

MRC Courier

The Year of the 'Rona!

Combined Summer and Fall Issue.

Don't forget to renew your Membership!

From the Chair

Andrew Near

Summer 2020:

Hello, and welcome to another edition of the *MRC Courier*. It has been quite the year, I hope that you are all fairing well.

Nominations Chair, Rachel Vargas is still accepting nominations (and self-nominations) for Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. This has been a very rewarding experience, and I strongly recommend reaching out to Rachel to learn more about running for the board. We have a good time, and get to do some pretty cool stuff along the way.

Voting membership in the Midwest Registrars Committee is open to those museum professionals who support the objectives of the MRC, who reside in the Midwest region (including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin), and who hold positions such as registrar, collections manager, curator, volunteer, administrator, conservator, corporate registrar, or student.

A non-voting membership is available for individuals who are associated with for-profit organizations such as shipping companies, customs brokers, insurance firms, and other suppliers of materials and services, and individuals who reside outside of the Midwest region.

The membership period covers the calendar year (from January 1 through December 31). Annual dues are \$10.00 per year. For more information on the Midwest Registrars Committee or to join MRC, visit <http://midwestregistrars.org/>

From the Chair, continued

if you haven't already heard, the Association of Midwest Museums is postponing until 2021. The conference will still take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I look forward to seeing everybody next year. We will continue to hold our annual business luncheon, albeit by Zoom. It is scheduled for October 8th at 2pm I hope that you can all attend. We will induct our newly elected executive board as well as other initiatives that we have been working on.

Now, I take this privilege to write to you as a friend, colleague and neighbor. We've collectively grieved during a shutdown during what I can only pray is the darkest days of an ongoing global pandemic. While grappling with how to re-open a museum and what a return to school in the fall will look for ourselves and our children alike, we also collectively mourn—many of us have taken to the streets to protest—the loss of our African American brothers and sisters at the hands of police brutality and white supremacy. As we announced for *Courier* content, Illinois State Representative, Sara Hindmarch emailed me to acknowledge our collective pain and start a conversation about the inequities in our system. In Sara's words:

This is not an official statement from the MRC but rather something that I feel important to reach out to you all with, as a way to check in and ask that we work to support one another and our communities. I see you, I hear you, and I hope we can work together to examine the ways that our work and our institutions can be a part of systemic change. At times like this I am thankful that the Museum Registrar community is so active and collaborative, and I would love to hear from you all on how you are doing . . .

Sara also brought up the question, "What can we do as Registrars?" In short, I don't exactly know. but we can learn, and simultaneously unlearn. There is a pantheon of anti-racist and anti-bigotry literature, documentaries, and testimonials to teach us. AAM has made several training videos available, including *Racism, Unrest, and the Role of the Museum Field*. we can sit in this uncomfortable mental/emotional space and reflect. we can reach out to our friends, family and neighbors to ask if they need support. We can volunteer, and donate. We can ask our institutions to step up. What has become clear to me in these past few months and upon deeper reflection is that if we care about human rights and civil liberty, we all need to act and continue to act in order to see through real progress.

During the pandemic, I learned that I have a voice and a stake in the world we share; one that I've squandered for too long. And so, I ask how are you and what can I do to help?

Sincerely,

Andy Near, MRC Chair (outgoing)

The newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee, the *MRC Courier*, is published three times a year. Members and Vendors, please submit news, articles, announcements, photographs and ideas for future issues to Margaret Helms, Membership Associate, Evansville Museum, Evansville Indiana. 812-425-2406, marhelms85@gmail.com . *MRC Courier* is jointly edited by Margaret Helms and Liz Fuhrman Bragg, lizfuhrmanbragg@gmail.com.

From the Chair, continued

Fall 2020:

Well, everyone, this has been a year for the books. It's been challenging for all of us as we navigated the various ways the pandemic has altered the way we live. We've learned what it means for our museums and workplaces to close and reopen and close again, in some cases. We've been working from home, schooling from home, doing absolutely everything from home and only home. Our jobs, our hours, our institutions' budgets, our paychecks and benefits, and certainly our collective morale have been hurt by the pandemic. I know how hard it has been to navigate all of that. I was furloughed in April and worked for four months on five hours per week, an impossible amount of time to accomplish much of anything.

Personally, I've had some great things happen this year, too. I got married in August, in a small outdoor ceremony in front of our families. My husband and I bought a house together and moved. And I'm stepping into my new role as MRC Chair!

Andy Near has been in this role for 2 terms, and I have big shoes to fill. Under Andy's leadership, our organization has continued to thrive and to explore new directions for growth and improvement. I am grateful for his friendship, the comradery of working together on the Board for the last 2 years, and his guidance as I transition into my new role as Chair.

This year, we've gotten accustomed to meeting with coworkers, friends, and family virtually when in-person events aren't possible. The MRC Annual Business Meeting followed suit, happening virtually on December 1, 2020. While I missed catching up with everyone in person and enjoying our customary meal together at AMM's Conference, it was still wonderful to see everyone gathered in the same place. We heard updates from the Board on membership, the treasurer's report, the work that has been done towards updating the bylaws, and the results of the election. Sebastián Encina shared a presentation on CS-AAM's recent activities and upcoming plans.

Thank you to the MRC Nominations Chair, Rachel Vargas, for organizing and administering the recent Board elections. Please help me welcome the MRC 2020-2022 Board:

Chair: Julie Burgess Walser, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI

Vice Chair: Leslie Ory Lewellen, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

Secretary: Linda Endersby, Museum of Art & Archaeology, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Treasurer: Sarah Humes, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI

Mostly, I want to say thank you. Thank you to my fellow board members: Leslie, for joining us, and Linda and Sarah, for your leadership and willingness to serve another term. We are going to have a great time working together. Thank you to those holding the other positions in our organization and to the state representatives. Thank you to our MRC members across 8 states, who continue to participate and engage with the organization in this crazy time. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve the MRC and you, its members. I look forward to better understanding how I can, and how MRC can, help support you navigating the unique challenges of being a pandemic-era (and hopefully soon a post-pandemic-era) museum professional. What an honor to be a part of such a great group.

Sincerely,

Julie Burgess Walser

Time to renew for 2021 Memberships!

Hard to believe, but 2020 is finally coming to an end. It's been a tough year for everyone. But, we're hoping that most of you will be able and willing to renew your MRC membership for 2021. It's quick! It's easy! It supports a great organization!

Visit the Registration and Renewal page on the MRC website.

<https://midwestregistrars.org/membership-2/joinrenew-membership/>

Complete the 'Online Registration Form.'

Use the BUY NOW button to submit payment via PayPal or send a check via snail mail to

Sarah Humes, Treasurer, at the address listed below.

Boom! You are good for another year of great MRC benefits, which includes access to a fantastic professional network of like-minded professionals, workshop opportunities, funding assistance for state workshops, the opportunity to apply for travel stipends to attend the annual AMM Conference, the MRC Membership Directory and MRC's newsletter *The Courier*.

There is also a printable renewal form at the end of this newsletter. Payments by check should be sent to the MRC Treasurer:

Sarah Humes, Treasurer

730 84th Street SW

Byron Center, MI 49315

PLEASE NOTE: IF you do not renew by **April 1**, you will not be included in the Member Directory for 2021.

For any questions regarding membership, please contact your state representative or Linda Endersby, Secretary, EndersbyL@missouri.edu.

Call for Archival Materials

Are you retiring soon? Moving offices? Cleaning out old files? If you come across any MRC-related material, let us know! We keep by-laws, agendas and meeting minutes, summaries of election results, annual rosters and membership lists, reports and correspondence, materials related to annual meetings, workshops, and seminars, and of course, this newsletter! If you have anything you think may be appropriate to add, especially if you are or have been a state representative or board member, please contact Lauren Hancock at lhancock@fieldmuseum.org.

Travel Stipend Scholarships 2019

2020 Vice Chair Annual Report

Julie Burgess Walser

Due to the cancellation of the Association of Midwest Museums 2020 Conference, no travel stipends were awarded this year.

We hope to resume the application process in the coming months once dates are finalized for AMM's postponed conference in Milwaukee in July 2021.

Board Election Results 2020

Rachel Vargas

The results of the 2020 Board election are as follows:

47 MRC members voted.

Elected:

Julie Burgess Walser, Chair (Grand Rapids Art Museum)

Leslie Ory Lewellen, Vice Chair (Minneapolis Institute of Art)

Linda Endersby, Secretary (Museum of Art & Archaeology, University of Missouri)

Sarah Humes, Treasurer (Grand Rapids Public Museum)

We want to thank Andy Near (Kruizenga Art Museum, Hope College) for his four years of service to the board as Chair.

From the Editors

Would you love to write an article for the *Courier*? Do you have something you have learned that you would like to "share with the group"? Maybe an odd new acquisition or donation and how you dealt with it? Contact your state representative or editor Margaret Helms, marhelms85@gmail.com. Be sure to include pictures of all your adventures!

The *MRC Courier* is published three times a year and is jointly edited by Margaret Helms and Liz Fuhrman Bragg, lizfuhrmanbragg@gmail.com

Deadline for Submission

Publish Date

February 20

By March 20 (Winter date changed for 2021)

June 10

By July 1

October 10

By November 1

Treasurers Report 2020

Sarah Humes

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as your MRC Treasurer. 2020 has certainly been a year for the books and I appreciate your patience as I process your membership payments and receipts.

This year we had \$526.99 in income from annual dues which is about 50% of what we normally bring in yearly. Prior to the pandemic, Huntington T. Block donated \$1,000 to sponsor our annual lunch that was to take place in Milwaukee this past summer. They have generously decided that they would still like to support the MRC. Those funds will be used to sponsor lunch at a future annual meeting, hopefully, 2021. Masterpiece International also sponsored a travel stipend and donated \$750.00 which will be held and hopefully used in 2021.

As there was no conference this year we did not pay out any travel stipends, conference expenses, or MRC Chair expenses. As large in-person gatherings were discouraged or prohibited throughout many states, we did not pay out any funds for state event support.

We had minimal administrative costs with \$80.99 going towards annual fees for our website and a small gift for the winner of last year's state rep membership drive award winner.

Overall, even with membership being down this year, because we didn't have many expenses, we will still end the year in the black and are in good standing moving into 2021. Beginning in January 2021 I will work with the board to finalize a proposed budget for the upcoming year. As of November 24, 2020, we have \$7,872.74 held at Lake Michigan Credit Union. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time if you have questions or concerns

Membership Report 2020

Linda Endersby

Not surprisingly, paid membership in MRC decreased in 2020 as many of colleagues dealt with losing jobs, furloughs and small budgets. The drop was about 30%, from 134 to 88.

Everyone can pay their 2021 dues via PayPal or by check by visiting the "Membership" and then "Registration and Renewal" tab on the MRC Website or through this link: <http://midwestregistrars.org/membership-2/joinrenew-membership>.

Don't forget that MRC membership dues are for the calendar year- **membership for all members expired on December 31, 2020.**

Don't forget about MRC when speaking with emerging professionals as well. MRC is a great way to get involved for a nominal \$10 fee, and with many great networking and professional development opportunities!

For questions regarding membership status, please contact your state representative or Linda Endersby at endersbyl@missouri.edu.

Membership Report, continued

MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY STATE				
STATE	2020 CURRENT MEMBERS	2019 MEMBERS WITH UNPAID DUES		
IOWA	7	3		
ILLINOIS	10	7		
INDIANA	10	3		
MICHIGAN	25	16		
MINNESOTA	15	7		
MISSOURI	2	0		
OHIO	5	2		
WISCONSIN	14	3		
TOTALS	88	411		

MEMBERSHIP YEAR BY YEAR BY STATE						
STATE	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
IOWA	8	11	9	7	9	9
ILLINOIS	20	18	16	16	16	14
INDIANA	13	14	10	11	12	17
MICHIGAN	39	29	21	17	18	16
MINNESOTA	25	18	21	6	8	4
MISSOURI	4	5	7	9	6	8
OHIO	8	12	11	12	7	6
WISCONSIN	17	20	19	18	23	20
TOTALS	134	127	114	96	99	100



ART SHUTTLE

Schedules and Pricing

Contact Registrar

Katie Steffan

phone: 414-252-0677, ext 213

email: ksteffan@guardianfineart.com

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News From the Midwest

Indiana Christa Barleben

Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis

Completing a Full-Scale Collections Inventory in the Midst of a Pandemic

In autumn 2019, the Collections Department at the Eiteljorg Museum scheduled a complete collections inventory for April 2020. By our calculations, it would take the Collections Department, comprised of 4 full-time staff members, with the assistance of interns and the museum's curators, a six weeks to inventory 8 galleries, 4 storage areas, and the museum gardens. It was the first full inventory of a collection of approximately 9,000 objects in 30 years, and the staff was ready to get their hands dirty.

Then March of 2020 hit with the COVID-19 pandemic. Museum staff at the Eiteljorg transitioned to working from home and the museum closed to the public. April and May came and went, case numbers fluctuated and eventually went down in Indianapolis, and the Collections staff decided we should still try to complete the inventory in 2020.

So, at the end of May we made lemonade out of lemons. We took advantage of the fact that most staff continued to work from home, and that the museum remained closed to the public. With safety procedures in place and permission from our administration, the Collections Department split into two teams. Team One consisted of the Collections Manager and Collections Assistant, and Team Two included the Director of Collections and myself. Our plan was to inventory on a rotating schedule during the week. Team One worked on Monday and Tuesday and Team Two worked on Wednesday and Thursday. (We reserved Fridays for meetings, and, well, Collections folks the world over can imagine how successful that was.)

For safety, masks were always worn, physical distancing was maintained as much as possible, and we avoided overlapping days when both teams were in the museum. Team members isolated at home if they needed to travel or felt under the weather.

Team One started in the main collections storage area and Team Two started in the galleries. While interns and volunteers couldn't assist as previously planned, we were able to utilize other staff with object handling experience as their availability and comfort allowed. This carried us through the summer, until the museum reopened to the public in July. Team Two had completed inventory in all 8 galleries and was ready to move down to the collections storage areas with Team One. In the main collections storage area, Team One had



Eiteljorg storage racks

Eiteljorg Museum, continued

started on the units on the west side of the storage room, which contained the 3-D collections (this space also holds 75% of our collection). Team Two started on the east side of the storage room, which contained the hanging racks for the 2-D collection. The goal was to have the two teams meet in the middle of the storage area.

Starting in the fall, Indianapolis began to lift COVID-19 restrictions, and we decided that both teams could work in the museum 5 days a week through the month of October for one final push to get the inventory done. The teams remained the same and maintained distance from each other, even in office spaces. By this time, Team Two had completed the inventory of the east side of the main collections storage room and



Eiteljorg storage collections storage

moved onto the 3 smaller collections storage areas, while Team One finished the west side of main collections storage.

In November, with the holidays approaching and COVID-19 numbers on the rise, the two teams went back to a rotating schedule. The inventory of accessioned and the majority of unaccessioned items was completed one week after Thanksgiving. Team One is still cataloging an unaccessioned archaeology collection, but will finish in the early new year. In 2021, Team Two will review all the inventory sheets and resolve any outstanding issues. We feel incredibly lucky to have completed this project despite the additional hurdles COVID put in our path.

Iowa Angela Stanford

Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITS



Snapshots: Traveling with the Poet Hans Christian Andersen

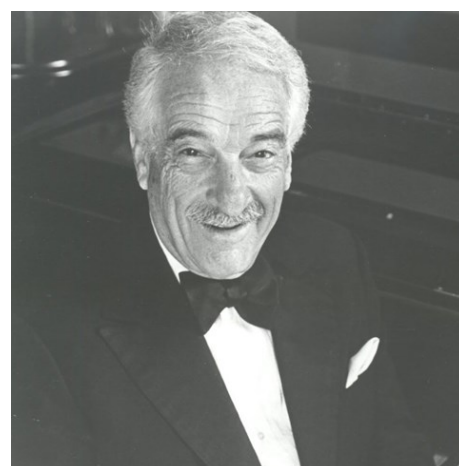
On view until June 5, 2021

Migrant

On view until May 2, 2021

Tattoo

Opening May 2021



The Victor Borge Legacy Award: Celebrating 10 Years of Music

Opening February 6, 2021

Iowa Museums, Archives, & Libraries Emergency Response Team (IMALERT)

Collections Disaster: Who You Gonna Call?

The Iowa Museums, Archives, & Libraries Emergency Response Team (IMALERT) was formed in 2014, to protect invaluable historical resources in the state. IMALERT maintains a hotline (319-384-3673) monitored by team members, to serve cultural and documentary collections in times of need. When faced with disasters, institutions large and small can tap in-

to the IMALERT network of experts ready with advice or to mobilize on-site aid. IMALERT coordinates with first responders, state and local agencies, and vendors to provide disaster assistance to cultural institutions and their collections. IMALERT's activities include damage assessment to collection materials, recommendations for recovery, aid in navigating salvage and drying processes, and demonstration of salvage techniques or help organizing salvage operations.

Initial training and equipment was partially funded by a grant awarded to IMALERT's parent organization, the Iowa Conservation and Preservation Consortium (ICPC), by the State of Iowa's Historical Resource Development Program. Team members update training annually, with workshops centered on organizing, planning, and responding to disasters.

Since its inception, IMALERT has responded to many Iowa disasters, most recently to a 2020 pipe break above the collections area of the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, calls from multiple institutions in the aftermath of the 2020 derecho, and the devastating spring 2019 flood at the Pacific Junction Railroad Museum. IMALERT continually recruits new members, for broad coverage across the state. To volunteer, or for more information, contact IMALERT co-chairs at imalert.iowa@gmail.com.



Above: In April 2019, IMALERT members removed collections from the Pacific Junction Railroad Museum to the Mills County Historical Museum in nearby Glenwood IA, for rinsing, freezing, and eventual treatment. Collections had been under floodwater for five weeks before anyone was allowed on site.

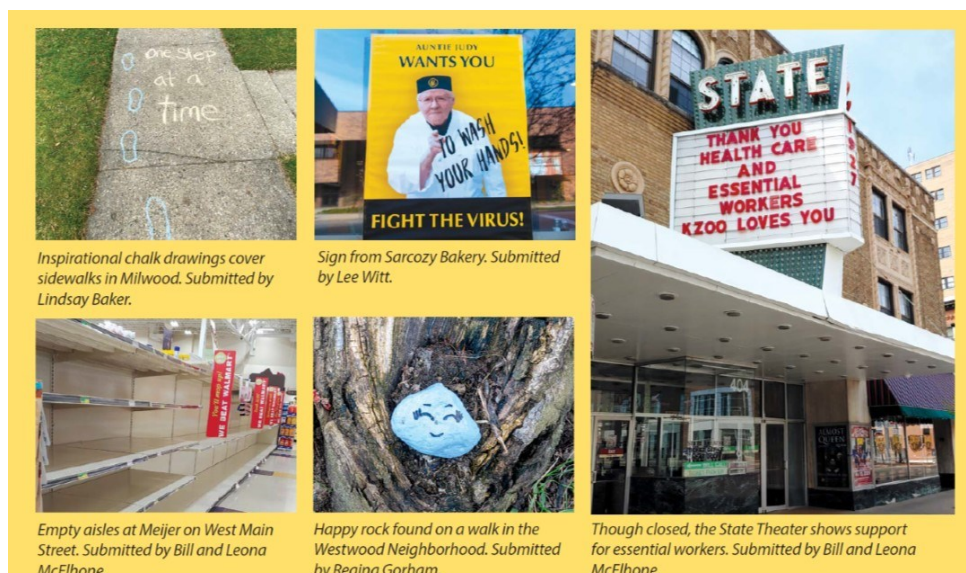
Michigan

Holly Waldenmeyer

Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalamazoo Curatorial Response to COVID-19

Documenting the Pandemic

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum focuses on collecting the history of Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan, documenting the stories and realities of past life. But history is not just past—it happens every day. Very early on, it became clear that the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic that we are all living through would be a historic event. The pandemic has impacted every facet of life, and all communities will be indelibly changed by it.



Inspirational chalk drawings cover sidewalks in Milwood. Submitted by Lindsay Baker.

Sign from Sarcozy Bakery. Submitted by Lee Witt.

Empty aisles at Meijer on West Main Street. Submitted by Bill and Leona McElhone.

Happy rock found on a walk in the Westwood Neighborhood. Submitted by Regina Gorham.

Though closed, the State Theater shows support for essential workers. Submitted by Bill and Leona McElhone.

Personal recollections are crucial to fully understanding the depth of impacts on communities, and the Collections staff initiated a project to record stories of our present pandemic. A call was put out in to the Kalamazoo community asking those interested in participating to share their photos or observations using a landing page on the museum's website: <https://www.kalamazoomuseum.org/localhistory/covid-19-stories.html>. From here, stories could be collected by museum staff using a Google Forms platform, allowing for both known and anonymous submissions. The project launched on March 31, 2020 and within one month over a dozen stories had been collected along with nearly 100 photos from families, students, health care workers, essential employees, and community members from all aspects of life.

As the stories continue to come in, the accounts of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and its effect in Kalamazoo are being acknowledged and documented by the Museum. Some stories and photos will eventually be added to the collection as digital accessions, while others will become part of the museum's biograph-

ical and historical research collections. Reflections of experiences are as valuable today as they will be months from now and museum staff is committed to collecting all stories and views of the pandemic.

Using Technology to Reach Audiences

For the last several months, Collections and Exhibit staff at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum have been exploring new technologies so that visitors can engage with exhibits without physically touching surfaces. Although the pandemic prompted these measures, the overall accessibility of the content has also improved and will



A drive-thru COVID-19 testing location in Kalamazoo.
(Photo by Sam Zomer, April 2020)

Kalamazoo Valley Museum, continued

enhance the space for years to come.

Conventional and high-touch push buttons throughout the museum's History Gallery are being replaced with touchless infrared buttons. Instead of having to make physical contact as with a standard button, this unique solution, called Patron, triggers content from a distance of three inches away. This activates a media file, which plays on the monitor and/or speaker. Our exhibit technicians have also been exploring directional speaker systems. These speakers, called Panphonics Sound Showers, are designed so that sound is aimed at listeners who stand in a designated place. They can create directionally focused audio with high sound clarity which makes it possible to create distinct audio spaces even in difficult acoustical environments and with minimal disturbance to other areas in an exhibit.

For many years, the Museum has utilized a team of Interpretation Specialists to interact with guests as they explore the exhibit spaces. Since close-contact interactions cannot be safely implemented during the pandemic, the museum has investigated the use of smartphone applications to expand interpretation of the exhibits. Using an application called YourAudioTour.com, staff has developed content for use in a display previously designed as a switchboard in the museum's History Gallery.

Rather than picking up the switchboard's phone, visitors will use their own devices to see historic



An empty West Kalamazoo Avenue at 7pm on March 27, 2020.

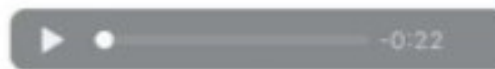
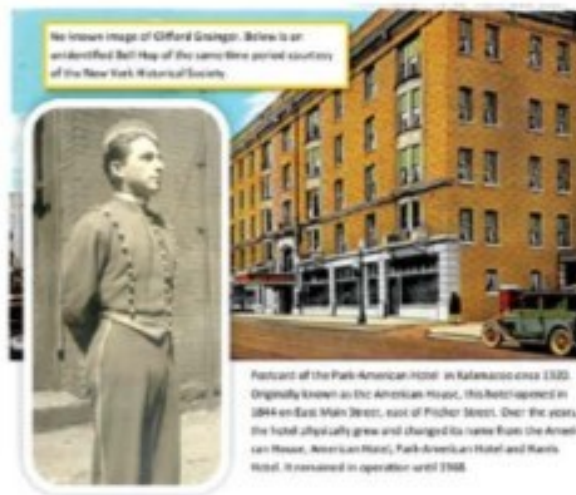
Normally this street would be packed with evening traffic and the sidewalks busy with downtown pedestrians. (Photo by Brittany Williams)

1:32



youraudiotour.com

Kalamazoo Valley Museum



Hotel Bell Boy, age 15

I came to live with my grandparents in the city so I could get work and send money home to my mother and father on the farm. I'm working at the Park-American Hotel as a bell boy. The hotel pays me 50 cents a day but I make most of my money in tips, carrying people's bags to their rooms. I get an extra nice tip if someone has me carry their bags down to the train station. - Clifford Grainger, 15

Example of what would populate on a visitor's mobile device using YourAudioTour.com in the museum's History Gallery.

Kalamazoo Valley Museum, continued

photographs of local people and places while listening to laborers from diverse backgrounds talk about what their work was like in the years 1890–1930. Digital thematic tours that highlight multiple displays in the History Gallery are also currently under development by the Interpretation Specialists. These mobile applications allow for us to offer information aimed at targeted audiences, including non-English speakers, the hearing impaired, the visually impaired, young children, and those on the autism spectrum.

The hardest groups to accommodate during the pandemic are children and groups who learn most effectively from hands-on interactions. These interactions are at the heart of what makes museums so wonderful for non-traditional learners, and something we knew we had to find innovative ways to continue. With this in mind, KVM technicians spent considerable time researching interactive projectors. These Ultra Short Throw projectors use projection mapping and give users the ability to interact with what is being projected. The new projector kit, called LUMOplay, requires only motion. Interactive projector technology, including holograms, has been employed by children's museums around the world, and there are hundreds of educational activities on a variety of subjects already available.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum will look different than it did before the pandemic when it reopens, though no reopening date has been determined as of December 2020. We hope that when our guests do return, they will find some positive changes to our exhibit spaces.



The Kalamazoo Valley Museum Collections and Exhibits staff.

Ohio Robin Goodman

Gund Gallery at Kenyon College, Gambier

Even with the early spring departure of students from campus to finish the school year on Zoom, a nearly silent summer, and a fall semester of socially distanced learning and living, the Gund Gallery at Kenyon College has continued to find ways to meet its mission. The pandemic did not stop us from mounting a strong series of fall exhibitions, including a survey of over four decades of work by American photographer David Levinthal; a fascinating exhibition by the Uruguayan conceptual artist Luis Camnitzer; a survey of internet art; and a postcard pop-up show by



Gund Gallery, continued

members of the Kenyon, greater Gambier, and Mount Vernon communities.

Because many of our visitors, including K–12 students, have not been able to physically come to the Gallery, the team has created Near and Far activities (<http://www.thegundgallery.org/category/nearandfar/>) for engaging the off-campus community in this era of social distancing:



- Inside the Gund is a series of videos—now numbering six, and counting—in which the Gallery's Curator of Academic Programs Jodi Kovach engages in in-depth discussions about works from the Gallery's collection with Kenyon professors from a variety of disciplines.

- Virtual Children's Storytime invites the youngest art aficionados for special storytimes thematically linked to the art on view. The sessions, hosted by Gund Associates, are offered on Zoom.

- Art Hour is a series of art-making workshops intended to engage K–8 students with the Gund Gallery collection. In each session, a Gund Gallery Associate highlights a specific work of art and guides participants through a related craft project that can be completed together in real-time over Zoom with supplies provided by the Gallery. The sessions are also recorded for those wishing to engage on their own schedule.

- The Gallery has also invited participation through the creation of Activation Guides, a series of project-based activities that has begun with the current exhibitions. The guides provide information about the exhibitions and their artists for those who cannot visit, and offer prompts, questions, and/or tasks inspired by the installations.

- Programming for students, faculty, and staff on campus has also included Takeaway Tuesdays involving a creative craft, mini activity, or gallery-related gift. In partnership with our dining services, each week also includes a fun (packaged) snack.

Gund Gallery, continued

Week Two: Mixed Media Drawings

Inspired by Cy Twombly



Cy Twombly (American 1928-2011)
No. VII (from Natural History, Part I, Mushrooms), 1974.

Lithograph and mixed media on paper. 38 x 30 1/4 x 2 inches. Gund Gallery Collection, purchased with funds provided by Mr. and Mrs. Graham Gund '63 H81, 2018.5.7.

Art critics know a lot about art, and it's their job to analyze a piece of artwork. Try being an art critic and fill in the blanks below:

When I look at the artwork, I see:

The elements and colors that stand out are:

Twombly was a painter, sculptor, and photographer, who specialized in scribbled, graffiti-like art. He had a very unique, simple, and abstract style. In 2018, Gund Gallery presented Twombly's series *Natural History, Part 1, Mushrooms*, a collection of prints depicting colorful illustrations of mushrooms.

Instructions

The crafts created during this Art Hour will take inspiration from Twombly's art. You will use mixed media to create unique drawings from your imagination.

You will need:

- Colored pencils
- Magazine pages
- White paper
- Construction paper
- Glue stick
- Scissors



1. Set up your workspace and gather materials like old magazines and newspapers.
2. Start by choosing 1 or 2 images to cut out. Consider selecting animals, people, plants, or anything that inspires you! Using your glue stick, attach them to your white paper. Taking inspiration from Twombly's style, draw free-scribbles with your colored pencils or add cut out shapes with your construction paper. Consider including scenery like trees and flowers; cars and buildings. Make a silly creature or create a mysterious story!
3. After you're done, we'll share our art with each other and discuss what materials we used!

Wisconsin

Andrea Selbig

Chazen Museum of Art, Madison

Chazen Museum of Art and UW–Madison Libraries receive \$500,000 grant from Mellon Foundation

UW–Madison has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the “Coordinating Cultural Heritage Collections at UW–Madison” project. This three-year project will support efforts to enhance discovery, digitize, and preserve the Chazen’s archives. When completed, the project will allow students, faculty and staff to access the Chazen’s digital archive collections from one online system. In the future, the systems developed via the project will be available to other collections across campus. The grant will support four new full-time positions and two graduate project assistants, who will work together to engage these technologies in the effort to preserve and digitize the Chazen’s archive.

The Chazen Museum of Art closed to the public on March 16 and remains closed. The entire staff has been working remotely and will continue to do so throughout the summer. We attend our weekly staff meeting every Wednesday and continue to employ student assistants who are able to complete work remotely. The museum published new WFH bios to our website to give visitors a glimpse of our new office life: <https://www.chazen.wisc.edu/about/news/in-the-news/chazen-staff-from-home/>

The Chazen is prepared to open a portion of the museum for limited hours starting mid-July if approved by the University. We intend to require mask-wearing and social-distancing and enforce reduced maximum occupancy.

Chazen Museum of Art is most-open museum among more than 200 museums in the U.S., Canada and Mexico

As part of a long-term museum-wide effort to welcome more visitors from a variety of backgrounds, the Chazen Museum of Art has made a dramatic change to its open hours. Beginning Sept. 3, 2019, the Chazen’s doors will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. The museum will be open a total of 84 hours per week, more than all of its peer museums, accord-



ing to “Art Museums by the Numbers 2018”, an annual survey conducted by the Association of Art Museum Directors. “True accessibility starts with our doors being open,” said Amy Gilman, Ph.D., director of the Chazen. “We all lead busy lives and we would love to see students, community members and tourists drop in for a few moments, for an hour, or on a schedule that makes sense for them.” The expanded hours will complement the opening of the new Chazen Café on the first floor of the building. The Café, lobby and first-floor Rowland Gallery will open at 8 a.m. with the entire museum opening at 11 a.m. daily

Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit

Logan Museum Hires New Curator and Appoints New Director

The Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College is pleased to announce that Manuel Ferreira is the museum's new Curator and that Nicolette Meister has been promoted to Director.

Manuel recently completed his Masters of Arts in Anthropology with a concentration in Museums and Heritage Studies at the University of Denver. He completed his undergraduate degree in Anthropology from Lawrence University and brings extensive experience gained from work at the Milwaukee Public Museum, Field Museum, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and Denver Museum of Anthropology. His research focused on the relationships between the beliefs of museum professionals and the exhibitions they create, as well as what these relationships may tell us about contemporary museums and museum anthropology.

Manuel is responsible for collections management and care and exhibit development at the Logan Museum. He will also annually teach a course in exhibit development in conjunction with the Museum Studies Program. Please feel free to reach out and introduce yourself and welcome Manuel back to his home state of Wisconsin! Manuel can be reached at ferreiram@beloit.edu.

Nicolette B. Meister was appointed the James E. Lockwood Jr. Director of the Logan Museum of Anthropology in October 2019. Nicolette served as Curator of Collections from 1999-2019 and looks forward to leading the museum through strategic planning, AAM re-accreditation, accelerating NAGPRA consultations, and continuing to build the Center for Collections Care.



Manuel Ferreira, Curator,
Logan Museum of Anthropology

Pandemic Pivots

Onboarding a new staff member is always an intense process, but doing so in the midst of a pandemic is especially challenging. Thankfully, the Logan Museum's staff of two was able to safely return to work in July and the new curator, Manuel Ferreira, could begin to familiarize himself with documentation systems, collections, and exhibits. Beloit College closed all campus buildings to the public in March and the museum remains closed until further notice. Exhibits planned for in-person had to pivot to online, a new delivery method for the Logan Museum.

Manuel hit the ground running and began his position by conducting extensive research to determine the best online exhibit platform for the museum. Wix was selected based on its easy learning curve, design flexibility, and minimal cost with no ads. Our first online exhibit, *Disease and Pandemics*, launched in early September and was followed by *Black Resistance and Persistence* in late September. *Black Resistance and Persistence* was curated by 15 Beloit College faculty, staff, and students and members of the Beloit community. The exhibit is a collection of stories about anti-black racism in American and the lasting legacy of the transatlantic slave trade. One component, however, was in-person. 12 million grains of rice--the estimate of how many people were forcibly transported across the Atlantic and enslaved--were installed in a plexi-tower in the museum's lobby. If you're wondering what 12 million grains of rice look like, visit our online exhibits:

www.loganmuseumexhibits.com.

Logan Museum, continued

The beginning of the fall term brought students back to campus. Students created a new statement of culture, practicing "Self Care is Community Care." Beloit College implemented a "mod" schedule, two eight-week mods instead of one full semester to allow for the flexibility a pandemic demands. Most classes were online, but many were hybrid. Faculty made the most of glorious fall weather by holding classes outside in tents. The Logan Museum welcomed back student workers, ensuring shifts were staggered and no more than two students worked in the collections lab at any time. Masks remain mandatory. Classes have made use of the collections in creative ways. For example, students in *Migrants, Immigrants, and Refugees*, engaged with the collection via Zoom and are developing an online exhibit in collaboration with the Logan's curator. As a result of student diligence and adherence to safety expectations, incidence of COVID on campus have been extremely low. A portion of the student population is tested for the virus weekly and faculty and staff will begin weekly testing in February, when classes resume.

The pandemic also impacted our ability to run Center for Collections Care classes in summer 2020. Eight classes were confirmed to run and we were excited to launch our third season of collections care training. The pandemic deepened our resolve to ensure our training is accessible and equitable and presented an opportunity to consider the needs for online learning post-pandemic. We remain committed to hands-on, in-person training, but are exploring the possibility of transitioning select courses to online learning. To learn more about the Center for Collections Care, please visit www.beloit.edu/ccc.



Julia Hwang'22 photographing Australian Aboriginal objects in the Logan Museum for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Share Your News!!

Do you have exhibitions, events, acquisitions, or other news to share? We would love to hear about it!! Make life for your State Rep a little easier by submitting a news story, interesting tidbit, or update for the next issue of the *MRC Courier*. Listings for each state and contact information can be found at the end of the *Courier*.

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The Midwest Registrars Committee formed in 1978 to provide a forum for the exchange of information and methods among museum collections professionals and registrars in the Midwest region. The MRC fulfills this objective by promoting an atmosphere of mutual aid and cooperation and by promoting professional practices to benefit colleagues, the museum community, and members.

The MRC is affiliated with the Collections Stewardship Professional Network of the American Alliance of Museums (CS-AAM) and the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM).

Who can join?

Voting membership in the Midwest Registrars Committee is open to those museum personnel who support the objectives of the MRC and who reside in the Midwest region, including:

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

You don't have to be a registrar! Collections managers, curators, volunteers, administrators, conservators, corporate registrars, students, or other collections care professionals are encouraged to join.

A non-voting membership is available for individuals who are associated with for-profit organizations such as shipping companies, customs brokers, insurance firms, and other suppliers of materials and services, and individuals who reside outside of the Midwest region.

Benefits of membership

- The *Courier*, MRC's triannual newsletter
- Funding assistance for state workshops
- Professional networking
- Workshops
- Travel stipends to attend annual AMM Conference
- Membership directory

Membership fees

- Annual dues are \$10.00 per year
- The membership period covers the calendar year (January 1 - December 31)
- Make checks payable to:
Midwest Registrars Committee

Membership form

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Position: _____
 Institution: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone/fax: _____
 Email: _____

- ☐ New (voting \$10)
☐ Renewal (voting \$10)
☐ New (non-voting \$10)
☐ Renewal (non-voting \$10)

Make a difference!

Your active participation ensures the ongoing success of the MRC programs and activities. Please check the areas in which you would like to get involved:

- ☐ State representative
☐ Newsletter
☐ Programs/annual meeting
☐ Fundraising
☐ Membership

There are several ways to renew, including completely online through Paypal.

1. To submit **membership** information (choose 1):
 - a. Go to <https://midwestregistrars.org/membership-2/joinrenew-membership/>
 - MAKE SURE TO CLICK SUBMIT
 - b. OR fill out PDF and mail it to MRCDues@gmail.com
 - c. OR print, fill out and mail the form to the Treasurer
2. To submit payment:
 - a. If you filled out the online form, you may:
 - Click "Buy Now" at bottom of page (through Paypal)
 - OR Mail check to the Treasurer
 - b. If you filled out the PDF and emailed it, you may:
 - Pay through Paypal (login to Paypal, use "Send Money" and send to MRCDues@gmail.com)
 - OR Mail check to the Treasurer
 - c. If you print the form, please mail it and a check to the Treasurer

NOTE: You MUST complete both parts for your membership to be active (information AND payment).

Sarah Humes, Treasurer, Midwest Registrars Committee
 730 84th Street SW
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Revised 12/2020