

THE MINNESOTA ALLIANCE OF LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

# ANNUAL MEETING

AND

# CONFERENCE

APRIL 28-30, 2026 IN BEAUTIFUL MANKATO, MN



MAIN STREET BRIDGE, MANKATO, 1923

THANK YOU TO OUR  
**CONFERENCE SPONSORS**



THANK YOU TO OUR  
**HOST COMMITTEE**

**DAARDI MIXON**

University Archivist, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**HEATHER HARREN**

Communication & Events Manager, Blue Earth County Historical Society

**JESSICA BECKER**

Executive Director, Nicollet County Historical Society

**ASHLEE WHITE**

Director, Visit Mankato

**LIZ KOELE**

Alliance Coordinator, MALHM

# WELCOME

**W**elcome to Mankato, Minnesota! On behalf of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, Nicollet County Historical Society, Minnesota State University, Mankato University Archives, and Visit Mankato and St. Peter, we welcome you to our region.

We hope you take in some of the many activities offered in our communities while you're here, or visit again to explore our region.

**SHARE THE CONFERENCE  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

**#MALHM2026  
#MNHISTORYALLIANCE**



*Cover artwork by J.R. Snow, 1913.  
Additional imagery courtesy of Blue Earth County Historical Society.*



RED JACKET BRIDGES, MANKATO, 1923

# HOSPITALITY

## MORNING AND AFTERNOON BREAKS

Coffee, tea, and pop will be available during scheduled breaks in the Ellerbe Room.

## TRANSPORTATION

Shuttle transportation to the evening mixers will be available on both Tuesday & Wednesday. Buses will depart from the front of the conference hotel or within view across the street at the following times:

Tuesday: 5:00pm & 5:30pm

Wednesday: Continuously from 6:45-9:00pm

## WELLNESS ROOM

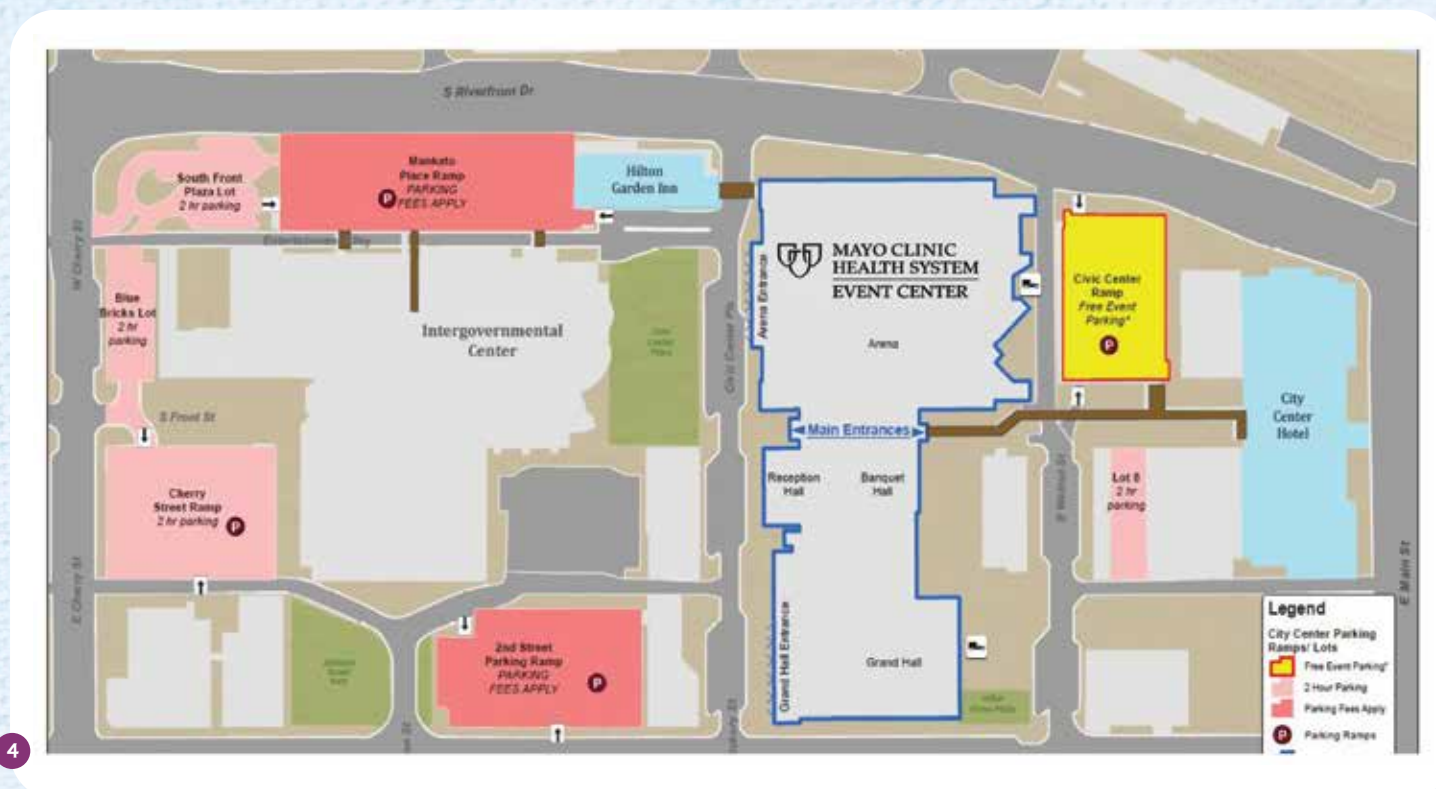
A quiet room is available for those nursing or needing a private space. Stop by the conference registration table to access it.

## WIFI

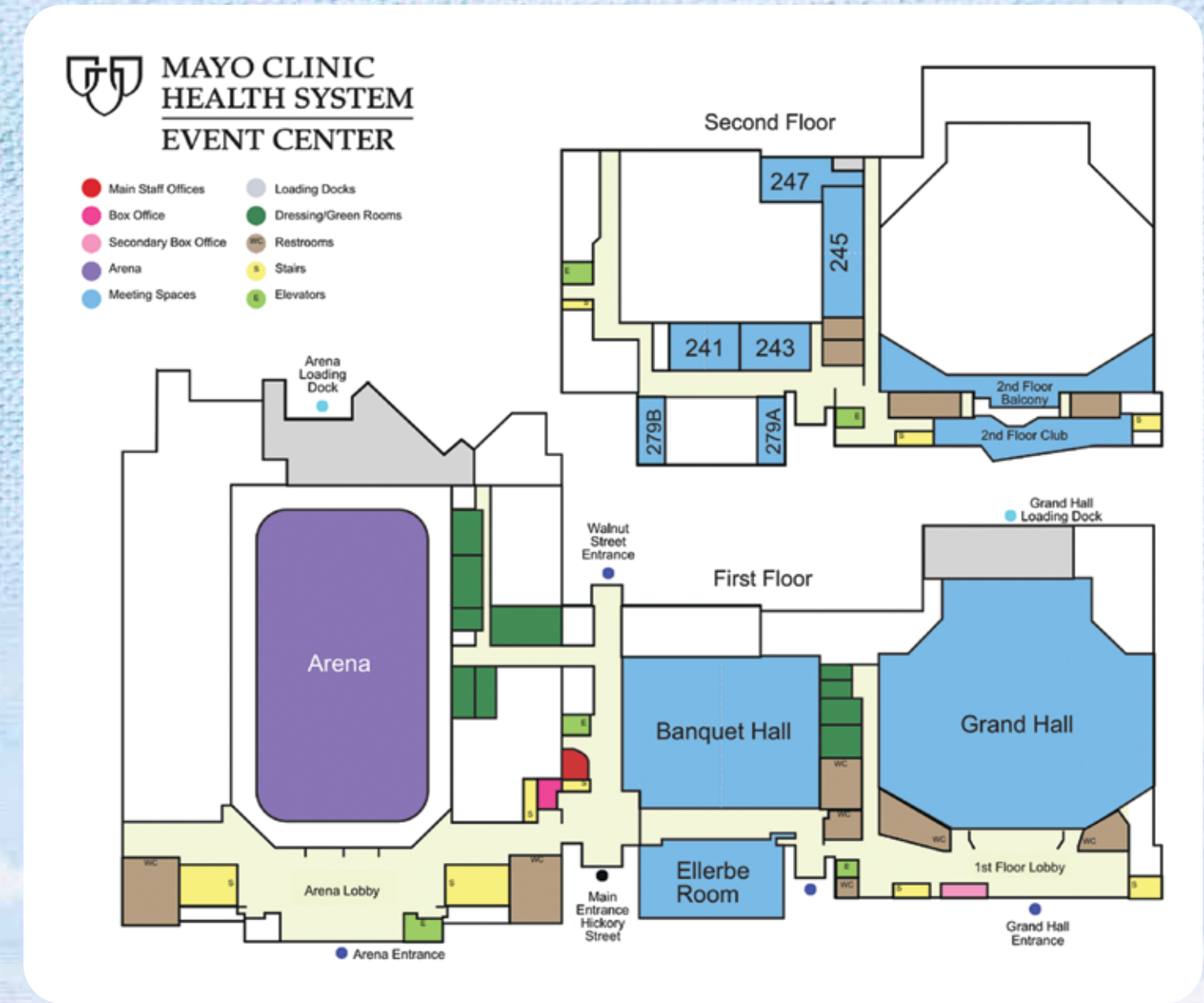
Network: MCHS Event Center Guest

Username: eventcenter1 Password: mchs2026

# PARKING



# ROOM LOCATIONS



# HOST COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Looking for restaurant or shopping ideas?  
Check out local recommendations from the Host Committee!

## DAARDI:

**Nola Belle** (520 S. Front St., Mankato) – Scratch kitchen, local food, so good! I'm a big fan of the small plates. **Mazatlan** (1525 Tullamore St., Mankato) – This is my favorite restaurant in town. Tasty Mexican food and cocktails in the Mankato Hilltop area. Also one in St. Peter. **Mankato Vintage Market** (1630 N Riverfront Dr., Mankato) – This is my favorite place to shop local!

## JESSICA:

**La Mexicana Market** (215 S Minnesota Ave, St. Peter) – Best tacos in town! They have authentic, scratch-made Mexican street food and unique treats. **Sota Scoops** (317 S Minnesota Ave, St. Peter) – Family-owned creamery in downtown St. Peter. It's the local "go-to" for creative shakes. **Tremendous Brewing Co.** (227 W Mulberry St, St. Peter) – Located in the historic St. Peter Fire Hall, they specialize in true-to-style ales. You can also enjoy fresh food delivered directly from the Co-op across the street.

## HEATHER:

**Mom and Pop's Ice Cream Shop** (629 N Riverfront Dr., Mankato) – Great old-fashioned ice cream in a historic building! **Tandem Bagels** (200 E. Walnut St, Mankato) – stick around until Friday for their Caramel Pecan Rolls!

## ASHLEE:

I'd recommend a stroll around downtown to take in the public art. It's hard to miss the towering 135-foot **Silo Art** mural, but art is throughout the downtown area. Take a stroll along Riverfront Drive by Reconciliation Park and you will find the **Mni Mural** ("mni" means "water" in Dakota) on a 500-foot section of the flood wall. Afterwards, stop into **LocAle Brewing Company** (228 Poplar St, Mankato) for a wide range of beer styles made with Midwest ingredients. For shopping, check out the locally-owned boutiques and specialty shops in **Old Town** (300-800 blocks of N Riverfront Drive).



FRONT STREET LOOKING NORTH FROM CHERRY STREET, MANKATO, 1917



**RETHOS**  
RETHOS.ORG

**Preservation Services:**  
Historic Tax Credit Consulting  
National Register Nominations  
Community Engagement  
Preservation Planning



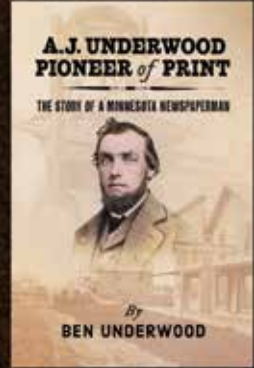
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## WHERE MINNESOTA'S PRINT STORY BEGINS



**A.J. UNDERWOOD**  
**PIONEER of PRINT**  
THE STORY OF A MINNESOTA NEWSPAPERMAN  
BY BEN UNDERWOOD

*A.J. Underwood, Pioneer of Print* brings to life the remarkable journey of a 19th-century newspaperman who established a rural Minnesota paper in 1873—beginning a 112-year family legacy in print.

Written by his great-great grandson, Ben Underwood, this narrative nonfiction work blends rich historical detail with engaging storytelling that resonates with those drawn to regional history, media, and Americana.

AVAILABLE AT **PIONEEROFPRINT.COM**  
ASK ABOUT WHOLESALE AVAILABILITY AND AUTHOR EVENTS

## 360 Virtual Tours

- Extend the reach of your museum beyond its walls.
- Stay relevant while engaging younger audiences.
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TUESDAY, APRIL 28  
**PRE-CONFERENCE**  
 EVENT SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 28  
**PRE-CONFERENCE**  
 EVENT SCHEDULE

10:00AM-4:00PM

Click QR code  
 for a collection of  
 self-guided tours.



10:00AM-12:00PM

11:00AM-12:00PM

12:00-1:00PM

1:00-3:00PM

**REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN**

**Blue Earth County Historical Society (BECHS), 424 Warren St, Mankato, MN**

Official check-in will be open at BECHS from approx. 10am-4pm on Tuesday. Due to the distance, you're welcome to attend events in St. Peter (if registered) without checking in first!

**SELF-GUIDED TOURS & EXPLORATION**

A variety of self-guided tours around St. Peter, North Mankato, and Mankato will be available to attendees who want to choose their own adventure. Each tour will be self-contained and attendees can spend as little or as long as they like exploring.

**GUIDED TOURS: TREATY SITE HISTORY CENTER**

**Nicollet County Historical Society, 1851 N Minnesota Ave, St. Peter, MN**

Few places in Minnesota hold as much historical significance as Traverse des Sioux. Located at the crossroads of the Minnesota River, the Big Woods, and the tallgrass prairie, it has attracted people for thousands of years. In 1851, it became the site of one of the most important land cession treaties in U.S. history.

Tours of the Treaty Site History Center's permanent exhibit provide guided interpretation of the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, including its Dakota and Euro-American context, the negotiations, and their long-lasting impact. The nearby Traverse des Sioux State Historic Site is open for self-guided exploration. Guided tours start at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., with a maximum of 20 participants per tour.

**BISON AMBASSADORS AT MINNEOPA STATE PARK**

**54497 Gadwall Road, Mankato, MN**

Visit the Minneopa State Park Waterfalls & Bison Drive! The park is home to a bison herd, part of statewide efforts to protect wild bison and preserve their genetic diversity. Attendees can drive their own vehicles through the bison range and stop at the historic Seppmann Mill Overlook, where the park's knowledgeable Bison Ambassadors are stationed. They will share stories, answer questions, and help visitors discover the rich history and natural wonder of the American Plains Bison. You can also view bison artifacts and learn more about their role in Minnesota's landscape.

A Minnesota State Parks permit is needed for entry into the park—consider carpooling or checking one out from your local library!

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

**WET SALVAGE MINI-WORKSHOP WITH THE MALHM MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TEAM**

**BECHS, 424 Warren St, Mankato, MN**

Learn and practice wet salvage skills with the MALHM Mutual Assistance Team at BECHS. They will share a short presentation at 1pm and then give you a chance to practice retrieving & drying historic materials. Space will be limited (room for ~20-25 people at a time)—feel free to drop in & out between other activities.

1:00-4:00PM

1:30-2:30PM

2:30-4:00PM

4:00-5:30PM

4:00-7:00PM

7:00-9:00PM

**SELF-GUIDED TOURS OF HUBBARD HOUSE**

**606 S Broad St, Mankato, MN**

The Historic R.D. Hubbard House is one of the finest examples of French Second Empire architecture in Minnesota. The home combines rich beauty and "new" innovation. It was the first private residence in Mankato to have indoor plumbing, electricity, and a telephone. Tour this 16-room historic house on your own (please wear your conference badge!).

**BISON AMBASSADORS AT MINNEOPA STATE PARK**

**54497 Gadwall Road, Mankato, MN**

**THIS STATUE IN THIS PLACE: CREATING AN EXHIBIT FOR THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN STATUE AT MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO Memorial Library, 601 Maywood Ave, Mankato, MN**

Learn about the development of the exhibit, "This Statue in this Place: Abraham Lincoln State at Minnesota State University, Mankato." The goal of the exhibit is to create a space that stimulates deeper discussions and new research while helping the Greater Mankato community better understand the history of the Dakota people, complexities of Lincoln's time, and how historical events shape contemporary thoughts and people.

The session will include students, faculty, and administrators involved in the project. It will be of interest for those wanting to learn more about: contextualizing monuments, Legacy Grants, working with college students, and exhibit design.

Following the presentation, attendees are encouraged to stay for the official exhibit opening from 4-5pm. There will be a short program and refreshments.

**REGISTRATION CHECK-IN & EXHIBITOR SET-UP**

**MCHS Event Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN**

Use Doors #3 & #13. Skywalk will also be available from hotel.

**DINNER & DRINKS ON YOUR OWN, CHECK-IN AT HOTEL, EXPLORE**

Charter buses will be departing from across the street at the MCHS Event Center at 5:00pm and 5:30pm. They will stop in downtown St. Peter for dinner & drinks before continuing on to the mixer later.

**EVENING MIXER**

**Nicollet County Historical Society, 1851 N Minnesota Ave, St. Peter, MN**

Cap off your day at the Treaty Site History Center, headquarters of the Nicollet County Historical Society and home to a permanent exhibit on the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux. Explore the galleries, connect with fellow attendees, and enjoy a relaxed evening in one of Minnesota's most historically significant settings. Appetizers and one drink ticket will be provided, with a cash bar available after.

# POSTERS

Join us for the second annual poster session on Wednesday, April 29th in the Ellerbe Room during morning & afternoon breaks. Poster presenters will be available to discuss their presentations.

**Camp Robindel Oral History Project: A Unique Community Based Internship Experience**  
Dorian Janiak & Daardi Sizemore Mixon, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**Creative Writing Contest: A New Way to Engage with History**  
Stephanie Hess, Minnesota Digital Library

**From Collection to Publication: Leveraging State, County, and Scientific Partnerships to Test for Pleistocene Horses in Minnesota**  
Marcus Brandel, Science Museum of Minnesota volunteer

**Letters to Our Future: Documenting History as it Happens**  
Annie Buresh, Cook County Historical Society

**Remembrance of Things Past**  
Anne Tabat, Cookies & Conversation

**Say It So People Listen: Developing an elevator pitch for your history organization**  
MALHM Advocacy Team

**Set Phasers to Study: pXRF analysis in museums**  
Megan Brakob Narvey, Minnesota Historical Society

**The Wreck of The Mataafa**  
Hailey Eidenschink-Ziebol, The St. Louis County Depot, & Terry Johnson, St. Louis County Historical Society



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The Minnesota Digital Library is an online collection of digitized images, documents, A/V, and maps that reflects the cultural heritage of Minnesota.



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 **Amplify your reach**



Images courtesy of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

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# EXHIBIT HALL

Located in the Banquet Hall. Don't miss your chance to meet with exhibitors & network with colleagues.

## EXHIBITORS

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 3D History Trek  | Midwest Insurance Professionals, LLC |
| Bluestem Heritage Group  | Minnesota Digital Library            |
| Creature Works   | MNHS Grants & Local History Services |
| Drumminhands Design  | MNHS Press                           |
| MALHM Advocacy Team  | Northern Bedrock                     |
| MALHM CollectiveAccess Team                                      | Historic Preservation Corps          |
| MALHM Mutual Assistance Team & MN Alliance for Heritage Response | Outhouse Exhibit Services            |
| MALHM Networking & Inclusion Team                                | Platt Hollow Road                    |
| Mid-America Business and Equipment                               | State Historic Preservation Office   |
| Midwest Art Conservation Center                                  | Split Rock Studios                   |
|  | Visit Mankato                        |

## LOOKING FOR AN ENGAGING MINNESOTA HISTORY PROGRAM?

Discover the story behind Minnesota's early newspaper days with author Ben Underwood. His presentation brings to life his great-great grandfather's journey to establish a rural newspaper in 1873—launching a 112-year family legacy.

Based on *A.J. Underwood, Pioneer of Print*, this interactive program blends storytelling with rare artifacts:

- Hand-press printing tools
- Newspaper clippings (1873–1885)
- Civil War anecdotes
- Preserved family documents

Ben Underwood, a Fergus Falls native, worked at his family's newspaper after graduating from the U of M School of Journalism.

### AUDIENCES DON'T JUST LISTEN—THEY ENGAGE.

Discussion expands into the role of journalism in shaping democracy, past and present.

#### Ideal for:

- Libraries
- Historical Societies
- Book Clubs
- Community groups

CONTACT BEN UNDERWOOD AT [PIONEEROFPRINT.COM](http://PIONEEROFPRINT.COM)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026  
**HISTORY AWARD  
 RECIPIENTS**

**CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS  
 DEPT. OF COMMUNITY PLANNING  
 & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
 106 GROUP, & MINNEAPOLIS AFRICAN  
 AMERICAN HERITAGE WORK GROUP**

*Minneapolis African American Historic  
 and Cultural Context Study*

**PUBLICATIONS**

**T.J. MALASKEE**

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

**MOWER COUNTY  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 & PRAIRIE ISLAND  
 INDIAN COMMUNITY**

*The Wanhi Yukan Trail*

**INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS**

**LYON COUNTY  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Collections Storage Rehousing Project*

**COLLECTIONS**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29  
 CONFERENCE DAY 1  
 SCHEDULE OVERVIEW**

**7:00-8:00AM**

**EXHIBITOR CHECK-IN AND SET-UP**

**8:00-9:00AM**

**REGISTRATION CHECK-IN, BREAKFAST, EXHIBIT HALL** Banquet Hall

**RESOURCE SWAP OPEN** Ellerbe Room

**9:00AM**

**WELCOMING REMARKS** Banquet Hall

**9:20-10:20AM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS #1**

**Room #243:** Letteracy Deck: A Novel History Museum Engagement Project In Which Visitors Read Other People's Mail & Write Their Own

**Room #247:** State of the Nonprofit Sector

**Room #245:** Your Collection is Trying to Kill You-Identifying Hazards in Museum Collections

**Room #241:** Website Tune-Up: Strategies for Museum Websites

**10:30-10:50AM**

**MORNING BREAK & POSTER SESSION** Ellerbe Room & Banquet Hall

**11:00AM-12:00PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS #2**

**Room #247:** From History to Healing: Building Community Partnerships for Change

**Room #243:** Mapping Memory: Transforming Physical Resources into a Digital Exhibit

**Room #245:** You Are Here: A Public TV Tour of MN Counties

**12:00-1:30PM**

**LUNCH, EXHIBIT HALL, NETWORKING** Banquet Hall

**1:00PM**

**2026 ANNUAL MEETING & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION** Banquet Hall

**1:40-2:40PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS #3**

**Room #245:** What Makes Cultural Collaborations Work?

**Room #247:** Building Your Soapbox: How to Advocate for Your Organization

**Room #241:** They Asked Us What? The Role of Research Request Tracking in Archives and Research Libraries

**Room #243:** History Goes Viral: Connecting with New Generations

**2:50-3:10PM**

**AFTERNOON BREAK & POSTER SESSION** Ellerbe Room & Banquet Hall

**3:20-4:20PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS #4**

**Room #245:** Unearthing Hard Truths: Reclaiming, Visualizing, and Mediating Complex Local Histories

**Room #241:** What's the Plan? Preparing Your Organization for Leadership Change

**Room #243:** Preserving Local Media: A Practical Roadmap for Museums

**Room #247:** Completing Archaeology Ahead of Ground Disturbing Projects at Your Historic Property

**4:30-7:00PM**

**DINNER & DRINKS ON YOUR OWN**

**5:00-6:30PM**

**MPR NEWS NORTH STAR JOURNEY LIVE TAPING** Banquet Hall

**7:00-9:00PM**

**EVENING MIXER**

**Blue Earth County Historical Society, 424 Warren St, Mankato, MN**

An array of desserts will be served with a cash bar available. Try your hand at trivia starting at 7:30pm in the Meeting Room, roam the building to see our spaces, and catch up with fellow history friends!

THANK YOU TO OUR  
**PROGRAM  
 COMMITTEE**

**AMBER LATTANZO**

Former Executive Director, Richfield Historical Society  
 & Sherburne County Historical Society

**JESS EDBERG**

Executive Director, Dorothy Molter Museum

**LORA TATINGER**

Executive Director, Chisago County Historical Society

**MAI HUIZEL**

Executive Director, Hmong Museum

**SARA HANSON**

Executive Director, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

**LIZ KOELE**

Alliance Coordinator, MALHM

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS No. 1

9:20AM – 10:20AM

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ROOM #243 • ACTIVITY/DEMONSTRATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

## LETTERACY DECK: A NOVEL HISTORY MUSEUM ENGAGEMENT PROJECT IN WHICH VISITORS READ OTHER PEOPLE'S MAIL & WRITE THEIR OWN

Anne Brataas, Minnesota Children's Press

In this session we will:

1. Introduce the innovative concept of a free and screen-free public letter writing park called Letteracy Deck ([letteracydeck.org](http://letteracydeck.org)) housed on the Cook County History Museum outdoor deck in Grand Marais, overlooking Lake Superior.
2. Explore how Letteracy Deck works.
3. Report its impact: huge! In 2025 summer, Letteracy Deck attracted an estimated 4,000 visitors who wrote and mailed 5,327 cards and letters.
4. Engage session attendees in a pop-up Letteracy Deck experience.

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.

LOCATION: ROOM #247 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

## STATE OF THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

Jackie McNeil, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Join Jackie McNeil of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits for a concise look at statewide nonprofit trends drawn from MCN's Current Conditions survey and Economy Report. This session highlights key sector challenges and opportunities and offers museum professionals insight into how broader nonprofit dynamics shape organizational needs, capacity, and community impact.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ROOM #245 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

## YOUR COLLECTION IS TRYING TO KILL YOU – IDENTIFYING HAZARDS IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Ann Grandy, Pope County Historical Society; Emma Nyhammer, Pope County Historical Society

From arsenic and mercury to unexploded ordnances and exploding film, our museum collections contain hazardous materials. In this session we will discuss common hazards to look for in your collection and steps you can take to keep staff, visitors, and your collection safe.

SOCIAL MEDIA & MKTG

LOCATION: ROOM #241 • ACTIVITY/DEMONSTRATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

## WEBSITE TUNE-UP: STRATEGIES FOR MUSEUM WEBSITES

Joe Hoover, MNHS

Discover what makes museum websites effective by exploring examples from historical organizations beyond Minnesota. Then, visit the Minnesota Historical Society booth for a personalized consultation to assess your website's strengths and areas for improvement.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS No. 2

11:00AM – 12:00PM

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ROOM #247 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

## FROM HISTORY TO HEALING: BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

Emily Thabes, Beltrami County Historical Society; Isabella Schaefer, The Recovery Space, LLC

In an age of social fragmentation and funding uncertainty, museums can be catalysts for community well-being. This session explores how the Beltrami County Historical Society partnered with The Recovery Space, LLC to create collaborative programs—like Menstruation Health Week and the History Mystery event—that connect history to present-day needs, empower marginalized voices, and demonstrate the transformative power of local partnerships.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ROOM #243 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

## MAPPING MEMORY: TRANSFORMING PHYSICAL RESOURCES INTO A DIGITAL EXHIBIT

Jamison Vierstraete, Minnesota State University, Mankato;

Josephine Miller, Minnesota State University, Mankato

This presentation covers the methods of two student workers at the Minnesota State University, Mankato Archives when researching, designing, and developing a digital exhibit looking at a road trip through the American west taken by two geography professors in 1936 and 1996. This research project culminated in a digital exhibit created using Omeka and Knight Lab's Timeline and Story Map tools, which are freely available and may be useful for others looking to create similar projects.

SOCIAL MEDIA & MKTG

LOCATION: ROOM #245 • ROUNDTABLE • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

## YOU ARE HERE: A PUBLIC TV TOUR OF MN COUNTIES

Daniel Pierce Bergin, Twin Cities PBS; Mike Sholtz, Minnesota Historia;

Hailey Eidenschink-Ziebol, St. Louis County Depot

Every Minnesota county has a story. Let's tell them together! A new PBS project proposes to tell a tale from every Minnesota county, which could include the hidden treasures, powerful profiles, quirky keepsakes found in YOUR museums. Learn about engaging, fun, hyper local PBS history content, brainstorm about possible pieces and profiles from your county, and discuss ways this proposed anthology of stories could support your organizations' engagement, events, and education.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS No. 3

1:40PM – 2:40PM

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ROOM #245 • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

## WHAT MAKES CULTURAL COLLABORATIONS WORK?

Randal J. Forster and Tom Trow, Mower County Historical Society;  
Noah White and Franky Jackson, Prairie Island Indian Community;  
Lindsay Scott, The Archaeological Conservancy; Todd Mahon, Minnesota Historical Society

Successful collaborations between history agencies and tribal communities can depend on multiple factors. In a panel discussion, Noah White and Franky Jackson from the Prairie Island Indian Community (PIIC) Tribal Historic Preservation Office discuss numerous projects and examples of what works from their perspective. Randal J. Forster and Tom Trow will offer the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry/Wanhi Yukan project with PIIC as a case study, and moderator Todd Mahon will present funding options available for developing partnerships.

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.

LOCATION: ROOM #247 • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

## BUILDING YOUR SOAPBOX: HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

MALHM Advocacy Team: Dave Nichols, Emily Thabes, Jess Edberg, Charley Langowski and Catherine Magi James

This session will discuss tips and tricks for how organizations of any level can advocate to their communities, government officials, and members for their importance and value to the communities they serve.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ROOM #241 • ROUNDTABLE • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

## THEY ASKED US WHAT? THE ROLE OF RESEARCH REQUEST TRACKING IN ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Marisa Campanaro, Wright County Historical Society

This session provides a look at why research request tracking matters within archives and research libraries, and how it can be integrated into your own organization. Whether requests are handled inconsistently, collections have gaps, or shareholders want to know what is being asked, tracking forms can provide the data we need to know. After a roundtable discussion with other colleagues, attendees will leave with practical approaches for implementing a tracking form for your own organization.

SOCIAL MEDIA & MKTG

LOCATION: ROOM #243 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER

## HISTORY GOES VIRAL: CONNECTING WITH NEW GENERATIONS

Angela Imdieke, Friends of Linden Hill, Inc.

Learn how Friends of Linden Hill went from launching TikTok in June 2025 to going viral by August! This session teaches museum pros the basics of TikTok, how to use trends to boost views, and strategies to reach new audiences—engaging a new generation with history in fun, creative ways.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS No. 4

3:20PM – 4:20PM

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ROOM #245 • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

## UNEARTHING HARD TRUTHS: RECLAIMING, VISUALIZING, AND MEDIATING COMPLEX LOCAL HISTORIES

Jeremiah Ellis, Ramsey County Historical Society; Alan Schutte, Platt Hollow Road;  
Daniel Pierce Bergin, Twin Cities PBS; Jillian Knight, Building Remembrance for Reconciliation

Explore the challenge of telling complex hometown stories. Learn creative strategies for addressing tricky/controversial local histories and historical silence, using visual storytelling and media to foster community strength and justice.

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.

LOCATION: ROOM #241 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

## WHAT'S THE PLAN? PREPARING YOUR ORGANIZATION FOR LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Amy Degerstrom, Stearns History Museum; Lacey Fontaine, Benton County Historical Society

We've all been there- our museum or historic site has been led by the same tried and true volunteers or directors for years... and now, they are ready to retire! Or, we've had an unexpected change in leadership due to new opportunities, death of a staff member or lead volunteer, or human resources challenge. So, what's the plan?! Don't panic. This session will talk about the reasons you may need a succession plan, outline the questions and steps to consider when making one, and provide ideas about recruiting the next generation of caretakers for your community's shared history.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ROOM #243 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

## PRESERVING LOCAL MEDIA: A PRACTICAL ROADMAP FOR MUSEUMS

Ron McCoy and Mark Stanley, Minnesota Media Arts

Photographs, slides, film, audio, and video often hold some of a museum's most vivid local stories, yet many of these materials are at risk from deterioration and format obsolescence. This practical session offers history museums of any size a clear roadmap for taking action. Through examples from Minnesota media preservation projects, participants will learn how to recognize common risks, set preservation priorities, and use media collections to create stronger visitor connections and bring community history to life. Includes time for questions and discussion.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

LOCATION: ROOM #247 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ADVANCED

## COMPLETING ARCHAEOLOGY AHEAD OF GROUND DISTURBING PROJECTS AT YOUR HISTORIC PROPERTY

Jeremy L. Nienow, Nienow Cultural Consultants; Todd Grover, MacDonald & Mack Architects;  
Carolyn Veaser-Egbide, Minnesota Historical Society

Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage grants on National Register of Historic Places properties now often require archaeology ahead of ground disturbing efforts. This can lead to unexpected delays and project uncertainty. Join Jeremy Nienow, Todd Grover, and Carolyn Veaser-Egbide for a look at the archaeological process with examples taken directly from recent and on-going grant-funded projects. The presentation will be about 30mins long, primarily led by Jeremy, followed by a 30min round table focused on the most commonly asked questions involving archaeology and National Register property related grants.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30  
**CONFERENCE DAY 2**  
 SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, APRIL 30  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS No. 5**  
 9:20AM – 10:20AM

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

7:30-9:00AM

**REGISTRATION CHECK-IN, BREAKFAST, EXHIBIT HALL** Banquet Hall  
**RESOURCE SWAP OPEN** Ellerbe Room

9:00AM

**MORNING REMARKS** Banquet Hall

9:20-10:20AM

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS #5**  
**Room #247:** Beyond the Chair: Black Barbers, Entrepreneurship, and Civic Engagement in Early Minnesota  
**Room #245:** Ready, Set, GO! MNHS Grants Office Round Table Q&A  
**Room #243:** Content That Connects: Using SEO & Creator Thinking to Reach New Audiences

10:30-10:50AM

**MORNING BREAK** Ellerbe Room & Banquet Hall

11:00AM-12:00PM

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS #6**  
**Room #241:** Crowd-sourcing Your Archives While Increasing Engagement  
**Room #245:** So You're Going to be Homeless: What to Do When the Illusion of Stability Dissolves  
**Room #243:** Myron Hall and the St. Cloud Times: 80 Years of History in Photographs

12:00-1:00PM

**LUNCH, EXHIBIT HALL, NETWORKING** Banquet Hall

1:00-1:30PM

**HISTORY AWARDS PROGRAM** Banquet Hall  
 History Awards will begin around 12:45pm, with Raffle Drawings to follow.

1:40-2:40PM

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS #7**  
**Room #241:** Making Your Tours Work For You  
**Room #243:** The Review Process- It's Not Scary!  
**Room #245:** The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Maintaining Your Historic Architecture

3:00PM

**VENDOR HALL & RESOURCE SWAP CLOSE**  
 Please pick-up any of your remaining items from the resource swap area.

LOCATION: ROOM #247 • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

**BEYOND THE CHAIR: BLACK BARBERS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN EARLY MINNESOTA**

Mica L. Anders, Anders Genealogical Services; Emma Peterson, Goodhue County Historical Society; Regan Richardson, Independent Researcher

Most Minnesota counties had multiple Black barbers operating between 1850-1890, but their stories remain buried in archives. Using Goodhue County as a case study, this panel shows how to uncover documents already in your collections about early Black entrepreneurship, community engagement, and civic leadership. Learn how to collaborate with genealogists and community members to uncover these narratives, strengthen your institutional knowledge, and provide answers when researchers and visitors come asking about early Black communities.

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.

LOCATION: ROOM #245 • ROUNDTABLE • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

**READY, SET, GO! MNHS GRANTS OFFICE ROUND TABLE Q&A**

Gillian Maguire, Carolyn Veese-Egbide, Melinda Hutchinson and John Fulton, Minnesota Historical Society

The MNHS Grants Office will answer questions that we have gotten a lot recently (what is the deal with the new \$20,000 small grant limit? What is it like to serve on the Historic Resources Advisory Committee?, and so on). Then we will turn the floor over to you for a Q&A session. Bring questions large or small about the grant program, application process, documentation requirements, procurement, etc. If there aren't enough questions to fill the time, Grants Office staff will conduct a dramatic reading of selections from the Grants Manual.

SOCIAL MEDIA & MKTG

LOCATION: ROOM #243 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

**CONTENT THAT CONNECTS: USING SEO & CREATOR THINKING TO REACH NEW AUDIENCES**

Leah Zacate, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Learn how museums and archives can apply SEO and creator-style thinking to make their stories more discoverable, engaging, and audience-centered. This session covers practical tools, caption strategies, and content workflows that help small museums and archives reach new audiences through modern, authentic digital storytelling.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS No. 6

11:00AM – 12:00PM

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ROOM #241 • ACTIVITY/DEMONSTRATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

## CROWD-SOURCING YOUR ARCHIVES WHILE INCREASING ENGAGEMENT

Jess Edberg, Dorothy Molter Museum

Learn about Zooniverse, a “people-powered” research platform and how it can be used to support transcriptions of archive material that you just don’t have time for while also building an online community of engaged volunteers and supporters. Bring your laptop or tablet to play along as we explore! (Mobile device not required.)

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.

LOCATION: ROOM #245 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

## SO YOU’RE GOING TO BE HOMELESS: WHAT TO DO WHEN THE ILLUSION OF STABILITY DISSOLVES

Rebecca Ebnert Desens, Anoka County Historical Society; Chad Roberts, Anoka County Historical Society

Find out what ACHS did to cope with the sudden news that their city-owned building would be torn down for redevelopment. Session takeaways include managing emotional responses, adapting to change, and utilizing the network of advocates you’ve built over time to create a contingency plan.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ROOM #243 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

## MYRON HALL AND THE ST. CLOUD TIMES: 80 YEARS OF HISTORY IN PHOTOGRAPHS

Grant Wilson, Stearns History Museum

The Myron Hall and St. Cloud Times Photograph Collections are two major and ongoing projects at the Stearns History Museum. Combined, these collections contain nearly 80 years of St. Cloud area history in photographs. This session will cover how the collections have been processed and stored in the past and how they are being processed and cataloged now. It will cover accessibility, print and negative storage, description, and condition survey methods.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS No. 7

1:40PM – 2:40PM

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ROOM #241 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ADVANCED

## MAKING YOUR TOURS WORK FOR YOU

Heather Harren, Blue Earth County Historical Society

Take your tours beyond simple in-person events and have them earn income for your organization outside a single day. Learn how you can use videos, your website and/or an app and what you can do to extend your tour life and lessen the burden on staff and volunteer time. Video and website editing are necessary for this session to be useful for your organization. Attendees will get the most out of this session if they have the ability to edit their own website (page creation & adding passwords) and have a basic knowledge of video editing software such as Adobe Premiere, Final Cut, iMovie, etc.

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.

LOCATION: ROOM #243 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

## THE REVIEW PROCESS – IT’S NOT SCARY!

Randal J. Forster, Mower County Historical Society

Does your organization have a formal review process for its employees? If the answer is no, how do you start from scratch? If the answer is yes, how is your current process working? How can it be improved to inspire and motivate your staff? The review process should not be difficult or feared. The review process should encourage everyone within your organization to be more productive in order to achieve common goals in a positive collaborative manner.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

LOCATION: ROOM #245 • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

## THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR’S STANDARDS AND MAINTAINING YOUR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Mark Johnston, Historic Design Consulting LLC;  
Sara Hanson and Dan Jones, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

This presentation will provide an overview of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and focus on their application for owners and managers of historic buildings. Attendees will learn about character-defining features and approved restoration practices, using case studies of historic windows, masonry, and finishes. The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society will show how these principles were important in their grant application for repairs to the 1879 Fillebrown House. Attendees will gain an understanding of best practices for stewardship, compliance considerations, and how to make informed decisions that protect their properties’ historical and architectural significance.



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**MPRnews**

**ERASING MINNESOTA HISTORY**  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

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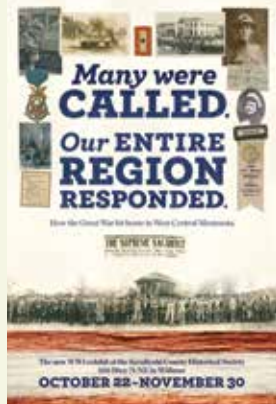
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# CONFERENCE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM) is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all conference participants, MALHM staff, and volunteers. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, presenters, volunteers, exhibitors, MALHM staff, service providers, and others are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct and agree to respect it by registering and attending.

- MALHM does not tolerate discrimination or harassment in any form, including, but not limited to:
- Intimidation or unwanted attention based on race, ethnicity, color, nationality, religion, age, class, ability, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation or identity, appearance/presentation, physical disability, and other characteristics or identities;
  - Threats of acts of violence;
  - Suggestions of retaliation by the harasser if the harassed person(s) reports;
  - Deliberate misgendering;
  - Unwelcome sexual attention, including unwelcome comments or dialogue of a physical or sexual nature or unsolicited physical contact;
  - Sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, or otherwise discriminatory jokes or language;
  - Sustained, non-constructive disruption of programming.

If you experience harassment or hear of any incidents of unacceptable behavior, MALHM encourages you to inform the Alliance Coordinator (Liz Koele- [liz@mnhistoryalliance.org](mailto:liz@mnhistoryalliance.org) or 612-500-7460) or a member of the Board of Directors so that we can take appropriate action.



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