

SPRING/SUMMER
2024

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**MIDWEST REGISTRARS
COMMITTEE**
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A STANDING
PROFESSIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF
MIDWEST MUSEUMS
(AMM)

From the Chair, Sarah Humes - Countdown to Columbus

It's hard to believe that this year's Association of Midwest Museums conference is just over three months away! As the chair of the Midwest Registrars Committee (MRC), I am thrilled to share that the annual AMM conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio at the Hilton Columbus at Easton from July 31-August 3, 2024 with a virtual component on July 24th. [The Hilton Columbus at Easton](#) is just 10 minutes from downtown, Ohio State University, and the John Glenn International Airport. Room rates start at \$185/night plus applicable taxes. You can use this [link](#) to reserve your room at the group rate.

The theme for this year's conference is "[The Way Forward](#)." The 2024 AMM Conference will look at how Midwest museums are preparing for the future and while this looks different for every organization it centers around refocusing our attention on building and nurturing relationships to move forward.

I'm excited once again that members of the MRC will facilitate the session, "Ask the Registrar" at the conference. This has become a staple of the conference and is always well-attended. "Ask the Registrar" will be a roundtable, campfire-like discussion facilitated by Leslie Ory Lewellen, Robin Goodman, and Christine McNulty. Panel members will facilitate questions regarding how to build relationships, new collection practices they have faced, and how they have creatively dealt with them. While the panelists will be prepared to answer questions, conference attendees will strongly be encouraged not only to bring questions to discuss with the panel and fellow attendees but also to provide answers and solutions from their own experiences.

This year's annual MRC business meeting and lunch will be held at the [Rusty Bucket Restaurant & Tavern](#) (pictured right) on Thursday, August 1st from 12-1:30 p.m. The Rusty Bucket is a 5-7 walk from the conference hotel. Lunch and beverages will be provided by our generous sponsors. While there will be a short business meeting the luncheon is a great time to chat, network and just relax with other museum folks. Pre-registration is required and you will be able to register for the lunch when you register online for the AMM conference. If you want to attend the lunch, please make sure your [membership](#) is up-to-date before registering.

I'm excited to see everyone at the conference! I always come back with a wider network of colleagues and feel rejuvenated to take on new ideas and projects. See you in Columbus!





IT'S ELECTION YEAR!

2024 is an election year here in the United States, and no decision is more important than selecting who will be your Midwest Registrars Committee leaders! The Midwest Registrars Committee is seeking candidates to fill the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. These important roles will support the objectives of MRC and live in the Midwest.

Here is a brief description of each role and their responsibilities.

The Chair of MRCs purpose is to provide primary leadership to members of the Midwest Registrars Committee.

The Vice Chair of MRCs purpose is to provide leadership to membership of the Midwest Registrars Committee and act as MRCs Programs Coordinator for Association of Midwest Museums annual meeting.

The Secretary of MRCs purpose is to record minutes of Midwest Registrars Committee board and business meetings also keeps an up-to-date membership list and furnishes mailing lists as needed for the newsletter and other mailings and manage all membership needs and requests.

The Treasurer of MRCs purpose is to administer the Midwest Registrars Committee accounting system.

These roles and the people who fill them provide immeasurable benefit to our community.

Elections will be held in April 2024 with the elected leaders assuming their roles at the AMM conference in Columbus, OH July 31-August 3. Candidates must be members of the MRC in good standing and must work in registration/collections in the midwest.

If you think you would make for a strong candidate, or you know someone who would, please refer them to Election Chair, Sebastián Encina (sebastian@encina.net). If you have questions about the positions and the election process, please contact Sebastián as well.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve your community and get to know your fellow midwest colleagues. This is an exciting time to be a part of MRC, and we are always looking for eager candidates to become involved. Do your part by including your name in this important election cycle!

Sebastián Encina
MRC Election Chair



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.

What is MRC?

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/>.

We Need Your Help!

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer, learn, grow, and expand your skill set? The MRC is currently looking for a **Webmaster and Social Media Manager**. As you gain hands-on experience in website and social media management, you'll develop valuable skills that can benefit you in your personal and professional goals.

In this volunteer role, you will monitor the [MRC Facebook page](#), and post updates regarding upcoming events and activities. You will also have the opportunity to update content as needed on the [MRC website](#), adding blog posts, photos, and announcements, and uploading annual reports and applications. This role requires a time commitment of 1-2 hours per month. Familiarity with WordPress and Google Docs is helpful but not needed as training will be provided!

If you are interested, please contact MRC Chair, Sarah Humes at shumes@grpm.org

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GUARDIAN
FINE ART SERVICES



Business Profile: Guardian Fine Art Services

Nikita Werner, Project Manager, Guardian Fine Art Services

GUARDIAN
FINE ART SERVICES



If you've attended the MRC Annual Meeting in recent years, you may have already met Katie Steffan, Director of Operations at Guardian Fine Art Services. Katie has been with Guardian since its inception, so I asked her a few questions to summarize what Guardian is all about.

Can you tell me about why Guardian's founders started the business?

KS: Before Guardian, there were no fine art services companies in Wisconsin, despite a vibrant art scene and community of collectors. As collectors themselves, and having been involved in local museum governance, our founders recognized the need for professional services. In 2015 they set out on a purpose-driven renovation project of a 1924 warehouse building in Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley and Guardian Fine Art Services was established.

What are Guardian's core values?

KS: Our mission is to protect and preserve the tangible assets of our clients with the highest degree of professionalism and confidentiality. We have a strong focus on continually improving preservation practices and in that way, Guardian strives to be a partner with our museum clients. Most of our staff come from the museum world and understand the specific needs of institutions and how they differ from private collections. We know that museums are often working with a smaller budget than they would like, so we try to offer out-of-the box solutions that keep artwork safe and reduce costs.

What services does Guardian offer to museum clients?

KS: In addition to crating and transportation, Guardian helps museums with soft-packing, installations, short- and long-term storage, condition reporting, and consultation. For local or regional moves, either between museums or a museum and a private client, crating is often unnecessary. Some museums book our preps for tricky installations or rigging of sculptures, either because they don't have enough in-house staff or lack specialized knowledge and training. Our shop also has experience building movable walls, pedestals, and other custom exhibition furniture. For larger projects, we can act as a consultant for everything from lighting to large-scale packing, moving, and installation.

In what ways is Guardian planning to expand in the future?

KS: We will continue ramping up our shuttle business in 2024 and beyond, among other things. We listen to our clients' needs and are always open to input so we can develop services that address their top concerns. Many of our services were born from the needs of our museum clients, such as expanded shuttle routes and sculpture rigging. We especially enjoy meeting with our museum colleagues at conferences to discuss their unique pinch points and how we may be able to help.

Who should clients contact for more information about services?

KS: The best way to get a hold of us is to email our info account or call our office. You will be connected with myself, Nikita, or Aislinn directly, and we can answer your questions or provide a free estimate. We try to respond as quickly as possible, and always within one day during normal business hours. Our website is always being updated with new information on our services and is a great place to start as well.



Katie and Nikita are proud members of AMM and MRC. Be sure to stop by Guardian's exhibitor booth at the AMM conference this summer in Columbus and say hello!

Thank you to MRC for inviting Guardian to share more about what we do! You can reach Guardian's project team, including Katie Steffan, Nikita Werner, and Aislinn Sanders, at info@guardianfineart.com or by calling 414-252-0677 or 833-252-0677 toll free. Our office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm CST.



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News From The Midwest

ILLINOIS

The Raupp Museum, Marina Mayne Volunteer at The Raupp Museum uses Archives for Research Project

The Raupp Museum, a local history museum located in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, had an exciting research project done recently using some of its archives. During January and February of 2024, longtime volunteer of the Museum and high school senior, Stone Yan, did a research project using the Raupp Museum's collection of historic receipts from the town's first general store, the Firnbach and Raupp General Store.

The Firnbach and Raupp General Store operated in Buffalo Grove from about 1860 to 1960, and was the town's only store for much of that time. The Museum has a large collection of thousands of receipts from the store from between 1916-1920. A few years ago, we started digitizing the receipts, as they are deteriorating and contain valuable information on goods available at the store, prices, and the names of customers. So far 1017 have been digitized, with thousands more to go.

Stone has worked on helping us digitize the receipts for 3 years. Over time he became interested in learning what the receipts could tell us about early 20th century rural Midwest shops. Using all the receipts that have already been digitized, Stone analyzed buying trends, including the 40 most popular goods, prices of goods, and compared some of these prices to national averages at the time. Stone found that he could organize the goods into four major groups: staples, other foodstuffs, clothing, and miscellaneous goods. Staples was the largest category of bought items, with 44.8%. As a result, Stone focused on staples for other parts of his analysis, and compared these to national averages based on researching other primary sources. I've shared a graph from his research on the next page.

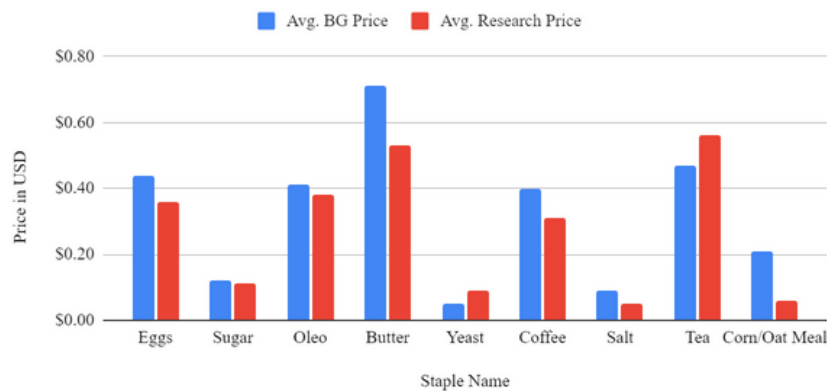
BOUGHT OF Firnbach & Raupp DEALERS IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE		
Buffalo Grove, Ill., 9-2-1919		
Sold to <i>Wm. B. Buehler</i>		
Address _____		
1	2 * Butter	1.28
2	2 " Apples	50
3	Sugar	50
4	1 Pail of Bury	80
5	9 Pail of Bury	70
6	3 Salmon	65
7	1 Cream	12
8		4.75
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		

If there are any Errors in this Bill Return it at once
THE CARRY ALLIANCE CO.

Firnbach and Raupp Receipt,
Sept. 2, 1919

Firnback & Raupp Average Price vs. Nationwide Average Price for 9 Select Staples

Zoomed-in view of price differences from previous chart; flour was removed



Comparison of Local and National Prices, by Stone Yan, 2024.

This highlights just a small portion of all the analysis Stone did on the receipts and insights he gained from this project. Here at the Raupp Museum, we are excited and thankful for all the research Stone has done using the Museum archives. Part of our mission is to make our collection as publicly accessible as possible so that other students, researchers, or community members can use the collection for their own research. Currently, the digitized receipt collection is publicly available on our online database through the CatalogIt Hub (<https://hub.catalogit.app/9245>), along with other parts of our collection. We hope other small museums continue to share and make collections more widely available for similar projects.

Money for State Events

MRC is proud to be able to offer money to support state events, such as networking, tours, workshops, etc. If you have an idea for an event, approach your state representative to start the process of planning and requesting money. It's not a scary process, we promise! One state has already held an event, with a few more being planned for the year. If you need help with ideas for an event, reach out to your state rep or any of the board members.



NAPER SETTLEMENT

Naper Settlement, Christine McNulty, Chief Curator at Naper Settlement

A Strong Back and a Strong Mind: 150 years of the Naperville Fire Department

An exhibition of Naperville Heritage Society at Naper Settlement

A Strong Back and a Strong Mind: 150 years of the Naperville Fire Department is a site-wide exhibition that highlights the evolution of the Naperville Fire through the lens of the diverse set of skills, abilities, and equipment the department utilizes in service to the community. Speaking about the department on its 125th anniversary, former Assistant Chief Michael Connors described modern firefighters as having “a strong back and a strong mind.” Most people recognize the physical demands, bodily risk, and courage associated with the profession and the image of the brave firefighter holds a secure place in American Culture. Yet what is perhaps less understood and appreciated is the intellectual rigor that comes with the job. It requires a thorough understanding of policies and procedures, medical training, technical expertise, and attention to detail. Firefighting is a highly skilled profession.

The exhibition recognizes the courage and physical demands, while shining a spotlight on the bank of knowledge firefighters must have. Drawing on the museum’s collection of department’s logbooks orders, and memoranda, visitors can see how detailed record keeping, equipment inspections, and regular trainings are critical, if less glamorous aspects of the profession. Visitors hear from the firefighters themselves through oral history. The museum’s extensive collection of personal protective equipment documents how firefighting has changed over time.

The exhibition is possible thanks to the Public Safety Preservation Project. Launched in 2009, this collecting initiative documents the institutions charged with the public safety of a community that experience explosive growth in the twentieth century. The initiative has not only resulted in a large amount of archival and artifact donations; it has strengthened the relationship between Naperville Heritage Society at Naper Settlement and the Naperville Fire Department. As a result, active and retired members of the department serve as a resource, identifying subjects of photographs, explaining the function of various tools, and gear, and sharing personal experiences of what it means to be a part of the fire service.

A Strong Back and a Strong Mind: 150 years of the Naperville Fire Department opens May 8, 2024 and runs through December 2024.

INDIANA

Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Maggie Gorski and Emma Carter Local Contexts Hub and Global Repatriation

The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields (Newfields) has made significant strides to be a better steward of its collections. With the support of an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant for its project “Open and Integrated: Redesigning Newfields’ Online Collections,” Newfields has begun the work to thoughtfully restructure how it cares and digitally displays its collections from Indigenous communities and cultures and has utilized [Local Contexts](https://localcontexts.org/) to kickstart this process. Local Contexts (<https://localcontexts.org/>) is a non-profit organization that developed an online Hub to connect Indigenous communities and cultural institutions, as well as digital Traditional Knowledge Labels and Cultural Institution Notices to display Indigenous instructions in the modern digital environment. The organization promotes the repatriation of Indigenous knowledge and the reassertion of Indigenous authority over their cultural objects held in museums, libraries, archives, and universities.

Newfields began implementing Local Contexts by first creating profiles within their Hub, one for the Museum itself and six others for the staff who are working on this initiative. We identified that our Native Arts of the Americas, African Art, and South Pacific collections, as well as other objects spread throughout other collections, needed the following Notices applied: Open to Collaborate, Attribution Incomplete, Traditional Knowledge, and Biocultural. Institutions can only add Notices to its collections (Labels are only for Indigenous communities to apply at their discretion) so we created Rights Records for each Notice in the Rights Module within KE-EMu (our collection management system). Our next step was to associate each appropriate Rights Record Notice to all applicable individual object records within the Catalogue Module. Finally, we proactively created Rights Records for the Traditional Knowledge Labels and Collection Care Notices in anticipation of applying them in the future to Catalogue Records following the consultation and guidance of Indigenous communities.

The Notices are now visible not only to Newfields’ staff within KE-EMu, but also publicly on the updated Newfields’ online collection portal. For all objects that have Notices attached, the title, icon, and explanation of the Notices are visible to every visitor on the website. We hope the public display of these Notices will highlight our willingness to consult and collaborate with Indigenous communities about any instructions they may have about our collection. Our staff also participates in various Local Contexts working groups that bring people from many international institutions and communities together to work out how to best implement the mission that Local Contexts started.

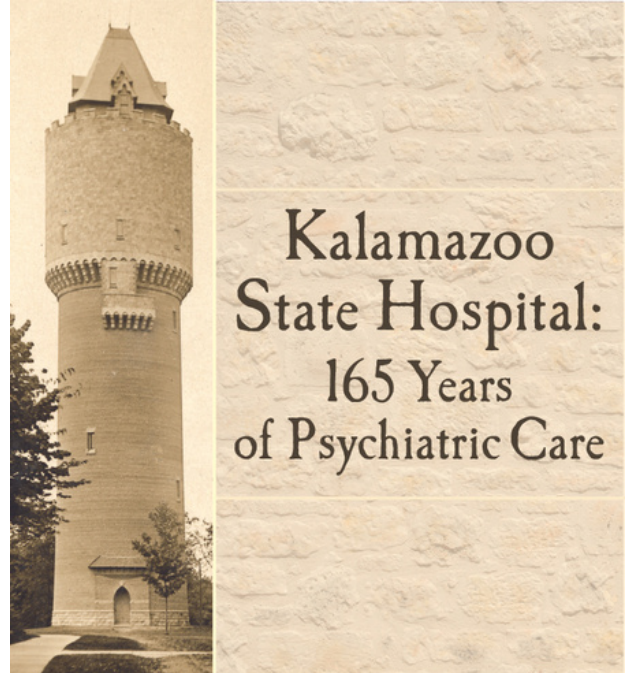
The Local Contexts Hub will also be integrated into our Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) compliance work moving forward (25 U.S. Code § 3001 et seq). As many know, the NAGPRA regulations (<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-27040>) were recently updated, and the changes went into effect January 12, 2024. We are committed to following the letter and spirit of the law. Staff are currently in consultation with several Indigenous communities and have jointly identified 366 objects to be repatriated. Beyond the pieces identified for repatriation, there are 1,515 objects in our Native Arts of the Americas collection, 993 of which are culturally unidentified. Through consultation and collaboration with Indigenous community representatives and our scholarly partners, we hope to identify those 993 pieces and repatriate them if requested.

Staff have already wrapped up one international repatriation with the successful return of 18 Vigango to the Mijikenda people in Kenya. Vigango, singularly Kigango, are viewed as the ancestral human remains of an elder of the Mijikenda people. It is intended to remain in the sacred forest until it naturally decomposes, signaling the spiritual process' completion. The Museum worked with the blessing of the Mijikenda elders to bring their ancestors back home to Kenya in 2023. There are several more items identified for repatriation from the Native Arts of the Americas and African collections that we would like to see happen in the future. Newfields' Collections Staff are committed to the ethical return of objects that were stolen from source communities and collaborating with those communities to fill in knowledge gaps. Newfields is excited to continue and refine the work it has already done and looks forward to deepening its relationships with the global community, at home and abroad.

MICHIGAN

Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Julie Bunke,
Manager of Exhibits & Interactive Experiences
Kalamazoo State Hospital: 165 Years of
Psychiatric Care

Starting in 1848, the legislature of the state of Michigan saw the need for addressing the mental health of its people and began taking steps towards creating the first mental hospital overseen by the state. 165 years later, the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital still operates on the original location where the first hospital opened in 1859.



Throughout the history of the Kalamazoo State Hospital, several innovative programs began, such as a training school for nurses specializing in psychiatric care and an occupational therapy program in partnership with Western Michigan University. The hospital also utilized surrounding farmland for diversified farming such as cattle for milking, fruit orchards and vegetable gardens. This was accomplished by the implementation of the colony farm system, which established a "colony" made up of numerous cottages. The resulting Colony Farm was believed to have a curative effect on patients by keeping their bodies and minds active towards a common goal.

Kalamazoo Valley Museum Christy Kincaid, Registrar Storage Expansion

A project over 10 years in the making has finally been completed! The Kalamazoo Valley Museum recently completed a project that expanded its oversized storage by roughly 50% by using compactable shelving. The project was initially started in 2010 but was put on hold. As space in storage started to quickly shrink, the staff knew that it was time to try again and started preparing the proposal for budget season. The budget for the project was approved in June 2023. The collections manager worked quickly with finance to determine a timeline to get bids in. We knew it was going to be a tight timeframe with all of the very large manufacturing lead times. The project was awarded in October and the museum was told it was going to be 12-16 weeks before construction would start. It was almost a relief because we could take our time moving the very large and very heavy objects, and be methodical about where everything was going to live during that time.

In October, the Museum's collections department started moving furniture and other oversized objects out of permanent storage, clearing half of the storage space. To combat part of the problem of where to put the objects while construction was happening, they collaborated with the exhibits department and installed, Off the Shelves, which featured several large objects, some that had never been on display. The other objects were moved to various spots in the museum, we got very good at Museum Tetris.

In February, construction officially started, with tracks being laid and cemented to the floor. After several long days, the carriages started coming in and then shelving started going up. As furniture starts to fill the shelves, we are learning all the interesting quirks that go along with compactable shelving and how the workflow in the space will change.



Left - during construction

Bottom - old storage

Right - loading objects



Grand Rapids Public Museum

Sarah Humes, Associate Registrar & Collections Liaison

Grand Rapids Public Museum Makes Exciting Discovery!

In the Fall of 2023, the Grand Rapids Public Museum embarked on a multi-year expansion project. The expansion and renovation project prioritizes riverfront accessibility, updates to the Community Archives & Research Center, and renewing and refreshing exhibits within the Museum.

There will be enhancements along the Museum's north lawn that incorporate elements like a geologic rock wall, a riverside terrace, and an outdoor classroom that will provide greater access to the Grand River. On the interior, many exhibits will be refreshed and expanded.

It was during exterior construction on February 27, 2024, that the construction crew made an exciting discovery while working on the front lawn. They uncovered what has been determined to be remnants of the water turbines used by the Voigt Milling Company to power their flour and gypsum milling equipment.

Just a few days later on March 4, 2024, crews discovered a flume or a human-made waterway that uses gravity to move water to the turbines of the mill. The Voigt Milling Company dates back to the late 1800s and was used through the mid-1950s. It was torn down in the late 1960s and turned into a parking lot during the 1970s and 1980s. The Grand Rapids Public Museum was built on the site in 1994. The Museum is working to salvage the remnants of the milling equipment and display it in the future if their condition allows for it.

Photos left to right:

Interior of cavity under north lawn that was part of flume system from Voigt Mill - Courtesy of the GRPM

Voigt Mill Turbine on the North Lawn - Courtesy of the GRPM

Voigt Milling Company - Courtesy of the GRPM



HEART Training

In the fall of 2023, Curator of Collections Brian Jaeschke was selected to participate in the Heritage Emergency and Response Training (HEART) hosted by the Smithsonian Institute and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington, D.C. The training took place the first week of December and included 24 museum professionals and emergency managers from around the country. Organized by the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, the training prepares cultural stewards, first responders, and emergency managers to work together to address emergencies and disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, or floods that affect cultural institutions and historic sites. The sessions offered realistic, hands-on training in the Incident Command System, risk and damage assessment, disaster planning, health and safety, emergency evacuation and salvage of museum objects, and working with the media.

Some highlights from the training included field trips to the Anacostia Community Museum to see how risk assessment can be done inside a museum and the Library of Congress book recovery room where volumes are taken after damage from water and the environment. On Wednesday, a mock evacuation drill was held in the Smithsonian Arts and Science Building to simulate how to use the Incident Command System in order to document, pack and remove several objects from an institution threatened by a wildfire. Salvage training included learning hands-on how to remove objects such as books, textiles, paintings and other materials from water (pictured right). The last day included learning how to develop a disaster plan, resources for grants and reference materials and receiving certificates of completion.

This winter, MSHP hired Veronica Gregory to work as the archival intern. She has completed the inventory of the Keith Widder Library archives and is currently scanning archaeological field notes from the excavations at Fort Michilimackinac. She has also assisted with the educational outreach program which does in-person and virtual presentations on Mackinac history to area schools. This summer she will continue working as an interpreter at Colonial Michilimackinac which she did last year.

Curator of Collections Brian Jaeschke has hired one collections intern to assist with the summer inventory in Mackinaw City. Campbell Geary from Central Michigan University will start work in May. He will be conducting object inventory of Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse and the Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Museum and Historic Mill Creek. He will also be helping with cataloging, processing and photography for new accessions.

Photos top to bottom:
removing
photos,
evacuation
drill, unrolling
textiles.



Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) will have staggered openings for the summer season starting on May 3rd with Fort Mackinac. On May 8th, Colonial Michilimackinac will open in Mackinaw City followed by the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse on the 9th. Rounding out the openings will be the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Mill Creek and Biddle House Mackinac Island Native American Museum on May 10th.

Upcoming Happenings at MSHP

The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum will exhibit the 2024 contemporary art contest “Mackinac Rocks” this summer. Out of 94 entries, an outside juror will select 20 pieces to be displayed until October 6, 2024. Mackinac State Historic Parks will host a grand opening and awards reception on Wednesday, June 19th at the museum.

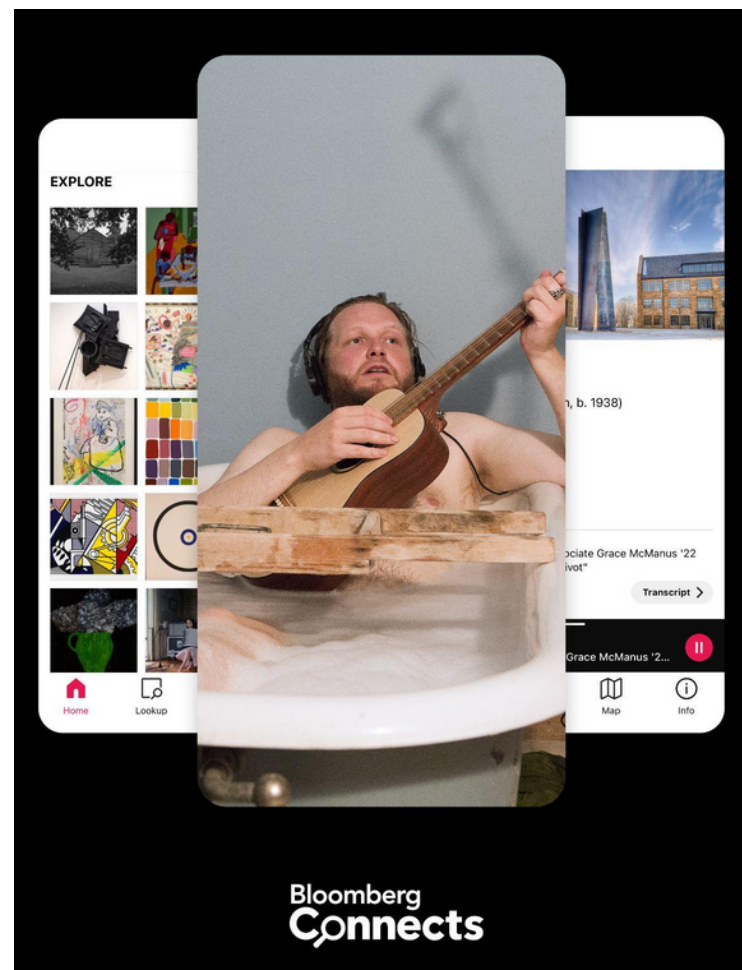
Several new buildings will be started or completed in Mackinaw City and on Mackinac Island in 2024. The Milliken Nature Center will be completed this spring at Arch Rock. The center will include a nature center, displays and rest rooms which replaces an aging restroom building. Opening early this summer, Colonial Michilimackinac will feature an addition to the Southwest Rowhouse which was originally completed in 1962. The new space will house an exhibit entitled “Slavery at the Straits” discussing both indigenous and Black people who lived at Michilimackinac. Finally, the Petersen Center Administrative Building will receive a new addition that will provide new offices for staff, an interpretation work room and additional space for the Widder Library and archaeological artifact storage. It is scheduled to be completed this fall.

OHIO

The Gund at Kenyon College Robin Goodman, Registrar for Collections and Exhibitions

The Gund has joined forces with Bloomberg Connects to introduce an exciting new way to experience The Gund. Available now, you can use our free digital guide on the Bloomberg Connects app to explore our current exhibitions, permanent collection, and on-campus public art enhanced with interviews with real students about artwork on campus and in our permanent collection.

Bloomberg Connects is a free mobile app featuring guides to hundreds of museums, galleries, sculpture parks, gardens, and cultural spaces. You can use the app to plan your visit and enhance your experience on-site. Afterward, dive deeper into your favorite works at home—or anywhere, anytime.



WISCONSIN

Chazen Museum of Art Andrea Selbig

The Chazen Museum of Art has named Leigh Holmes (pictured right) as its inaugural Collections Specialist. In this newly created position, Holmes will work with the collections registrar and facilitate all aspects of the acquisition and accession process of the permanent collection, manage object storage and inventories, implement museum preservation practices and collection policies, and provide curatorial research support for proposed acquisitions.

Leigh holds a BA in Visual Arts, an MA in Arts Administration and Policy, and graduate certification in Museum Collections Management and Care and Archival Administration. Leigh previously worked at the Michael Kohler Arts Foundation. The Chazen is delighted to add her to the team!



The exhibition Look What Harvey Did: Harvey K. Littleton's Legacy in the Simona and Jerome Chazen Studio Glass Collection uses select works from this acclaimed studio glass collection to celebrate the creative ingenuity that artist and educator Harvey K. Littleton inspired as a founder of the studio glass movement. Even though the Simona and Jerry Chazen's glass art collection spans primarily the last decades of the twentieth century, the show promises an illuminating perspective on how Littleton's advocacy of glass as a vehicle for contemporary expression evolved into a recognized movement that continues to impact twenty-first-century art. On view until August 16, 2024.



MRC TRAVEL STIPENDS for 2024 Association of Midwest Museums and Ohio Museums Association Joint Conference in Columbus

The Midwest Registrars Committee board is very pleased to announce that the MRC will be awarding travel stipends at two different levels to assist with registration and travel costs to attend the 2024 Association of Midwest Museums and Ohio Museums Association Joint Conference in Columbus. There will be one day of virtual programming on July 24, and the in-person conference will be July 31-August 3. We are offering two levels of stipend awards again this year: Half stipends of \$375, or full stipends of \$750. If you or your institution are able to afford funding most of your conference attendance, or if you live in Columbus, consider applying for a \$375 stipend. The total number of conference stipends awarded will depend on the number of applicants. All recipients of conference stipends will be expected to write one article for the MRC newsletter, The Courier, about a session at the conference as well as attend the MRC business meeting during the conference. If you know of any deserving students who are interested in registration and collections management, please encourage them to apply as well. All applicants must be MRC members with 2024 dues paid, but applicants may join MRC at the time of their application submission. You can join or renew your MRC membership here: <https://midwestregistrars.org/membership-2/joinrenew-membership/> The deadline for applications for MRC travel stipends is May 24. **Anyone who is interested in attending the conference is STRONGLY URGED to apply!!** Stipend recipients will be announced the week of June 17.

If you have any questions, contact MRC Vice-Chair Leslie Ory Lewellen at lory@artsmia.org.

Introducing zeffy!

MRC has a new membership platform! Starting this year, we will be using Zeffy to collect membership dues, event registrations, and track sponsorship. Zeffy is a 100% free fundraising software designed for organizations and nonprofits. They offer their services free of charge so that donations and contributions to organizations can solely support their intended mission. For MRC, we've found this to be a great platform and we are excited that 100% of your membership fees and contributions are going to support our organization, and ultimately you! With support available for state meet ups and workshops and travel stipends available to attend the annual Association of Midwest Museums, we look forward to continuing to support the Midwest Registrars Community!



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Save the date!
AMM 2024 Conference
July 31 - August 3
Columbus, OH

MRC State Reps

The MRC is a stronger organization thanks to our state reps! Our newest state reps are Christine McNulty from Illinois, Maggie Gorski from Indiana, and Ashley Ross from Michigan. Iowa and Missouri have vacant state rep roles. If you are from those states, please reach out to Leslie Ory Lewellen, MRC Vice-Chair, lory@artsmia.org, if you are interested in serving. These are volunteer roles, and your term can be as long or as short as you wish. You can also leave the position, and return to it later.

Our state reps are responsible for taking a leading role in recruiting new MRC members, coordinating state and local meet-ups and programs, and writing a few blog posts for the MRC website. There aren't any strict requirements or quotas for filling the role—just an interest in the MRC and working within your state with other registrars and collections professionals to provide networking opportunities and discuss topics of interest.

Don't hesitate to contact your state reps if you have ideas for meet-ups and programming. Any MRC member can help a state rep with event organization!

**It's Time To
Renew Your MRC
Membership!**

**SCAN TO RENEW
FOR 2024 TODAY**



Leading from the Middle: Leading up, down, and across as you rise through the ranks

Submitted by Marla Roddy, Assistant Registrar for Exhibitions, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields - Stipend Recipient for the Indianapolis Conference

Presenters: Whitney Owens, Cincinnati Museum Center; Joseph Imholte, Bakken Museum; Cathy Ferree, Indiana State Museum; Kaman Hillenburg, Evansville Museum

Thank you to the Midwest Registrars Committee for granting me a stipend to attend the Association of Midwest Museums and Association of Indiana Museums 2023 Joint Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. I'm delighted to have been able to attend this conference where I had the chance to connect with museum professionals and the National EMP Network.

While I mostly attended sessions in the Collections Stewardship track, I also attended a few Leadership & Operations sessions, which brings me to the session I chose to write about: "Leading from the Middle: Leading up, down, and across as you rise through the ranks."

The session began with each presenter providing advice garnered from their own experiences about professional development to move your career forward, followed by an open forum. I hope to recap the points I found most meaningful from each presenter below. Any notes I've added appear in italics. Whitney Owens, Cincinnati Museum Center: Network in the capacity that you are comfortable. Create a personal board of trustees. Seek a mentor from the community.

Kaman Hillenberg, Evansville Museum: Give yourself grace. Set boundaries. Have patience. Foster a culture of gratitude; compliments need to be specific and genuine.

Cathy Ferree, Indiana State Museum: Not everyone works at the same speed. You don't always have to speak in a meeting. [Also reads as hold space for others to speak in meetings.] Own your mistakes, and work through them together.

Joseph Imholte, Bakken Museum: Referenced the book *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds* by adrienne maree brown. Model small behaviors. You earn trust in drops, and you lose it in buckets. Embrace the concept of emergence itself.

I was most drawn to the way that Joe Imholte spoke about incorporating emergence and adrienne maree brown's principles of *Emergent Strategy* (listed below) into museum work and culture.

Principles of Emergent Strategy

- Small is good, small is all. (The large is a reflection of the small.)
- Change is constant. (Be like water.)
- There is always enough time for the right work.
- There is a conversation in the room that only these people at this moment can have. Find it.
- Never a failure, always a lesson.
- Trust the People. (If you trust the people, they become trustworthy.)
- Move at the speed of trust. Focus on critical connections more than critical mass – build the resilience by building the relationships.
- Less prep, more presence.
- What you pay attention to grows.¹

The 2023 conference theme, Braking Point, provided space for slowing down, reflecting, and planning. I believe the core principles of *Emergent Strategy* can be used as a guide for reflection, but also provide groundwork for *The Way Forward*, the 2024 conference theme.

¹brown, adrienne maree. *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*. (AK Press, 2017) 41-42.

Midwest Registrars Committee

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