blood River Rising: The Thompson-Crismon Feud of the 1920s*. Join us as Dr. Victoria Hubbell presents this fascinating case study examining power and influence in the Ozarks during the 1920s.

<https://friendsofmsa.org/events/index.php>

Music at the Mansion

Saturday, April 14, 12:30 pm, Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, St. Joseph

Enjoy live music performed by five St. Joseph area bands with food and beverages available for purchase. Tour all three floors of the Mansion during the event. \$5.00 admission at the door, children under 8 are free.

<http://stjosephmuseum.org/museums/wyeth-tootle/>

*African American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series:
Patricia Cleary*

Monday, April 16, 6:30 pm, Memorial Student Union,
University of Missouri

In the histories of colonial St. Louis, people of African descent appear most often as enslaved men

and women forced into doing the hard labor of settlement. Traces of their existence are visible in records relating to slave auctions and census documents enumerating their presence in households. But the fabric of their daily lives can be difficult to recover. Patricia Cleary, the author of *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil: A History of Colonial St. Louis*, will illuminate the vital roles African Americans played in the early village on the Mississippi, exploring how they experienced violence and expressed themselves in a community frequently torn by discord and unrest.

<https://shsmo.org/events/#clearylecture>

Exhibits - New!

Armin Mühsam: Archipeinture

March 23 through June 19, Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph

Armin Mühsam has cobbled together an enviable artist's biography. The umlaut in his name tips its dotted cap to his childhood in Germany. His undergraduate degree is German and his MFA was granted in Montana. European and American exhibitions fill his extensive resume and he serves as Professor of Painting at Northwest Missouri State University as well. His artistic practice is steeped in the history of art. Mühsam is an archetypal artist of the twenty-first century- a naturalized American polyglot with his intellectual pedigree cultivated in another nation and his heart rooted in brash American self-determinism.

His work appears cool and distant, but under the surface it smolders with passion for painting. Mühsam worships at the altar of form and shape. Squares, rectangles, triangles, and polygons are his spiritual icons. Instinctual juxtapositions constitute the doctrine of his abstract denomination. Cezanne once advised others to compose the world using cylinders, spheres, and cones. For Mühsam, geometry is his world. Since arriving in Missouri, he has stripped his life down to a minimalist's routine focused on art. *Archipeinture* represents the latest phase of his artistic and personal evolution. The title references an underlying architecture of painting that Mühsam explores as he continues to deconstruct the painted surface.

A Life's Looking Glass: The Collection of John Mallery

March 23 through June 19, Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph

John Mallery is the founder and owner of a computer forensics firm. He is also a public speaker, former circus performer, birder, and print fetishist. Although his employment is firmly entrenched in the digital realm, he discovered a deep connection to analogue printmaking. *A Life's Looking Glass* focuses on the collector as much as the work, utilizing Mallery's impressive print collection to tell a fascinating life story. The labels employ a unique first-person perspective to explain Mallery's collecting choices and his connection to the prints. While the narrative is specific to the collector, it helps any viewer understand why patrons choose to collect art.

Call for Content

Send events, news, exhibits, announcements, job postings and anything else you want to see in the newsletter to <mailto:mary.stansfield@sos.mo.gov>

Missouri Association for Museums and Archives

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<https://mama.wildapricot.org/>

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