



The Newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2

Spring 2010

Help is out there!

Conservation Grant Opportunities

Question: *Our museum was told last year that there will be no money budgeted for conservation for this two-year cycle. That leaves applying for grants as our only option for paying for conservation activities. What grant money is available for conservation projects and how difficult is it to get?*

Answer: While it is unfortunate that your institution has had such discouraging budget cutbacks, you are not alone. The majority of cultural institutions have had to reduce their budgets due to the economic recession and the resultant losses in revenue. A number of institutions have also had to lay off personnel, including conservators. If there is good news to be had these days, it is that the federal granting agencies have not yet experienced budget cutbacks, although some programs, such as the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program, have been scheduled to be eliminated. We must all lobby our legislators to maintain current funding levels at these critically necessary agencies, which are so desperately needed now more than ever.

There are a number of private endowments and charitable organizations that provide grants to museums and cultural organizations. Because there are so many of these organizations and their missions and focus areas vary, it is beyond the scope of this article to address them. One good source for additional information is the Foundation Directory at www.foundationcenter.org which can help you match your project with the proper private funding source. Copies of the Directory should be available at your local library, and you can now also go online and access the same information (for a fee).

Another source of potential funding is state art and

historical agencies, such as the Ohio Arts Council or Michigan Arts Council, which occasionally offer grant funding. Unfortunately, such agencies have typically experienced significant budget cutbacks due to the precarious financial situation in many states.

Various federal agencies have remained a popular source for grant funding over the years, particularly for larger cultural institutions. Smaller museums and historical societies have perhaps been underserved by the federal granting agencies, a situation which many of the granting agencies haven't taken pains to redress. There are also now several new grants available for conservation projects that did not exist a few years ago. Below is a synopsis of a few of the more popular federal grants. Note that I have excluded some agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), as I am not as familiar with these organizations.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), 1800 M Street NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036-5802; Phone: 202-653-IMLS (4657); Fax: 202-653-4600; www.imls.gov

The IMLS maintains several programs for funding conservation projects. This includes the well known *Conservation Assessment Program* (CAP) which is administered in conjunction with Heritage Preservation. This program awards grants that fund general conservation assessments for small and medium-sized cultural and historical organizations. These grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and are expressly designed to be relatively easy to get. One major hurdle for smaller institutions is

(Continued on page 19)

The *MRC Courier* is the Newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee, published Quarterly.
Members and Vendors, please submit news, articles, announcements, photographs, and ideas for future issues to
Laura B. Henderson, Collections Manager/Registrar, Miami University Art Museum
Phone 513/529-2235, Fax 513/529-6555, henderlb@muohio.edu

From the Chair

Submitted by Ann Sinfield ■

The Benefits of Membership

I can't buy lunch for \$10.00 anymore. Maybe Madison is expensive, perhaps I am a food snob, or is it possible that I've been eating too much? Whatever the reason, that ten bucks just doesn't go as far anymore, in most places, at least.

Except, of course, here at the MRC! For \$10.00 you get a lot:

* Travel stipends for conference attendance

Last year MRC granted three travel stipends for attendance at the AMM annual meeting in St. Paul. We also provided a stipend for one attendee and assisted with registrations for two speakers at the IRS3 conference in Chicago. That's a lot of travel!

This year members again have the opportunity to apply for funding to attend the annual meeting. Recipients are expected to attend the MRC luncheon and submit a short article to the *Courier* about one of the sessions they attended. The travel stipend is a generous \$750.00. The application is available in this newsletter—the deadline to apply is July 30, 2010.

* Funding assistance for state workshops

In 2009 we granted funds to three state organizations for workshops or seminars. With our help, lunch, travel assistance or registrations were provided at programs presented by the Wisconsin State Historical Society, the Iowa Registrars Committee and the Association of Indiana Museums.

Funds are available for Midwestern states every year. If you are involved in your state organization, if you are planning a state workshop, or if you didn't think you could pull off a project due to lack of funding, contact your MRC state representative to find out how we can help.

* A network of knowledgeable, experienced (and fun!) professionals

You've seen the pictures on Facebook so you already know what you missed in St. Paul: the Mighty Rescue Crew—that intrepid squad of white-gloved, pencil-toting, super-registrars; the lively off-site luncheon with vendors, our RC representative, and our travel stipend recipients; the informative presentations packed with practical details and real-world perspectives; the between-session analyses; the behind-the-scenes tours; the gossip, the food, the beer. Don't miss out again!

In the works is a one-day registrar's retreat, maybe in the Chicago area, hopefully during the



Ann Sinfield

summer. At an informal gathering, we'll discuss databases or possibly emergency plans, then eat, then discuss some more. We'll have a couple of discussion leaders, but no formal presentation. Send me your questions or topics, volunteer to participate or organize, suggest ideas for a meeting place, or just let me know if you're interested:

sinfield@wisc.edu.

* This very newsletter, filled with interesting articles and news from around the region, including announcements of upcoming events such as:

AMM 2010, Cleveland

I hope you can join us in Cleveland from October 6 to 9. The second Mighty Rescue Crew will be held on Wednesday, October 6. Applications for potential venues will be available soon. If you have suggestions for museums in the Cleveland area that could use our help, please contact the MRC Ohio representative, Joanne Fenn, at jfenn1@kent.edu.

The MRC luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2010. We will be off-site again, and are considering restaurant recommendations within easy walking distance of the conference hotel. Cleveland folks, if you've got ideas, please send them to me at sinfield@wisc.edu or post them on the MRC Facebook page.

AMM should have the final program available on its website soon. Be sure to check it out at http://www.midwestmuseums.org/conf_current.html

AAM 2010, Los Angeles

The AAM meeting will be held from May 23 to 26. Look for session summaries and overviews in the next issue of the *Courier*.

*The benefits of membership are many. At \$10.00 the MRC remains an affordable organization with great opportunities for professional development and skill-building, networking and support. Please remember to renew your membership! Help out your state representatives by suggesting potential members or encourage other collections staff in your area to join. And I look forward to seeing you in Chicago, Cleveland, on Facebook, or at a state workshop near you!

Letter from the Editor

Submitted by Laura Henderson ■

The students have gone home—graduated or enjoying a summer recess—and all is quiet on the home front. There is parking galore, the streets are empty and there are no students jaywalking in front of the cars. The Uptown bars are begging for “townie” business, and there is no waiting time in the restaurants. All this is good and bad—it also means that museum attendance is at rock bottom except for parents and accepted students and trickles of people in the community. A university museum is different from public museums that might get a summer rush of young people and parents looking for meaningful activities to occupy time and challenge the mind. So I hope that those of you in that category will have a successful summer.

I mentioned in the Winter issue that we have a position to fill at Miami since our curator of exhibitions left in March. See Ohio News for the details.

The financial crunch is not over yet. We will go through some more lay-offs in July, hopefully not at the Art Museum, and we have another year of salary freezes. Budgets are very tight and the permanent collection is being tapped for all the exhibitions except one in the Fall, and that one is borrowed in from our university special collections library. Be sure to read the article by Laurie Booth about grants that are available for conservation—YES, it's a long article but there is a lot of very helpful information in it. Thanks to Laurie for taking the time to make it easy for us!

One of the side effects of the strain on our budgets is that there is no money to support professional development. Conferences and workshops and training sessions are supported in concept, but the cost must be borne by the individual. I hope we will get some interesting reports and images from those who are attending the AAM conference in Los Angeles. I will be there in spirit but the ‘ole’ physical bod will remain in Oxford.

But on the bright side, as if a prayer was answered, we have a reprieve from AAM for our reaccreditation process. Although we (the director and I) have been making pretty good progress and will continue to proceed with the necessary self-evaluation and document revision, our accreditation has been extended for five years. It takes the heat off and gives us breathing space to do some more research to get it right, and also to deal with all the extra projects that have piled up.

When I read about the AAM reaccreditation for the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, I first want to say congratulations! and secondly that I feel your pain and understand what you have just gone through. The way it is described in the Iowa news is exactly what we have been doing, except that we don't have as many people involved.



Laura Henderson with hubbie Roy Johnston at a Miami University Art Museum reception.

We have been gathering images, tweaking or revising policies, documenting activities, reviewing university structures, answering questions and collecting data. Like the Vesterheim, it is our third reaccreditation, as well, and we remain the only AAM accredited university museum in Ohio. We will have to be careful not to lose our momentum, but for now the pressure is off. We needed that.

Other good news is that it seems likely that Super-Scott, our photographer who was laid off last year, will be hired back and we will be able to continue our collection digitization project. It's something he is looking forward to, as well, not just to work with us but for the security of the job and the opportunity to do again what he loves to do and does so well. Everyone who has been involved in digitization will understand how crucial it is to keep at it until the entire collection has been photographed—a tedious but necessary part of the registration process.

I also have the good fortune to be working for the third (but unfortunately, last) summer with an M.F.A. student who is helping me catch up on all the backlog of registrarial work that has been moved down in priority over the past few months. This is huge, as they say, for me because she has nearly accomplished in two intensive weeks what I have been putting off for over a year. Lisa is very focused and efficient and likes to get things organized and put away. If she decides not to be an artist, she could be a registrar!

As summer approaches and our activities move outdoors into the sunshine, it feels like a dark, heavy cloak has been lifted off my head and I look forward to having a few days off to relax. I will have to grab them when I can, because deadlines are looming! Wishing everyone a happy summer!

Star-studded lineup for 2010 AMM Conference

Submitted by Brian Bray ■

Make plans to attend the Association of Midwest Museums 2010 conference in Cleveland October 6-9. Hear Patti Smith perform at the opening reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the Great Lakes Science Center. Our scintillating speakers are:



Marsha L. Semmel - The 21st Century Leadership Challenge Acting Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Deputy Director for Museums, and Director for Strategic Partnerships

As Deputy Director for Museums, Ms. Semmel

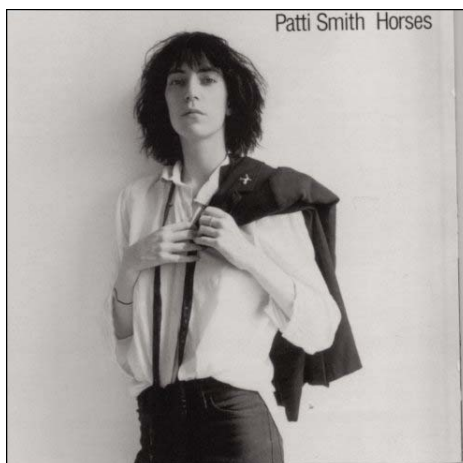
manages the Institute of Museum and Library Services' portfolio of grant making programs that support capacity-building and leadership projects for museums.

As Director for Strategic Partnerships, Ms. Semmel oversees federal-state partnership activities, initiates and implements collaborations with other federal agencies and organizations, and manages special projects and initiatives.

From 1998 to 2002, Ms. Semmel was President and CEO of the Women of the West Museum in Denver, Colorado. Previously she was President and CEO of Conner Prairie. From 1984 to 1996, Ms. Semmel worked at the National Endowment for the Humanities, in Washington, DC.

Patti Smith
Musician and Poet

Patti Smith is an internationally recognized and critically acclaimed musician and singer who was a pioneer in the Punk Rock music movement. In 1975, Smith released her debut album, *Horses*. Smith followed this album with several other acclaimed albums, including *Ethiopia* and *Easter*, which yielded the Top 20 hit, *Because*



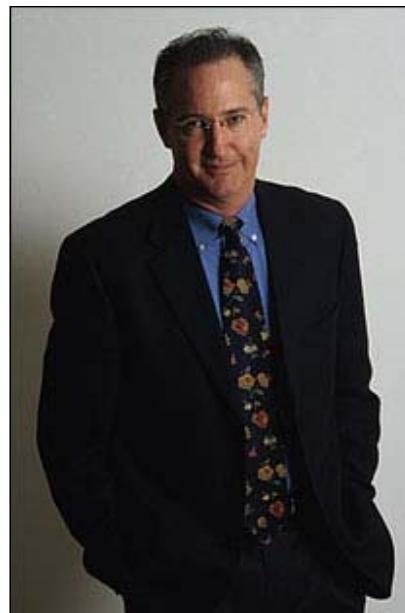
the Night, which was co-written by Smith and Bruce Springsteen.

In 2007, Smith was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Smith will perform at the opening reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

David Zach - *Museums & Tomorrow: From the Momentary to the Eternal Futurist*

David Zach is one of the few professionally trained futurists, having earned a master's degree in Studies of the Future from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. As a futurist, Zach has worked with over 1400 organizations offering insights on the personal and professional impact of strategic trends.

He offers funny, fascinating and thought-provoking talks on both trends and traditions with technology, economics, business, education, demographics and society. Previously Zach worked at Johnson Controls and at Northwestern Mutual, both in the



roles of environmental scanning and strategic planning. He also taught Future Studies in the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is the author of two books. His latest book, *Worth Remembering: The Future Value of Old Ideas*, was published in June 2008. When he travels, he always tries to visit museums.

News from All Over State Reports

Illinois

Submitted by Allison Heller •

Spurlock Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Registration Section has been very active processing several new acquisitions in 2009-2010. We recently acquired a full *Diablada* (Devil Dance) mask and costume from Oruro, Bolivia. Soon after this acquisition, the museum received donations of two additional *Diablada* masks, one from Oruro, Bolivia and one from Pillaro, Ecuador. The Oruro mask and costume can be seen in one of our recently reinstalled South American exhibit cases.



Diablada (Devil Dance) Mask

Naper Settlement, Naperville,

Naper Settlement has recently moved its stored collections to a new off-site, specially built collections care and storage facility. The museum seized an opportunity to partner with the City of Naperville to construct the facility adjacent to the city's new Multi-Purpose Public Works Center. Funding was secured from the National Endowment for Humanities to outfit the new facility with high-density mobile storage systems, modular art panel system, rolled storage racks and bins for optimal storage of various types of collection materials.

The 23,000 square foot storage space provides 14,800 square feet of artifact storage with the remaining space devoted to artifact processing, mechanicals, non-collection storage, object acclimation, and a work area for research and collections management and care. The storage project allowed the museum's stored collections to

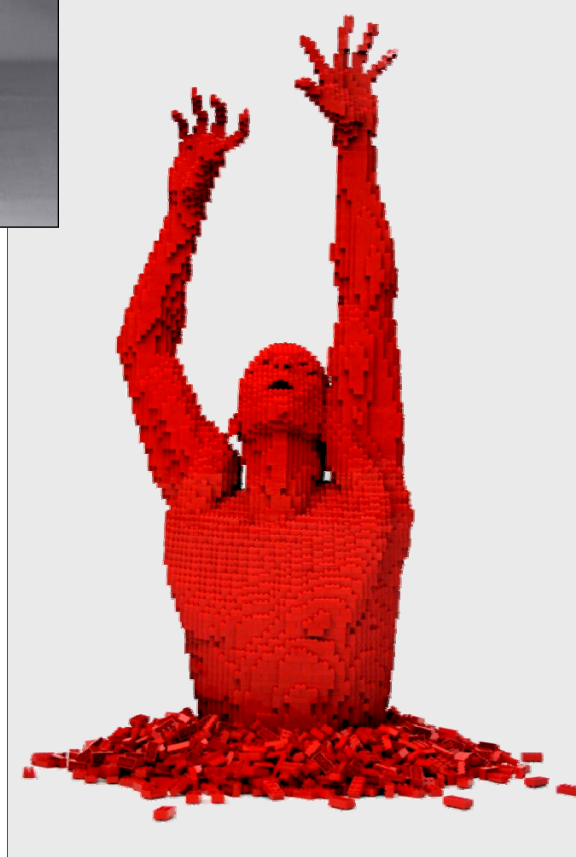
be consolidated from 13 different storage areas both on- and off-site.

Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences, Peoria
Exhibitions

Art of the Brick, April 10 – September 6, 2010

When we think of sculptural art, one of the last things we think of is a child's toy. However, the 29 sculptural works in *Art of the Brick* were created exclusively using the little colorful, rectangular LEGO® bricks popular with children all around the world.

Artist Nathan Sawaya found a way to turn his childhood passion for creating familiar and imagined objects with LEGO building bricks into a highly creative and gratifying career. He is one of just nine LEGO Certified Professionals in the world, officially licensed but not employed by the LEGO company to use LEGO products for commercial and artistic purposes, each of whom exemplifies the creative possibilities of the LEGO building systems.



Nathan Sawaya, Red, 2006; LEGO® bricks

Indiana

Submitted by Lana Newhart-Kellen ■

The Indiana Museum of Art has partnered with the **Conner Prairie Museum** for the long term loan of a Severin Roesen floral still life painting. In exchange for the loan, the painting is undergoing conservation treatment at the IMA. The treatment will be completed so that the painting can hang in the IMA's Early American Galleries by June 2010.

The painting is in relatively good condition except for minor damage of a small tear in the left side and some areas where cracks in the paint are unstable. Aesthetically, the painting is obscured by heavy layers of dirt, soot, and discolored varnish. Underneath those layers lie the delicate flowers with glistening dew drops for which Roesen is so well known.

Go to the blog on the IMA website for before, during and after images of the conservation process, at <http://www.imamuseum.org/search/ima/roesen>.



Conservation work in progress at IMA.



Home of Ernie Pyle in Jeopardy

A state commission has delayed a decision on putting up for sale the western Indiana boyhood

home of famed World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle. The Department of Natural Resources has closed the house and a visitors center that make up the state historic site honoring Pyle, saying that it draws too few people.

The Natural Resources Commission voted Tuesday to wait until November for action about the property in the town of Dana.

DNR deputy director John Davis says the agency will work with local groups that want to keep the Pyle site open, but that it won't spend state money on operation costs and improvements.

Friends of Ernie Pyle board member Phil Hess says the group will meet with state officials and that the delay provides a glimmer of hope.



Iowa

Submitted by Jennifer Kovarik ■

The Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn Exhibitions

Danish American Artist Series: Evelyn Matthies, through July 11, 2010

This show features a wide variety of paintings that everyone will enjoy. If you've got the winter blues, spend some time gazing at Matthies' images of the Italian countryside. If you long for gardens in bloom, enjoy her many depictions of flowers and natural scenes. Ever wanted to go scuba diving? Matthies gives you a taste of the underwater world, and in one of her paintings you can challenge yourself to find the 92 fish she painted!

Sampling the Collection: A to Å, through March 6, 2011

See some of the weird, wacky and wonderful pieces from the museum's collection. Featured pieces are a 1922 athletic club banner, a needlework from 1730, and egg warmers in the shape of ducks!



Sampling the Collection: A to Å

Events

Tivolifest, May 28-29, 2010

The Danish villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton celebrate Tivoli with games, performances, a parade, fireworks, crafters, food, souvenirs and much more!

Sankt Hans Aften, June 26, 2010

Sankt Hans Aften is the time in Denmark for lighting fires on Midsummer's Eve, the longest day of the year, to commemorate St. Hans and to make sure the coming year will be good. Join us as we celebrate this

tradition on the museum grounds.

Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Iowa

Workshop to Help Develop Oral History Projects

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) will be hosting the workshop, *Story & History Matter: a hands-on workshop to organize & implement an oral history project*, on Wednesday, June 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Grout Museum/Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum in Waterloo and taught by the staff of the museum.

The workshop will provide a *hands-on* explanation on how to organize and implement an oral history project. The session will cover project organization and procedures; equipment; interview organization and techniques; post interview processing and archiving; editing and distribution; and resources and funding. Presenters will demonstrate interview techniques along with examples of "right and wrong" practices. There will also be a discussion about the value and use of oral history.

"This is a great opportunity to learn how to document your community's stories before they are gone forever," commented Don Short, SSNHA President.

"Participants will learn from the staff of the Grout Museum, who have conducted over 1,000 interviews."

Registration is due June 10 and limited to 30 participants. The registration fee is \$45 per person affiliated with a designated SSNHA Partner Site and \$55 per person for all other participants. Participants will receive both an interview manual and demo CD. Registration forms are available online under the "Resources" section at

www.silosandsmokestacks.org. For

additional information contact Candy Streed, Program & Partnership Director, at 319-234-4567 or cstreed@silosandsmokestacks.org.

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area is one of 49 federally designated heritage areas in the nation and is an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service. The Heritage Area covers 37 counties in the northeast quadrant of Iowa. Interstate 80 borders it on the south and Interstate 35 borders it on the west. Through a network of sites, programs and events, SSNHA interprets farm life, agribusiness and rural communities – past and present.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art,
Cedar Rapids

*The Grant Wood Window:
Drawings for the Veterans
Memorial Stained Glass Window
Commission*

-on display June 19 through
November 14, 2010.

In conjunction with the reinstallation of the restored historic window designed by Grant Wood for the Veterans Memorial Building on May's Island, the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art will display for the first time the complete set of original drawings used for the fabrication of the window. On permanent loan from the Veterans Memorial Coliseum Commission, these actual sized drawings, when assembled, measure the same size as the window, a massive 24 feet high by 20 feet wide, making them Grant Wood's largest drawing. This exhibition is supported in part by the Richard D. Pinney Exhibition Fund and the Momentum Fund of The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.



Left: Detail from original drawing for memorial window.

Above: Photograph of window.

Iowa Battle Flag Project
Conservation Award

The Iowa Battle Flag Project staff, Sheila Hanke and Sarah Carlson, were awarded the Lincoln's Legion Award for 2010 in honor of their devotion to the preservation of Iowa's battle flags. The award recognizes their excellence in stabilization, conservation and research of Iowa's battle flags. It was presented to the staff on February 23, 2010 by The Governor's Own Iowa Rifles.

April Flag Rotation

On April 9, 2010 Iowa Battle Flag Project staff and volunteers, with the assistance of the 49th Iowa, installed a newly conserved flag in the second floor gallery at the State Historical Museum. The flag is 2001.71.154, 50th Iowa Infantry, National flag, from the Spanish-American War. We would like to thank the 49th Iowa and Tom Clingan for their assistance with this move! This move was filmed for inclusion in the Iowa Battle Flag public conservation lab interactive station.

Maintenance Work on Capitol Case

Due to retrofitting of electrical and fire suppression systems in the Capitol flag case, all flag rotations at the Capitol building will be halted

temporarily. A new flag is scheduled for rotation in mid-September.

Sesquicentennial Planning Committee Meeting

On May 21st, the Iowa Battle Flag Project staff will attend a Civil War Sesquicentennial Planning Committee meeting at the State Historical Museum. This is an exhibit advisory committee that will help the museum staff arrive at an interpretive direction for both the traveling trailer and a longer term exhibit in the museum (Des Moines).

Film:

Love and Valor, May 21, 2010

The State Historical Building will be hosting the film *Love and Valor*, a documentary based on letters between a husband and wife of the 25th Iowa Infantry. The event begins at 6:30 pm with wine and refreshments, music, and a special exhibition of the original letters. The event is highlighted by a display of the 25th Iowa Infantry flags and book signing by the author. The *Love and Valor* film will be showing at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. For the younger visitor the *Lincoln and Iowa* trailer will be open for guided tours. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Iowa Battle Flag Project.

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum,
Decorah

Accreditation Renewed by the AAM

The American Association of Museums (AAM) has renewed the museum's accreditation. It is impressive that Vesterheim was among the first museums accredited in 1971, but it is even more

(Continued on page 9)

impressive that it now has been reaccredited three times.

"This reward is recognition that Vesterheim is a national treasure, and all of the Decorah community can be proud," said Steven Johnson, Vesterheim's Executive Director. "Receiving our reaccreditation is wonderful news, and a credit to the entire staff for their professional and capable stewardship on behalf of the museum," Sonja Peterson, Vesterheim's Board Director, added.

Many businesses and institutions adhere to national standards, and museums are no exception. Museums voluntarily measure their own performance using benchmarks of national standards and best practices. The benchmarks also help policy makers, media, philanthropic organizations, donors and members of the public assess the achievements of museums.

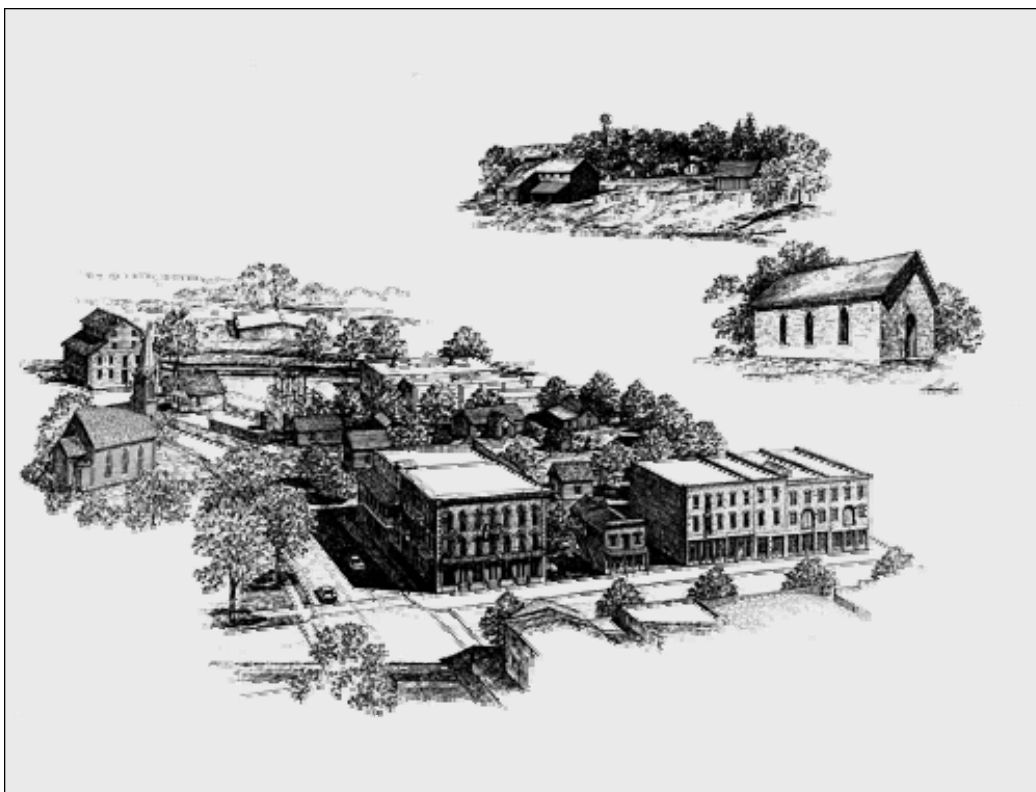
Accreditation is essential if a museum is to be professionally respected and is influential in attracting funding. Accreditation is a widely recognized seal of approval that brings national recognition to American museums, regardless of size or location. Since the first museums were accredited in 1971 (Vesterheim among them), the AAM Accreditation Program has recognized museums' commitment to excellence, accountability, high

professional standards and continued institutional improvement.

According to the latest count, there are 17,500 museums in the United States. Of those, only four percent, or 776 museums, have been accredited by the AAM. Of the accredited museums, 140 are located in the Midwest—19 in Iowa. Most accredited museums are art or history museums, but there are also zoos, arboretums and science centers. Most accredited museums are private/non-profit, have a full-time staff of 1-15 people, and an annual budget of 1 to 3 million dollars.

Vesterheim's renewal follows a lengthy and exhaustive self-evaluation submitted to AAM in November 2007 and a site visit by AAM representatives in February 2009. The self-study application submitted in November 2007 included answering 63 pages of questions, preparing 49 documents, lists, or charts to attach, and submitting photographs of facilities, collections, exhibitions, and live interpretive activities.

The self-study required the efforts of board members and all of the staff, who measured square footage of buildings, compiled financial and visitor information, described programs, and defined community and audience.



Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum

Michigan

Submitted by Katie Nelson ■

The Museum of Cultural & Natural History, Mount Pleasant *Central Michigan University Grants New Storage Space to its Museum*

The Museum of Cultural & Natural History at Central Michigan University recently received new storage space for its fluid collections. Through a CAP Assessment, it was recommended that the Fluid Collections, of over 5,000 specimens, be separated for fire safety purposes from the dry specimens. A new room, in addition to a fully mediated classroom for the Museum Studies program, was allocated to the Museum.

Renovations were completed through the generous support of the Dean's Office of College of Humanities & Social & Behavioral Sciences. Renovations included removal of carpeting and replacing with floor tiling, installation of extraction fan and repainting of walls. New powder coated steel shelving was then purchased from the Tyler Supply Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan, a partner company of Borroughs Corporation, also in Kalamazoo, and installed by MCNH student staff. The entire Fluid Collection has been now moved into the space with room for expansion.



Improved storage for the Museum of Cultural and Natural History at Central Michigan University.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, Mackinac Island *New Museum Opening on Mackinac Island*

The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum opens June 15th, with a Grand Opening celebration on July 14 and 15. The new museum is housed in the renovated Indian Dormitory, which was previously closed due to budget cuts and outdated exhibitions.

Collection Department interns will assist in object preparation and exhibits for the new art museum. In honor of the July 2010 grand opening Mackinac State Historic Parks is hosting a purchase award art contest. The prize of \$5,000, generously donated by the Mackinac Arts Council, will be awarded to the winning artist and their artwork will become part of the park's permanent collection. The Art Museum Team judged 56 entries during the last week of April. The name of the winner has yet to be released.

Grand Mackinac Antiques Appraisal Show

Mackinac State Historic Parks and Grand Hotel will be hosting a "Grand Mackinac Antiques Appraisal Show." The public can sign up until June 21 and pay to have two objects appraised, with the money going to the Mackinac Associates. On hand will be a number of appraisers, including the Keno Brothers.

For more details, please go to our website, www.mackinacparks.com

IMLS Conservation Grants Awarded to Four Michigan Museums

United States Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, both D-Mich., announced that \$355,755 in grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services was given to the Michigan State University Museum (\$149,316), the Cranbrook Art Museum (\$133,431), the Detroit Institute of Arts (\$90,000), and Kingman Museum (\$78,918). Michigan State will use the money for storage systems for five recently acquired collections, including one on the history of weaving, and another on African-American quilts, as well as a portfolio of Rosa Park's letters. Cranbrook will upgrade storage conditions for textiles, ceramics and glass; the DIA will apply the funds to its behind-the-scenes collection of American art, and Kingman Museum, in Battle Creek, will purchase powder-coated metal shelving and acid free supplies to re-house the natural history and ethnographic collections. Of the 148 applications submitted, 33 museums were selected, totaling \$3,184,977. For more information, visit www.imls.gov

Flint Institute of Arts, FlintExhibitions***Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect: A Modern Renaissance in Italian Glass*, May 23 - August 15**

The Flint Institute of Arts (FIA) will be the only Midwest venue this summer for two major glass exhibitions. *Lino Tagliapietra in Retrospect* features 160 works by Lino Tagliapietra, the revered Venetian maestro of glassblowing and both teacher and mentor to many of the world's finest glass artists. Dale Chihuly is among the well known artists with whom Tagliapietra has worked and greatly influenced.

"Lino represents the creative electricity that flows between two of the world's great centers of art, Murano, Italy and the Pacific Northwest," said Timothy Close, Director of the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington and the show's organizer. Tagliapietra's art is rooted in the 1,000-year-old Venetian glass making tradition but takes the medium to a new level of beauty and craftsmanship.

Lino Tagliapietra began his career at 11 years of age in Murano, Italy, working his way up through the ranks at the glass house of the revered maestro, Archimede Seguso. He became head glass blower and designer at La Murina. His ambition and extraordinary talent eventually led him to Pilchuck, a Studio Glass center outside of Seattle, Washington. While there he taught and shared his knowledge of the glass making process to students from around the world.

The artist's work has been exhibited in museums internationally and he has received numerous awards and honors including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City.



*left, a glass work by Lino Tagliapietra;
right, a lamp by Louis Comfort Tiffany*

***Louis Comfort Tiffany: Objects of Utility, Objects of Art*, May 23 through August 15**

This exhibition includes 40 of the finest leaded glass lamps created by the foremost American glassmaker of the 20th century. It is sponsored by Citizens Bank and explores the work of America's iconic glass artist.

Tiffany is known throughout the glass world for iridescent glassware, leaded stained glass lamps and church windows. He was the son of Charles Lewis Tiffany, a well known New York jeweler. He was himself an accomplished jeweler, painter and interior designer, but it is his revolutionary innovations in glass-making techniques that brought him international recognition.

At the center of the Art Nouveau Movement (new art) of 1880-1910, Tiffany abandoned the old practices of glass making and experimented with new techniques that would allow greater creativity with colors and textures. *Favrile*, an opalescent glass, with its variety of colors and hues and three-dimensional effects, was his discovery.

The inspiration for Tiffany's designs was taken most often from nature. Dragonflies, peacocks, an array of flowers and vines in a rich palette of colors are typical of the motifs he favored and are well represented in the lamps in this exhibition.

Many of Tiffany's creations have been lost with the passage of time, and because of the enduring popularity of his designs they have been imitated, copied and mass-produced. "This exhibition affords the viewer a rare opportunity to see what an authentic Tiffany Lamp looks like," said John Henry, Director of the Flint Institute of Arts. "We are particularly proud to have the work of two glass making masters at our museum. The magical power and beauty of the objects in these complementary exhibitions is certain to captivate our audiences."

The award-winning Flint Institute of Arts is located in the Cultural Center Park two blocks from the I-69/I-475 exchange at 1120 E. Kearsley Street in Flint. Gallery hours are Mon., Wed. & Fri. 12pm-5pm; Thurs. 12pm-9pm; Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm. Saturdays are Target Free. For more information call 810.234.1695 or www.flintarts.org.

Minnesota

Submitted by Jackie Hoff ■

Ramsey County Historical Society, St. Paul
Mark Your Calendar – New RCHS Research Center Opening on June 10

Enjoy improved comfort and service when the new Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) Research Center opens. The Grand Opening reception will be Thursday, June 10 from 4 to 6 pm.

The new space is in the lower level of the Landmark Center and is four times larger than our current space. Our well known, user friendly service will be even better, since the archival collections will be stored right next to the Research Center.

Renovations are underway to improve archival collections care through high-quality climate control and unification of archival collection storage. The renovation of the new space is fully funded through the generosity of three foundations and one individual contribution. We extend our thanks to the Huss Family Foundation, McCarthy-Bjorklund Foundation, Scrooby Foundation, and Laurie Murphy for assisting and allowing these improvements to be made.

Watch your mailbox for a special invitation and plan to attend the Grand Opening Reception on Thursday, June 10 from 4 to 6 pm, and then settle in to discover the history of your house, your neighborhood, and Ramsey County by exploring building permits, business and church records, and the stories of those who lived here since before Minnesota was a state.

Introductory Offer to RCHS Members

For a limited time, RCHS members who use the Research Center will receive one hour of free parking at the Victory Ramp on Wabasha and 4th Street. RCHS members receive the first 15 minutes of research free, and a \$5.00 discount on each subsequent half hour of staff research time beyond 15 minutes.

Not a member? Call 651-222-0701 x226 or email Maureen@rchs.com to join and take advantage of this special offer.

Exhibitions

They Played for the Love of the Game: Adding to the Legacy of Minnesota Black Baseball, February 25, 2010 – August 20, 2010, RCHS Exhibit Gallery, Landmark Center, 1st floor

The exhibit traces the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues and African American players through present day in the Twin Cities. Although there was not a Negro League team in Minnesota, League players and many outstanding local athletes played in barnstorming games throughout the state.

The exhibit highlights players in St. Paul and Minneapolis in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Key topics include why the Negro League was formed and some of the results of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier.

Minnesota Black Baseball Discussion Series

Learn more about the Legacy of Minnesota Black Baseball by attending these engaging discussions. All programs will begin at 6:30 pm in the Landmark Center and include light refreshments.

Thursday, April 22: *The Way We Played the Game*
 Featuring Ken Christian, Jim Robinson & Jim Milsap, and Larry "Bubba" Brown

Moderator: Kwame McDonald

Thursday, May 27: *Minnesota Twins, the Early Days*

Featuring former Minnesota Twins Julio Bequer and Tony Oliva

Moderator: Frank White, Guest Exhibit Curator

Thursday, June 24: *We Played with the Boys*, women's views

Featuring Deb Montgomery

Moderator: Lisa Lissimore

To be Announced: St. Paul Saints highlighting *Larry Doby Day*

Thursday, July 29: *A Brief Look at the Negro Leagues*

Negro Leagues Film & Discussion led by Guest Exhibit Curator, Frank White

Thursday, August 12: *Buck O'Neil and Louis White*, at the Negro Leagues

Baseball Museum, Kansas City; Film & Discussion led by Guest Exhibit Curator, Frank White.



Visitors at They Played for the Love of the Game on its opening night.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

**The Science Museum of Minnesota,
St. Paul**

***Cordry Intern Returns from Collecting
Trip to Oaxaca, Mexico***

The Science Museum of Minnesota's Cordry Intern in Mexican Folk Art returned to the museum after three months in the Mexican village of Ocotlán de Morelos, Oaxaca. Mya Dosch, a 2009 graduate of Carleton College, studied the pottery production of the famed Aguilar sisters, and purchased 50 of their artworks for the Museum's ethnology collection. The experience was funded through an endowment established in 1989 by the late Minnesotans Donald and Dorothy Cordry, self-taught scholars and avid collectors of Mexican folk art.

The four sisters of the Aguilar family in Ocotlán carry on a ceramic tradition handed down from their late mother, Doña Isaura Aguilar Alcántara. Doña Isaura and her husband, Jesús Aguilar Revilla, were innovators in local ceramics. They broke from



Mya Dosch, the Science Museum of Minnesota's Cordry Intern, with Mexican folk artist Irene Aguilar and her ceramic funeral scene.

producing traditional functional and ritual pottery and began to create detailed sculptures of female market vendors and mermaids, as well as scenes that reflected the daily life in rural Oaxaca. Their four daughters and their families continue to make brightly painted ceramic figures for sale to museums, collectors and tourists worldwide.

Before traveling to Mexico, Dosch studied the existing 1200 Mexican folk art pieces in the Science Museum's collection of over 1.75 million anthropology and natural history objects, and developed a collecting and research plan. She was also trained in museum methodologies, object handling and cataloging techniques by Science Museum of Minnesota staff members. Dosch then lived in artist Irene Aguilar's home in Ocotlán from January to early April, and observed and documented the pottery production of all four sisters. She focused her research on the ways in which tourists and folk art collectors have influenced Aguilar motifs and production during the past five decades.

Dosch's purchases for the Museum's collection varied from small ceramic bells to a 33-piece diorama representing the funerary traditions of Ocotlán. The works will be cataloged and available to researchers and the general public via the Museum's online database at www.smm.org/collections.

The Cordry Internship is offered biennially, and is open to current Minnesota college students or recent graduates. It offers the opportunity to conduct hands-on ethnographical research and collecting in Latin America. For more information on the internship, visit <http://www.smm.org/anthropology/cordry/> or contact Tilly Laskey at 651-221-9432.



Mya Dosch moving Aguilar family artworks into the Science Museum of Minnesota's ethnology lab for cataloging

Missouri

(No report)

Ohio

Submitted by Joanne Fenn ■

The Bedford Historical Society, Bedford
49th Annual Strawberry Festival on June 11, 12 & 13,

The event and parking are free. June 12 will showcase the Strawberry Festival Classic Car show from 4 to 10 pm. If you're not out of town, try to come to the Strawberry Festival—it's really a lot of fun! The Flea Market on the Square will take place on August 14 from 9am to 4pm.

Cemetery Preservation Workshop, Sept 24 -Sept 25

Participants will gain knowledge of several aspects of cemetery protection, including Ohio cemetery law, interpretation of funerary art, how

genealogists obtain information from gravestones, and methods for cleaning, leveling and refastening parts of gravestones. Cost is \$35 and includes lectures, workshop and basic materials. The deadline is September 15, 2010. Register at: <http://www.bedfordohiohistory.org/events/index.php>

Kennedy Museum of Art at Ohio University, Athens
Cultural Order/Natural Chaos: Sculptures and Drawings by SunKoo Yuh, April 9 – July 13, 2010

SunKoo Yuh's multi-layered ceramic sculptures and ink drawings reflect his Korean roots, the Western influence and the mixed cultural impact created by both of these experiences. Whimsical, and sometimes serious, the works depict his intimate encounters with the everyday and concerns about our collective culture. SunKoo's towering hand-built and slip cast sculptures are presented with his drawings to illustrate the artist's skill and varying techniques.

Selections from the Permanent Collections, January 23, 2009 – ongoing

This exhibition, which juxtaposes pieces from the Kennedy Museum's permanent collections, including weavings, prints, paintings, ceramics and African art, treats visitors to the breadth and variety of the Museum's holdings. This exhibit will be updated from time to time to highlight the uniqueness of the collection. The current theme is Activism.

The Ridges: Remodeled and Restored, Selection of Architectural Drawings from 1923 – 1951, April 9 – August 15, 2010

This exhibition features 18 architectural drawings that archive the preservation and maintenance of the Ridges buildings, known as the Athens State Hospital. These highly detailed, hand-drafted plans are documentations of the architectural and engineering design methods used in the first half of the 20th century. Borrowed from the Ohio University planning office, the various technical drawings reveal the intricate craftsmanship, attention to detail and the meticulous process of renovation planning. Specifically, the blueprints in this exhibition depict the improvements to the tuberculosis cottage and infirmary, remodeling of the men's and women's ward, exterior painting and repairs of entrance porch of the main administration buildings.



Teec Nos Pos Weaving

Circle of Cottonwoods: Selected Teec Nos Pos Weavings from the Edwin L. and Ruth E. Kennedy Southwest Native American Collection, January 26- July 25, 2010

Many regional styles came out of the trading post system, but the Teec Nos Pos style (from the Teec Nos Pos canyon region in the Four Corners area of the American Southwest) is one of the most recognizable in its visual complexity and unique motif characteristics. Characterized by symmetrical and elaborate central designs surrounded by complex borders, the Classic Period of this style (1925 – 1945) produced many large weavings that were popular as floor coverings for homes in the northeastern part of the United States.

Sky Imagery in Selected Sandpainting Weavings from the Edwin L. and Ruth E. Kennedy Southwest Native American Collection, January 26 – July 25, 2010

Perhaps the most unique feature of the Kennedy collection is the series of Navajo sandpainting textiles that Edwin Kennedy commissioned with the assistance of Red Rock Trading Post owners Troy and Edith Kennedy over nearly four decades. These weavings reflect sandpainting designs used in six traditional ceremonial healing practices: Beautyway, Waterway, Bead Chant, Great Star Chant, Hailway, and Coyoteway. It is, by all accounts, the largest single collection of sandpainting textiles in existence.

(Continued from page 14)

Kent State University Museum, Kent

Museum director Jean Druesedow and Cleveland Postmaster, W. Spencer Hsu, presented the commemorative Katharine Hepburn stamp at "Lunch with Kate," May 12, 2010.

The luncheon introduced KSUM's upcoming exhibition, *Katharine Hepburn: Dressed for Stage and Screen*, opening October 2, 2010. The event, sponsored by Dillards, helped to raise funds for the exhibition, which features Miss Hepburn's personal collection of performance clothes given to KSUM by her estate.

The Kent State University Museum: Celebrating 25 Years, Higbee Gallery, through February 13, 2011
Behind the scenes—Dressing for the exhibition:

On September 27, 1985, the Kent State University Museum opened its doors to the public for the first time. One of the nation's finest private collections of costumes was given to establish the museum—the donation of fashion industry entrepreneurs Jerry Silverman and Shannon Rodgers. It included 4,000 fashionable and traditional costumes, 1,000 objects of decorative art and 5,000 volumes for the library.

Since that time the collection has grown to 40,000 artifacts. Well over one million people have visited the museum in person, on the Web, or seen our name on objects loaned to exhibitions worldwide. Donors have enriched our collection and our endowment throughout the quarter century of our existence, and we are especially grateful for their continuing support. We embrace our mission to collect, exhibit, interpret and preserve the artifacts entrusted to us and to bring to the university and the greater community exhibitions that demonstrate the artistry and diversity of the world's peoples.



Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland
HALE OPENING WEEKEND! June 5, The Hale Run, Hale Farm & Village

Join the 2nd Annual Hale Run, a 10K, 5K, and Family Fun Walk that takes participants on a course through history with barns, pastures, nature trails, sugar bush and creek crossings. Proceeds benefit Hale Farm & Village education programs. Contact Lisa Leaman at 330.666.3711, ext 230; or lleaman@wrhs.org.

Genealogy Online Database Workshop, June 5 from Noon to 3 pm, University Circle Complex, Library

This workshop will cover all the databases that can be accessed in the Genealogy Center and from home via the Internet. Includes hands-on use of databases. For details and reservations contact

reference@wrhs.org or 216-721-5722.

Fashion Week Cleveland Programs, June 5 from Noon to 5 pm, University Circle Complex

WRHS hosts Fashion Week Cleveland in the Norton Gallery of the University Circle Complex. Admission is free for Fashion Week Cleveland participants and guests are welcome with paid WRHS Admission. Free for WRHS Members. For the list of programs, visit www.fashionweekcleveland.com or www.wrhs.org.

Hale Farm Festival & Pioneer Weekend, June 12 & 13 from 10 am to 5 pm, Hale Farm & Village

The pioneers have invaded Hale Farm & Village! Join us for this new family event weekend and explore



Evening Gowns in the current exhibition at Kent State University Museum

early 19th-century life including what it took to be a soldier in the War of 1812. Regular admission. Free for Members.

Hale and Hearty Dinner Series, June 12, July 10, August 14; 6–9 pm, Hale Farm and Village

Enjoy historic themed dinners Hale Farm & Village style in the Gatehouse Visitor Center. \$45 per person; \$40 for WRHS Members. Reservations required: 330-666-3711 or halereservations@wrhs.org.

Hale & Hearty Dinner Series...Dinner with Jonathan Hale, June 12 from 6–9 pm, Hale Farm & Village

Celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Hale family's arrival in the Western Reserve by feasting on pioneer foods from the days of Jonathan Hale. \$45 per person; \$40 for WRHS Members. Reservations required: 330-666-3711 or halereservations@wrhs.org.

Circle Sampler Camp, June 14 to 23, University Circle Museums & Institutions

A unique camp experience hosted by The Cleveland Museum of Natural History takes youngsters through the wonders of University Circle. Information & registration at www.cmnh.org.

Lincoln Campaign Train and Rally, June 26, Hale Farm & Village and Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's 1860 campaign for U.S. President by riding to Hale Farm & Village aboard the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad from the Rockside Station in Independence. Chat with Mr. Lincoln (as interpreted by Gerry Payn) along the way, then join a rousing political rally picnic lunch at Hale Farm & Village. Price includes train fare, admission and lunch. \$35.00 for adults and \$25.00 for children. WRHS Members: \$30.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children. Purchase tickets online at www.cvsr.com or call the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad at 800.468.4070.

Miami University Art Museum, Oxford

The search for a Curator of Exhibitions is underway at Miami, but applications are still being accepted. The position is open until filled. Candidates should have a master's degree in museum studies, art history or a related field and have 3-5 years of recent, full-time curatorial experience. The position is posted (posting #0000353) on the Miami University website at this link: <https://www.miamiujobs.com/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/frameset.jsp?time=1274411427475>

Upcoming Exhibitions

Animal Tales: Storybooks for Children, August 24 – December 10

As children, we learn about the world through the stories we read or hear. Animals, birds and insects often play a part in these tales, either as principal actors, human companions or wild species sharing our planet. Organized in collaboration with the King Library Special Collections, this exhibition explores the presence of animals in children's books from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Included are such classics as *Call of the Wild*, *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Creatures Great & Small, August 24 – December 10

This suite of exhibitions investigates the powerful ways the natural world has functioned as a storyteller. In earlier times the complex relationship between humans and animals found expression in folk traditions of storytelling and craft production. In more recent centuries, artists have drawn upon this resource for inspiration in their work. Artists and writers continue to be influenced by the natural world, and their stories create an enduring cultural heritage.

In addition to paintings, prints and drawings by American and European artists from the 16th century to the present, featured works include children's books from Miami University Special Collections, textiles and folk toys from around the world, African goldweights, Asian ceramics, Native American pottery and much more.

Right: Chinese, Canton Vases with red Fu Dog decoration, mid-19th century, porcelain
Below: Fred Tomaselli, Bird Portraits, circa 2004, screen-print (detail)



Wisconsin

Submitted by Nicolette Meister ■

Exhibitions

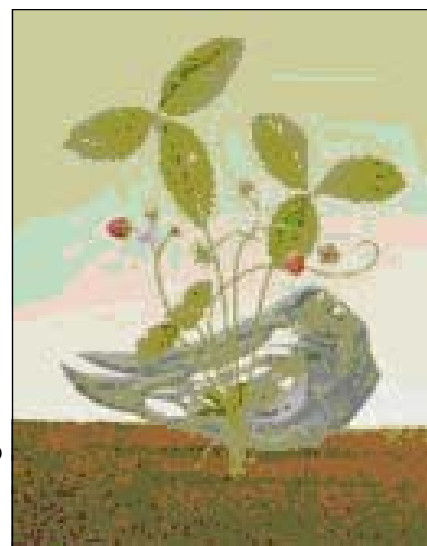
The Magic of John Wilde, May 29–July 25, 2010

The Chazen Museum of Art will present *The Magic of John Wilde*, an exhibition of the Wisconsin native's magic realist paintings and drawings. Wilde's imaginative dreamscapes reflect artistic traditions from European Renaissance painting to 20th century Surrealism. His artistic vision was also profoundly influenced by his domestic military service during World War II and a deep respect for nature, inspired by rural Wisconsin. Wilde's exquisite oil painting technique is evident in still lifes, allegorical landscapes, and portraits. Vivid and colorful, his fanciful Edenic landscapes are populated with animals, people, and recurring objects that symbolize themes of nature, love, and death.

Born in Milwaukee, Wilde attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison from 1938 to 1942, where he learned the challenging medium of silverpoint from James Watrous and intensely studied the Old Masters. He majored in art, then was drafted in 1942 and served in the U.S. Army until 1946. Following the war he returned to the

UW–Madison for his M.A. in art and art history, with a thesis on the French Surrealist Max Ernst. Wilde taught art at UW–Madison from 1948 to 1982. A dedicated gardener, he lived the last 40 years of his life outside Evansville.

The exhibition is taken from the Chazen's exceptional collection of art by John Wilde, ranging from the 1940s to the 1990s.



John Wilde (American, 1919–2006), Wild Strawberry and a Bird Skull, 1990, oil on canvas mounted on board, 10 x 8 in. Gift of Douglas H. Schewe



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MRC Travel Stipend Application

The Midwest Registrars Committee is offering two travel stipends of \$750 each for a committee member to attend the Association of Midwest Museums annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio which will be held October 6-9, 2010.

Applicants must be voting members of the Midwest Registrars Committee and work in the Midwest region. Selections will be based on the materials submitted to the Travel Stipend Committee. The recipient will be expected to write an article for the MRC Courier about one of the sessions at the annual meeting.

To apply, please complete the form below and attach the required additional information.

Name		
Position/Title		
Institution Name		
Street Address/P.O. Box		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Fax	
Email		

Additional Information Required:

*Current resume

*Statement by applicant to include the following:

1. A description of your professional duties
2. Your involvement in and commitment to the profession
3. What you hope to gain from attending the AMM annual meeting

*Two letters of recommendation (one from your direct supervisor)

*Statement of financial need, if applicable

Application Deadline: July 30, 2010

Send applications to: Angela Stanford, Registrar
The Danish Immigrant Museum
2212 Washington Street
Elk Horn, IA 51531
Fax: 712-764-7002

For questions, contact: Angela Stanford (Vice Chair, Midwest Registrars Committee)
712-764-7001; registrar@danishmuseum.org

*Stipends made available by the Midwest Registrars Committee and Terry Dowd, Inc.

(Continued from page 1)

that the organization must be open to the public for a minimum of 90 days per year. The CAP program is now awarding "Re-CAPs" to organizations that were already awarded a CAP but believe that information is out-of-date and needs to be refreshed.

Conservation Project Support grants are possibly the largest monetary grant awards available from the IMLS, with the exception of SAT grants which are principally administered through by the National Park Service. These grants are available for up to \$150,000 and are due October 1, 2010. They require a 1:1 match. They fund a variety of conservation projects, with the exception of capital improvements.

American Heritage Preservation grants are a relatively new grant program that are expressly designed to award small grants (up to \$3,000) to smaller museums and historical societies to treat specific artifacts in their collections that need intervention. Institutions are expected to have already completed a general conservation survey. *These grants do not require matching funds.* The deadline for these grants is September 15, 2010.

Museums for America grants, while not typically used to fund conservation projects, are available for generic collections management projects, like cataloguing or collections processing. These grants are available up to \$150,000 and require a 1:1 match. The deadline for this program is November 1, 2010 and projects can last up to 3 years.

Connecting To Collections grants are a brand new initiative that developed from Heritage Preservation's Heritage Health Index survey. While these grants are not theoretically available to individual institutions as yet, individual states are in the process of acquiring state implementation grants that may be used to fund institutional conservation projects. Some states, like Indiana and Ohio, are in the process of applying for implementation grants to fund additional state-wide conservation activities.

National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506; (800) NEH-1121; www.neh.gov

The NEH maintains a wide variety of programs, although only a few are specifically intended to fund conservation programs. Primary among these are probably the *Preservation and Access* grants.

Preservation and Access Education and Training grants are fairly self-explanatory, in that they are designed to provide training for museum and historical society staff and volunteers in collections care and preservation. These grants can be used to fund workshops, seminars, training programs and attendance at conferences and similar activities. Grants up to \$150,000 are available and matching funds are strongly encouraged if not required. The grant deadline is July 1, 2010.

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions are small grants (up to \$6,000) that are intended to fund a variety of conservation related projects such as environmental monitoring, environmental improvements, storage improvement projects, preparing emergency preparedness plans, and even general conservation surveys. The deadline for these grants, which has passed for this year, is May 18, 2010. These grants are specifically intended for smaller museums and historical societies.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grants provide awards up to \$400,000. Planning and evaluation grants in this category are available up to \$40,000. These grants are ideal for improving environmental conditions such as upgrading HVAC systems, purchasing storage furniture, upgrading collections storage containers, and similar projects. It is most helpful with these grants if previous surveys or conservation consultants have recommended the work to be done and helped to outline the equipment and supplies needed for the improvements. Planning and evaluation grants in this category can be used to fund HVAC engineers and consultants to evaluate your building, often in conjunction with an environmental condition survey, to plan for HVAC improvements.

National Endowment for the Arts

Museums: Access to Artistic Excellence grants are available to fund conservation projects. Funds are available up to \$150,000 and the deadline for conservation related applicants is August 12, 2010. These grants require 1:1 matching funds. NEA grants can require slightly more convoluted application narratives including outcome-based evaluations and have a significant administrative paperwork burden, although not much greater than the larger NEH and IMLS grants. NEA grants are more appropriate for conservation projects involving significant fine art collections or individual artworks.

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

Save Americas Treasures Grants

Information on these grants can be found from the IMLS, NEH, NEA and NPS sites at www.nps.gov/hps/treasures. The deadline, which has passed for this year, is May 21, 2010. The administration has recommended ending funding for these grants starting with 2011, so the future availability of these funds is in question. Up to \$150,000 is available to fund the preservation of nationally significant historic properties or collections.

General Advice

As with all grants, federal or private, it is important to match your project with the grant program best suited to it. Not surprisingly, the grants that have the largest monetary awards tend to be quite competitive and these grants often have significant administrative burdens as well. Just completing the applications for these grants can be a daunting experience. The following are some of the most important things to keep in mind when applying for federal grants:

Start early: Even with the smallest and least competitive grants, like CAP grants, it pays to begin early. With the first-come, first-served grants, simply sending the application in at the earliest opportunity can be very important. For those with little experience with federal grants, it is even more important to start early. Many federal grants require that you pre-register with one or more governmental registration websites before you are even eligible to apply, requiring even more time for a process that often takes many months of planning and organization.

Get help: Even if you have a development department with staff to write grants, if those folks have no experience applying for federal grants they will need plenty of help if you expect success. Perhaps the best place to get expert advice, at no cost, is to contact the appropriate program officer for the grant you are interested in applying for. The program officers are there to answer questions from people like you. Ask if the project you are envisioning is a good match with their program. Make sure your institution is eligible and you have the time and resources to fulfill the requirements of the grant. These folks are often aware of other grants and programs that might be a better fit. The federal agencies also maintain a lovely list of successful grant applications that you can and should read. There is no better guarantee of

success than to emulate a successful application. Ask the program officer to match your project with a similar successful application.

Find a good consultant: One of the most common mistakes museums make when applying for federal grants for conservation projects is assuming they can manage the project without involving conservators or appropriate consultants. By their very nature, conservation grants tend to be highly technical, and grant reviewers, most of whom are conservators or museum professionals, expect institutions to have the appropriate consultant advising them and assisting with the implementation of the grants. In fact, it is critically important to involve consultants at the earliest stages of your grant development. Some consultants, myself included, provide a great deal of advice and editorial assistance free-of-charge in exchange for their inclusion in the grant project. However, not every conservator or consultant will guarantee a successful grant application. How do you find the right person? Ask your colleagues whom they have used for their projects. Ask the prospective consultant what grant projects they have been involved with. While using a new consultant will not always sink a grant application, using a consultant with a proven track record of working on grant projects is a better bet, particularly for institutions with minimal experience with federal grants. Remember you can always use the American Institute for Conservation's referral database to find conservators in your area. The database is available online at: www.conservation-us.org.

Get your ducks in a row: Perhaps the most common mistake that many institutions make when applying for federal grants is to ignore the priority system that suffuses most of the federal grants available to fund conservation projects. In reality, the priority system that exists for most of these grants can be summarized as: *the project that does the most good for the most collections artifacts in your museum will have the best chance of success*. For this reason, the majority of the federal grants require you to already have a general conservation survey in place and require you to attach this document to your application. In lieu of a general conservation survey, you can also append a conservation plan, which is a document that is developed directly from the general conservation survey. Keep in mind, however, that appending the general conservation survey, written by a competent and objective conservator, which for most institutions is an outside consultant, will have

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

the greatest impact. Include the entire document or the executive summary, which is usually a prioritized summary of recommendations. *By proving to the reviewers that you are asking for grant monies to address the highest priority project in the general assessment, you eliminate the number one objective to most proposals.* If your project is not listed as a high priority in the general survey, you must prove that the higher priority recommendations have already been addressed. Typically, the conservation projects that are most readily funded include environmental surveys, including evaluations of HVAC equipment, storage upgrade/collections rehousing projects, staff/volunteer education, item-specific surveys, and similar projects. Artifact treatment projects have traditionally been some of the most difficult to fund with federal grants, although that situation has been somewhat relaxed with the advent of the *Save America's Treasures* grants and the IMLS's *American Heritage Preservation Grants*.

Be Patient: If you are not immediately successful with your grant application, don't give up and throw the rejection letter in the trash. Read the comments

and scores carefully. If your scores are fairly high, you might have just have gotten one or two cranky reviewers who lowered your score. Use the reviewer's comments to strengthen your application. Remember that most of the work has been done in preparing the first application, and hopefully only a little editing and updating is required for success. Some grants require 2-3 years of work before they are accepted!

In Summary: Many small institutions have successfully applied for federal grant monies for their conservation projects. The federal agencies want to prove to Congress that these monies are awarded to small institutions, perhaps in areas off the beaten track. For this reason program officers will often bend over backwards to assist the smaller museums to prepare grant applications. If you have the time to devote to the application and implementation process, and you have a project in mind, then by all means go for it! There is an ever-growing number of consultants out there more than willing to help you with the process.

Submitted by Laurie Booth ■
Midwest Conservation Services, Inc.
10160 Queens Way, Unit 4, Chagrin Falls
OH 44023 Tel: (440) 543-2202



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