

IMAgEs

July 2021

Iowa museums are essential to their communities.

A quarterly e-publication of the Iowa Museum Association

In this ISSUE

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- 2** President's Column
- 3** Executive Director's Column
- 4** Edwards Creative "Ask An Expert"
- 5** 2021 IMA Conference News
- 6** IMA's Teaching Iowa History Receives AASLH Award of Excellence
- 7** STEPS-IMA Cohort Begins in January
- 8** Sponsors
- 9-14** News from Iowa museums
- 15** *Teaching Iowa History*
- 16** Don't Reinvent the Wheel! Contact IMA
- 17** IMA Board Member Contact Information

PO Box 824, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

(319) 239-2236

Director@iowamuseums.org

#IowaMuseumsIMA

NEXT ISSUE: October 2021. Deadline for submissions Sept. 15.

Group Member Admin How-To

Every IMA member organization has a group member administrator with enhanced security authority. If you are the group member administrator: Go to www.iowamuseums.org and sign in (user name and password)

1. Click on "My Member Home page" (upper right)
2. Look at the lower left and see "My organizations"
3. Click on the name of the organization for which you are group member administrator

You may update your roster, print invoices, register colleagues for workshops or conference, update your public profile, renew membership, and more.

Questions or assistance with username or password:

Director@iowamuseums.org or 319-239-2236

President's MESSAGE

Dr. Heidi Lung, President \ Heidi-lung@uiowa.edu



Hello IMA Members,

It's summer and museums are opening their doors and engaging the public again. It is a busy time and some of you may have missed several pieces of exciting IMA news. Let me quickly recap the highlights.

First up, Iowa Museum Week. June 7 through the 13th we enthusiastically celebrated everything we love about Iowa museums. From collections and educational programs to staff and volunteers, our museums are filled with priceless resources that serve to preserve our past and inform our future. As our communities continue to recover and grow, be sure that IMA is committed to providing continued support to our museum network.

In other great news, IMA is proud to announce that *Teaching Iowa History* received the 2021 American Association for State and Local History Award of Excellence. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. We are thrilled to receive such an honor and invite you all to engage with the project at [www.teachingiowahistory.org](http://teachingiowahistory.org).

On the programming front we are moving forward with the STEPS-IMA. STEPS-IMA is an opportunity for small and mid-size history organizations to grow toward best practices using curriculum developed by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and with the support of a cohort, mentors, and the Iowa Museum Association. The first cohort will start in January of 2022 and is currently accepting applications.

Saving possibly the best for last, beginning September 1st Cynthia Sweet, who has served as part time Executive Director since 2007, will move into a full-time director role. The IMA approved this change in an effort to increase our organizational capacity and to best serve Iowa museums, and in doing so, meets goals set forth in the 2019-2023 strategic plan.

As President of the IMA Board of Directors, I want to share my heartfelt gratitude to all, to the IMA Board of Directors for providing strong leadership, to Executive Director Cyndi Sweet for her dedication and persistence, to our strategic partners including Edward's Creative, and most importantly to you, our members. The Iowa Museum Association would not have accomplished all of this without your unwavering support.

All the best and Museum On!

Heidi Lung,
President, Iowa Museum Association



Director's MESSAGE

Cyndi Sweet, Executive Director \ Director@iowamuseums.org



Dear IMA friends,

With a high percentage of the U.S. population vaccinated and COVID rates slowing, many museums are open for the first time in more than a year, and welcoming visitors back into their spaces. I want to remind you that there are COVID related resources on the IMA website if you are seeking the link to Governor Reynold's press room, reopening advice, programming ideas, or funding sources. Click the **RESOURCES** menu item.

Save the date for the **2021 IMA conference: Museums Matter**. Our keynote speaker will be Laura Lott, CEO, American Alliance of Museums. Laura will speak on Monday, October 4th at 9 a.m. central time. The conference will take place virtually October 3-4-5. Read more on page 5 of this newsletter, and find more information at <https://www.iowamuseums.org/Annual Conference>. Register at <https://www.iowamuseums.org/Learn&Share>.

The IMA Programming Committee has an exciting series of speakers and presentations planned for **IMA Plugged-In 2021**. Offered the third Monday of the month at noon, this series will continue to be free in 2021. Register at <https://www.iowamuseums.org/Learn&Share>.

The IMA Programming Committee is offering virtual **two-hour workshops** each with a registration fee for each is \$35. Learn more and register at <https://www.iowamuseums.org/Learn&Share>.

Thanks to the over 100 museums who have participated to date in the *Teaching Iowa History* project. **The Iowa Museum Association has received the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Award of Excellence in recognition of Teaching Iowa History.** If you have not yet participated in this groundbreaking project, I encourage you to do so. Learn more on page 6, and at <https://teachingiowahistory.org/> or contact me.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Director@iowamuseums.org

Cyndi Sweet, Executive Director



Ask an expert.



PREPPING FOR YOUR INSTALL

You've put a lot of time, energy and creativity into your new exhibit. Plans may be more than a year or two in the making. You've been worrying about research, content development, artifacts, design and deadlines. Now, suddenly, the big day is upon you. Installation is the most exciting phase of the project – but you need to be organized and ready. So how do you prepare?

Below are three checklists to help ensure you and your exhibit partner are prepped and ready for a successful installation.

Pre-Installation Checklist

- Cleaning. Are all the former exhibits in the gallery de-constructed and moved out of the space? Are the walls and floors cleaned and prepped?
- Electrical. Upgrades and necessary installations should be complete.
- Lighting. Make sure you've considered the placement of existing gallery lighting and that installation of new lighting is finished.
- Procurement. At this stage, all new additions should be procured. This could include new artifacts, mounts, casework, visitor seating and more.

Installation Checklist

- Equipment. Have you thought through all the tools and equipment necessary for the installation? Make sure everything is readily available.
- Staffing. This one is easy to overlook. Will you need to change your current staffing levels during the installation?
- Artifact Installation. It's a good idea to set aside additional time and care for artifact installation.

Post-Installation Checklist

- Lighting. This one is always important to recheck once everything is in place. Make sure adjustments have been made so each object is receiving the proper amount of lighting, and no awkward shadows are being cast.
- Cleaning. Don't downplay the importance of putting care and time into cleaning. Are all acrylic and glass components clean? Is all casework dusted and ready for visitors?
- Final walk-through. Now's the time to make any small changes or adjustments. But if you're organized and communicating, things should go smoothly!

TIME! The most important element when it comes to installing a new exhibition is time. Always keep in mind the demands that will be placed upon your team.

Remember — every installation is different and unique in its own way and will always present challenges. Be flexible!

DO YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Submit your questions to director@iowamuseums.org

Or ask the experts at Edwards Creative directly at tim@edwardsideas.com

IMA 2021 Conference:

Museums Matter | SAVE THE DATE October 3-5, 2021

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

9:00 a.m. keynote Laura Lott, CEO, American Alliance of Museums.



Sponsored by Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

Museums As Essential Community Infrastructure

Now more than ever, museums are essential to our communities. In addition to preserving and protecting our cultural heritage, museums are important gathering spaces, economic engines, and a vital part of the PreK-12 (and beyond) education ecosystem. Our museums have the opportunity to be leaders in rebuilding, helping to fill critical education gaps for our nation's students and building understanding, empathy, and belonging across our communities. We must be bold! Museums must boldly challenge the status quo, rethink outdated models, and better measure and communicate our social impact.

VARIETY OF SESSIONS

The 2021 IMA Conference will include both live presentations and pre-recorded content that will be available until the end of the year on a custom built conference dashboard.

COUNCIL BLUFFS PARTNERS

The 2021 conference would have been held in Council Bluffs were it not for the pandemic. Council Bluffs is a vibrant city brimming with events, attractions, fine dining, and things to do. You can learn more at <https://www.unleashcb.com>.

You will have a virtual opportunity to explore the museums of Council Bluffs on the conference dashboard. You will want to explore in person as soon as it is safe to do so.

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

Emerging professional events will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 3. Plans call for a graduate student presentation followed by Career Conversations, a panel presentation and Q & A with Iowa emerging museum professionals working in Washington, D.C.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year until July 15, the IMA accepts nominations for the Rising Star award and Leadership award. The IMA also accepts nominations to recognize new museums and museums celebrating special anniversaries. Learn more at iowamuseums.org/Annual Conference/Awards.

UPDATES

Conference updates will be posted at iowamuseums.org/Annual Conference

Questions? Contact Cyndi Sweet at 319.239.2236 or Director@iowamuseums.org

RECIPIENTS OF THE IMA Leadership Award

2012: Willard "Sandy" Boyd

2016: Lynette Pohlman

2016: Thomas J. Morain

2018: Jerome Thompson

2019: Billie Brown Bailey

2021 Conference Sponsors

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Iowa Museum Association's *Teaching Iowa History* Receives 2021 AASLH Award of Excellence

NASHVILLE, TN—June 2021—The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that the Iowa Museum Association is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for *Teaching Iowa History*. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 76th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Teaching Iowa History (<https://teachingiowahistory.org>) leverages the resources of Iowa museums to support K-12 educators in teaching Iowa history by harnessing the stewardship and educational power of museums. It combines the fascinating objects in museum collections with grade-specific standards-based lessons, while bringing national history into perspective through the lens of local Iowa stories.

Teaching Iowa History has created a significant body of work that incorporates three key components – a primary source database, instructional resources, and Iowa history narratives. Over 100 museums have participated in building a database of over 1,000 primary sources to date – the project is ongoing and still accepting images of primary sources. This database increases access to Iowa museum collections and brings the stories their objects tell to students, educators, researchers, and the public.

The University of Northern Iowa (UNI), Iowa's leading teacher education university, is an important partner in *Teaching Iowa History*, with UNI history education students writing grade 7-12 lesson plans that incorporate primary sources from the database and meet Iowa Social Studies standards. Simpson College is another important partner, with Simpson College students writing grade K-6 lesson plans. Over 70 lesson plans for a variety of grades and social studies standards have been produced to date, and as the project continues, additional lessons will be developed. As pre-service teachers were learning to write lesson plans, they were also learning Iowa history, and how to teach history with primary sources. All lesson plans are vetted by skilled faculty and approved for release prior to being posted. Narrative essays (Iowa stories) are also submitted by knowledgeable academic and public historians, in order to fulfill teacher needs for context. A fully searchable digital encyclopedia style website brings all these components together in a single, user-friendly environment.

The University of Iowa Museum Studies program, Iowa PBS, and Graceland University are additional key partners in the development of *Teaching Iowa History*, each partner contributing expertise and resources to the success of the project. The menu item "Online Resources from around Iowa" includes links to many exciting Iowa history projects, including PBS Time Travel Iowa and Find Iowa.

To aid educators in using the resources created by the project, the *Teaching Iowa History* website includes five professional development modules that include videos, activities and resources presenting a variety of ways to use and engage with *Teaching Iowa History*.

The most recent addition to the program is a virtual exhibit component that brings together primary sources and contextual information in a ten-item exhibit. As this component develops, it will provide an opportunity for museum studies classes to hone exhibit development skills and will add a layer of content for K-12 classroom use.

Teaching Iowa History is the topic of a chapter in the soon to be published text *Creating Meaningful Museum Experiences for K-12 Audiences: How to Connect with Teachers and Engage Students*, edited by Tara Young (October, 2021).

Teaching Iowa History is an ongoing program. For more information contact the Iowa Museum Association at 319.239.2236 or visit <https://teachingiowahistory.org>



STEPS-IMA Coming to Iowa

Designed for small and mid-sized history organizations

STEPS is a program of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). STEPS was created as a self-study, self-paced assessment program designed specifically for small-to mid-sized history organizations, including volunteer-run institutions to review their policies and practices and move toward best practices.

While organizations may enroll in STEPS through AASLH, STEPS learning groups may be a good choice for many. In a STEPS learning group, local history organizations come together for shared learning and networking. A STEPS learning group typically consists of several history museums, historical societies, historic sites, or related institutions, working together in regular contact and learning from each other, the program leader, and mentors as they use the STEPS program to assess their organizations' policies and practices, identify strengths, and plan for improvements. As organizations progress through STEPS, they may earn progress certificates from AASLH that communicate those achievements to their community and stakeholders.

A STEPS-IMA learning group will begin meeting with the Iowa Museum Association in January 2022. Applications will be accepted until October 15 for the first cohort of up to 12 individuals who will work through six modules together over 24 months. The cost to participate is \$150 per module, for a total of \$900 per person. The Iowa Museum Association will lead the program, provide all learning materials, and will enroll participating organizations with the AASLH STEPS program which will issue certificates upon completion of modules. A limited number of scholarships are available.

For more information, please contact Cyndi Sweet, Iowa Museum Association, at 319.239.2236 or Director@iowamuseums.org



STEPS-IMA now accepting applications for 2022 cohort

As the leading authority on the museum industry in Iowa for almost fifty years, the Iowa Museum Association (IMA) has long offered a range of programs to support museums across the state in building organizational capacity. These programs have included individual workshops, mentoring opportunities, best practices training, and an annual conference, among others.

Beginning in January 2022, the IMA will make available STEPS-IMA, an opportunity for small and mid-size history organizations to grow toward best practices using a curriculum developed by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and with the support of a cohort, mentors, and the Iowa Museum Association.

STEPS-IMA will be presented as six on-line modules in synchronous and asynchronous format, increasing accessibility for small and mid-size organizations across Iowa. STEPS-IMA will use presentations, guided organizational activities, and individual mentorship, all aligning with the AASLH STEPS curriculum, to support organizations moving toward basic, good, and better practices.

The Iowa Museum Association has been moving toward this program for many years. Cynthia Sweet, IMA Executive Director said, "IMA began exploring establishing a STEPS learning group in Iowa almost fifteen years ago. It took time to build infrastructure and capacity so that IMA could successfully deliver this training. We will achieve a significant milestone when our first cohort begins meeting in January, 2022."

STEPS-IMA will assist the IMA in fulfilling its mission to build capacity, heighten awareness, and foster community within and among Iowa museums and their communities. It will promote best practices and increase sustainability among Iowa museums and will provide an avenue for collaboration among cohort members.

Applications will be accepted until October 15 for the first cohort, which will begin in January 2022. A cohort will consist of up to 12 individuals who will work through six modules together over 24 months. The cost to participate is \$150 per module, for a total of \$900 per person. The Iowa Museum Association will lead the program, provide all learning materials, connect participants with mentors, and will enroll participating organizations with the AASLH STEPS program which will issue certificates upon completion of modules.

For more information, please contact Cyndi Sweet, Iowa Museum Association, at 319.239.2236 or Director@iowamuseums.org

2020-2021 Iowa Museum Association Sponsors & Supporters

The Iowa Museum Association is a qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed under the law.

Every attempt has been made to be sure this list is correct. If your name has inadvertently been left off please accept our apologies and inform us of the error.

Gifts and donations may be sent to:

Iowa Museum Association,
P.O. Box 824, Cedar Falls, Iowa
or made on line at www.iowamuseums.org

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University of Iowa Museum

Studies Program



**Museum Studies
Certificate Program**

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Jennifer Kovarik

Dr. Rick Woten

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Wendy Scardino

Angela Stanford

Casie Vance

Bill Wright

In Kind

David Bright, Pugh Hagan Prahm

NEWS

Toward a Universal Suffrage

Celebrate Iowa's Diversity and History with an Exhibition about Iowa's African American suffragists

"Toward a Universal Suffrage: African American Women in Iowa and the Vote for All" is a traveling exhibition that honors and celebrates the contributions of African American women in Iowa to the women's suffrage movement.

The exhibition includes:

- Profiles of five African American women in Iowa who were suffragists
- An overview of African American women's suffrage
- A timeline and history of African American voting rights history
- A map of important African American suffrage locations in Iowa

The exhibition was created by the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University, the Central Iowa Community Museum, and the Iowa Department of Human Rights.

Cost

There is a \$50 rental fee for the exhibit. Host organizations are responsible for covering the transportation costs of delivering the exhibit to your site. These costs are \$250 for round-trip transportation or \$100 for one-way transportation. For one-way transportation, host sites are responsible for pick-up or drop-off at the Catt Center.

Exhibit Details

- The exhibit requires 600 square feet to display.
- It consists of five, double-sided fabric display panels. One panel is 3 feet wide by 90 inches tall and the other four panels are 10 feet wide by 90 inches tall.
- This is a "poster exhibition." No objects are included. Graphics and images are printed throughout.
- The exhibition can be transported in the trunk of a car.
- The exhibition is insured by Iowa State University.

Make a Reservation

To see the exhibition tour schedule, visit www.centraliowamuseum.com/exhibitions. To reserve the exhibition, [fill out a form](#).

Come Celebrate with Us!

Sgt. Floyd Week

To commemorate the anniversary of Sgt. Floyd's death, August 20, 1804, the Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Betty Strong Encounter Center will be hosting the first annual Sgt. Floyd Week, August 15-22. The festivities will run in conjunction with the nearby Sgt. Floyd River Boat and Welcome Center's Encampment weekend.

The week will be filled with free activities. For kid-friendly activities, building a keelboat, attending a magic show, erecting a Floyd monument, and kite-flying lead the way. Additionally a citywide scavenger hunt will provide a bit of adventure for those who participate. For others, a Lecture and Lemonade series will inform and entertain. Guest speakers and a reader's theatre one-act play are on the agenda. One highlight is the rhubarb baking competition. Contestants may submit their favorite rhubarb recipe.

Western Iowa Tech Community College's Culinary Department who are also the judges will provide a short lecture about rhubarb.

Inside the Lewis and Clark Center's Gallery will be a very special exhibit. A curated, mobile map exhibit from the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will be on display. The exhibit aims to advance knowledge of the tremendous mapping success achieved by the Corps. The large-scale reproduction maps will detail what was known before the expedition, what was learned during the expedition, and what was learned after the expedition. In addition, the American Indian viewpoint is included.

For information: siouxcitylcic.com/exhibits/sgt-floyd-week/

Below: Children listening to Sgt. Floyd Animatronic, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Photo by Sara Olson, Education Coordinator.



Charles H. MacNider Art Museum

303 Second Street SE, Mason City, IA 50401
641-421-3666 www.macniderart.org

Museum hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sunday, Monday: Closed

Human Form: Permanent Collection Artworks with a Focus on the Body

through July 31, 2021

Kinney-Lindstrom Gallery

Human Form: Permanent Collection Artworks with a Focus on the Body features thirty-eight artworks from the Museum's Permanent Collection that concentrate on the human body. The exhibition contains drawings, paintings, sculpture, fine art prints and photography.

In the exhibition, the human form is divided into three categories: in the nude, in motion and portrait. Exhibition viewers have the opportunity to answer critical thinking questions in each of these categories.

The exhibition will be on display until Wednesday, July 21.

Atlanta C. Sampson Solo Exhibition

August 6 – October 6, 2021

Kinney-Lindstrom Gallery

Atlanta C. Sampson was an artist with north Iowa roots who was not "discovered" as an artist until much later in her life. This exhibition will highlight her work throughout her career and shine a light on the teacher turned artist from Toeterville, Iowa.

Kurtis Meyer will speak about "Atlanta Sampson's Lifelong Journey" on Aug. 26.

Image: Atlanta C. Sampson, Hayfield, Minnesota, watercolor, 1924



Iowa Masonic Library

New Exhibit on York Rite Freemasonry.

On Tuesday July 6, 2021, the Iowa Masonic Library will open a new exhibit that will feature the York Rite of Freemasonry. The exhibit, titled "York Rite Freemasonry: The Story Continues," will show the history of the York Rite, one of the appendant bodies of Freemasonry. Using regalia, photographs, and documents from the collection of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, visitors will be able to trace the history of the Royal Arch, The Cryptic Rite, and the Knights Templar from the late 18th century to the present day.

The symbolism of the York Rite continues the story of the construction of Solomon's Temple, the second Temple, the search for the "Lost" word, and the chivalric orders. The term "York" is used as a reference to York, England where the first guilds of stonemasons were organized, perhaps as early as 600 A.D. The exhibit will continue through the end of the year.

The Iowa Masonic Library and Museums are open for tours Monday through Thursday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The library is open for research by appointment only. For more information, or to schedule a group tour, please contact Bill Kreuger at 319-365-1438 or bill.kreuger@gl-iowa.org.

York Rite Freemasonry: The Story Continues



Grundy Center Historical Society

Artist Bruce Gordon exhibited

The 2021 Felix Grundy Festival will have an added attraction this July sponsored by the Grundy Center Historical Society. The walls of the museum and Frederick Building will display a collection of art created by Grundy Center artist and former high school art teacher Bruce Gordon along with the work of many of his students.

The "A Heart For Art" exhibit will be on display from July 5 thru July 20 and the society will host two Meet & Greet Receptions at the Frederick Building. "A Heart For Art"" was chosen by the society as representative of Bruce's love for art, his students and community. His impact has been significant, generous and far reaching throughout the last five (5) decades. Admission is free. All visitors are welcome!

For more information contact Kathy Zeiner, Museum Curator, Grundy Center Historical Society at **gchistory144@gmail.com**



UI Pentacrest Museums

The University of Iowa Pentacrest Museums including both the Museum of Natural History and the Old Capitol Museum have reopened to the public and are excited to welcome guests back to see all we've been working on. New and updated exhibits, including My Collections features, the much anticipated completion of our Lion diorama in Mammal Hall, and several virtual exhibitions are now available for guests to explore. Looking ahead, the start of the fall semester will mark our reintroduction to all group tours including new, free, guided tours for guests on Saturdays in both Museums. We encourage folks to visit our new website to learn more, stay updated with our events calendar, and visit soon: Fridays & Saturdays 10-5.

Grinnell College Musem of Art

Opening June 25 - August 15

The Grinnell College Museum of Art will be open this summer from June 25 to August 15 and will present Our Voice: Celebrating the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards featuring original artwork from 101 award/honor winning titles by 34 African American authors and illustrators.

Awarded annually by the American Library Association (ALA) for books about the African American experience, Coretta Scott King Book Awards celebrate African American life and culture. The awards commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and honor his wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood.



Among the artists featured with multiple titles are Jerry Pinkney, John Steptoe, Ashley Bryan, Faith Ringgold, Leo and Diane Dillon, and R. Gregory Christie. This exhibit was organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas.

The Museum is open to the public and always free. Reservations required. Call 641-269-4660 or email GCMoA@grinnell.edu to make your reservation. All visitors should use the north (campus facing) doors to the Bucksbaum Center for the Arts. Face masks required. Open Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Closed July 4th. Information about the exhibition and related in-person and virtual programming available at: www.grinnell.edu/museum or call 641-269-4660. GCMoA is located at 1108 Park Street, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Caption: Leo and Diane Dillon, Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales and True Tales, "But each day, Marie went to the river and remembered her love, 1995. Acrylic paint on illustration board, 19 x 15 inches. © 1995 by Leo and Diane Dillon.

Theatre Museum Resets

Edwards Creative Designs

The exhibit hall at the Theatre Museum in Mt. Pleasant is undergoing a total reset this summer. The Theatre Museum, which first opened to the public in 1973, was founded to celebrate, preserve, and interpret the experience of live popular theatre as it was delivered under canvas and in opera houses in communities across the country in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Hundreds of companies brought live performances of dramas and comedies to millions of viewers across the country. Many of these repertoire companies were based in Iowa.

The main exhibit hall's last major enhancement took place during the 1990s. Through the help of the IMA, museum volunteers engaged the design and installation services of Edwards Creative in the Quad Cities. The newly updated museum display showcases theatrical backdrops, staging elements, and a wide range of memorabilia to reflect the shows, the players, and the widespread local popularity of this entertainment genre, which once turned out more audiences than playhouses in the major cities.

Exhibit highlights include a large tent structure and photo mural that replicate the experience of going to and performing in a show.

The Theatre Museum will reopen July 8 and be open to visitors Thursday-Saturday for the remainder of the summer, except when the Henry County Fair is in session July 15-17, and through Labor Day weekend.

The museum is located on the Old Threshers Reunion grounds in Mt. Pleasant. Admission is \$5 for adults and youth 12 and older. Visitors may explore the museum on their own or choose a guided tour. It is also possible to schedule an individual or group tour by appointment at theatremuseum@yahoo.com / 319-385-9432.

Welcome Alisha Abner to the University Museums' team!

Alisha Abner is the new Communications Specialist II for University Museums.

She will run social media, design postcards and brochures, update the website, produce videos and much more. These weekly emails will soon be coming from her, too. Alisha received a BA in Communications from Morehead State University in Kentucky, lived in Illinois for a time, and has been in Ames for the past six years. She most recently

worked in Media Production Services at City of Ames and is on the board for Friends of Ames Strings. Alisha enjoys spending time with her family, concerts, theater, bike rides, board games, and of course, museums! To contact Alisha, please email aabner@iastate.edu

Grout Museum District

The Grout Museum District's Bluedorn Science Imaginarium has reopened! Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10AM-12:30PM and 1-4PM. Science demos daily at 11, 1:30 and 3. Further details available here: <https://www.groutmuseumdistrict.org/calendar/imaginarium-reopening-D06032021.aspx>

After nearly 50 years in service, the planetarium at the Grout Museum District is getting a much-needed facelift! This work is made possible through the generosity of donors Barbara Corson, RJ McElroy Trust, The Leighty Fund, Carver Foundation, Black Hawk County Gaming Association and Catherine Ann Livingston Fund. The project is a nearly-complete renovation of the planetarium; only the original dome will remain (with a fresh coat of paint of course). New elements will include comfortable seating, star projector, upgraded lighting, electrical, sound system and carpet. Most of the work will be completed by Bowen Technologies of Indianapolis. The newly renovated Norris Corson Planetarium is projected to open in the Fall of 2021.

IMA ALERTS

Are you receiving IMA e-mail alerts?

For over a decade, IMA Alerts have been emailed to IMA members multiple times each month with news of interest to the broad museum community. Make sure you're receiving all the news!

To receive IMA alerts, e-mail Director@iowamuseums.org

Monitor your SPAM filter daily!
Make us a friend/safe sender.

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www.iowamuseums.org

Bix Beiderbecke Museum Renovating Permanent Exhibit

The Bix Beiderbecke Museum and World Archives is renovating their permanent exhibit with 3 of the most important artifacts acquired to date.

Beginning the first week of August, the museum will be permanently displaying Don Murray's C.G. Conn tenor saxophone and Bix's tuxedo jacket and traveling trunk during the Whiteman years. The saxophone was donated to the museum last year by Don Murray's great-nephew, Justice Tom Harris Jr., and the tuxedo and trunk will be on permanent loan from Bix's great-nephew, Chris Beiderbecke. None of the artifacts have been on public display before since the deaths of both Murray and Bix over 90 years ago.

Renovations are expected to be completed in late July, in time to celebrate the 50th Annual Bix Festival this August 5-7th. The project was originally planned for 2020, but pandemic closures delayed it a year. These artifacts will be joining the many other Bix related artifacts on display inside the museum's permanent exhibit like Bix's piano and childhood cornet, Frankie Trumbauer's saxophone, and Bobby Gillette's banjo.

About the Museum

The Bix Beiderbecke Museum is in the lower level of the River Music Experience at 2nd and Main Street in downtown Davenport, Iowa. The museum is open Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday by appointment only. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.bixmuseum.org

For more information Contact: Nathaniel Kraft nx-kraft@wiu.edu
c. (701)-318



Sioux City Public Museum exhibits

New To You

A diverse selection of artifacts from its own collection is featured in the Sioux City Public Museum's current exhibit, *New to You: Recent Artifact Donations* on display through August 15. In addition to a variety of Central High School memorabilia, the exhibit features an 1893 silk banner from Sioux City's Norwegian singing society, a bear rug made by Meyer Brothers Saddlery Company around 1920, a Lakota-style ceremonial pipe made by famed Ojibwe artist George Bryan "Standing Eagle," and a paper mache Easter Bunny from Davidson's Department Store. Most of the showcased artifacts have not been previously displayed.

Last year, the Sioux City Public Museum received an estimated 12,032 individual artifacts, the highest of any previous years. Among the donations were several large collections. The museum's entire collections consist of an estimated 100,000 3-D artifacts, 3,600 linear feet of archival documents and an estimated 2 million images in various formats. Housing the collections requires 14,784 square feet of storage space on first floor and an additional 10,000 square feet on third floor.

Opening August 14, forty classic images are showcased in the traveling museum exhibition, *Thomas D. Mangelsen – A Life In The Wild*. The exhibit will be the largest temporary exhibit the Sioux City Public Museum has hosted at its downtown site. Details are available at SiouxCityMuseum.org.



Wyatt Earp Boyhood Home

Pella, Iowa

You probably know Wyatt Earp as a lawman or a rogue or a gambler or a Wild West adventurer. He was all of those things. But what you may not know is that Wyatt Earp grew up in the small Dutch community of Pella, Iowa.

The Earp family moved to Pella in 1850 when Wyatt was 2 and stayed in Pella for most of the next 14 years, leaving for California when Wyatt was 16.

Pella Historical Museums has re-opened the Boyhood Home of Wyatt Earp after a 2.5-year renovation. It now houses The Wyatt Earp Experience, an interactive exhibit that brings to life how a Scots-Irish family made their way in a small Dutch town, and how it affected Wyatt in his later life.

"The Boyhood Home of Wyatt Earp had been part of the Pella Historical Village since 1966," says Pella Historical Executive Director Valerie Van Kooten. "We're fortunate that it's the original house on the original site. But it was a very tired house, and we had to make some hard decisions about what to do about it."

As part of Pella Historical's \$2.5 million Forging Our Future campaign, the house was completely renovated. Exterior paint that had been applied in the 1970s over the soft Pella brick was removed and the entire house was tuckpointed; new period-appropriate windows were installed; all of the wiring was re-done; and the Pella Historical staff worked with GSM in Montreal, a museum production firm, to install a house-wide interactive exhibit about Earp's boyhood, his path West, and the women in his life. The house re-opened on May 6 of this year.

"We were very grateful that the money from our campaign had been fully raised before the pandemic hit," Van Kooten says. "We were able to continue working through the entire time we were closed down." The house has already had 8,000 visitors in the month since it opened, many of them Wild West fans from all over the United States.

For more information on hours and admission fees, go to www.pellahistorical.org.



The BUS-eum History Tour

Insight from Yesterday's Problems for Modern Solutions

A new kind of historical exhibit is traversing the American Heartland this summer carrying insight into America's present problems by revisiting parallel historical events. Founded September 11th 2001, TRACES a short time later created a mobile museum, the "BUS-eum."

With first-person accounts of social issues of lasting relevance, presented against colorful backdrops, this museum features unique artifacts and evocative props housed under the bowed roof of a recycled school bus. The "BUS-eum" highlights five significant events from especially Iowa's history: the pandemic of 1918, the anti-German hysteria of WWI, Prohibition-era bootlegging in the American Heartland, the "Second Wave" of the Ku Klux Klan in the Midwest of the 1920s and the farmer rebellions during the Great Depression.

Director Dr. Michael Luick-Thrams was born on a century farm in Northcentral Iowa. Luick-Thrams has a Ph.D. from Humboldt Universität, Berlin. "By examining this shared heritage anew, we can see our origins and our possible fates in a new light: In seeking them, we might find us," says Luick-Thrams. He splits his time between the United States and Germany, where he directs another museum called "Haus der Spuren."

The BUS-eum's repeated swings through the Hawkeye State through Labor Day are update regularly under "2021 tour schedule" under "events" at www.TRACES.org. Visitors can experience an exhibit and related programs that explore "Prequels to the Greatest Generation," five "Hidden or Forbidden" subchapters of early-20th-century American social history.

For more information, contact: Operations Coordinator, Kristine Zylstra-Tabke 515.450.1548. kristinezylstratabke@gmail.com www.Traces.org





AASLH Award of Excellence for *Teaching Iowa History*

Iowa Museum Association's Teaching Iowa History Receives 2021 AASLH Award of Excellence

NASHVILLE, TN—June 2021—The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that the Iowa Museum Association is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for Teaching Iowa History. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 76th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Teaching Iowa History (<https://teachingiowahistory.org>) leverages the resources of Iowa museums to support K-12 educators in teaching Iowa history by harnessing the stewardship and educational power of museums. It combines the fascinating objects in museum collections with grade-specific standards-based lessons, while bringing national history into perspective through the lens of local Iowa stories.

For more information, visit TeachingIowaHistory.org or contact Director@iowamuseums.org

TeachingIowaHistory.org

Teaching Iowa History offers Iowa museums the opportunity to enhance accessibility to their collection and position themselves as educational partners. Museums identify significant primary sources in their collection and send IMA a jpg photo with cataloging/provenance information. The IMA and *Teaching Iowa History* adds these images to an on-line database of artifacts from museums across Iowa, and uses those artifacts as the basis for K-12 lesson plans that fulfill new Iowa Social Studies standards.

How will my museum benefit from participation?

1. Digital Collection Space - Photos of your museum objects are entered into a statewide database of historic or culturally significant objects, documents, and photographs where they are available to the public, educators, students and researchers. Inclusion of objects in the database increases accessibility to your collection and raises awareness of your organization.
2. Iowa Stories Space - Your museum may share short essays relating local and county history and culture stories. Local historians, museum curators, museum educators are encouraged to submit well-researched essays that may be used for formal and informal education, including instructional resources and as the foundation for exhibits and programming. Inclusion of stories increases awareness of local and county history, and of your organization's position as public historians.
3. Instructional Resources Space – Museum educators may create lesson plans that bring together objects already part of the artifact database with local history essays. Lesson plans will be available to educators statewide, but will be particularly helpful to your local educators as they seek to illustrate big ideas with local stories and authentic artifacts. Inclusion of lessons increases awareness of museums as educational partners.

Teaching Iowa History has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed by the project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This project is supported in part by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Historical Resource Development Program.

Don't Reinvent the Wheel!

Contact the IMA for resources



IMA membership is open to students, volunteers, professionals, and all museums including art centers, art museums, botanical gardens, children's museums, historic sites, history museums, historical societies, living history sites, nature centers, natural history museums, planetariums, science and technology centers, and zoos as well as industry-related businesses.

Stay Informed, Network, Share, Collaborate

IMA E-Mail Alerts

IMA members subscribe to the IMA e-mail communication system to receive news and information several times each month. If you are not receiving these check with IMA and check your SPAM filter.

Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

Follow the Iowa Museum Association and the Iowa Emerging Museum Professionals Facebook page for quick updates, news, and jobs.

Quarterly IMAGeS e-Newsletter

Submit news for the quarterly e-newsletter IMAGeS: share news about exhibits, staff hires and retires, internship projects, community engagement and educational outreach, collections news, grants received and construction projects underway, and more.

Deadlines: March 15 (April issue), June 15 (July issue), September 15 (October issue), December 15 (January issue). Send news and photos to Director@iowamuseums.org

Website - <https://www.iowamuseums.org>

Post and share jobs from the Career Center; check out the many Resources and Learning Opportunities. Check out Member Only Benefits under the Membership menu item - log in to see.

Friday Morning Conversations

Find the Link at Learn & Share at iowamuseums.org

Participate in IMA's **Friday morning informal networking** conversations or **IMA Plugged-In** the third Monday of each month.

Find a colleague, find a service through databases on your member home page at www.iowamuseums.org, at workshops, the IMA conference, or through the IMA office.



Raise Awareness

Participate in *Teaching Iowa History*.

Raise awareness of the importance of museums as educators, stewards and story-tellers. TeachingIowaHistory.org



Be aware of the **Future Ready Iowa Educational Clearinghouse** and IMA's project - *Iowa History: Your County Matters*. This project will drive primarily 9-12 grade students to Iowa's museums to fulfill specific tasks associated with their county. They will be seeking to understand the significant people and events that are associated with their county. **If you are contacted - please let us know!**

Public "Find A Museum" Portal

Share the great news about your museum! Keep your profile up-to-date with critical information such as URL, email and phone contact information, and historical assets. Group member administrators may update their museum profile at any time or ask IMA to assist.

Share information about your collections to assist the public in identifying museums they wish to visit, to find partners for exhibits, and collaborate on programming.

Share information about your educational programs to assist teachers in partnering with you.

Advocate

Participate in **Iowa Museum Week** - Raise awareness of the great work done by Iowa's museums **ALWAYS THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE**. More information under Advocacy at www.iowamuseums.org.

Never Stop Learning

Workshops, Convenings, Conversations, and Annual Meeting & Conference

- IMA members come together regularly, sharing inspiring, thought-provoking trainings, conversations, and networking. Join Us!

STEPS-IMA - first cohort will commence in January 2022.

Email: Director@iowamuseums.org with questions.



2021-2022 IMA Board Of Directors



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*Lecturer, Museum Studies, University of Iowa
314-803-5634 or heidi-lung@uiowa.edu*

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Remember the IMA in your Charitable Giving

Your gifts to the IMA directly impact the quality and quantity of programs and resources the IMA can offer to the Iowa museum community. Thank you for your support!

Annual Giving

As you plan your annual charitable donations, remember the Iowa Museum Association. The IMA is a private 501-c-3 non profit which does not receive state or federal tax support. Donations made be made online at iowamuseums.org or by mailing a check to IMA, PO Box 824, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

IRA Required Minimum Distribution

You may direct your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) directly to the Iowa Museum Association as a Qualified Charitable Distribution. RMDs are included in your taxable income, however qualified charitable distributions will help limit your tax liability.

Direct your broker or financial advisor to send your Required Minimum Distribution to Lee Wealth Management, 1810 W 8th St Ste B, Cedar Falls, IA 50613, for the benefit of the Iowa Museum Association EIN 74-3057024.

For more information, or to discuss other options such as planned giving through an estate, please contact us at Director@iowamuseums.org or 319.239.2236.

Every gift makes a difference in our ability to serve. Thank you!

Cynthia Sweet, Executive Director

Director@iowamuseums.org

(319) 239-2236

Elaine Raleigh, Bookkeeper

Mailing address:

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