



THE MINNESOTA ALLIANCE OF LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE



WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN

APRIL 22-24, 2025

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WELCOME

On behalf of MALHM we would like to welcome you to White Bear Lake, Maplewood, and Stillwater! We are excited to share all that the northeast metro has to offer as we gather to learn from one another. From White Bear's bustling downtown filled with historic buildings, tasty restaurants, and a variety of fun shops,

to Maplewood's active farm and impressive event lineup, to the new exhibit-filled Heritage Center in Stillwater, the 'Birthplace of Minnesota', there's something new to discover for everyone. We hope you enjoy your time with us!

SARA MARKOE HANSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

BRENT PETERSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

T.J. MALASKEE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MAPLEWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

CONFERENCE HASHTAGS

#MALHM2025

#MNHISTORYALLIANCE

And don't forget to connect with us on social media!



THANK YOU TO OUR HOST COMMITTEE

SARA MARKOE HANSON [CO-CHAIR] Executive Director, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

BRENT PETERSON [CO-CHAIR] Executive Director, Washington County Historical Society

T.J. MALASKEE [CO-CHAIR] Executive Director, Maplewood Area Historical Society

DAN JONES Creative Director, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

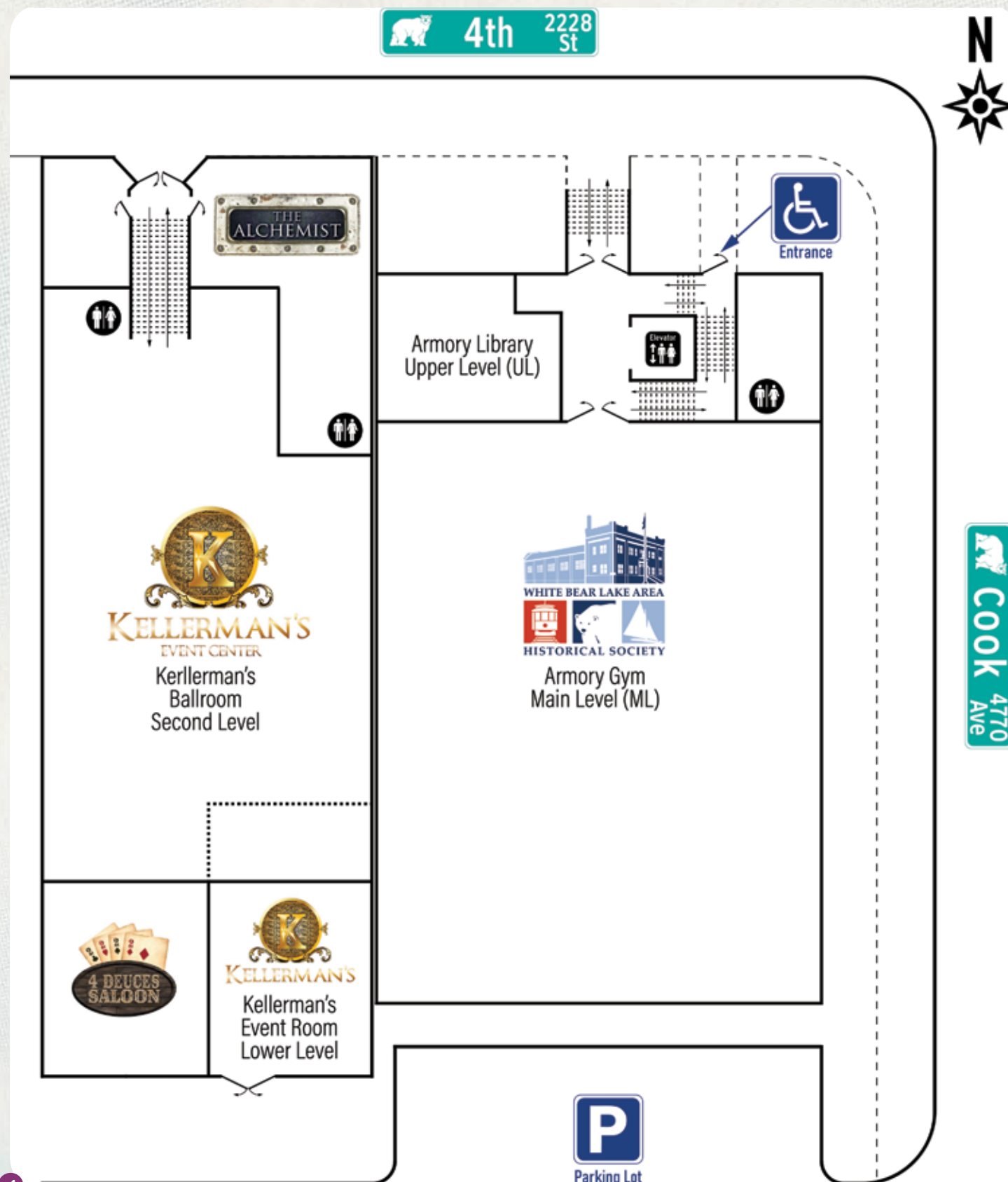
ALLISON LINCOLN Community Engagement Director, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

EMILY KRAWCZEWSKI Washington County Heritage Center Site Manager,
Washington County Historical Society

LIZ HOELE Alliance Coordinator, MALHM

SAILBOATS ON WHITE BEAR LAKE
CIRCA 1915

ROOM LOCATIONS



HOSPITALITY

MORNING AND AFTERNOON BREAKS

Coffee, tea, and soda will be available during scheduled breaks in the White Bear Lake Armory Gym.

TRANSPORTATION

Shuttle transportation to the Tuesday & Wednesday evening mixers will run from 6:30-9:00pm. Buses will depart from the front of the conference hotel.

WELLNESS ROOM

A private hospitality room is available for those nursing or needing a private space. Stop by the conference registration table to pick up the room key.

WATER STATIONS

Water will be available in both the Kellerman's Event Room and White Bear Lake Armory throughout the event.

WIFI

We want to preserve quick internet access for presenters! If you really need to access wifi, visit the registration table.

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.

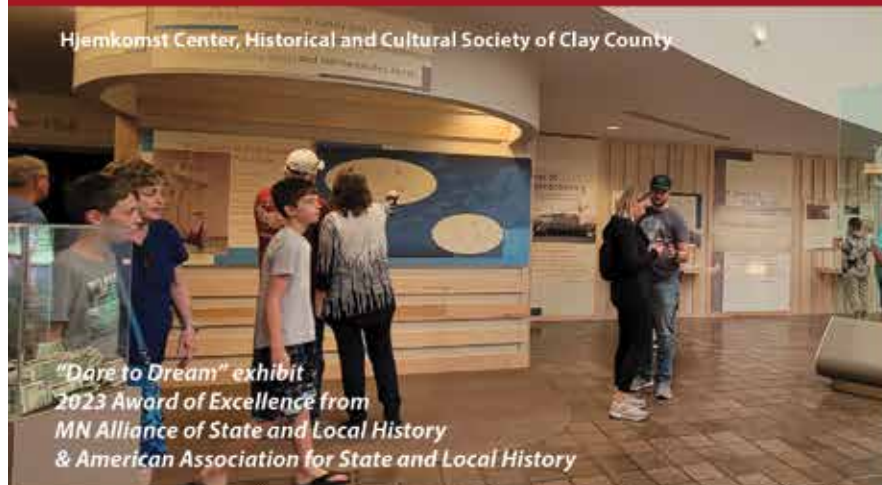
If you experience harassment or hear of any incidents of unacceptable behavior, MALHM encourages you to inform the Alliance Coordinator (Liz Koele- liz@mnhistoryalliance.org or 612-500-7460) or a member of the Board of Directors so that we can take appropriate action.

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Exhibit Design & Fabrication Studio

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ANNUAL
MEETING
AND
CONFERENCE

Hjemkomst Center, Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County



"Dare to Dream" exhibit
2023 Award of Excellence from
MN Alliance of State and Local History
& American Association for State and Local History



Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve



Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center



Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve



Let's work
together!



Minnesota Discovery Center

www.BROWNKNOWSDESIGN.com



New Exhibits at Lake
Vermilion-Soudan
Underground Mine State Park



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Intellectual Property
Valuation Services

website: lehmannplc.com
email: walt@lehmannplc.com



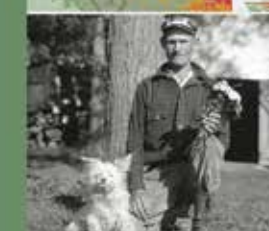
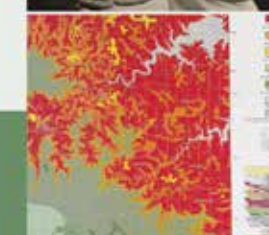
MINNESOTA
DIGITAL
LIBRARY

Browse through digitized materials
from 200+ historical societies,
libraries, archives, and cultural
organizations across Minnesota.

MDL'S
20TH
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www.mndigital.org

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: The Minnesota
Horticulturist for the Northern Gardener,
Volume 116, Number 9, December 1988.
Minnesota State Horticultural Society. •
Huntley, Ben A., Wingold Flour Bay State
Milling advertisement, Winona, Minnesota.
Winona County Historical Society. • Falteisek,
Jan, Zhang, Hua. Geologic atlas of Fillmore
County, Minnesota, C-8, Part B, Plate 7.
Pollution Sensitivity, Minnesota Geological
Survey. • Paine, T. Rodney, 1889-1968.
Fond du Lac Park Nursery Caretaker Nummi,
Duluth, Minnesota, 1927. University of
Minnesota Duluth, Kathryn A. Martin Library,
Northeast Minnesota Historical Collections.



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specialize in providing museums and historical societies
with innovative products and award-winning services
designed to protect and provide access to their collections.

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MALHM Conference.


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We design and build award-winning exhibits across the country. But as we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are especially proud of our Minnesota roots!



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TUESDAY, APRIL 22 PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT SCHEDULE

9:30-10:00AM

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN White Bear Lake Armory Gym

10:00-11:15AM

GANGSTER BUS TOUR #1

Tour departs from White Bear Lake Armory.

An adventurous outing exploring the hideouts and haunts of the 1930s-era gangsters including a Mahtomedi speakeasy and the location of a notorious night club.

10:00AM-2:00PM

SELF-GUIDED TOURS AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

101 Pine St. W, Stillwater, MN 55082

The Washington County Historic Courthouse is the longest standing courthouse in the state of Minnesota, serving as the county seat for over 100 years. Staff will be available for questions and guiding visitors. Public street parking and parking lot available.

10:30AM

11:30AM

& 1:00PM

PRESENTATIONS ON COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION PROJECT
Washington County Historic Courthouse, 101 Pine St. W, Stillwater, MN 55082

Brief presentations by Jack Nilsen (Washington County Parks Coordinator for Historic Sites) on a recently-finished \$5.2 million preservation project that took place at the courthouse.

11:30AM-1:00PM

LUNCH [PROVIDED BY ACAPULCO] White Bear Lake Armory Gym

11:45AM-12:30PM

INAUGURAL POSTER SESSION White Bear Lake Armory Gym

12:15-1:30PM

GANGSTER BUS TOUR #2

1:00-4:00PM

WARDEN HOUSE OPEN, EXPLORE DOWNTOWN STILLWATER
602 Main St. N, Stillwater, MN

The Warden's House Museum was built in 1853 and served as the home of wardens of the territorial and state prison. Tours of the house include stories about the prison's early days and what life was like for prisoners on the inside. Limited parking & ADA accessible drop off available behind the house. Additional public parking available across the street.

2:30-3:45PM

GANGSTER BUS TOUR #3

2:30-3:45PM

LOCAL PRESENTATION 'Exhibits-The Possibilities Are Endless!'
with the Conference Host Committee in the White Bear Lake Armory Gym.

We will take a look at a range of exhibits to fit any budget and space and offer tips and ideas to bring your stories to life.

4:00-5:00PM

VENDOR SET-UP White Bear Lake Armory

4:00-7:00PM

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

7:00-9:00PM

EVENING MIXER

Maplewood Area Historical Society, 2170 Country Rd D E, Maplewood

Join us for a lively MALHM mixer at the Maplewood Area Historical Society! Enjoy live music, engaging games, and delightful hayrides. Savor local munchies while sipping from our cash bar. Expect thrilling surprises and a vibrant atmosphere!

POSTERS

Join us for an inaugural poster session on Tuesday, April 22,
from 11:45am-12:30pm at the White Bear Lake Armory!
Poster presenters will be available to discuss their presentations.

From Advertising Signs to Yardsticks: 100% Inventory of Three-Dimensional Objects at the Robbinsdale Historical Society
Pete Richie, Robbinsdale Historical Society & Crystal Boyd, Crystal Boyd Consulting, LLC

Hog Butchering in Wright County: Henry Ittel's Patented Hog De-Hairer
Mary Bischoff & Marisa Campanaro, Wright County Historical Society

Making History at 250: Inspiring Local Stories for America's Semiquincentennial
Emily Thabes, Molly Huber, and Kevin Maijala, The Governor's Committee on Minnesota America 250

New Specimens to Enrich Minnesota's Quaternary Fossil Record
Marcus Brandel, Minnesota Discovery Center

Restoration of the Wapahaša (Wabasha) Historic Roadside Marker
Cheyenne St. John, Lower Sioux Indian Community & Crystal Boyd, Crystal Boyd Consulting, LLC

Uncovering Maplewood's Hidden History: The Hughes' Legacy
Jeremiah Ellis, Ellis Heritage Services, LLC

West Central Minnesota Historical Association (WCMHA)
Jennifer Andries, Lyon County Historical Society & Nicole Elzenga, Renville County Historical Society

EXHIBIT HALL

EXHIBITORS

Bluestem Heritage Group

BrownKnows Design

CollectiveAccess Minnesota

Creature Works

The Crowley Company

Have Gloves, Will Travel LLC

Lehmann PLC

MALHM Mutual Assistance Team
& MN Alliance for Heritage Response

MALHM Networking
& Inclusion Team

Minnesota Digital Library

MNHS Local History Services
& Grants

Outhouse Exhibit Services

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MALHM TEAMS

SUPPORT & EXPAND THE WORK OF THE ALLIANCE

- Be a MALHM member or work for an organization that is a MALHM member
- Regularly attend meetings (held at most monthly for approx. 1 hour)
- Be willing to assist with team goals, duties, and projects & events

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE



COLLECTIVEACCESS



NETWORKING & INCLUSION



MEMBERSHIP



INTERESTED?

Visit the Registration Table, speak with a MALHM Team member, or
message Liz (liz@mnhistoryalliance.org) to learn more.

We're also open to exploring new team ideas
(like an Advocacy Team)!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025
HISTORY AWARD RECIPIENTS

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Carver County Veterans Searchable Registry
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

**HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY
OF CLAY COUNTY**
Felix Battles Monument
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

LAKE MINNETONKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
*Consolidation of the Lake Minnetonka
Historical Society*
BEHIND-THE-SCENES

**MINNESOTA AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE
MUSEUM AND GALLERY**
*Black Liberation: Dismantling Racism in Minnesota
1800s-1960s exhibit*
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

MOWER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Gertrude Project
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

**RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& AUTHORS**
*Ramsey County History Magazine
Dakhóta Issue, Fall 2023*
PUBLICATIONS

BARBARA W. SOMMER
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

SARA MARKOE HANSON
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23
CONFERENCE DAY 1
SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

7:30-9:00AM

9:00AM
9:20-10:20AM

10:30-10:50AM
11:00AM-12:00PM

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

1:40-2:40PM

2:50-3:10PM
3:20-4:20PM

4:30-7:00PM
7:00-9:00PM

REGISTRATION CHECK-IN, VENDOR HALL & RESOURCE SWAP
White Bear Lake Armory Gym

BREAKFAST Kellerman's Ballroom

WELCOMING REMARKS Kellerman's Ballroom

BREAKOUT SESSIONS #1
Kellerman's Ballroom: North Star Connect Speed Networking
Kellerman's Event Room: Let's Talk Field Trips
Armory Gym: You've Got Donations! Piled Up! Now What?
A Look at Processing Accessioning, Deaccessioning, and Registration Systems
Armory Library: Presenting with Impact: Tools and Techniques for Engaging Audiences

MORNING BREAK White Bear Lake Armory Gym

BREAKOUT SESSIONS #2
Kellerman's Ballroom: Oral History for Beginners: A Lightning-Fast Overview
Kellerman's Event Room: Creating a Community Art Space
Armory Gym: Building Strong Partnerships: Collaborating with Local Businesses
Armory Library: Congratulations! You're a New Director!

LUNCH AND NETWORKING Kellerman's Ballroom

2025 ANNUAL MEETING & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION
Kellerman's Ballroom

BREAKOUT SESSIONS #3
Kellerman's Ballroom: Unveiling Minnesota's Early Black History:
A Collaborative Research Initiative
Kellerman's Event Room: Disorganized Chaos: Making Sense of a Mixed Up Collection
Armory Gym: Independent Historical Researchers Can Benefit Local Historical Entities
and Vice Versa
Armory Library: Captivating Your Audience: Tips and Tricks from a Professional Storyteller
and Museum Director

AFTERNOON BREAK White Bear Lake Armory Gym

BREAKOUT SESSIONS #4
Kellerman's Ballroom: Engaging Emerging Professionals in Collections Work
Kellerman's Event Room: The One Trick to Rewrite Your Large Grant Application
Armory Gym: Museum on Fire: Managing Fire Risk to Collections and Historic Properties
Armory Library: Historians at Work: Using Unconventional Spaces to Tackle the Backlog

DINNER & DRINKS ON YOUR OWN

EVENING MIXER
Washington County Heritage Center, 1862 Greeley St S, Stillwater
The Washington County Heritage Center is excited to host everyone's favorite MAHLM
conference event - TRIVIA! Join us for friendly competition, light refreshments, and a
sneak peek at our brand new exhibit 'Suds on the St. Croix' about historic breweries.

THANK YOU TO OUR
**PROGRAM
COMMITTEE**

JILL WOHNOUTHKA
Executive Director, Kandiyohi County Historical Society

MOLLY HUBER
Outreach Coordinator, Minnesota Digital Library

NICOLE ELZENGA
Executive Director, Renville County Historical Society

T.J. MALASKEE
Executive Director, Maplewood Area Historical Society

LIZ HOELE
Alliance Coordinator, MALHM

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turn great stories into
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McNamara Alumni Center Heritage Gallery

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

BREAKOUT SESSIONS NO. 1

9:20 – 10:20AM

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S BALLROOM • ACTIVITY/DEMONSTRATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

NORTH STAR CONNECT SPEED NETWORKING MALHM Networking & Inclusion Team

Join MALHM's Networking and Inclusion Team for an hour of speed networking with your Minnesota museum peers! How does it work? Participants will rotate through small groups over 4 rounds, each with its own theme. Moderators from the Networking & Inclusion Team will provide the starting question and keep the conversation flowing. You just need to bring your experience and great ideas. This is a wonderful option for first time conference attendees to meet other museum workers from around the state.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S EVENT ROOM • ROUNDTABLE • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

LET'S TALK FIELD TRIPS! Claire Steffen, MNHS

Join for this roundtable discussion around current challenges, recent wins, and best practices for history field trips. Meet colleagues and brainstorm how we could best support each other through a community of practice for field trip practitioners.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ARMORY GYM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

YOU'VE GOT DONATIONS! PILED UP! NOW WHAT? A LOOK AT PROCESSING, ACCESSIONING, DEACCESSIONING, AND REGISTRATION SYSTEMS Rose Kubiadowicz, Have Gloves Will Travel LLC

This session begins with a look at policies, procedures and forms needed to successfully accept & register, accession, record, process & catalog acquisitions according to professional museum standards & best practices, and traditional practices & methods when appropriate. The conversation delves into acquisition & deaccessioning criteria. Several fascinating & engaging case studies from Minnesota museums are interwoven throughout the presentation. Interaction is encouraged! Ends with a Q&A.

SOCIAL MEDIA & MKTG

LOCATION: ARMORY LIBRARY • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

PRESENTING WITH IMPACT: TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR ENGAGING AUDIENCES Miranda Stueckrath, Stearns History Museum

Discover the keys to creating and delivering impactful presentations! This session covers practical strategies for planning, designing, and engaging your audience, along with tips for keeping your content clear and memorable. We'll also explore popular tools—including Prezi, Canva, Adobe Express, PowerPoint, and Google Slides—highlighting each platform's unique features and best uses. Perfect for beginners and those looking to enhance their presentation skills.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

BREAKOUT SESSIONS NO. 2

11:00AM – 12:00PM

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S BALLROOM • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER

ORAL HISTORY FOR BEGINNERS: A LIGHTNING-FAST OVERVIEW Vicki Abu, Oral Historian; Ryan Barland, Plymouth History Center; Crystal Boyd, Crystal Boyd Consulting LLC; John Crippen, Hennepin History Museum; Jeremiah Ellis, Ellis Heritage Services LLC; Sara Ring, Minitex

Everyone loves a good story! Oral history is a powerful way to build relationships, document local history, and diversify representation in museums. This panel will cover oral history projects from the initial idea to a completed interpretive product and beyond. A series of 5-minute presentations will introduce the three phases of oral history: pre-interview, interview, and post-interview, plus community engagement.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S EVENT ROOM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER

CREATING A COMMUNITY ART SPACE Geoff Welles, Wright County Historical Society

Here at WCHS, we took a relatively open area in our museum and have dedicated it to become a Community Art Space. But what does that mean? How did we do it? What will we use it for and how can it benefit our Museum? All of this will be answered and more. The presenter will share their experience, thoughts, and goals with this new open community space.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ARMORY GYM • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER

BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS: COLLABORATING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES Lisa Beecroft, White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, & Others

Discuss the benefits of partnering with local businesses to promote museums and historical societies. Explore strategies for building successful partnerships, including co-marketing initiatives, event sponsorships, and community outreach. Provide examples of collaboration used by White Bear Lake Area HS, Maplewood Area HS, Washington County HS, and Shoreview HS.

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.

LOCATION: ARMORY LIBRARY • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE A NEW DIRECTOR! Claudia Nicholson, The Museum Lady

A discussion of how to begin work at a new institution, in a position of leadership. We will start with the first day on the job, and walk through the most important things a new director needs to manage.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

BREAKOUT SESSIONS NO. 3

1:40 – 2:40PM

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S BALLROOM • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

UNVEILING MINNESOTA'S EARLY BLACK HISTORY: A COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Mica L. Anders, Anders Genealogical Services, Regan Richardson, Independent Researcher, Dave Nichols, Rice County Historical Society

Early Black history exists throughout Minnesota - even if you don't know it yet. Join us for a panel discussion featuring researchers uncovering these untold stories statewide. Learn about ongoing projects, challenges, and proven research methods. Through case studies and narratives, discover the rich history of Black Minnesotans, from early settlers to Civil War soldiers and beyond. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for researching and preserving Black heritage across Minnesota.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S EVENT ROOM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER

DISORGANIZED CHAOS: MAKING SENSE OF A MIXED UP COLLECTION

Lora Tatinger, Chisago County Historical Society

While moisture, critters, and creepy-crawlies are detrimental to any historical collection, so are those with a passion for history, but a lack of organizational skills. Join me for a discussion about the Who-What-When-Where-Whys of reimagining structure in a collection that has been mismanaged by those with good intentions.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ARMORY GYM • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

INDEPENDENT HISTORICAL RESEARCHERS CAN BENEFIT LOCAL HISTORICAL ENTITIES AND VICE VERSA

Jay Rendall, Author & Researcher of The Boat Builders of White Bear Lake; Dennis Zerwas, Jr.- Founder, White Bear Water Ski Preservation Company Project, Doug Lodermeier Sr., Author of MN Duck Decoys & MN Duck Calls books

Local citizens can gather a treasure chest of items and information about a local historical topic when they are researching information for their own books or historical projects. There can be symbiotic relationships between the local history entities and those local individuals. The three panelists have considerable experience gathering information, graphics, and historic items for their books or history projects. Each has their own story, methods, and results to share.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ARMORY LIBRARY • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

CAPTIVATING YOUR AUDIENCES: TIPS AND TRICKS FROM A PROFESSIONAL STORYTELLER AND MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Johanna Ellison, Cokato Historical Society; Robert "Bob" Gasch, Cokato Historical Society

Looking for new ways to hold the attention of an audience, or refine what you already know? Professional storyteller Bob Gasch, who has enchanted audiences for over 50 years, and Cokato Museum Director Johanna Ellison will be sharing different tips and tricks for captivating audiences of different age groups and interests. We will also be delving into what presentations, programs, and tours have been successful. Sharing your own experiences and techniques is encouraged.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

BREAKOUT SESSIONS NO. 4

3:20 – 4:20PM

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S BALLROOM • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

ENGAGING EMERGING PROFESSIONALS IN COLLECTIONS WORK

Mollie Spillman, Ramsey County Historical Society; Heather Carroll, St. Catherine University; Dr. Joseph Harker, Century College; Emma Peterson, MLIS; and Melissa Ward, St. Catherine University

By developing and maintaining community connections, non-profit collecting organizations can become a known and desirable site for interested and qualified (or getting qualified) emerging professionals, and volunteers, in collections work. Strategizing your needs and bandwidth will inform where to seek assistance: schools, affinity groups, retirees, or history buffs. You'll need a plan to train and manage them; have a workspace for them; and have a manual to direct their cataloging.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S EVENT ROOM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

THE ONE TRICK TO REWRITE YOUR LARGE GRANT APPLICATION

John Fulton, Minnesota Historical Society

The new biennium on July 1 brings eight more small legacy grant rounds and two large legacy grant rounds. When you apply for a large legacy grant, or if you're not funded, the Grants Office sends back comments and advice to help you rewrite an application with a better chance of being funded. The session will explain what the comments are for and how to use them. We will edit example applications using pre-app comment letters; discuss the common patterns in unsuccessful applications, how to address them and return with stronger applications.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

LOCATION: ARMORY GYM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

MUSEUM ON FIRE: MANAGING FIRE RISK TO COLLECTIONS AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Adam Smith, Minnesota State University, Mankato & MALHM; Megan Brakob Narvey, MNHS; Maddison Zikmund, Maple Grove Fire Department

Fire can cause catastrophic damage to collections and historic properties and it's not as rare as you might think. Representatives from a local Fire Department will talk about fire safety and response for museums. The fire department would go through some hands on fire extinguisher training. Presenters from MALHM Mutual Assistance and Minnesota Alliance for Heritage Response will introduce our organizations and discuss the importance of relationships for effective emergency response.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: ARMORY LIBRARY • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

HISTORIANS AT WORK: USING UNCONVENTIONAL SPACES TO TACKLE THE BACKLOG

Liz Schmidt, Goodhue County Historical Society

Feeling overwhelmed by backlog? Are your workspaces cluttered with piles of materials, leaving you without enough room to get things done? Then this session is for you. It will explore how the Goodhue County Historical Society tackled this issue by creating a 'live exhibit' where museum visitors can observe and engage with the archival process in real time. This innovative approach not only optimized their space but also invited the public to learn more about the museum's behind-the-scenes work.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

CONFERENCE DAY 2

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

NO. 5

9:20 – 10:20AM

7:30-9:00AM	REGISTRATION CHECK-IN, VENDOR HALL & RESOURCE SWAP White Bear Lake Armory Gym
9:00AM	BREAKFAST Kellerman's Ballroom
9:20-10:20AM	MORNING REMARKS Kellerman's Ballroom
10:30-10:50AM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS #5 Kellerman's Ballroom: Partners on the Trail Kellerman's Event Room: This Conference Proposal was Written with AI: Using Artificial Intelligence in Your Museum Armory Gym: History Outside the Box: Building Immersive Programs Armory Library: CollectiveAccess Minnesota—Connecting to Your Collections and the World
11:00AM-12:00PM	MORNING BREAK White Bear Lake Armory Gym
12:00-1:30PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS #6 Kellerman's Ballroom: We Weren't In the Room Where It Happened: How Minnesota Museums Can Still Participate in America's 250th Birthday Kellerman's Event Room: Government Funding Survey Armory Gym: Uncovering Diversity: Finding the People History Forgot Armory Library: 3D Photography: A Primer to Start
1:40-2:40PM	LUNCH & HISTORY AWARDS PROGRAM Kellerman's Ballroom History Awards will begin at 12:45pm, with Raffle Drawings to follow.
3:00PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS #7 Kellerman's Ballroom: LGBTQIA+/Queer History in the Local Museum: From Discovery and Research to Interpretation and Community Engagement Kellerman's Event Room: Using Continuous Improvement (CI) to Pursue Efficiency, Growth, and Strength Within Our Organizations Armory Gym: Lest We Forget: Tracking Down Wright County's Civil War Veterans Armory Library: Updating Outdoor Interpretive Signage: MNHS's Experience
	VENDOR HALL & RESOURCE SWAP CLOSE Please pick-up any of your remaining items from the resource swap area.

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.
LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S BALLROOM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION/PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE
PARTNERS ON THE TRAIL Javi Avalos, Jody Brennan, Michael Kurtz, Michael Kerski, Wendy Weirich, Heather Hoagland, Lindsay Marshall The Shakopee Riverfront Cultural Trail (SRCT) is a 2.5-mile stretch of the MN River in Shakopee with interpretive panels outlining the area's natural and cultural history. A partnership between Scott County Historical Society, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Scott County, Three Rivers Park District, and City of Shakopee was formed. This session will discuss the partners' roles, the collaboration resulting from the SRCT, and the theme, "Many People, Many Paths, One River."
EDUCATION & OUTREACH
LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S EVENT ROOM • ACTIVITY/DEMONSTRATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE
THIS CONFERENCE PROPOSAL WAS WRITTEN WITH AI: USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN YOUR MUSEUM Emily Thabes, Beltrami County Historical Society; Joe Hoover, MNHS AI is transforming museum operations, from exhibit planning to visitor engagement. This session explores how AI tools support research, storytelling, and content creation, with real-world case studies showcasing AI-driven collection management and enhanced accessibility. Practical demos will guide participants in using AI for outlining and writing, while addressing ethical concerns like data privacy and authenticity. Join us to discover how AI can responsibly enhance museum practices and values.
EDUCATION & OUTREACH
LOCATION: ARMORY GYM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL
HISTORY OUTSIDE THE BOX: BUILDING IMMERSIVE PROGRAMS Caitlin Caron, Stearns History Museum; Eric Cheever, Stearns History Museum Want to develop an immersive history experience that will broaden your community outreach and generate some income? Come hear about two of the Stearns History Museum's most successful programs- At War and At Home: The World War II Experience and our annual Escape Room. Both have a proven track record and Caitlin and Eric will walk you through their development and adjustments made to create success! Each also focuses on different seasons of the year and new ways to engage people in the past.
COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS
LOCATION: ARMORY LIBRARY • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE
COLLECTIVEACCESS MINNESOTA-CONNECTING TO YOUR COLLECTIONS AND THE WORLD Ann Grandy, MALHM & Pope County Historical Society CollectiveAccess Minnesota is a collection management software consortium managed by MALHM. The software connects museums to their collections AND can share collections with the public. Customized by your peers here in Minnesota, the system is easy for beginners tracking what they have and where to find it. It is robust enough for organizations who want to capture the deeper connections between objects, people, and places. Join this session to learn about CollectiveAccess Minnesota and how it can work for your organization.



THURSDAY, APRIL 24

BREAKOUT SESSIONS NO. 6

11:00AM – 12:00PM

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S BALLROOM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

WE WEREN'T IN THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENED: HOW MINNESOTA MUSEUMS CAN STILL PARTICIPATE IN AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

Stephanie Hess, Minnesota Digital Library; Molly Huber, Minnesota Digital Library

The United States of America will be 250 years old in 2026 and celebrations are being planned across the country. History organizations with no direct connection to the American Revolution may be wondering how, or if, they can participate in the anniversary. In this session, Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) staff will explore ways Minnesota museums can join the party, including exhibits, educational projects, and community outreach.

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S EVENT ROOM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER

GOVERNMENT FUNDING SURVEY

Matt Carter, Dakota County Historical Society; Wayne Gannaway, St. Louis County Historical Society

Has your organization wondered how the funding you receive, if any, from a local unit of government compares to your peer organizations? Facing cuts to public support, both DCHS and HCOC had an urgent need to justify their respective annual allocations based on comparable counties. Where do we find that data? What is comparable? To help answer these questions, and to advance advocacy, DCHS and HCOC created a public funding survey to compile the data. This presentation shares the results.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ARMORY GYM • ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

UNCOVERING DIVERSITY: FINDING THE PEOPLE HISTORY FORGOT

Corrie Hackbarth, Lake Superior Railroad Museum & MALHM

Museums are put together with a specific purpose, especially small local history museums that may be based out of a historic home or building. Sometimes there is a focus on a particular family or individual. It's possible to expand the narrative of your location to include other groups in history. Join your colleagues to discover how they found the people and stories that 'big history' forgot.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ARMORY LIBRARY • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

3D PHOTOGRAPHY: A PRIMER TO START

Tom Steman, St. Cloud State University; Mike Knaak, St. Cloud State University

Ever want to make your 3D objects more accessible beyond physical location and limitations? Using experiences and lessons learned from a pilot project at St. Cloud State, discover how 3D photography was used to make objects more accessible. Discussion will also touch upon the equipment and software used, knowledge needed and gained, and how to easily make accessible to a wider audience.

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EDUCATION & OUTREACH

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

BREAKOUT SESSIONS NO. 7

1:40 – 2:40PM

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S BALLROOM • PANEL • AUDIENCE LEVEL: ALL

LGBTQIA+/QUEER HISTORY IN THE LOCAL MUSEUM: FROM DISCOVERY AND RESEARCH TO INTERPRETATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Leila Stallone, MNHS; Ulysses Swanson, MNHS; Lizzie Ehrenhalt, MNHS; Jamie Kherbaoui, MNHS; Gereon Fuller, MNHS

In this session, we will discuss how to locate (and relocate) items that could be related to queer history in historical societies and museum collections; approach how items can be further researched and how to handle conflicting information; interpret queer histories; and foster relationships with people and organizations interested in this history. Attendees are encouraged to bring and share examples of collection items, planning and exhibiting experiences, resources related to this session's topic, or any questions/curiosities on the topic.

ORG. LEADERSHIP & DEV.

LOCATION: KELLERMAN'S EVENT ROOM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

USING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT (CI) TO PURSUE EFFICIENCY, GROWTH AND STRENGTH WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATIONS

Julia Mueller, Friends of Linden Hills, Inc.

Simply put, Continuous Improvement (CI) is a process which involves analyzing and making adjustments within organizations to minimize wasted time and resources. In this session, we will explore how to apply this corporate methodology within our small organizations and museums as well as how CI can be used both personally and professionally. Participants will be introduced to various CI methodologies, identify key areas for organizational growth and put it into action.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ARMORY GYM • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

LEST WE FORGET: TRACKING DOWN WRIGHT COUNTY'S CIVIL WAR VETERANS.

Marisa Campanaro, Wright County Historical Society; Mary Bischoff, Wright County Historical Society

We've all received requests concerning a resource in our Research Library that didn't exist.... at least not yet. Join us for a session where we share our experience of what started as a simple request turn into creating a comprehensive list of Wright County's Civil War Veterans. Learn about how the project evolved, the ongoing journey, how to read and interpret found material, as well as the stories reflecting both struggles and successes.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

LOCATION: ARMORY LIBRARY • TRADITIONAL PRESENTATION • AUDIENCE LEVEL: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

UPDATING OUTDOOR INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE: MNHS'S EXPERIENCE

Madeleine Lawler, MNHS, David Sandager, MNHS

Update on MNHS's ongoing efforts to replace and reinterpret historic sites with outdoor interpretive signage.

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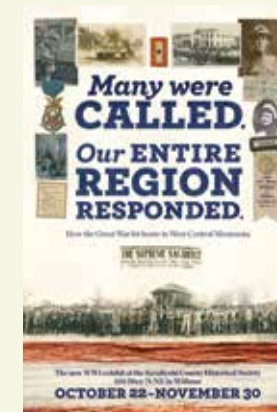
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What we love about Collective Access:

- Increased museum visits online & in-person
- Integrated connections between people, places and things
- Easy to edit or update
- Back up of collection data
- See images of objects and photos you are researching
- Record "institutional memory" where everyone can find it

Explore the Pope County Museum and collections of history organizations across Minnesota at mncollections.org.

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