

MAMA News

December 1, 2017



News

New Donations at the Weston Historical Museum, by Museum Curator Carolyn Larsen

In recent months, the museum has received two very interesting donations.

One is an old pinball machine made of walnut, with a glass top. Believed to be at least 70 years old, there are no lights, no bells, no whistles, and no electricity. The "find" was in the attic storeroom of Toonerville Tavern, in Beverly, Missouri. It was donated to the museum by Mr. Bill Cecil, a former resident of Beverly. Now on display in The Weston Historical Museum, the artifact has drawn many visitors.

A gift of five discs, given by Mr. Chuck McCardie of Farley, Mo, is being found invaluable for research. There are approximately 1000 images of documents, photographs, towns and events throughout Platte County. Chuck found many of the images from friends, neighbors, and on-line.

The museum is grateful for these two donations and to the two gentlemen for these items.

<http://www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org/>

Generous Donations Allow Springfield Art Museum to Acquire Complete Set of Grant Wood Lithographs, by Development and Marketing Coordinator Joshua Best

The Springfield Art Museum is pleased to announce the acquisition of *Fruits* and *Vegetables* by renowned Regionalist, Grant Wood. Wood achieved international recognition in the mid-1930s for promoting a style of art that depicted everyday scenes of Midwestern life. The

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Museum previously owned seventeen of the nineteen lithographs that Wood produced during his lifetime.

Fruits and Vegetables complete a smaller series of four prints, within the larger group of nineteen, created by Wood in 1939 to highlight the bounty of Iowa's rich soil. Along with fellow Midwestern artists Thomas Hart Benton and John Steuart Curry, Wood gained popularity during the Great Depression for focusing on American scenes that upheld supposedly American values. Of particular note, *Vegetables* was hand-colored by Wood's sister, Nan, the female model for his iconic painting *American Gothic*.

The Museum will exhibit the complete set of nineteen prints in *Grant Wood: Lithographs*, a special exhibition that examines the artist's thematic concerns and role in the growth and popularity of printmaking in America. See *Grant Wood: Lithographs* at the Springfield Art Museum from December 9, 2017 through March 25, 2018.

<http://www.sgfmuseum.org/>

Advocacy Alerts by MAMA President Candy Sall

Alert #1: Tell Congress Not to Make Nonprofits Political Tools

Tax reform legislation is due out soon, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee intends to repeal or revise the Johnson Amendment, the federal law that keeps divisive partisan politics out of charitable nonprofits, house of worship, and foundations.

Please take a moment **TODAY** to call your U.S. Representative and deliver this message:

"Do not use tax reform to weaken or repeal the Johnson Amendment, which keeps divisive partisan politics out of nonprofits, houses of worship, and foundations. Efforts to repeal or weaken the amendment would harm my community and damage the public's trust in my organization and many other groups doing good work in the Representative's district. Thank you!"

Please call the Capitol switchboard (202-225-3121) and ask for your Representative's office. If you're not sure who

your Representative is, go here to [enter your zip code](#) or here to [review a list of Representatives](#).

Alert #2: Department of Education Draft Guidelines for Prioritizing Limited Grants

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recently [proposed a list of priorities and definitions](#) to be used in awarding discretionary (competitive) grants including ones for K-12 history and civics education. **While the proposal recommends a greater emphasis on civics, it, unfortunately, does not prioritize history as well.** On October 23, the National Coalition for History (NCH) -of which AASLH is a leading member-[submitted comments](#) to the Department of Education requesting that history be included along with civics education in prioritizing how limited grant funds are awarded. Full details and information about how to leave your own comments on the priorities can be found here: <http://historycoalition.org/2017/10/24/nch-urges-us-department-of-education-to-prioritize-k-12-history-education/>

Alert #3: Tax Proposal Released; Charitable Giving Endangered

Republican leaders in the US House of Representatives released the text of their long-awaited tax overhaul proposal. While the legislation preserved the charitable deduction, it makes other changes to the tax code that could reduce donations to museums and other nonprofits by a remarkable \$13 billion per year. Legislators need to hear how important charitable donations are to museums and the communities they serve.

As noted last month, the increased standard deduction envisioned by this overhaul would effectively eliminate the charitable giving tax incentive for 30 million Americans. The American Alliance of Museums is working with the Charitable Giving Coalition in calling on Congress to enact a universal charitable deduction available to all taxpayers, regardless of whether they itemize.

<http://www.aam-us.org/advocacy/take-action/advocacy-alerts/20171102>

Events

When the Blues Go Marching In

Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 pm, Missouri History Museum, St. Louis

Join Dan O'Neill for this look at the first 50 years of St. Louis Blues hockey, through early expansion-team nights, dramatic ups and downs, and the ongoing quest to capture a Stanley Cup championship.

<http://mohistory.org/node/59330>

"ArchKIDtecture" Workshop for Kids

December 28, 10:00-2:00, Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, St. Joseph

The architecture workshop for children in kindergarten through 6th grade will be led by architects Sara Markt and Max Guenther. Workshop participants will explore how shapes, angles, material, color, and landscape combine to create structures and cityscapes. They will learn to identify different architectural elements and styles and gain an appreciation for the architectural landscape of the area. A pizza lunch will be provided for students and a copy of the ABC's of Architecture, a coloring book featuring St. Joseph buildings, if their to take home. The cost is \$25 per student and reservations are required. To reserve a space call (816) 232-8471

<http://stjosephmuseum.org/events/>

Call for Proposals

2018 AMM-IAM Joint Conference Call for Proposals

Proposals due December 11, 2017. Conference July 18-21, 2018 in Chicago, Illinois.

The Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) is partnering with the Illinois Association of Museums (IAM) and Visitor Studies Association (VSA) to offer a wider variety of sessions and networking opportunities in one of America's greatest cities.

AMM-IAM is calling for proposals for sessions, poster presentations and half-day, hands-on workshops. The

theme is *Fostering Transparency, Strengthening Public Trust*.

<http://www.ammconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/AMM-2018-Call-for-Session-Proposals.pdf>

Exhibitions

Memory of Water: Constructing a Sense of Place in the Hydrosphere

Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph, December 1, 2017 - January 7, 2018

An interdisciplinary/intermedia exploration of water issues and interior waterways broadly, with content that draws upon pop cultural, scientific and literary references and merges these with sound, movement, image and sculptural objects. The result is an assemblage of discursive and immersive, lyrical and interpretive perspectives on water. The artists encourage serious consideration and thoughtful involvement with the work presenting complex topics with a sense of beauty, theatricality, humor, and a reserved optimism.

Visions in Monochrome

Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph, December 1, 2017 - January 7, 2018

The vault of the Albrecht-Kemper holds a veritable treasure trove of artworks that the public is rarely able to view. This exhibition will highlight a small sample of these infrequently seen pieces with a focus on color, or more specifically, a lack thereof. The exhibition is comprised on pieces that exclusively utilize black, white, and grayscale without regard to genre, subject, or medium. It represents a means of exploring form and expression without the benefit of color.

<http://albrecht-kemper.org/>

Art in Our City

Springfield Art Museum, October 20, 2017 - March 18, 2018

Springfield, Missouri is home to a vibrant artistic community. This exhibition highlights and celebrated the

creativity of our community focusing on artists living and working in the many neighborhoods that make up our city. This exhibition not only concentrates on the artists on display but also their neighborhoods and what it means to live and work creatively in Springfield.

The exhibit will rotate every six months; the first exhibition will feature work by eight artists from five neighborhoods located in City Council Zone 1.

<http://www.sqfmuseum.org/228/Art-in-our-City>

Being Bussabarger: Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, Sketchbooks, and More

State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, October 31, 2017 - May 5, 2018

Painter, sculptor, and ceramist Robert Bussabarger (1922-2013) lived and worked in Missouri for over 50 years. This new exhibition, *Being Bussabarger: Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, Sketchbooks, and More*, pays tribute to the artist's creative spirit with a retrospective selection of his artworks from the 1940s to the 2010s. The wide range of media within the Society's collection of Bussabarger's art demonstrates the depth and breadth of his talent. The exhibition in the Columbia center's main gallery opened October 31 and will run through May 5, 2018.

<http://shsmo.org/art/exhibits/>

Grant Opportunities

State Historical Society of Missouri Announces Grants to Support Local History Projects

Deadline: December 15, 2017

At its annual meeting on October 7 the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) announced it will offer funding in 2018 to local Missouri cultural heritage institutions in support of their efforts to preserve historic material and provide programming on local history topics.

SHSMO will award up to \$500 per calendar year, per organization. A maximum of \$5000 in total grants will be awarded in January, and the grant period will run through the end of 2018.

SHSMO is accepting applications now through December 15 for projects in one of three focus areas: historical records preservation, education or programming activities, and observances of the bicentennial of Missouri's statehood in 2021.

<http://shsmo.org/awards/brownlee/apply>

Collections Assessment for Preservation

Deadline: February 1, 2018

The Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program provides small and mid-sized museums with partial funding toward a general conservation assessment. The assessment is a study of all of the institution's collections, buildings, and building systems, as well as its policies and procedures relating to collections care. Participants who complete the program receive an assessment report with prioritized recommendations to improve collections care. CAP is often a first step for small institutions that wish to improve the condition of their collections.

<http://www.conservation-us.org/grants/cap>

Call for Content

Send in your news, announcements, job postings, New Year's resolutions, New Year's irresolutions, grant opportunities, or anything else you want to see in January's 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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