

# MAMA News

September 2, 2019



## **Wonder and Sustainability: Missouri Association for Museums and Archives Annual Conference**

October 17-19, Springfield

The MAMA 2019 conference, held in Springfield, Missouri, will allow professionals to share moments of wonder that are happening at their museums and archives, as well as best practices for creating a sustainable future. Join us for tours of Bass Pro and Wonders of Wildlife on Thursday, October 17 followed by an evening event at the Springfield Art Museum. Friday morning tours around Springfield will be followed by sessions beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Art Museum. Friday evening will have a reception at the History Museum on the Square. Sessions will resume on Saturday at the Meyer Library on the Missouri State University campus.

Registration includes attendance at our keynote lunch on Saturday! (Early registration by Oct. 3 required to attend lunch and other special events).

Session topics include: sustaining and growing collections, DIY collections storage, NAGPRA, museum sustainability, cemeteries, interns, fire suppression systems, museum studies, special collections, landmark preservation, advocacy, and dinosaur curation!

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

### **McCaskill to Speak at SHSMO Annual Meeting**

The State Historical Society of Missouri is making plans for the Annual Meeting, November 1-2, at the Center for Missouri Studies in Columbia. The event includes the annual business meeting and awards presentations, a luncheon, and the debut of the My Missouri lecture Series.

The My Missouri lecture, Saturday, Nov. 2, at 1 p.m., features former US Senator Claire McCaskill, who served as the top-ranking Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee and a senior member of the Armed Services

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Committee. Before she was elected to the Senate in 2006, McCaskill was Missouri's state auditor and served as Jackson County Prosecutor.

<https://shsmo.org/news/2019/mccaskill-speaking>

## News

### **Springfield Art Museum and Park Board Mount Large-Scale Public Art Installation**

The Springfield Art Museum is pleased to announce an expansive outdoor sculpture installation with Kansas City artist Shawn Bitters, in collaboration with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Burn Out, which was recently featured in Open Spaces Kansas City, was installed on the Museum's grounds and throughout nearby Phelps Grove Park on July 17 and will remain on view for one year. Bitters was a featured artist in the Museum's 2018 4x4: Midwest Invitational Exhibition.

The 23 screen-printed aluminum "stones" in Burn Out form a narrative; each rock is encoded, representing a letter, that when joined together, tell a story. The stones can be "read" by moving through the landscape. The title of the work references the "necessary destruction" of fire in certain landscapes such as the prairies of the Midwest. The shape of the stones is based on volcanic bombs – masses of molten rock that form when a volcano erupts.

<http://www.sgmuseum.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=88>

## Events

### **80 Stitches to the Inch: The Microscopic World of Althea Crome**

Sunday, September 8, 2:00 pm, National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, Kansas City

Crome makes her own knitting needles from surgical wire and uses fine silk sewing thread to achieve the tiny stitches that compose her work. As part of T/m's Meet the Experts series, Crome will discuss how she developed her process, the challenges she faces in her work, and her career highlights. Included with museum admission. Free for members.

<https://toyandminiaturemuseum.org/upcoming/>

### **Mound City: The Place of Indian Past and Present in St. Louis**

Monday, September 9, 7:00 pm, Missouri History Museum, St. Louis

The Center for Missouri Studies Fellow Patricia Cleary will explore St. Louis's complicated relationship with its Native American past in this program centered on the destruction of the Big Mound by 1869. Cleary is a professor of history at California State University, Long Beach and will be giving this year's James Neal Primm Lecture, which is supported by the State Historical Society of Missouri's Center for Missouri Studies fellowship program. The Primm Lecture Series is sponsored by the University of Missouri–St. Louis history department and the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis in honor of the late UMSL history professor James Neal Primm. The public is invited to this free event.

<https://shsmo.org/events/2019/center-fellow-cleary-lecture>

***The Rural Cemetery Movement: Place of Paradox in Nineteenth Century America***

Thursday, September 19, 7:00 pm, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City

In his book, *The Rural Cemetery Movement: Places of Paradox in Nineteenth Century America*, Dr. Jeffrey Smith explores the growth of garden cemeteries in the United States during the three decades before the Civil War. As church and municipal burial grounds in urban centers became overcrowded, new cemeteries were established in lower population density areas. These new "rural" cemeteries fulfilled the sacred function of burial, while providing green spaces and respites from urban life, establishing institutions where people could craft their roles in collective memory and serving as prototypes for both urban planning and city parks. They were also paradoxical in nature: "rural" yet urban, natural yet designed, artistic yet industrial, commemorating the dead yet used by the living. Unlike their predecessors, founders of these burial grounds intended them to be used in many ways that reflected their views and values about nature, life and death and relationships. Join us as Smith details his research on the history of cemeteries in the 19th century and how they can help us better understand the values, attitudes and culture of urban America from mid-century through the Progressive Era.

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

**Smithsonian Museum Day at St. Joseph Museums**

Saturday, September 21, 10:00-5:00, St. Joseph

Museums and cultural institutions nationwide open their doors free of charge to Smithsonian magazine readers and Smithsonian.com visitors. A celebration of culture, learning, and the dissemination of knowledge, Smithsonian's Museum Day reflects the spirit of the magazine, and emulates the free-admission policy of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington, DC-based properties. Admission will be free to the public during the regular St. Joseph Museum hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Wyeth-Tootle Mansion will also be free to the public during regular hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Docents will be available as guests explore the 1879 Mansion and the exhibits on St. Joseph history.

<https://www.stjosephmuseum.org/events-1/smithsonian-magazine-free-museum-day>

### **Folk Art Workshops at Luxenhaus Farms**

September 21, 28, October 5, 12, Luxenhaus Farm, Marthasville

Join Luxenhaus Farms and the Missouri Humanities Council for fall folk art workshops at Luxenhaus Farms! Workshops include Blacksmithing, Indigo Dying, Knitting, Basket Making, German Beer Stein and Tile Making, Open-Fire Cooking, and Sauerkraut Making.

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egk5wgkvba4cb0fa&oseq=&c=&ch=>

## **Exhibits**

### **Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence**

Springfield Art Museum, closes November 10

The Springfield Art Museum is pleased to welcome *Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence*, opening this Saturday, August 17 from 10 AM to 6 PM. This traveling exhibition presents a spectacular overview of a new form of bead art, the *ndwango* ("cloth"), developed by a community of women living and working together in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

The plain black fabric that serves as a foundation for the Ubuhle women's exquisite beadwork is reminiscent of the Xhosa headscarves and skirts that many of them wore growing up. By stretching this textile like a canvas, the artists use colored Czech glass beads to transform the flat cloth into a contemporary art form of remarkable visual depth. Using skills handed down through generations and working in their own unique style "directly from the soul" (in the words of artist Ntombephi Ntobela), the women create abstract, as well as figurative subjects for their *ndwangos*.

<http://www.sgmuseum.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=89>

## **Grant Opportunities**

### **IMLS Museum Program Grants**

Museums across the United States have six opportunities in the coming months to apply for grants from the nation's primary source of federal museum funding. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is now accepting applications for six grant programs:

- [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#)
- [Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services](#)
- [Inspire! Grants for Small Museums](#)
- [Museums for America](#)
- [Museums Empowered](#)
- [National Leadership Grants for Museums](#)

### **Missouri Humanities African American Heritage**

Missouri Humanities (MH) announces its second initiative to expand its African American Heritage partnerships and programmatic reach. MH invites organizations in the State of Missouri to apply for funding assistance for African American Heritage programs throughout calendar year 2020 that adhere to the mission of this heritage program, which is: “to support partner organizations whose work increases our understanding of the African American experience through public programming in the humanities.”

[https://www.mohumanities.org/african-american-heritage/?mc\\_cid=c2cecf2a83&mc\\_eid=124dab0307](https://www.mohumanities.org/african-american-heritage/?mc_cid=c2cecf2a83&mc_eid=124dab0307)

### **NHPRC Grants**

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is offering five types of grants. Of special note are the “Archives Collaborative: Implementation Grants”, meant to enhance the capacity of small and diverse organizations with historical records collections, and the “Public Engagement with Historical Records”, which fits a wide array of organizations and closely parallels the goals established in the “History Relevance” initiative. Deadlines range from early October 2019 to July 2020.

<https://www.archives.gov/nhprc/announcement>

## **Online Courses**

### **Museum Education and Outreach**

September 9 through November 1

At their heart, regardless of type or size, museums are engaging, dynamic places of education. This AASLH online course, Museum Education and Outreach, is about how we can facilitate visitors’ meaningful and memorable experiences in the informal environments of museums.

This course requires regular check-ins, sharing and commenting on peer work, and participation in scheduled live chats. Participants will help shape the flow of the course in addition to providing resources and insights on each other’s work. Assignments are made weekly to allow for regular feedback and dialogue. While work can be done at your own pace, meeting deadlines is encouraged to maximize the experience. Throughout the course you will develop a toolkit of strategies, policies, and documents ready for immediate implementation.

<https://aaslh.org/event/online-course-museum-education-and-outreach-2019sep/>

## **Basics of Archives**

September 30 through November 3

Basics of Archives is an AASLH Continuing Education online course September 30 – October 25, 2019 hosted in the online classroom. This online course is about caring for historical records. This online course is taught by Charles Arp. The recently revised Basics of Archives online course is designed to give organizations and individuals who are responsible for the care of historical records an introduction to the core aspects of managing and protecting historical records collections, using appropriate principles and best practices.

<https://aaslh.org/event/onlinecourse-basicsofarchives-2019sept/>

## **Webinars**

### **Archival Processing - Principles and Practical Strategies**

Thursday, September 5, 2:00 EDT (1:00 Central)

Archival processing is a crucial element of collections care and stewardship. Processing is how we know what we have in our collections, how we ensure our collections' ongoing preservation and security, and how we make our collections available to the public. But how much processing is enough? Does every document require its own housing and description or can we arrange and describe materials in aggregates? How do we determine what's necessary? How quickly can I make a new collection available to researchers? Can it be minimally processed and safely made available in the reading room? How can I easily make collection descriptions available online and what is the minimal amount of information necessary for them to be useful? This webinar will discuss the basic principles of archival arrangement and description, including imposing basic physical and intellectual control over new acquisitions, minimal processing standards, descriptive standards and practices, and practical strategies for managing a processing program with limited staff and resources. Our goal will be to help you identify practical solutions for overcoming barriers to processing in your home institution.

<https://www.connectingtocollections.org/archival-processing/>

### **Creating Connexion: Building Partnerships with Your Board Members**

Thursday, September 12, 3:00 EDT (2:00 Central)

Let's be honest: working with boards can be challenging, but we know we need strong boards for our organizations to be successful. So how do we make these critical relationships work? In this session, we'll re-frame the board/staff conversation about how we view and manage these vital partnerships. During the webinar, participants will explore the motivations of board service, brainstorm ways to improve board relationships, and develop strategies to implement partnership tools.

<https://aaslh.org/event/webinar-boardrelationships-2019sept/>

## Workshops

### **Focusing on Visitors: Public Programming and Exhibits at History Institutions**

September 23-24, James J. Hill House, St. Paul, Minnesota

This workshop provides a broad overview of public programming and exhibits with a focus on active learning. Themes are based on The Museum Educator's Manual: Educators Share Successful Techniques, coauthored by one of the workshop instructors.

Keeping visitors at the forefront of our thinking, participants will explore a wide range of topics including audience types, volunteer management and training, tour techniques, active learning with people of all ages, developing/updating exhibits, demonstrating relevance, marketing, evaluation, planning, and collaboration. Case studies and interactive activities provide excellent opportunities to engage with fellow participants and our host site. Attendees will leave the workshop with information, ideas, and materials they can take back to their organizations to adapt and apply.

<https://aaslh.org/event/workshop-focusing-on-visitors-public-programming-and-exhibits-at-history-institutions-2019-sept/>

### **NPI Seminar - Section 106: Agreement Documents**

October 16-18, Norman, Oklahoma

This advanced seminar focuses on memoranda of agreement and programmatic agreements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Learn how to survive and thrive during the agreement process through careful analysis, clear writing, and good negotiation. Review the available tools, guidelines, alternatives-and non-alternatives-to reach a favorable conclusion to the process.

<https://www.npi.org/seminars/laws-and-regulations/section-106-agreement-documents>

### **Sedalia Cultural Heritage Workshop**

Tuesday, October 29, Sedalia Katy Depot

The Missouri Humanities Council presents Cultural Heritage Workshops throughout the state, working to provide the tools necessary for communities to identify and evaluate local cultural heritage assets.

These one-day workshops showcase a variety of topics from panelists representing both local and statewide organizations, as well as networking opportunities and applied activities. Participants learn basic tools to develop or revive cultural heritage programming in their communities, as well as how this programming can bolster tourism and impact local and regional economic development.

<https://www.mohumanities.org/cultural-heritage-workshops/>

Missouri Association for Museums and Archives

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

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