

We have a great line-up for this year's virtual event, to be held October 21-24, including a happy hour, brown-bag lunch conversation, three tours, and a combination of live and pre-recorded sessions.

(Full session descriptions are available on our [website](#).)

## **Schedule of Events:**

### **Pre-Recorded Sessions**

*"Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft": A Collaborative Exhibition Bridging Past, Present, and Future*

- Dr. Jean Parsons and Ms. Nicole Johnston, Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection, University of Missouri & Dr. Joan Stack, State Historical Society of Missouri

*Digitizing Missouri's German Heritage*

- Caitlin Yager, Missouri Humanities Council

*Preserving and Digitizing Photo Albums and Scrapbooks*

- Sara Holmes and Noah Durham, National Archives and Records Administration, Preservation Programs at St. Louis

### **Wednesday, October 21**

**10:00 AM:** Virtual Tour of Staab Studios

- Gary Staab, Owner, Staab Studios

**2:00 PM:** Keynote

- *Rediscovering Missouri's Pioneer Mothers*, Dr. Cynthia Prescott

**3:30 PM:** Membership Meeting

**7:00 PM:** Happy Hour

### **Thursday, October 22**

**10:00 AM:** *Representations, Appropriations, and Justice: The Role of the Museum*

- Dr. Amber Clifford-Napoleone, University of Central Missouri w/ Panelists: Valyssa Caballero (UCM), Christina Foster (UCM), Levi Cullifer (Truman State University), Dr. Carmalette Williams (Black Archives of Mid America)

**11:00 AM:** *Expanding Our Toolbox – Ways Educators and Non-educators can Engage their Students, Communities, and Visitors*

- Ryan Leimkueler, Morse Department of Special Collections, Kansas State University

**12:00 PM:** Brown Bag Lunch and Collection Show & Tell

- 3:30 PM:** Virtual Tour of St. Louis Aquarium with PGAV
- Tom Owen, VP, Senior Planner and Designer, PGAV

**Friday, October 23**

- 10:00 AM:** Virtual Tour of VRC Companies
- Charity Cash, Area Vice President for VRC Companies, LLC

**2:00 PM:** Live Q&A for Pre-Recorded Sessions

- 2:45 PM:** *The Modern-Day Speakeasy: Reigniting Student Interest*
- Shelby Catalano, Denise Chappell, Ellen Thieme, Society of American Archivists at University of Missouri, Student Chapter

- 3:30 PM:** *An Ordinary Man, An Extraordinary Journey: President Harry Truman*
- Mark Adams, Truman Library

**Saturday, October 24**

- 9:00 AM:** *Economic Impact of Museums and Greenspaces on Community and COVID-19's Impact on Them Now and in the Future*
- Eric Moraczewski and Dion Brown, NMBL Strategies

- 10:00 AM:** *Vocal Historians, Activated Museums: Navigating the Politicized Dynamic of the Past in the Present*
- Dr. Laura Burnham, Missouri Historical Society

- 10:45AM:** *The Missouri: Heart of the Nation Art Collection as Artifact, Archive, and Living Laboratory*
- Kristin Schwain, School of Visual Studies, University of Missouri

*(Zoom links for each individual session/event will be sent to registrants on Oct. 19.)*

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## **Pre-recorded Sessions (available Oct. 19)**

### *"Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft": A Collaborative Exhibition Bridging Past, Present, Future*

- Dr. Jean Parsons and Ms. Nicole Johnston, Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection, University of Missouri & Joan Stack, State Historical Society of Missouri
- The exhibit "Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft" surveys the decades-long struggle for women's suffrage by highlighting the role of Missouri women in the national suffrage movement and trailblazing women in Missouri politics who opened doors for others to participate in past, present and future democratic processes. The exhibit's three curators will discuss the selection of apparel, artwork and images from eleven Missouri collections as a model of collaborative physical and digital exhibition design, as well as additional community outreach during and after temporary closure due to Covid 19.

### *Digitizing Missouri's German Heritage*

- Caitlin Yeager, Missouri Humanities Council
- "Digitizing Missouri's German Heritage" is a public program through Missouri Humanities' Heritage Programs. Funded initially as a pilot program by the NEH Common Heritage Grant in 2017, this program seeks to digitize publicly-held artifacts, documents, and photos related to the German heritage of our state. This session explores the initial grant application, including what supplies and services the grant covered, and the program planning and execution process. The program includes collecting information on the objects, digitizing them (photographing or scanning), and recording short oral histories about each object and the person's connection to it, and why they decided to digitize it. We have also partnered with Missouri State Archives to bring in a conservator to help people with damaged or fragile items, and we try to provide someone at each program to translate things like letters and documents.

In addition, the session will take a detailed look at the objects brought to these programs and the importance of digitizing special objects and documenting their stories both for preservation purposes and to share with future generations. Future plans for this program include making information and digitized files available to the public through an on line exhibit/e-book format that will connect these objects and their communities to the larger story of German immigration in Missouri.

### *Preserving and Digitizing Photo Albums and Scrapbooks*

- Sara Holmes and Noah Durham, National Archives and Records Administration, Preservation Programs at St. Louis
- Preserving photo albums and scrapbooks can be especially challenging for cultural institutions, often because they are bound and contain a variety of problematic materials. This session will have recommendations from a conservator on how to address poor quality materials commonly found in personal scrapbooks and albums, how to maintain the integrity of the arrangement, and how to store them appropriately. Special concerns in digitizing albums, recommended equipment, creating metadata, and preserving the electronic files created will be covered by a digitization specialist.

## **Wednesday, October 21**

### **10:00 AM:** Virtual Tour of Staab Studios

- Gary Staab, owner, Staab Studios
- **Staab Studios** is an eclectic art studio with a flair and passion for natural forms both past and present. Their work is found in museums, private collections, visitor centers, books and film.

### **2:00 PM:** KEYNOTE: "Rediscovering Missouri's Pioneer Mothers"

- Dr. Cynthia Prescott, University of North Dakota
- Dr. Prescott is a Professor of History at the University of North Dakota. In her work, she combines social history and material culture to study intersections of gender, race, social class, and historical member in the American

West. She publishes regularly on these themes, most recently the prize-winning book *Pioneer Mother Monuments: Constructing Cultural Memory* (2019) with the University of Oklahoma Press. Her keynote will focus on pioneer mother monuments in Kansas City and across Missouri

**3:30 PM:** Membership Meeting

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**7:00 PM:** Happy Hour

- Join us for the MAMA conference Happy Hour -- Bring your own drink.

**Thursday, October 22**

**10:00-11:00 AM:** *Representations, Appropriations, and Justice: The Role of the Museum*

- Dr. Amber Clifford-Napoleone, University of Central Missouri w/ Panelists: Valyssa Caballero (UCM), Christina Foster (UCM), Levi Cullifer (Truman State University), Dr. Carmalette Williams (Black Archives of Mid America)

**11:00-11:45 AM:** *Expanding Our Toolbox – Ways Educators and Non-educators can Engage their Students, Communities, and Visitors*

- Ryan Leimkueler, Morse Department of Special Collections, Kansas State University
- This session will explore the different methods and tactics special collections can use to engage their community and students. Too often information professional interactions in the classroom are more "show and tell" and less focused on educational discovery. Ryan Leimkuehler will use his background as an educator and archivist to demonstrate how the passive and active learning methods can work together to provide more meaningful interactions with patrons. The session will be divided into three sections each focusing on public, academic, and special collections while leaving sufficient time for Q/ A at the end of the session. New information professionals will find the session particularly helpful in adding methods and tools to their educational toolbox.

**12:00-1:00 PM:** Brown Bag Lunch and Collection Show & Tell

- Bring your lunch and the story of your favorite artifact/document in your collection (or a collection you have visited) for a "show & tell" lunch conversation. Participation encouraged but not required.

**3:30-4:30 PM:** Virtual Tour of St. Louis Aquarium with PGAV

- Tom Owen, VP, Senior Planner and Designer, PGAV
- Staff from PGAV will discuss and show highlights of their recently finished project at the St. Louis Aquarium.

**Friday, October 23**

**10:00-11:00 AM:** Virtual Tour of VRC Companies

- Charity Cash, Area Vice President for VRC Companies, LLC
- This will include a brief overview of VRC facilities and services. You will also get to see their warehouse and underground (cave) facility for storage.

## **2:00-2:30 PM:** Live Q&A for Pre-Recorded Sessions

- Presenters of 2 of the 3 pre-recorded sessions will be available for questions and discussion.  
(Descriptions of those sessions can be found above.)

## **2:45-3:15 PM:** *The Modern-Day Speakeasy: Reigniting Student Interest*

- Shelby Catalano, Denise Chappell, Ellen Thieme, Society of American Archivists at University of Missouri, Student Chapter
- The presentation will focus on communicating with current and prospective students interested in professional development within Library and Information Sciences and archives at Mizzou. We will discuss the history and functions of the Society of American Archivists- University of Missouri Chapter (SAAMUSC), ways to get involved with the organization, as well as program efforts to engage students. We will also detail challenges we have experienced, both pre and during COVID-19.

## **3:30-4:15 PM:** *An Ordinary Man, An Extraordinary Journey: President Harry Truman*

- Mark Adams, Truman Library
- This session will give a sneak preview of the newly renovated Truman Library exhibits opening in the fall of 2020. In recognition of the 75th anniversary of his presidency, the Truman Library and Truman Library Institute have developed a momentous plan to use Truman's life and legacy to inform, inspire, educate, and engage a 21st-century audience at an increasingly critical time in our nation's history. The \$30-million capital campaign, includes a new Truman permanent exhibition and other strategic improvements, enhanced education programs, expanded public programs, and endowment support. The list of Harry S. Truman's difficult and world-shaping decisions is extremely long. Assuming the presidency in the final months of World War II, he inherited a worldwide catastrophe. Truman shouldered the burden of leadership in a rudderless world. With courage, integrity, and humility, he vindicated the American conviction that an open society can produce leaders equal to any challenge.

## **Saturday, October 24**

- **9:00-9:45 AM:** *Economic Impact of Museums and Greenspaces on Community and COVID-19's Impact on Them Now and in the Future*
  - Eric Moraczewski and Dion Brown, NMBL Strategies
  - This presentation is designed to engage audiences on a topic that often is a missed opportunity for museums and green space projects. Best practices will be shared on how to better quantify their economic effect on their communities. Now more than ever, these types of projects need to better explain the incredible impact they can generate both locally and nationally. In addition, the presentation will highlight some of NMBL Strategies' consultants' work with the B.B. King Museum, Gateway Arch National Park and National Blues Museum. Experiences will be shared on how these types of projects can create momentum by reenergizing communities. In addition, they can be the impetus for construction of everything from apartments to hotels. They help create collaborative efforts with government, local community leadership and private enterprise. Lastly, they are a great opportunity to garner positive media coverage locally and nationally.
- **10:00-10:30 AM:** *Vocal Historians, Activated Museums: Navigating the Politicized Dynamic of the Past in the Present*
  - Dr. Laura Burnham, Missouri Historical Society
  - In America's current political climate, the past is an ongoing point of dispute, and there have been notable opportunities for historians and museum professionals to play an increasingly active role in modern politics, policies, and public opinion. This paper will explore the ways that these professional figures have become "activated" in history-centered cultural-political debates dominating the current state of public discourse. By examining the extent to which historians and museums have engaged with these debates, this research will provide insight into the intersections between academia and the public, the past and present, and the active and neutral-as well as the role of museums in navigating these contentious, evolving, and sometimes-conflicting dynamics.

- **10:45-11:15 AM:** *The Missouri: Heart of the Nation Art Collection as Artifact, Archive, and Living Laboratory*
  - Kristin Schwain, School of Visual Studies, University of Missouri
  - This presentation will suggest that the *Missouri: Heart of the Nation* collection presents an opportunity to bring archivists, curators, educators, and students together to better understand Missouri culture, history, and life. In 2011, I started teaching an undergraduate/ graduate seminar that required students to look and think deeply about individual artworks. They researched the subjects depicted in the drawings and paintings at the State Historical Society, the University Archives, and on-line databases in order to compare the representations to contemporaneous photographs of the same scenes; to popular images that circulated in postcards, tourist brochures, books, and magazines; to oral histories and personal memoirs; and to art's role in midcentury American life. In doing so, they learned the artworks are not mere reflections of a person or place, but rather, sophisticated arguments about what the world is and could be.

The power of the *Missouri: Heart of the Nation* collection lies precisely in the way it naturalized a particular point of view -- that of white, middle-class Missourians - and how that particular point of view can be exposed as a cultural construct when the images are seen next to contemporary newspaper miicles, history textbooks, elementary school art curricula, recipes, song lyrics, interviews, advertisements, popular magazine articles, and other familiar ephemera. This can be done best through collaboration. By creating an interactive and online exhibition that showcases artifacts and archives as well as state and local collections; that presents multiple representations of events, peoples, and places; and that underscores how interpretation changes over time, the collection can generate a living laboratory for Missouri culture, history, and life for students, residents, and experts alike.