

2025 AASLH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

in Partnership with Ohio Local History Alliance

SEPTEMBER 10–13

CINCINNATI, OH

THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

ONSITE GUIDE

The American Association for State and Local History
and Ohio Local History Alliance
welcome you to **CINCINNATI**, September 10–13, 2025.

Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal

We come together for **THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT**

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FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR

Greetings, valued colleagues and friends,

My name is Aaron Noble, and I am honored to serve as the chair of the Program Committee for this year's AASLH/OLHA Conference. I hope this letter finds you well... in these challenging times, this sentiment seems wholly inadequate. If this letter finds you merely getting by, that is absolutely okay.



As I reflect on this year's theme, ***The American Experiment***, I am filled with a sense of optimism and hope even amidst the chaos and fear that many of us are experiencing amid an ever-changing landscape that presents a clear challenge to our field. Never in my lifetime can I recall a moment where the amazing work that each of you do is more relevant and more necessary. Our organizations remain vital, vibrant hubs of civic and community conversation. This year's conference affords us an opportunity to reaffirm our core values while also exploring new and innovative ways to engage our audiences.

The 2025 AASLH/OLHA Conference is also important as a time for us to join in community. For me, there is no group that better represents the best of our professional community than AASLH and you, its members, are the reason for that success. And partnering with the Ohio Local History Alliance gives us the opportunity to welcome new people into our AASLH community. Let us take the opportunity to come together, to hug, to commiserate, and to utilize our collective spirit to experiment with new ways to move forward the critical work of civic engagement and responsibility. Let us lean on one another as many of us prepare to take "leaps in the dark" and rise to the challenges of the moment.

Cincinnati is a hub of innovation and reinvention—the ideal venue for the American Association for State and Local History to explore the American Experiment. I hope to reconnect with old friends and to meet and connect with as many of you as I can during the week. I remain awed by the work that you do, your commitment, and your passion.

With warm regards,
Aaron Noble
Chair, Program Committee
New York State Museum



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View from Carew Tower

WELCOME TO CINCINNATI!

On behalf of the 2025 AASLH/OLHA Host Committee, we would like to officially welcome you to Cincinnati! Our committee has collaborated to create an experience that introduces you to the unique character of the Queen City and its many museums, historic sites, and preservation initiatives.

Cincinnati is a city like no other. It is the center of a tristate region that embodies a rich and diverse history, evident in the variety of historical and cultural institutions that contribute to the vibrancy of life in Cincinnati. You will find that Cincinnatians take immense pride in their city and recognize the value of its historic landscape. Ours is a city on the move: ambitious, energetic, and innovative—traits that define many of us in the history field.

We encourage you to take the opportunity to explore the city with your colleagues, whether it is taking a break from sessions to traverse the Purple People Bridge and explore Northern Kentucky, walk our extensive Cincinnati Parks system, or enjoy a cocktail in Over-the-Rhine.

Stop by the Host Committee table for recommendations and directions, as well as a list of places offering discounted or free admission for conference attendees.

Welcome to the Queen City!

Becky Beaulieu
Co-chair, Host Committee
Taft Museum of Art

Whitney Owens
Co-chair, Host Committee
Cincinnati Museum Center



Welcome Ohio Local History Alliance Members!

Discover, Connect, and Grow with the Ohio Local History Alliance!

Are you passionate about history and eager to strengthen your local heritage? Join the **Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA)**, the leading network for history professionals, volunteers, and organizations across the Buckeye State!

At OLHA, we empower history organizations through:

- ✓ **Expert Resources & Training** – Gain access to workshops, webinars, and toolkits designed to help you preserve and share history effectively.
- ✓ **Networking & Collaboration** – Connect with fellow professionals and volunteers to exchange ideas and best practices.
- ✓ **Advocacy & Support** – Ensure Ohio's rich history is recognized and valued at local and state levels.

Whether you run a museum, archive, or historical society—or simply have a passion for preserving history—**OLHA is your trusted partner in historical storytelling.**

Look for our logo to find OLHA sessions & workshops in the conference program:



SESSIONS

- THURSDAY**
 - Engagement Over Content: Field Trips That Develop Historical Thinking Skills and Pride of Place
 - How Many Spinning Wheels Do You Really Need?
 - Nature as Living History: Expand Your Museum Outdoors
 - Ohio Local History Alliance Business Meeting
- FRIDAY**
 - Exhibitions 101
 - National Register of Historic Places Nominations 201: Challenges, Obstacles, and Opportunities
 - Yes, It Happened Here
- SATURDAY**
 - Bridging Divides: Navigating Challenging Histories Through Community Engagement
 - Bridging Journeys: Parallels Between U.S. Immigration and Underground Railroad Freedom Seekers
 - Where History Walks and Talks: Immersive Storytelling in Action

WORKSHOPS

- WEDNESDAY** • Disaster Planning, Response, Recovery: Essential Information for Institutions Large and Small
- SATURDAY** • Beyond Maps: How to Bring Emotional, Disturbing, and Poignant Primary Sources into the Classroom

Join our vibrant community and make history matter!

 ohiolha.org  ohiolha@ohiohistory.org

History thrives when we work together. Be a part of Ohio's story with **OLHA!** 

On July 4, 2026

THE UNITED STATES IS GOING TO HAVE A REALLY BIG 250TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

And in Ohio – We're all in for the semiquin!



Check out these programs and get involved!

- ★ “Trails & Tales” – six statewide tourism trails
- ★ 2026 Monthly Celebration Themes
- ★ Ohio Goes to the Movies - A statewide movie series in 2026
- ★ The America 250-Ohio Communities program
- ★ Ohio's Homecoming & Picnic - July 2026
- ★ The 4th Grade History Pass program



Those are just a sample of the many events and programs being created – visit our website to learn more

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ONE CONFERENCE, TWO HOTELS

The 2025 AASLH/OLHA Conference will be held at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza and Hyatt Regency Cincinnati. The hotels are half a block (333 feet!) from each other and crossing one street is required.

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza	Hyatt Regency Cincinnati
● Registration Desk ● Exhibit Hall ● Concurrent Sessions ● Historic House Museum and Small Museum/Climate and Sustainability Luncheons ● History Leadership Institute Reception ● Closing Plenary ● AASLH After Hours	● Opening Keynote ● Diversity and Inclusion Mixer ● AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Awards Luncheon ● STEPS Breakfast ● Working Groups

NEW FOR 2025

BID IN THE SILENT AUCTION

*Room: Hall of Mirrors Balcony, Hilton
(enter from 4th floor)*

This year, the conference includes a silent auction. The proceeds will go directly to AASLH and help us continue to provide professional development opportunities and events for the history community.

The auction will be held on Wednesday, September 10 from 10:30 am–5:30 pm, continuing on Thursday, September 11 from 9 am–4:15 pm. There are many Cincinnati museums and businesses that have donated items to the auction, and you'll have a chance to use these donations before the conference ends. You'll also be able to bid on other items, including books, T-shirts, gift baskets, gift certificates for local eateries, and tickets to museums and historic sites around the country.

**See All That's Available
on the
Silent Auction**

Thank you to all of the organizations and individuals who have so graciously donated!

**NEW
THIS
YEAR**

DAY OF SERVICE

Coming to Cincinnati a day early and want to give back? New to AASLH this year is the Day of Service. Museum professionals will have the opportunity to volunteer their expertise at a local institution. Help out and network with your colleagues before the conference begins.

Wednesday, September 10 from 1–4 pm
Ohio Lesbian Archives

1308 Race St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

(Transportation will not be provided. Hop on the free streetcar or walk a few blocks to the heart of the historic Over-the-Rhine district.)

The Ohio Lesbian Archives (OLA) is a grassroots, volunteer-run organization dedicated to preserving the rich history and culture of lesbian and queer communities in Ohio and the surrounding region. Founded in 1989 from a growing collection of literature and ephemera at Cincinnati's Crazy Ladies Bookstore, OLA now serves as both a reference library and evolving museum.

During the Day of Service, the OLA could use assistance with cleaning, organizing, and cataloguing CDs and cassettes, organizing and creating a list of past newsletters, and writing collections-focused social media posts for the organization to share throughout the year. **To sign up and volunteer, click here.**

NEED TO KNOW

NEED TO KNOW!

1. **Name badges must be worn at all times.**
2. **Only registered attendees** will be allowed to attend sessions and workshops.
3. **Nonregistered guests** are not allowed to attend sessions or workshops, but **may purchase tickets to attend tours and other special events.** Please check with AASLH registration desk for availability.
4. **Your purchased tickets** are on the back of your **registration badge.** Please check the **conference app** for the appropriate meeting times and locations for special events.
5. **Tickets are necessary for all workshops, meals, tours, and evening events.** Please show your ticket before boarding buses or entering an evening event. If you'd like to purchase tickets, please visit the AASLH registration desk. Some events may be sold out.
6. **Buses will be provided to events held offsite unless noted in program guide.** All bus pick up/drop-offs take place at the front of the Hilton on Fifth Street.

AASLH REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

The AASLH/OLHA Annual Conference registration check-in is located on the **Fourth Floor Foyer of the Hilton Netherland Plaza** outside of the Hall of Mirrors. It will be staffed during the following times to answer any questions you may have during the meeting.

Tuesday, September 9	3 – 5 pm
Wednesday, September 10	7 am – 6 pm
Thursday, September 11	7 am – 6 pm
Friday, September 12	7 am – 5 pm
Saturday, September 13	8 am – 12 pm

CONFERENCE APP INSTRUCTIONS

Download our conference app for the latest information. It will go live on September 2.

Use the app to:

- Review the schedule and create your personal schedule
- View the presentations, slides, and handouts
- Connect with fellow attendees, share information, and schedule meetings
- Plan which exhibitors you would like to meet

A few easy steps to help you enjoy the AASLH 2025 Annual Conference:

- **Install the free 'eventScribe' app and then open it and search for 'AASLH 2025 Annual Conference'.**

You will be prompted to log in with your email and password (access key) emailed to you before the conference. Options for downloading the app include:

- Apple iOS Devices—install the free Apple iOS App
- Android Devices—install the free Google Play App

Download the conference materials to your device.

- Log in with the link and credentials emailed to you from Cadmium. Update your profile information and select your virtual ribbons.
- All sessions will take place in the Eastern Time Zone.

Many presenters have made their slides and/or handouts available to attendees through the app. We suggest downloading all slides prior to arrival to avoid potential slow internet and download speeds. Any presentation that you favorite (by clicking the star next to a presentation title) will make the slides download automatically. **You can download all the slides** by clicking the menu icon on the top right of the app and then select 'Schedule' and then 'Download All Presentations'.

FEELING LOST OR NEED ASSISTANCE?

Throughout the conference, if you feel lost in the hotels, need help navigating to an evening event, or just need a Band-Aid, we have you covered. Look for AASLH staff at the Registration Desk on the Fourth Floor Foyer of the Hilton Netherland Plaza or for the people with "Staff" ribbons on their name badges. The staff will have Band Aids, ink pens, and can answer any program or AASLH-related question. The Cincinnati Local Host Committee table, also located in the Fourth Floor Foyer, will have information on local restaurants, museums, and stores, so be sure to ask them for recommendations.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

This year, there are even more opportunities to network with your colleagues and meet people new to AASLH and OLHA. Full conference registration includes the Keynote and Plenary, and concurrent sessions along with access to the Exhibit Hall throughout the meeting. Pre- and post-conference workshops, tours, evening events, and affinity meals are not included. You can purchase tickets to these events at the AASLH Registration Desk. Note: Some events are sold out. ***The following are included with your full conference registration:***

RECEPTIONS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Don't miss out on the breaks in the Exhibit Hall. If you are new to AASLH, sign up for the First-Time Attendee and New Member Reception. For an early evening gathering, register for the Diversity and Inclusion Mixer and the History Leadership Institute Reception. All of these, except for HLI, are free for all attendees. Preregistration is encouraged.

BE A HISTORY ADVOCATE!

AASLH encourages attendees to advocate for the strength and value of the history field. One way you can do this is by contacting your elected representatives. AASLH is providing postcards and prompts to help you make your voice heard. Stop by the table on the third floor to speak out about the importance of history.

ACCESSIBILITY AT #AASLH2025

This year's conference is in the beautiful Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, but a historic property can provide some accessibility challenges. Here are some things that may help you prepare to navigate the meeting spaces if you have mobility issues:

- **When you arrive at the Hilton, use the 5th Street entrance.** (It is just past the corner of 5th and Race). There is an automatic door opener on the right side of the entrance. Once you enter, you will see the Grand Staircase immediately in front of you. Make an immediate left and then follow the corridor directly (very short distance) to the Elevator Lobby.
- **Guests departing the Hilton will take the elevator to "SL" for Street Level.** Then follow the corridor which does NOT have the glass doors which will bring you to the Main Door on your right, where you will exit onto 5th Street.
- **If you have issues with** a small flight of **stairs** and are attending a session or other **event in the Continental Ballroom**, there is a **chair lift** you may use. AASLH will have a volunteer stationed by the lift during events so they can call a hotel employee to operate the lift. Please give yourself a few extra minutes when planning your route.

EVENING EVENTS

Cincinnati offers you a great chance to get out, see some museums, and have fun with colleagues. The evening events are one of the best ways to meet new people and learn more about AASLH's host institutions. You can also join us at an informal gathering at the Hilton on Friday to play cards and games, sing karaoke, or just hang out meeting new folks. **More on page 17.**

CONFERENCE AFTER-HOURS GATHERING

The Lounge at 1931 in the Hilton is designated as the "official watering hole" for the 2025 AASLH Conference.

WEAR YOUR T-SHIRT FRIDAY

Friday of the conference is T-Shirt Day! Wear your favorite history or museum-themed T-shirt.

Impress an AASLH staff member with your shirt and you might win a prize!



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



Please help keep our meeting environmentally-friendly by placing items in the correct recycling containers placed throughout the hotels.

SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Tag AASLH and use #AASLH2025 to give your co-workers FOMO.



Commemorate Your Hometown Heritage



As excitement builds for the U.S. 250th, make your local history part of this once-in-a-lifetime event with a fully-funded historical marker.

Visit **wgpfoundation.org** to learn more.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11

11 am – 12:15 pm

OPENING KEYNOTE

Don Wildman



Don Wildman is the long-time presenter of Travel Channel's *Mysteries at the Museum*, as well as hosting *Cities of the Underworld* on History and other series. He currently hosts and produces the podcast *American History Hit*. His interest in history goes beyond television as he serves as the Co-Chair of the Sports & Entertainment Advisory Council for

America250. He also worked with groups in the Buffalo, NY, area to offer project-based learning opportunities for social studies educators in grades K-8. He is very glad to join the good people of AASLH for this gathering in Cincinnati! Sponsored by Wiki Edu.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

4:30 – 6 pm

CLOSING PLENARY

Stronger Together: New Experiments from the Creative Economy



As we seek dynamic ways to share history's relevance, "history-adjacent" organizations may offer fresh ideas. History organizations thrive by collaborating across an ecosystem and sharing resources to fuel a region's quality and vibrancy of life. Brewers, artists, foodies, and more from organizations across Cincinnati will share thought-provoking insights about inviting history into their work to strengthen civic life and livelihoods for residents and visitors alike. Sponsored by ArtsWave.

Moderator: **Kareem A. Simpson**, Duncanson Program Manager, Taft Museum of Art

Aaron Deininger, Executive Director, Brewing Heritage Trail

Colleen Houston, Chief Executive Officer & Artistic Director, Artworks

Michael Mangeot, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Tourism, Frankfort, KY

Leslie Mooney, Executive Director, BLINK

Alandes Powell, Visionary|Creator, Black Art Speaks

Robert Alan Wight, Ph.D., Associate Professor, The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and author of *Cincinnati's Foodshed: An Art Atlas*

WEDNESDAY TOURS ≈ SEPTEMBER 10

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration desk for details. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold on site.

8:30 am – 5:30 pm

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks World Heritage Site Tour

Sold Out

Discover the awe-inspiring Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, Ohio's only UNESCO World Heritage Site. Masterpieces of human creative genius, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are large-scale earthen enclosures built by American Indians 2,000 years ago. Come and experience some of these sacred earthworks of the ancient Hopewell culture and gain a new appreciation of the achievements of Ohio's Indigenous peoples—as well as a deeper connection to the world and our place in it. This full-day tour will start with a visit to the Fort Ancient Earthworks, the largest hilltop enclosure in North America, and continue to Hopewell Culture National Historic Park to walk in ancient footsteps at the Hopewell Mound Group and the Seip Earthworks. Lunch is included in the registration fee. Sponsored by the Archaeological Research Institute.

Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill

Cost: \$110, Preregistration Required

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is a landmark destination that shares 3,000 acres of discovery in the spirit of the Kentucky Shakers. With 34 original Shaker structures, the site is home to the country's largest private collection of original 19th-century buildings and is the largest National Historic Landmark in Kentucky. After an introductory guided tour, tourgoers will have time to both explore the village on their own and choose between several special tours, including a long-range planning tour with President and CEO Billy Rankin, a tour focusing on the site's new interpretive plan and Lilly Endowment-funded permanent exhibits, or a program with Shaker Village's curator highlighting artifacts and archival documents from the collection. Lunch at the Trustee's Table is included in the registration fee. Sponsored by the Archaeological Research Institute.

8:30 am – 5:30 pm

Horses and Bourbon

Cost: \$90, Preregistration Required

Spend the day in Lexington, KY, enjoying two of Kentucky's most famous exports. This tour features the Kentucky Horse Park including the International Museum of the Horse and outdoor horse demonstrations (including getting to pet a horse!) after lunch. The next stop is New Riff Distillery where you will tour the facility and hear about the process of distilling Kentucky Bourbon. Tastings of their award-winning bourbon are part of the tour. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

1 – 5 pm

Harriet Beecher Stowe House Restoration and Its Neighborhood

Sold Out

Visit Harriet Beecher Stowe's 192-year-old home which recently was restored to reflect the eras of service to the African American community and beyond. Hear the 1840 interpretation of Harriet's life in Cincinnati as a teacher and mother and how her experiences led her to become the world-famous author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Learn why the Stowe House and the Lane Seminary evolved to be the public center of the anti-slavery movement. Then, fast forward to 1940 to learn about the house's transformation into a community center and the Edgemont Inn, listed in *The Negro Motorist Green Book*. The visit will end with a walking tour of the Walnut Hills neighborhood focused on its rich African American history. Sponsored by University of Cincinnati Department of History.

1 – 5:30 pm

Walking Tour: Cincinnati's Brewing Heritage: Built on Beer

Cost: \$35, Preregistration Required

(Note: This tour is also offered on Saturday, 9 am–12 pm.)

Join the Executive Director of the Brewery District CURC on a guided tour of the Brewing Heritage Trail, a physical and digital historical trail located on the east side of the Brewery District in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. This trail features informational signage, brewing-themed art installations, trail markers, and an app that takes a deeper dive into the area's brewing history. Along the way, hear about many of the unique features of Over-the-Rhine, including its pre-Prohibition brewing structures, both above ground and below. Also visit the three-stories-deep underground lagering cellars of the Schmidt-Crown Brewery (originally excavated in the 1850s), discuss why there are so many of these types of structures in the neighborhood, and learn what The Brewery District CURC is doing to help preserve and share this unique history. The tour will conclude with time to explore Cincinnati's historic Findlay Market on your own. Limited to 20 participants. Sponsored by Gray & Pape.

Shaker Village

SHAKER VILLAGE OF PLEASANT HILL, HARRODSBURG, KENTUCKY



THURSDAY TOURS ≈ SEPTEMBER 11

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration desk for details. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold on site.



7–9 am

Walking Tour: African American History Along the Ohio River

Sold Out

Walk from the Hilton Netherland Plaza down to the Ohio River which holds a deep significance for Cincinnati's African American history as a symbol of resistance, achievement, and freedom from the 1800s through the 20th century. The tour will explore the path of many who have gone before blazing the trail to freedom such as enslaved Margaret Garner, civil rights activist Marian Spencer, Lane Seminary Rebel James Bradley, and Cincinnati's Civil War Black Brigade. The tour will walk approximately two miles, including rough terrain and steps.

1:30–5:30 pm

Jewish Cincinnati

Cost: \$45, Preregistration Required

Known as the cradle of Reform Judaism, Cincinnati has been home to a vibrant Jewish community for over 200 years. Pioneering reform Rabbi Isaac Meyer Wise shaped the city's institutions and ideas by founding two Jewish newspapers (one still in publication today) and numerous Jewish organizations including the first Reform Rabbinical College and Hebrew Union College. The tour will begin at Rabbi Wise's own 1866 Plum Street Temple to explore the exquisite Moorish interior and hear about the history of the congregation. From there the group will travel to the campus of Hebrew Union College where participants will visit the Skirball Museum and the American Jewish Archives. Finally, the tour will conclude with a visit to Cincinnati's newest Jewish cultural center, the Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center. Sponsored by Spacesaver.



Walking Tour: Small Museums and Archives of Downtown Cincinnati

Sold Out

This walking tour will explore three downtown museums connected to nationally known brands. The tour will begin at the Fifth Third Museum and explore how Fifth Third Bank—and the city—have grown over the decades through events and connections that not only shaped the bank but also helped shape the Cincinnati community. Attendees will then visit the Proctor & Gamble Heritage Center and Archives including its famous Wall of Failures exhibit and will conclude at the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum with the story of the first professional baseball team. Each visit will include a short Q&A sessions with the curator. Limited to 25 participants.

FRIDAY TOURS ≈ SEPTEMBER 12

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form for details. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold on site.

7 – 8:30 am

Walking Tour: Downtown Cincinnati

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

Join Cincinnati Preservation's Executive Director, Beth Johnson, for an early-morning look at Cincinnati's historic architecture. This short walk will include the historic Carew Tower where the conference hotel is located, Fountain Square, Cincinnati's early skyscrapers (many of which were designed by nationally famous architects like Daniel Burnham and Cass Gilbert), historic department stores, and more modern icons like Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill's Terrace Plaza and Zaha Hadid's Contemporary Arts Center.



Carew Tower

8:30 am – 12 pm

Behind the Scenes at Cincinnati Museum Center Collections and Research Center

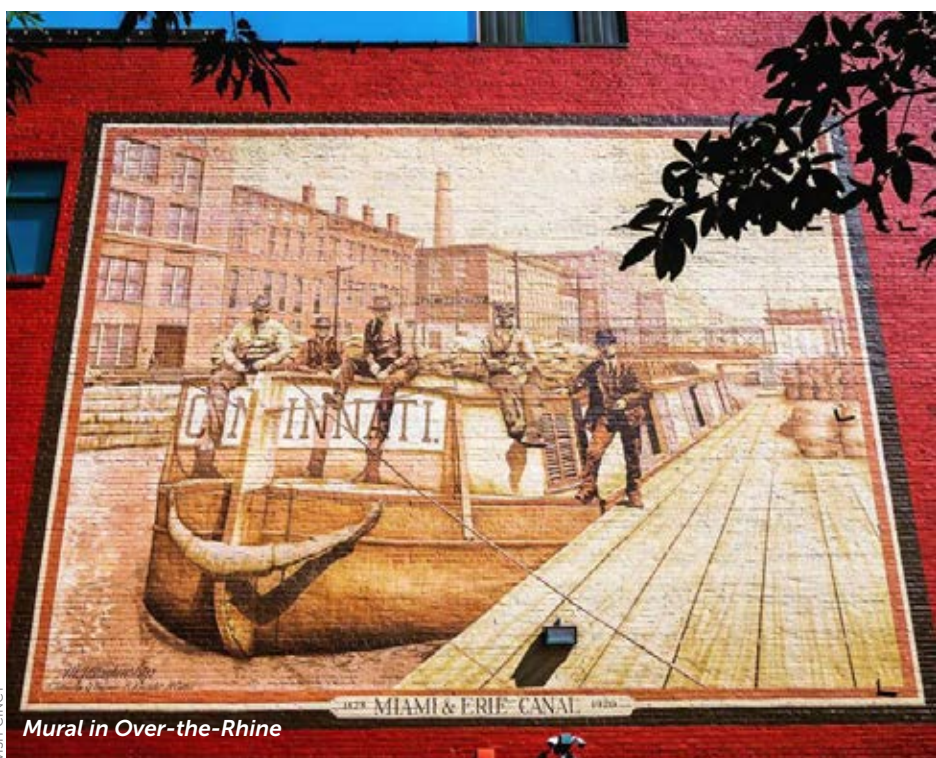
Sold Out

Meeet with four curators from the Cincinnati Museum Center who will interpret their extensive collections begun in 1818 that now hold more than six million objects. Visit the department areas that hold the significant history of greater Cincinnati and the Northwest Territory. At the research center, the archivists will explain their multifaceted role in collecting and safeguarding irreplaceable and invaluable manuscripts, photos, archaeological, and historical collections. Sponsored by Upstream Exhibits.

Over-the-Rhine Walking Tour

Cost: \$30, Preregistration Required

Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood is home to some of the city's most important landmarks and cultural institutions. This walking tour will depart the hotel and arrive by streetcar at Cincinnati's iconic Music Hall in historic Washington Park. At the 1878 National Historic Landmark Music Hall, visitors will explore the building's architecture and cultural heritage and get a behind-the-scenes look at the building's ongoing restoration. From there attendees will move through Over-the-Rhine with a guide from the Over-the-Rhine Museum to explore how German immigrants and other ethnic groups have lived in Over-the-Rhine's historic tenement buildings across time. The tour will include a behind-the-scenes look at the Over-the-Rhine Museum's future home and end at historic Findlay Market where participants can grab lunch or head back to the conference hotel on the free streetcar. Note: This tour includes walking through historic neighborhoods with hills. Sponsored by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Church History Department.



Mural in Over-the-Rhine

SATURDAY TOURS ≈ SEPTEMBER 13

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration desk for details. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold on site.

8:30 am – 5:30 pm

The Underground Railroad Along the Ohio River

Cost: \$90, Preregistration Required

This tour is based on the book *A Tour of the Underground Railroad* and led by the author, Dr. Nancy Stearns Theiss. The Ohio River provided a remarkable opportunity for the enslaved to escape to free soil in Indiana and Ohio. The tour begins on the Kentucky side of the river in Augusta, an abolitionist community with leaders such as John G. Fee and James Thome. After exploring the antebellum riverfront, the tour will stay in Kentucky for a visit to Washington, a frontier town which connected to the old Maysville-Lexington Turnpike and the town where Harriet Beecher Stowe witnessed a slave auction as a child. The next stop is Maysville, which was one of the most important stops for slave trafficking. Enslaved people were loaded off boats and marched down the Maysville-Lexington Turnpike and sold in the Lexington slave markets. From Maysville the tour ventures to Ripley, OH, called the Underground Railroad Capitol along the Ohio River. The group will tour the John and Jean Rankin House which stands high on a hill and helped guide freedom seekers crossing the river. The Rankins assisted hundreds of fugitives escape slavery. The tour will also visit the John Parker House, home to a man who bought his freedom and then put his life and the lives of his family in danger to help others escape, assisting them as they crossed the river. Finally, the tour will make a brief stop at Mount Pleasant by the Ohio River to see President Ulysses Grant's birthplace. Lunch is included in the registration fee. Sponsored by Ohio State University Department of History.

9 am – 5 pm

Dayton's Aviation History

Cost: \$85, Preregistration Required

Dayton, Ohio, is a crucial part of aviation history, being the birthplace of the first practical airplane and home to the Wright brothers, who invented and built the first airplane. Dayton boasts several museums honoring the Wright brothers and other aviation pioneers. This tour will include the National Museum of the Air Force, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and Carillon Historical Park. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

9 am – 12 pm

Walking Tour: Cincinnati's Brewing Heritage: Built on Beer

Cost: \$35, Preregistration Required

(Note: This tour is also offered on Wednesday, 1–5:30 pm)

Join the Executive Director of the Brewery District CURC on a guided tour of the Brewing Heritage Trail, a physical and digital historical trail located on the east side of the Brewery District in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. This trail features informational signage, brewing-themed art installations, trail markers, and an app that takes a deeper dive into the area's brewing history. Along the way, hear about many of the unique features of Over-the-Rhine, including its pre-Prohibition brewing structures, both above ground and below. Also visit the three-stories-deep underground lagering cellars of the Schmidt-Crown Brewery (originally excavated in the 1850s), discuss why there are so many of these types of structures in the neighborhood, and learn what The Brewery District CURC is doing to help preserve and share this unique history. The tour will conclude with time to explore Cincinnati's historic Findlay Market on your own. Limited to 20 participants.



EVENING EVENTS

Unless noted, these events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration desk for details. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold on site.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

6 – 9:30 pm

Cost: \$40, Preregistration Required



Visit the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center—a museum of conscience, education center, convener of dialogue, and beacon of light for inclusive freedom around the globe. Just steps from the historic banks of the Ohio River in downtown Cincinnati, enjoy spectacular city and riverfront views. Explore a range of exhibits that explore freedom and social justice—including the new *Faith & (in)Justice* and *In This Place* exhibitions. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar while networking with colleagues. The museum is walkable from the hotel, but transportation will be provided for anyone who prefers it. Sponsored by RLMG and the Taft Art Museum.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Cincinnati Museum Center

6:30 – 10 pm

Cost: \$65, Preregistration Required

Cincinnati's national historic landmark Union Terminal is the home of the city's most vibrant museums. Explore the Cincinnati History Museum to step back in time and experience the history of the Queen City, the Cincinnati Library & Archives that holds rare maps and documents, and the Museum of Natural History & Science, which offers a world of science and nature through interactive exhibits and amazing artifacts. Visit the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center to be inspired by local stories of resilience and survival and learn how to meet the moment and become an upstander today. Meet curators and archivists, engage in hands-on programming, and explore one of the most beautiful Art Deco buildings in the world. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available. Transportation provided. Sponsored by Visit Cincy and Solid Light.



Cincinnati Museum Center

CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER

EVENING EVENTS

Unless noted, these events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration desk for details. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold on site.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Choose Your Own Adventure 6:30 – 8 pm

Cost: \$50, Preregistration Required

Tonight's event is up to you. The Host Committee is offering two different experiences for you to choose the one that suits your interests. Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages are provided at each location.

American Sign Museum

What about a sign makes us pay attention to it? Come and see a collection that explores both the innovation and ingenuity of the signs that shape our culture. Hors d'oeuvres and transportation are included. The American Sign Museum promotes sign preservation and restoration by displaying nearly 100 years of signage. They preserve and protect American history and pay homage to the artistry and craftsmanship of days gone by. The museum opened in its new home in Camp Washington, an appropriately historic area of Cincinnati, at the century-old Oesterlein Machine Company-Fashion Frocks, Inc. Complex, in June 2012. In July of 2024, the museum opened an additional 20,000-square-foot area expanding the Main Street experience while also adding a theater, dedicated classroom space, and a gallery for temporary exhibits and 300-person events. The expansion solidifies the American Sign Museum as the largest and most diverse public sign museum in the country. Limited to 350 people. Sponsored by Flying Fish Exhibits.

Taft Museum of Art and Cincinnati Observatory *Sold Out*

This adventure will include two venues. You will start at the Taft between 6:30–7:30 pm and end at the Observatory between 7:30–8:30 pm. Within the galleries and beyond the walls, the Taft Museum of Art is a one-of-a-kind, multi-sensory experience that puts you at the center of art and history. Taft is a truly unique art museum, holding National Historic Landmark status for both its historic house and Duncanson murals. The Cincinnati Observatory is known as "The Birthplace of American Astronomy." It houses one of the oldest working telescopes in the world and was the first public observatory in the western hemisphere. The historic buildings are designated as a National Historic Landmark, and the grounds provide a serene, park-like setting while still being centrally located in the city of Cincinnati. Limited to 100 people. Sponsored by SmithGroup.



RYAN KURTZ

AASLH After Hours 8:30 – 11 pm

Cost: \$20, Preregistration Required

Join other AASLHers for this fun, new conference tradition! This informal event will include games, snacks, conversation, and karaoke. A cash bar will be available. You don't want to miss it! Sponsored by Fluxx.



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PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration desk for details. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold on site.

HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS

9 am – 12:30 pm

Catalyzing Curiosity: Building Experimental Spaces with Intention and Care

Room: Salon F–G

Cost: \$45, Preregistration Required

Curiosity is critical to experimentation for museum staff and audiences. Workshop attendees will explore the benefits and mechanics of catalyzing curiosity and creating safe spaces for experimentation. Participants will also learn techniques for inviting curiosity with audiences and explore lessons learned from building staff willingness and confidence to support a culture of curiosity.

Chair: Mariruth Leftwich, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA; Andrea Jones, Peak Experience Lab, Brentwood, MD; Sondra Reiersen, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, NE

Field Services Alliance Meeting

Room: Caprice 2

Cost: Free, Preregistration Required

The Field Services Alliance (FSA) is a professional network of individuals who, on a statewide or regional level, offer educational services to local historical organizations and others who practice history. Join us for the FSA annual meeting where we'll network, share updates on our programs, discuss trends we are seeing across the regions we serve, and plan topics for future trainings. Sponsored by Lyrasis.

Chair: Tamara Hemmerlein, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN

Trauma-Informed Leadership: Advancing the American Experiment

Room: Salon H–I

Cost: \$45, Preregistration Required

This workshop nurtures compassionate leadership rooted in emotional safety and resilience. Participants will explore how trauma-informed practices transform historical institutions into spaces of healing and growth for staff, visitors, and communities. Together, we'll reimagine leadership as a transformative journey that fosters trust, belonging, and collaboration in the ongoing American Experiment.

Chair: Richard Josey, Collective Journeys, LLC, Newport News, VA

FULL DAY WORKSHOP

9 am – 5 pm

Cracking the Code: The Secret to Fundraising Success

Room: Caprice 1

Cost: \$95, Preregistration Required

In this workshop, participants will unlock the mysteries of successful fundraising. Discover keys to relationship-building, creating achievable goals, and boosting efficiency in your donor programs. Through hands-on activities, group discussions, and expert insights, you'll crack the code on fundraising challenges and inspire individual giving. Revolutionize your approach and leave with a personalized roadmap to success! Lunch is included.

Chair: Melissa Prycer, Prycer Consulting, Dallas, TX; Jamie Simek, The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, IN



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PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration desk for details. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold on site.

HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS

1:30 – 5 pm

The Case for Belonging: America at 250

Room: Salon H–I

Cost: \$45, **Preregistration Required**

What if we centered humanity, empathy, connection, and belonging in America's 250th commemorations? How might the field engage with our complex American past and present—focusing on trauma, healing, and mourning? In this workshop, participants will engage in facilitated discussions tackling these big questions. Take a leap into the dark with us.

Chair: Cameron Walpole, *President Lincoln's Cottage, Washington, DC*; Dina Bailey, *Mountain Top Vision Organizational Consulting, Atlanta, GA*; Callie Hawkins, *President Lincoln's Cottage, Washington, DC*

Disaster Planning, Response, Recovery: Essential Information for Institutions Large and Small

Room: Caprice 2

Cost: \$45, **Preregistration Required**



Whether this is your first time in a disaster preparation, response, and recovery workshop or you are just looking for a refresher, this is the workshop for you. The workshop will cover aspects of disaster planning, response, and recovery, including available tools—practical, digital, and even A.I.—what you might need in an emergency kit (if you don't already have one), and what kind of documentation might be useful to keep.

Chair: Holly Witche, *ICA-Art Conservation, Cleveland, OH*

History Leadership Institute Forum

Cost: \$45, **Preregistration Required**

Room: Julep

This interactive workshop will help participants explore how they can be more effective leaders, no matter what their role with a history organization is. Through facilitated discussions and activities, this workshop will offer both inspiration and practical tools to lead with clarity, purpose, and confidence. Whether you're managing teams, shaping programs, or influencing policy, this workshop will help you sharpen your leadership skills and expand your impact.

Chair: Andrea Jones, *Peak Experience Lab, Brentwood, MD*

Using the Educating for American Democracy Roadmap to Interpret the American Experiment

Workshop, Room: Salon F–G

Cost: \$45, **Preregistration Required**

This hands-on workshop equips participants with tools from the Educating for American Democracy (EAD) framework to design history and civic content and programs addressing the complexities of the American Experiment. Participants will leave with actionable strategies for fostering inclusive civic dialogue and preparing for the anniversary of U.S. independence.

Chair: Sarah Jencks, *Every Museum a Civic Museum, Washington, DC*; Tess Benoit, *History Co:Lab, Winston-Salem, NC*; Brandi Burns, *Utah Historical Society, Millcreek, UT*; Heather Nice, *Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, VA*

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Affinity Happy Hours

Cost: Free (food, drink, and transportation not included)

Join some of AASLH's Affinity Groups at a local establishment for informal networking.

History Leadership Institute Reception

Cost: \$10, **Preregistration Required**

Room: Continental Ballroom

Join the History Leadership Institute for an evening reception! Connect with program alumni, facilitators, and history professionals to learn about the premier professional development program for the field's emerging leaders. This gathering is also an opportunity to meet and celebrate this year's cohort. Ticket includes light appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will be available. Sponsored by Lucidea.

Women's History Meet Up

Room: The Lounge at 1931

Cost: Free, **Preregistration Not Required**

AASLH's Women's History Affinity Community will gather to network and connect. Attendees are responsible for their own food and drink. We look forward to seeing you there!

6 – 9:30 pm

Evening Event: National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Cost: \$40, **Preregistration Required**

See page 16 for details.

2025 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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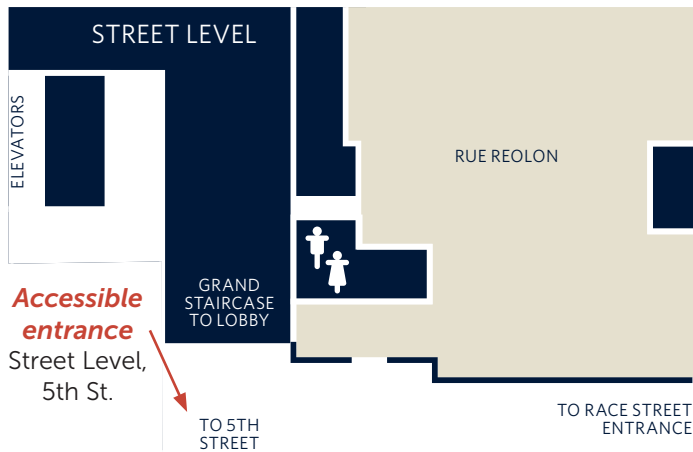
NETWORKING



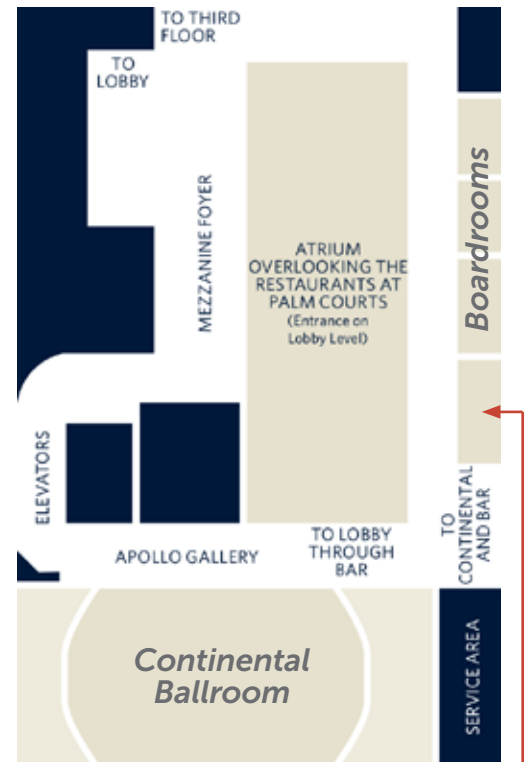
HILTON FLOOR PLAN

Concurrent Sessions will be held at the Hilton

Street Level

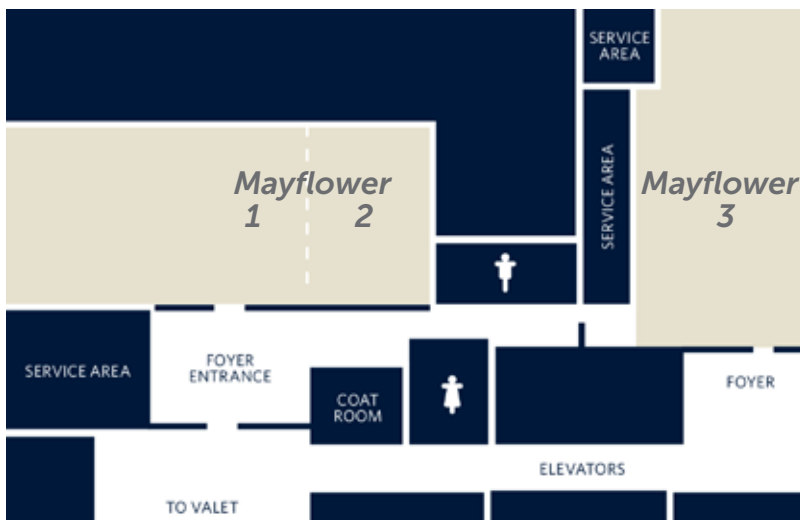


Mezzanine Level



Nursing Mother's Room:
Boardroom IV

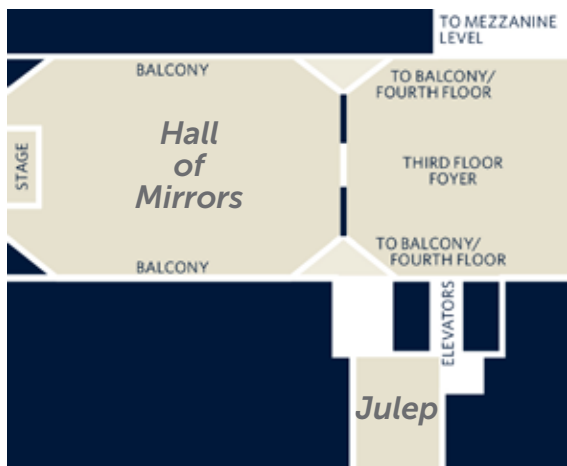
Lower Level



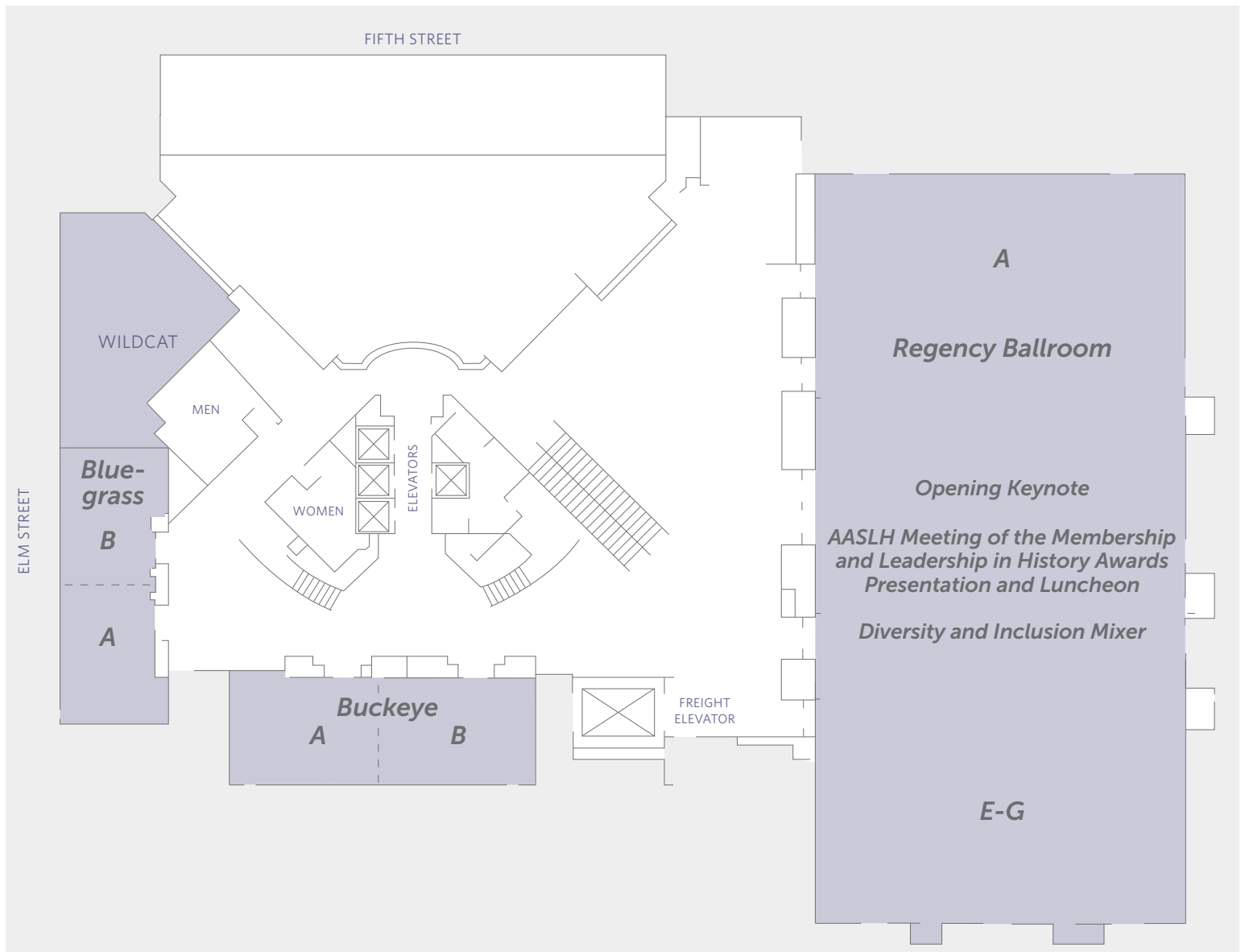
Fourth Floor



Third Floor



HYATT FLOOR PLAN - THIRD FLOOR



Gender-neutral bathroom on Floor 2.

PARKING

- Hyatt Regency Cincinnati offers valet parking only. The cost is \$25 for 0-8 hours and \$49 for 8-24 hours.
- Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza offers valet and self-parking. Self-parking is \$35 per day. Valet parking is \$49 per day.
- Additional parking is available at the Fountain Square Garage, (\$30 per 24 hours), Newport on the Levee (\$10 for 24 hours), or surface lots at Sawyer Point and Eggleston Avenue.

AT THE HYATT REGENCY

- Keynote on Thursday
- Diversity and Inclusion Mixer on Thursday
- STEPS Breakfast on Friday
- AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards Presentation and Luncheon on Friday
- Working Groups on Friday and Saturday
- CEO Forum on Saturday

EXHIBIT HALL Room: Hall of Mirrors, Hilton

The Exhibit Hall is the place to be during #AASLH2025! Don't miss your chance to meet with vendors and suppliers, network with colleagues, and check out the latest technology and services being offered. Refreshments will be available during scheduled breaks, in addition to other happenings.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

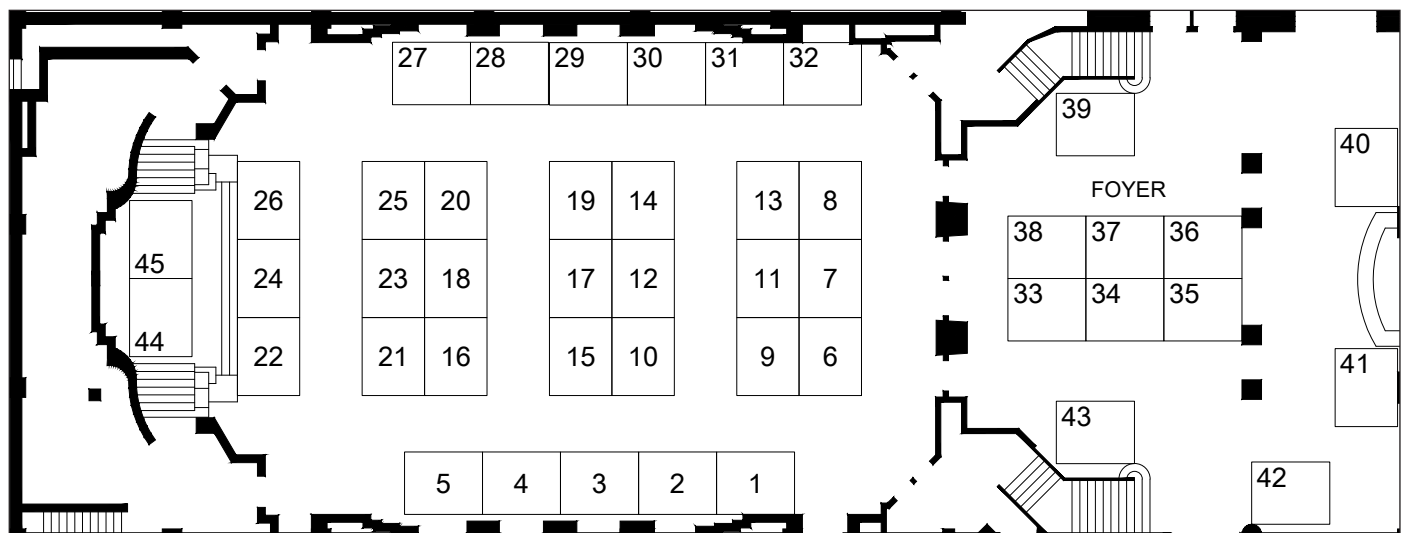
9:45 – 10:45 am	• Opening Reception in Exhibit Hall
3:15 – 4:15 pm	• Break in Exhibit Hall • Meet Your 250th State Commission in the Pavilion Ballroom

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

9:45 – 10:45 am	• Break in the Exhibit Hall • NCPH Poster Session in Pavilion Ballroom
3:30 – 4:15 pm	• Closing Reception in Exhibit Hall

Exhibitor	Booth #
American Battlefield Trust	3
ARS Video	33
Art Display Essentials, a 10-31 Company	41
Bloomsbury Academic	11 & 13
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Cat's Meow Village	26
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Exhibitor	Booth #
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Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Smithsonian Affiliations (SITES)	36
SmithGroup	24
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Spacesaver Corporation	2
Split Rock Studios	8
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Vernon Systems	19
Winikur Productions	20
Wipiak Appraisals and Meander Auctions	45
Zone Display Cases	43



EXHIBITORS

American Battlefield Trust

Booth 3

Faith Lauter

flauter@battlefields.org

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 60,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War across 160 sites in 25 states. Learn more at www.battlefields.org.

ARS Video

Booth 33

Lorin Alvarez

lorin@arsvideo.com

Digitize Archives is a specialty audio-visual digitization division of ARS Video Inc., a media conversion company founded in 1987. ARS Video has earned a reputation as a trusted leader in the field of video, film, audio, photo, slide and negative digitization for countless libraries, universities, museums, historical societies, government agencies and more—converting “analog” media into high-quality digital formats. Digitize Archives focuses on providing high-quality digitization for each client's specific requirements.

Art Display Essentials, a 10-31 Company

Booth 41

William Stender

wstender@10-31.com

Art Display Essentials, a 10-31 Company, has created a suite of products that are useful for museums and fabrication companies. Our barrier and queueing solutions, along with our sleek signage options, offer your visitors precise direction without distracting from the atmosphere of the artwork. We are proud to present our quality Q-Cord Barrier lines, MuseumRails, MuseumSigns, display case selections, and more. Visit www.10-31.com.

Bloomsbury Academic

Booths 11 & 13

Amanda Oney

amanda.oney@bloomsbury.com

Bloomsbury Academic is a division of Bloomsbury Publishing, focused on publishing high-quality, original works in the humanities, social sciences, law, business, and management for students, researchers, and independent thinkers. They offer both traditional and open access publishing options and have a strong digital presence, including online research and learning resources.

CatalogIt

Booth 38

Dan Rael

dan@catalogit.app

CatalogIt is a powerful, secure, and modern collections management system for all types of collections. As a cost-effective, full-featured, and easy-to-use cloud-based CMS, CatalogIt reduces administrative costs and enables your organization's staff and volunteers to collaborate simultaneously on mobile and desktop devices. Seamlessly manage objects and workflows from any device, anywhere, anytime using our mobile and web-based apps. Easily publish your collections online to tell your stories and connect with your community and the world!

Cat's Meow Village

Booth 26

Emily Pajak-Stenger

emily@catsmeow.com

Tiny Architecture, Big Story!

As you know, every state has cities and towns with architectural stories to tell. Each landmark holds special memories from when it was constructed, to the people who enjoy the space, and eventually revitalization. We're the storytellers capturing the special moments through our detailed custom wooden replicas, ornaments, and stickers. PURRfect for fundraising, celebrating milestones, and honoring community members. Stop by the Village and learn how our artists can support your goals. See a video: catsmeow.com/wholesale (Made in the USA, Woman-Owned, Small Business Celebrating 43 years!)

Collector Systems

Booth 10

Eric Kahan

ekahan@collectorsystems.com

Collector Systems revolutionizes collections management for museums, libraries, archivists, historic homes, and foundations. Our powerful, cloud-based platform handles art, archives, history, archaeology, ethnology, biology, geology, and paleontology with ease. Manage your collection anywhere with the iOS/Android app—featuring condition reporting, location updates, and barcode/QR scanning. New tools include lighting, advanced conservation, framing, and digital signatures. With our WordPress and Drupal themes, your online presence shines. Collector Systems works for you—never the other way around.

Courtney B. Wilson & Associates

Booth 27

Courtney B. Wilson

cbwconsulting1@gmail.com

Courtney B. Wilson & Associates, LLC is a national consulting firm led by President and CEO Courtney B. Wilson, who brings four decades of museum leadership and nonprofit administration experience. Specializing in strategic planning, opportunity assessment, collections management, governance, visitor experience studies, disaster planning, fundraising guidance, object identification and appraisals, the firm supports museums, historical societies, cultural attractions, and small nonprofit organizations with tailored, expert services to enhance effectiveness, revenue, and mission impact.

CyArk

Booth 7

Elizabeth Lee

elizabeth.lee@cyark.org

CyArk helps reach and engage new audiences with stories that celebrate our cultural heritage. We develop virtual experiences for **web and mobile** with our platform Tapestry as well as immersive experiences for a variety of virtual reality platforms.

Delta Design

Booth 34

Virgilio Capote

vcapote@deltadesignsltd.com

Delta Design Ltd is a global leader in the design, supply, and installation of high-density mobile and static storage systems. As part of the Bruynzeel Storage Group, we bring over 70 years of combined expertise to clients across museums, libraries, archives, laboratories, and commercial sectors. We specialize in maximizing space while safeguarding the integrity of collections, equipment, and materials. Our solutions are tailored, efficient, and built to the highest standards of durability, design, and sustainability. Whether optimizing a single room or outfitting an entire facility, Delta Design delivers future-ready storage systems backed by global support and innovation.

EXHIBITORS

Donning Company Publishers

Booth 16

Nate Salgado

nathan.salgado@walsworth.com

Donning Company Publishers offers research, editing, design, printing, binding, and shipping services to nonprofit and for-profit organizations. We can locate authors or work with those chosen by our customers. For more information, please contact us at: nathan.salgado@donning.com, phone: 660-734-4208 or at: john.beardall@donning.com, phone: 913-562-8778. You may also visit our website, www.donning.com.

Dorfman Museum Figures

Booth 14

Tim Clifton

tim@museumfigures.com

Dorfman Museum Figures features a broad line of artifact appropriate conservation forms for display and storage of historic costumes, dresses, uniforms, and other clothing. They are made from Ethafoam® brand inert polyethylene foam. We also specialize in the creation of dynamic, life-sized realistic figures. Beyond our standard forms and figures, we also build unique customized bodies in both archival, and non-archival materials. See our website for more details: www.museumfigures.com

Exhibit Concepts

Booth 35

Alex Tittle

atittle@exhibitconcepts.com

With thoughtful design and strong partnerships, Exhibit Concepts excels in message-driven communication, interpretive planning, and producing impactful experiences. From next-generation digital solutions to award-winning designs and world-class craftsmanship, Exhibit Concepts take pride in transforming visitor journeys, capturing attention, and leaving a lasting legacy.

ExhibitsUSA

Booth 22

Amanda Wiltse

amanda@maaa.org

ExhibitsUSA (EUSA) is a traveling exhibition program managed by Mid-America Arts Alliance, a nonprofit regional arts organization based in the heartland. Our mission is to strengthen and support artists, cultural organizations, and communities throughout the region and beyond. ExhibitsUSA exhibitions create access to an array of arts and humanities experiences, nurture the understanding of diverse cultures and art forms, and encourage the expanding depth and breadth of cultural life in local communities.

FireWatch Design

Booth 44

Monica Ratliff

monica@firewatchdesign.com

FireWatch is a blend of non-traditionalists, global thinkers and experienced experts that focus not just on the physical builds but on the whole process, holistically crafting worldclass design solutions that invoke a sense of empowerment for our clients all while providing their audiences with seamless, almost magic-like results. FireWatch Design is a leading global experiential firm, headquartered in Dayton, Ohio, with a vibrant office in Shanghai, China. With a passion for innovation and creativity, we specialize in designing, building, and implementing complex space and technology solutions for a diverse range of industries, including museums, hospitality, athletics, education, and beyond.

Fluxx

Booth 5

Danielle Jimison

danielle.jimison@fluxxlabs.com

Fluxx is the industry-leading cloud-first grants management software solution. Purpose-built by grantmakers for grantmaking, Fluxx is women-led, values-driven, and a Pledge 1% member organization.

Flying Fish

Booth 31

Anna Clark

anna@flyingfishexhibits.com

At Flying Fish, we believe exhibitions can do more—challenging ideas, connecting communities, and expanding the reach of great institutions. For over a decade, we've partnered with leading museums and science centers to produce and tour content-rich, scalable exhibitions for audiences worldwide. From deep sea to deep space, our work has reached over twelve million visitors across five continents. We offer end-to-end services, ensuring every exhibition is authentic, impactful, and built for longevity.

Hollinger Metal Edge

Booth 9

Abby Shaw

abbyawhaw@me.com

Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc. has been the leading supplier of archival storage products for museums, government and institutional archives, historical societies, libraries, universities, conservators, galleries and private collectors for over 65 years. We offer a wide variety of archival box styles as well as interleaving, envelopes, mylar sleeves, folders, etc. We also provide

equipment and furnishing such as a wide selection of exhibit cases and accessories, shelving, vacuums, and flat files. Please contact us with questions or for custom requests.

Jeanette Watts

Booth 17

Jeanette Watts

jeanetteamlwatts@gmail.com

Jeanette Watts's fully immersive workshops, balls, and other events are the answer to museums looking for new ways to get people inside their doors. Always in full costume, she teaches historical dances to fourth graders on school days and adults at evening galas. Her costume lectures at festivals, museums and tea parties explain the mysteries of bustles, corsets, and stomachers as the audience gets her dressed. Stop by for tea and a biscuit and tell her about your next project!

Lucidea

Booth 6

Christine Reynolds

creynolds@lucidea.com

Lucidea provides unrivaled collections management applications to heritage institutions, with a portfolio of innovative archives and museum software purpose-built based on observing and working with clients for over 25 years. They enthusiastically support museums, galleries, and archives of all sizes, budgets, and collection types, with innovative tools based on best practices. Lucidea's ArchivEra and Argus CMS platforms enable archivists and museum professionals to create cultural communities, and leverage the web to delight and educate visitors.

MBA Design

Booth 15

John Peterson

jpeterson@mba-usa.com

mila-wall®—modular wall panel system ideal for changing exhibition spaces, multi-purpose areas and traveling exhibits. mila-wall®—flexible design, easy installation, efficient storage options. MBA offers a cost effective and sustainable panel solution.

Museum EXP

Booth 40

John Shaw

john@museumexp.com

Museum EXP is an extension of your museum's exhibits department. Having worked in museums ourselves, we bring decades of experience in museum exhibit development, interpretive planning, project management, and traveling exhibitions.

EXHIBITORS

Museum Pros

Booth 25

Michelle Reid

michelle@museumproslc.org

Museum Pros turns imagination into impact. We create stunning, custom exhibits that make the most of every inch and every dollar—perfect for small spaces and tight budgets. From content development and design to fabrication and installation, we offer complete exhibit solutions.

Want to keep things fresh? Our growing fleet of traveling exhibits enhances your storytelling and keeps visitors coming back for more. Big or small, we bring your vision to life.

National Association for Interpretation

Booth 30

Heather Manier

heather@nai-us.org

Interpreters connect visitors to important natural, cultural, and historical resources at parks, nature centers, historical sites, aquariums, zoos, and anywhere that people come to learn about places. The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) is a professional organization dedicated to supporting interpreters with resources for continuing education, professional development, and industry-recognized certifications. With a national network of cultural, natural, and historical interpreters, NAI offers a comprehensive range of membership benefits designed to enhance career growth and foster meaningful connections.

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)

Booth 21

Tahe Zalal

tzalal@nedcc.org

Founded in 1973, NEDCC was the first independent conservation laboratory in the nation to specialize exclusively in treating collections made of paper or parchment, such as works of art, photographs, books, documents, maps, and manuscripts. Today, the Center offers conservation treatment, digital imaging, and audio preservation services, as well as preservation training, assessments and consultations, and disaster advice on collections.

PBS

Booth 37

Tara Hunter

tafranchishunter@pbs.org

PBS and our member stations are America's largest classroom, the nation's largest stage for the arts, and a trusted window to the world.

Recollect

Booth 32

Renee Smith

renee.smith@recollectcms.com

Discover the limitless potential of your organization, where museums, archives, and libraries come together in unique combinations to safeguard our shared heritage. Whether your collections live in digital folders, display cases, storage boxes, or on library shelves, we're here to help you preserve, manage, and share your stories. No matter your blend of history-keepers, our flexible solutions ensure every artifact, document, and book finds its voice—connecting your legacy with new audiences and future generations.

Reedy Press

Booth 28

Josh Stevens

jstevens@reedypress.com

Reedy Press publishes regional books on a variety of subjects including history, sports, food, neighborhoods, notable events, destinations, and curiosities, among other topics. We publish, market, and distribute more than 60 titles annually and also co-publish works with institutions and organizations, often to commemorate milestones and to accompany programming. From softcover books to hardcover coffee-table volumes, we capture topics in a dynamic way that illuminates and entertains.

Riggs Ward Design

Booth 23

Alana Wiljanen

awiljanen@riggsward.com

RWD is an interdisciplinary studio inspiring visitor engagement in museums and cultural centers through experiential exhibit design, interactive media, innovative graphic design, and strategic master plans. With over 27 years of experience, our team works with some of the most respected and revered organizations in the world, while also supporting new and emerging organizations. Our team of graphic designers, historians, planners, multimedia developers, architects, and artists continue to innovate and inspire across the field."

RLMG

Booth 18

Sara Smith

sara@rlmg.com

RLMG is a Boston-based digital design studio dedicated to story-driven, interactive, dynamic, immersive, and educational experiences for history museums and public spaces. We

make stories relevant and compelling to contemporary audiences through immersive, highly integrated, and interactive installations, transforming content into meaning and memory. We live for the opportunity to engage with passionate people and organizations to help them tell their stories in ways that they and their visitors could never have imagined. www.rlmg.com

Roto

Booth 39

Rachel Escusa

rescusa@roto.com

Roto is a premier experience design and production firm serving the museum, aquarium, zoo, and attraction markets. Organized into a dynamic network of multidisciplinary design and technology studios, we thrive on creating bespoke environments that foster genuine human connections through creativity, science, nature, play, and multisensory immersion.

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Smithsonian Affiliations (SITES)

Booth 36

Ed Liskey

liskeye@si.edu

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service | Smithsonian Affiliations (SITES|Affiliations) strengthens connections between the Smithsonian and museum and cultural organizations—and their communities and audiences everywhere—inspiring a deeper understanding of our world and how it can be changed for the better.

SmithGroup

Booth 24

Rodrigo Manriquez

Rodrigo.manriquez@smithgroup.com

SmithGroup's Cultural team comprises a dedicated group of architects, planners, engineers, and historic preservation specialists that focus exclusively on creating custom design solutions for museums and cultural institutions. We bring time-tested experience, award-winning talent, and the knowledge to navigate the contemporary challenges of cultural institutions. Our design experts are recognized by leading authorities annually, including ranking among the largest museum and gallery A/E firms in the Building Design + Construction annual Giants 400 Report.

EXHIBITORS

Solid Light

Booth 4

Halle Chapman

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Solid Light is a nationally recognized design-build firm with 26 years of experience creating unforgettable, media-rich environments that elevate the visitor experience. We transform ideas into impactful realities through seamless collaboration, strategic planning, and integrated storytelling. From concept to completion, our team unites design, media, and fabrication under one roof—anticipating challenges, aligning goals, and delivering on time and on budget with transparency, passion, and precision.

Spacesaver Corporation

Booth 2

Connor O'Brien

cobrien@spacesaver.com

Protect the past and prepare for the future with Spacesaver's museum cabinets, art screens, compactors, shelving, and more. Our engineers and project managers team up with your local distributor to provide design assistance, installation, and maintenance for any museum, large or small. Contact us to arrange a free on-site consultation.

Split Rock Studios

Booth 8

James Tordoff

jtordoff@splitrockstudios.com

Split Rock Studios is an award-winning, employee-owned exhibit design and build firm based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. With 25 years of experience, our in-house team of 40+ museum professionals specializes in creating custom cultural and natural history exhibits for museums, interpretive centers, historic sites, and more. From kickoff to installation, our expert project managers, designers, artists, and craftspeople are here to guide you through every aspect of your project with enthusiasm and a passion for storytelling!

Terentia

Booth 1

Neal Bilow

Neal.bilow@terentia.io

Empowering cultural institutions. Terentia is the next-generation platform to manage collections, organize and preserve digital assets, and tell compelling stories. Purpose-built for the GLAMP sector, our cloud-native solution integrates digital asset management (DAM), collections management, and

collections engagement into a flexible, user-friendly interface, powered by Microsoft Azure. Discover a more innovative way to streamline workflows and connect with diverse audiences.

TimeLooper

Booth 29

Yigit Yigiter

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TimeLooper is a pioneering interpretive experience design firm committed to enriching the interaction between cultural institutions and the modern visitor. Through the innovative application of cutting-edge technologies—including geographic information systems (GIS) mapping, holographic imaging, and 3-D scanning—TimeLooper assists in the creation of stunning, unforgettable virtual and augmented reality-based immersive learning experiences.

Tour-Mate Systems

Booth 42

Aaron Cincinatus

acincinatus@tourmate.com

Tour-Mate is one of North America's leading providers of audio and multimedia interpretive platforms. From hand held audio and multimedia to mobile applications to eco-friendly outdoor stationary platforms. Tour-Mate is your one stop shop for interpretive hardware and content creation services

University of Nebraska Kearney Public History

Booth 12

Will Stoutamire

stoutamirewf@unk.edu

The University of Nebraska at Kearney's (UNK) Public History MA program provides you with an opportunity to pursue your love of state and local history from anywhere. This 36-credit hour, fully online program brings together students from across the country and in various stages of their careers. UNK offers small class sizes, one-on-one advising with full-time faculty, and plenty of opportunities for community engagement. The program can be completed with either a thesis or project.

Vernon Systems

Booth 19

Alex Von Der Becke

alex@vernonsystems.com

Vernon Systems was founded in 1985 and only develops software for museums, historical societies, and collectors. The two systems we have

developed are: eHive, a simple and low-cost CMS and web publishing tool. And Vernon – a more advanced, Windows-based CMS with lots of bulk tools and customisable searches and reports. We pride ourselves on delivering excellent customer support and are committed to ongoing development, often shaped by the needs of our worldwide users.

Winikur Productions

Booth 20

Ken Winikur

ken@winikurproductions.com

Winikur Productions is a full-service media production company rooted in documentary filmmaking. We craft experiences designed to engage hearts and minds: from linear films and audio environments to interactive and immersive media. Our work spans subjects from cultural history to the arts, sciences, sports, and education. We partner with our clients to ensure that we tell the story right and honor the subject, knowing that our work reflects on us, our clients, and our process.

Wipiak Appraisals and Meander Auctions

Booth 45

Andrew Richmond

Asmr74@gmail.com

Together, sister companies Wipiak Appraisals and Meander Auctions provide a wide range of services that include donation and insurance appraisals, collections consulting and advising, well as auction sales to and for private collectors and museums. Our decades of experience in all segments of the marketplace allow us to meet the needs of our clients, from valuation to acquisition to deaccessioning. With clients from coast to coast, we can meet you where you are and your market needs whatever they may be.

Zone Display Cases

Booth 43

Stephanie Bilodeau

steph@zonedisplaycases.com

Zone Display Cases, based in Canada, designs and manufactures high-quality museum glass display cases. We deliver and install across North America, offering fully customizable solutions that meet strict conservation and design requirements. Our mission is to present, preserve, and protect your artifacts beautifully and unobtrusively, while adhering to your specific budget and timeline.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FULL DAY TOURS

- 8:30 am – 5:30 pm**
- Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks World Heritage Site Tour, Cost: \$85
 - Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, Cost: \$110

- 8:30 am – 5:30 pm**
- Horses and Bourbon, Cost: \$90

MORNING WORKSHOPS

- 9 am – 12:30 pm**
- Catalyzing Curiosity: Building Experimental Spaces with Intention and Care, Cost: \$45, *Salon F–G*
 - Field Services Alliance Meeting, Cost: Free, *Caprice 2*
 - Trauma-Informed Leadership: Advancing the American Experiment, Cost: \$45, *Salon H–I*

FULL DAY WORKSHOP

- 9 am – 5 pm**
- Cracking the Code: The Secret to Fundraising Success, Cost: \$95, *Caprice 1*

EVENING EVENTS

- 5:30 – 6:30 pm**
- History Leadership Institute Reception, Cost: \$10, *Continental Ballroom*

- 6 – 9:30 pm**
- Evening Event: National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cost: \$40

AFTERNOON TOURS

- 1–5 pm**
- Harriet Beecher Stowe House Restoration and Its Neighborhood, Cost: \$45

- 1–5:30 pm**
- Walking Tour: Cincinnati's Brewing Heritage: Built on Beer, Cost: \$35

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

- 1:30 – 5 pm**
- The Case for Belonging: America at 250, Cost: \$45, *Salon H–I*
 - Disaster Planning, Response, Recovery: Essential Information for Institutions Large and Small, Cost: \$45, *Caprice 2*
 - Leadership (HLI) Forum, Cost: \$45, *Julep*
 - Using the Educating for American Democracy Roadmap to Interpret the American Experiment, Cost: \$45, *Salon F–G*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

MORNING TOUR

- 7–9 am**
- Walking Tour: African American History Along the Ohio River, Cost: \$25

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 8:30 – 9:45 am**
- 11th Agent of Deterioration, *Caprice 1*
 - Archives to Classrooms: Primary Sources for Young Readers, *Continental Ballroom*
 - Becoming an Indigenous Ally Museum, *Rosewood*
 - Congress's 40-Year Experiment with National Heritage Areas, *Caprice 2*
 - Local Advocacy Strategies for History Organizations, *Salon D–E*
 - If History is Hot, Why Are Museum Admissions Declining?, *Salon H–I*
 - Museums on Call: A Healthcare Innovation, *Rookwood*
 - Rethink and Revive: Finding New Stories with Your Same Collection, *Mayflower 1*
 - Yes, It Happened Here, *Salon F–G*

RECEPTIONS AND NETWORKING

- 9:45 am – 10:45 am**
- Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall, Cost: Free, *Hall of Mirrors*
 - First-time Attendee and New Member Networking Reception, Cost: Free, *Pavilion Ballroom*

OPENING KEYNOTE

- 11 am – 12:15 pm**
- Don Wildman, *Regency Ballroom, Hyatt*

AFFINITY GROUP LUNCHEONS

- 12:30 – 1:45 pm**
- Historic House Museums, Cost: \$55, *Continental Ballroom*
 - Small Museums/Climate and Sustainability Joint Luncheon, Cost: \$55, *Pavilion Ballroom*

AFTERNOON TOURS

- 1:30 – 5:30 pm**
- Jewish Cincinnati, Cost: \$45
 - Walking Tour: Small Museums and Archives of Downtown Cincinnati, Cost: \$30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 2–3:15 pm**
- A Collaborative Approach for Sharing Black Midwestern Stories, *Mayflower 1*
 - Commemorating the 250th in a Red State: Doing Whole History with Local Communities, *Rookwood*
 - Creating Safer Workplaces, *Salon H–I*
 - Creating Together: Community Engagement in Exhibition Development, *Caprice 2*
 - Let's Engage and Collaborate: Building a Teacher Network, *Salon B–C*
 - Making Sense of Numbers: Storytelling and Finance at Historic Sites, *Salon D–E*
 - National Register of Historic Places Nominations 201: Challenges, Obstacles, and Opportunities, *Salon F–G*
 - Public History and Christian Communities: Reckoning with Shared Authority, *Julep*
 - Sharing LGBTQ+ Stories Through Historical Markers and Monuments, *Rosewood*
 - Writing and Editing Excellent Museum Exhibition Label Copy, *Caprice 1*

NETWORKING AND RECEPTION

- 3:15 – 4:15 pm**
- Break in Exhibit Hall, *Hall of Mirrors*
 - Meet Your 250 State Commission, *Pavilion Ballroom*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 4:15 – 5:30 pm**
- Bridging the Gap: Museums, Classrooms, & Authentic Storytelling, *Mayflower 1*
 - Colorado Heritage For All, *Caprice 2*
 - Exhibitions 101, *Salon B–C*
 - Finding Our Collective Courage: Dialogue, Museums, and Democracy, *Caprice 1*
 - How to Expand Equity and Work-Life Balance Through a Four-Day Work Week, *Salon F–G*
 - Made By Us Meet-Up, *Bluegrass A–B*
 - (Re)designing Volunteer Programs for the Future, *Salon H–I*
 - Revving Up Engagement, *Rookwood*
 - Values Matter: Building Shared Purpose in Chaotic Times, *Rosewood*
 - We F***ed Up: Chocolate at Old North Church, *Salon D–E*

EVENING EVENTS

- 5:30 – 6:30 pm**
- Diversity and Inclusion Mixer, Cost: Free, *Regency Ballroom, Hyatt*
 - Ohio Local History Alliance Business Meeting, Cost: Free, *Julep*

- 6:30 – 10 pm**
- Evening Event: Cincinnati Museum Center, Cost: \$65

MORNING TOURS

- 7 – 8:30 am** • Walking Tour: Downtown Cincinnati, Cost: \$25
- 8:30 am – 12 pm** • Behind the Scenes at Cincinnati Museum Center Collections and Research Center, Cost: \$35
- Over-the-Rhine Walking Tour, Cost: \$30

BREAKFAST SESSION

- 8 – 9:30 am** • STEPS Session and Breakfast, Cost: \$29, *Bluegrass A, Hyatt*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 8:30 – 9:45 am**
- AASLH Membership Committee Meeting, *Julep*
 - Behind the Scenes: An Experiment of Enslaved Interpretation in the North, *Caprice 2*
 - The Biggest Little Experiment: Embracing Young Audiences in Museums, *Salon B–C*
 - Bite-Sizes and Baselines: Community-Based Work at Different Stages, *Caprice 1*
 - Giving Voice Through Historic Records, *Salon D–E*
 - Grief and Remembrance at Museums and Historic Sites, *Salon H–I*
 - Hard Choices: Redefining Your Museum's Legacy Through Deaccessions, *Mayflower 1*
 - Museum Leadership in a Time of Change, *Continental Ballroom*
 - Nature as Living History: Expand Your Museum Outdoors, *Salon F–G*
 - Policy Potluck: Cooking Up Plans for Small Museums, *Rookwood*
 - Revolutionary Spaces: Building a Culturally Responsible Museum in THIS America, *SESSION CANCELED*

NETWORKING AND POSTER SESSION

- 9:45 – 10:45 am**
- Break in Exhibit Hall, *Hall of Mirrors*
 - NCPH Poster Session, *Pavilion Ballroom*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 11 am – 12:15 pm**
- Exploring Visitor Understandings of Enslavement, *Salon B–C*
 - From Exclusion to Belonging: The Future of DEAI, *Rookwood*
 - FSA Tips: Real Talk About Burnout, *Continental Ballroom*
 - How Many Spinning Wheels Do You Really Need? *Salon F–G*
 - Leading Change in Historic Times, *Caprice 2*
 - Making History Resonate, or Hiding Spinach in Brownies *Mayflower 1*
 - Meaningful Collaborations with American Indian Tribes, *Caprice 1*
 - Partnering with PBS: Ken Burns's THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, *Caprice 2*
 - Program Evaluation: Why? When? How? YES!, *Salon H–I*
 - Shared Risk, Shared Strategy: Developing Climate Resilience Together, *Rosewood*
 - Small Museums Committee Meeting, *Julep*
 - What Would You Do When Faced with an Ethical Dilemma?, *Salon D–E*

HYATT

Wi-fi Network: HYATT-MEETING
Passcode: America250OHIO

HILTON

Wi-fi Network: AASLH
Passcode: America250OHIO

AASLH LUNCHEON

- 12:30 – 2 pm** • AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards Presentation and Luncheon, Cost: \$25, *Regency Ballroom, Hyatt*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 2:15 – 3:30 pm**
- Connecting a Region Through a Scalable Panel Exhibition, *Salon F–G*
 - Engagement Over Content: Field Trips That Develop Historical Thinking Skills and Pride of Place, *Caprice 1*
 - Get Future Ready with Youth250: A Live Consultation with the Next Generation, *Mayflower 1*
 - History: Essential, Urgent, Present, and Future, *Continental Ballroom*
 - Increasing Access Through Museums for All, *Caprice 2*
 - New Museums in a New Era, *Rosewood*
 - Playing with the Past: Reframing Typical Collections Interactions, *Rookwood*
 - Unearthing History from the Ashes, *Salon D–E*
 - When Preservation and Interpretation Disagree, *Salon H–I*

WORKING GROUPS

- 2:15 – 4:15 pm**
- Interpreting Historic House Museums Today, *Bluegrass A–B, Hyatt*
 - Salaries, Demographics, and Perspectives of the Public History Workforce, *Buckeye A–B, Hyatt*
 - Underground and Punk Archives in Local Communities, *Salon B–C*

RECEPTION AND NETWORKING

- 3:30 – 4:15 pm** • Closing Reception in Exhibit Hall, *Hall of Mirrors*

PLENARY SESSION

- 4:30 – 6 pm** • Plenary Session: Stronger Together: New Experiments from the Creative Economy, *Pavilion Ballroom*

EVENING EVENTS

- 5:30 – 6:30 pm** • Women's History Meet Up, *The Lounge at 1931*
- 6:30 – 8 pm** • Choose Your Own Adventure, Cost: \$50
- 8:30 – 11 pm** • AASLH After Hours, Cost: \$20, *Continental Ballroom*

HILTON CINCINNATI NETHERLAND PLAZA

- Registration Desk
- Exhibit Hall
- Concurrent Sessions
- Historic House Museum and Small Museum/Climate and Sustainability Luncheons
- History Leadership Institute Reception
- Closing Plenary
- AASLH After Hours

HYATT REGENCY CINCINNATI

- Opening Keynote
- Diversity and Inclusion Mixer
- AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards Presentation and Luncheon
- STEPS Breakfast
- Working Groups

FORUM

8 am–1 pm • CEO Forum: Political Pressures, In and Out, Cost: \$195, *Buckeye A, Hyatt*

WORKING GROUP

8:30 am–10:30 am • Building Humane Leadership and Work Cultures, *Buckeye B, Hyatt*

FULL DAY TOURS

8:30 am–5:30 pm • The Underground Railroad Along the Ohio River, Cost: \$90

9 am–5 pm • Dayton's Aviation History, Cost: \$85

MORNING TOUR

9 am–12 pm • Walking Tour: Cincinnati's Brewing Heritage: Built on Beer, Cost: \$35

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 9–10:15 am
- Bridging Divides: Navigating Challenging Histories Through Community Engagement, *Rookwood*
 - Documenting Immigrant Communities in Appalachia, *Salon B–C*
 - Local Memory, Lord Dunmore's War, and the 250th, *Julep*
 - Partnerships Between Local Media and History Organizations for Greater Impact, *Mayflower 1*
 - The Power of Place-Based Immigrant History: Sparking Conversation and Building Empathy, *Salon F–G*
 - Regional Sites, National Stories: Building a National Narrative Through Historic Preservation, *Caprice 1*
 - Uniting in the Cause of Freedom, *Pavilion Ballroom*
 - Unlocking Teen Genius: Designing Historic Spaces for Democracy's Next 250 Years, *Salon H–I*
 - Whose Tour Is It Anyway? Experiments in Visitor Engagement, *Caprice 2*

10:15–10:45 am

Refreshment Break, *Fourth Floor Foyer*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 10:45 am–12 pm
- 2026 Annual Conference Roundtable, *Julep*
 - Bridging Journeys: Parallels Between U.S. Immigration and Underground Railroad Freedom Seekers, *Pavilion Ballroom*
 - Embracing Community Led Accessibility—A Partnership for All, *Salon F–G*
 - Liberty's Laboratory: Interpreting the American Paradox at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, *Caprice 1*
 - Misinformation Managed: Building a Coalition for a Full American Story, *Mayflower 1*
 - Sharing U.S. History Knowledge with the World, *Rookwood*
 - So You Want to Publish a History Book?, *Salon H–I*
 - The Three-Legged Race: Transformational Owner/Advocate Partnership, *Salon B–C*
 - Where History Walks and Talks: Immersive Storytelling in Action, *Caprice 2*

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

- 1:30–5 pm
- Beyond Maps: How to Bring Emotional, Disturbing, and Poignant Primary Sources into the Classroom, Cost: \$45, *Julep*
 - Cincinnati's Food Story: Building History, Culture, and Community Through Cooking, Cost: \$50, *Cincinnati Museum Center*

AASLH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION for STATE and LOCAL HISTORY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gain important skills for working in public history! AASLH offers online training in these areas:

- Archives
- Collections
- Exhibitions
- Financial management
- Leadership and administration
- Museum education and outreach
- Project management
- And more!



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National Council on Public History

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SESSION FORMATS

The AASLH Program Committee works diligently each year to offer a wide variety of session types to appeal to a wide range of learning styles. This will help you decide what type of session you prefer to attend during the conference. The session formats are:

Conversation Provocation

Audience members engage in discussion/debate. One facilitator poses a predetermined question and encourages attendees to participate. The facilitator manages the discussion as a guide on the side, not a sage on the stage.

Experiential

Do a program—don't just hear about it. Be immersed in a playful (or dark) experience. Attendees will spend time doing something, not just talking.

Idea Studio

Informed and inspired by a prompt or topic area, attendees will work together interactively to develop new ideas and creative solutions for their sites, in their communities, or in the field at large.

Lightning Round

A moderator selects a particular theme and recruits speakers who can teach something specific to the audience in ten minutes or less.

Nuts and Bolts

This session type focuses on a particular skill that is needed in the history profession. It should be specific enough that attendees leave with a practical skill, but flexible enough that any size museum can adapt it for their needs. It is not designed to be a "show and tell," but a "show and how to."

Roundtable

One chair and up to three panelists examine complex historical or professional issues in discussion before an audience. Ample time will be allowed for audience discussion.

Working Group

This session involves an in-depth discussion on an issue in the field. A small group of people will have prepared ahead of time for a discussion on the topic. Audience members can listen to the conversation or participate if they want.

Workshops

These long-form, in-depth sessions are designed to teach special skills in a small group setting and may occur on- or off-site. Participants in workshop sessions pay fees which contribute to the conference budget.

#AASLH2025



SESSION SUGGESTIONS

250th Planning

Thursday, September 11	2 – 3:15 pm	Commemorating the 250th in a Red State: Doing Whole History with Local Communities
	3:15 – 4:15 pm	Meet Your 250 State Commission
Friday, September 12	11 am – 12:15 pm	Partnering with PBS: Ken Burns's THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Saturday, September 13	9 – 10:15 am	Local Memory, Lord Dunmore's War, and the 250th

Building Community

Thursday, September 11	8:30 – 9:45 am	Becoming an Indigenous Ally Museum
	2 – 3:15 pm	Creating Together: Community Engagement in Exhibition Development
Friday, September 12	8:30 – 9:45 am	Bite-Sizes and Baselines: Community-Based Work at Different Stages
	11 am – 12:15 pm	From Exclusion to Belonging: The Future of DEAL
	2:15 – 3:30 pm	Increasing Access Through Museums for All
Saturday, September 13	9 – 10:15 am	The Power of Place-Based Immigrant History: Sparking Conversation and Building Empathy

Leadership

Thursday, September 11	8:30 – 9:45 am	If History Is Hot, Why Are Museum Admissions Declining?
	2 – 3:15 pm	Making Sense of Numbers: Storytelling and Finance at Historic Sites
	4:15 – 5:30 pm	How to Expand Equity and Work-Life Balance Through a Four-Day Work Week
Friday, September 12	8:30 – 9:45 am	Museum Leadership in a Time of Change
	11 am – 12:15 pm	What Would You Do When Faced with an Ethical Dilemma?
Saturday, September 13	8:30 – 10:30 am	Building Humane Leadership and Work Cultures

Small Museums

Thursday, September 11	2 – 3:15 pm	Writing and Editing Excellent Museum Exhibition Label Copy
	4:15 – 5:30 pm	(Re)designing Volunteer Programs for the Future
Friday, September 12	8:30 – 9:45 am	Policy Potluck: Cooking Up Plans for Small Museums
	11 am – 12:15 pm	Small Museums Committee Meeting
Saturday, September 13	9 – 10:15 am	Whose Tour Is It Anyway? Experiments in Visitor Engagement
	10:45 am – 12 pm	Where History Walks and Talks: Immersive Storytelling in Action

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:30 – 9:45 am

11th Agent of Deterioration

Idea Studio, Room: Caprice 1

Curators and conservators have long discussed the need for an 11th agent of deterioration that focuses on cultural care regarding preservation. Presenters in this session will present the case for this new agent and gather feedback with open discussion with the audience to refine a proposal for the new agent into something that can be formally presented to the field.

Chair: Melanie Deer, Center for Archaeology and Society Repository, Mesa, AZ; Angela Garcia-Lewis, Salt River-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Coolidge, AZ; Amanda Lancaster, Alutiiq Museums, Kodiak, AK

Archives to Classrooms: Primary Sources for Young Readers

Experiential, Room: Continental Ballroom

In order to better reach students in grades 3–8, North Carolina's Division of Archives and History developed a children's book and lesson plans using primary sources from their collections. Attendees in this session will work together to develop a basic project plan with lesson plan, storytelling, and promotional elements provided by the panel to put these skills into practice to engage young learners.

Chair: Adrienne Berney, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC; Katie Hatton, North Carolina Historical Research and Publications Office, Raleigh, NC; Ansley Wegner, North Carolina Historical Research and Publications Office, Raleigh, NC; Danielle Shirilla, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC

Becoming an Indigenous Ally Museum

Roundtable, Room: Rosewood

Working with Indigenous communities at museums needs to be done in authentic and meaningful ways. This session will explore how to become museum allies at settler colonial museums by exploring successful examples at museums in Michigan and Illinois. Join the conversation on how to do the "heart work" of allies.

Chair: Jenn Edginton, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL; Logan Pappenfort, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL; Sandra Clark, Michigan History Center, Lansing, MI; Hillary Pine, Michigan History Center, Lansing, MI

Congress's 40-Year Experiment with National Heritage Areas

Lightning Round, Room: Caprice 2

Created by Congress, National Heritage Areas (NHAs) blend cultural heritage, recreation, and economic development. This session explores NHAs as resources for public history, focusing on community-based storytelling, heritage preservation, education, and collaborative experiments, highlighting their role in elevating community voices and inspiring unique partnerships between communities, organizations, and federal agencies.

Chair: Mackensie Wittmer, National Aviation Heritage Alliance, Dayton, OH; Mera Cardenas, Canalway Partners, Cleveland, OH; Heather Feezor, Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, Springfield, IL; Scott Schenerlein, Wheeling National Heritage Area, Wheeling, WV

Local Advocacy Strategies for History Organizations

Roundtable, Room: Salon D–E

Advocacy can't wait for a crisis. Local engagement is the foundation of lasting support, and strong relationships with community stakeholders make history institutions more resilient, relevant, and effective. This session equips cultural professionals with practical tools, adaptable strategies, and real-world examples to strengthen local connections, amplify impact, and secure enduring community support. Attendees will leave ready to communicate their value proactively and build advocacy networks that sustain their institution and its mission.

Chair: Madeleine Rosenberg, AASLH, Nashville, TN; Kate Betz, Story + Reason, Austin, TX; Evan Windham, Story + Reason, Madison, WI

If History is Hot, Why Are Museum Admissions Declining?

Roundtable, Room: Salon H–I

Heritage tourism is increasingly popular, with visiting historic sites often among visitors' top three activities. Yet more historic sites and attractions are seeing declines in attendance and museum store sales. What are the reasons? This session will explore why this trend is happening and potential strategies to reverse it.

Chair: Cheryl M. Hargrove, Hargrove International, Inc., St. Simons Island, GA; Heather Hodges, The Historic New Orleans Collections, New Orleans, LA; Elon Cook Lee, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC; George H. McDaniel, Middleton Place, Charleston, SC; Whitney Stewart, Coastal Georgia Historical Society, St. Simons Island, GA

Museums on Call: A Healthcare Innovation

Roundtable, Room: Rookwood

This session will explore the partnership between museums and healthcare agencies through the Museums on Call initiative, which connects museums with patients, including those facing end-of-life challenges and seniors in care facilities. Learn how a group of museums and healthcare organizations in Illinois are bringing history to life for patients, residents, and families receiving care.

Chair: Joseph Calderone, Illinois Association of Museums and VITAS Healthcare, Romeoville, IL; Dawn Brechtel, Franciscan Health Hospital Olympia Fields, Olympia Fields, IL; Alison Costanzo, Lombard Historical Society, Lombard, IL; Kelly Klobucher, Joliet Area Historical Museum, Joliet, IL; Jim Valek, VITAS Healthcare, Tinley Park, IL

Rethink and Revive: Finding New Stories with Your Same Collection

Idea Studio, Room: Mayflower 1

Join this session to think creatively about interpretation! Museums often have static exhibitions or rote tours with one story. Presenters will give examples of how they have used programming, questioning strategies, and more to tell new stories. Attendees will also practice ways to apply this to their own work.

Chair: Sally Meyer, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA; Mary Ladrick, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, VA

THURSDAY CONTINUED

8:30 – 9:45 am CONTINUED

Yes, It Happened Here

Roundtable, Room: Salon F–G



How can small and large museums, libraries, and local government cultivate truthful conversation about injustices committed—and resisted—in their neighborhoods? Hear about a project that connected the national Green Book network to local history in Hamilton County and identify next steps toward hopeful, truth-telling collaboration in your context.

Chair: Abigail Zhang, Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati, OH; Susan Daniels, Norwood Historical Society, Norwood, OH; Trudy Gaba, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH; Susan Hoover, City of Norwood, Norwood, OH; Katheryn Toren-Jones, Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library, Norwood, OH

9:45 am – 10:45 pm

Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall

Cost: Free

Room: Hall of Mirrors

Grab a cup of coffee and snack and get to know conference sponsors and exhibitors.

First-time Attendee and New Member Networking Reception

Cost: Free, Preregistration Required

Room: Pavilion Ballroom

Join members of the AASLH staff and Council to learn more about AASLH and get tips for navigating the conference. Sponsored by Badge of Pride.



11 am – 12:15 pm OPENING KEYNOTE

Don Wildman

Regency Ballroom, Hyatt

See page 11 for details.

12:30 – 1:45 pm

Affinity Group Luncheons

Historic House Museums

Cost: \$55, Preregistration Required

Room: Continental Ballroom

Bring your questions for the “Historic House Doctor!” They can be about anything related to historic house museums. If chosen, your question will be thrown out to your colleagues for answers and suggestions. The program will also include a report from the April 2025 summit on “Interpreting Historic House Museums Today.” Sponsored by Susan Ferentinos Historical Research & Consulting.

Small Museums/Climate and Sustainability Joint Luncheon

Room: Pavilion Ballroom

Cost: \$55, Preregistration Required

Join museum staff and volunteers for the first-ever joint luncheon co-sponsored by the Climate and Sustainability and Small Museums Committees! Always a fun and informative event, this gathering is a chance to meet other people from small institutions, network, and share ideas through group discussions. We will hear a short presentation and, as always, there will be prizes. Everyone is welcome! Sponsored by Aurora Regional Fire Museum.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2 – 3:15 pm

A Collaborative Approach for Sharing Black Midwestern Stories

Roundtable, Room: Mayflower 1

“Amplifying Black Voices in Iowa” is a collaborative, Council on Library and Information Resources-supported grant project that elevates the histories, shared experiences, and achievements of Black communities throughout Iowa through a portal of digitized materials and related content representing the varied experiences of Black Iowans. This session will include a project overview, challenges faced, and how it amplifies the underrepresented stories the project’s digital collections tell.

Chair: Leo Landis, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI; Felicite Wolfe, African American Museum of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, IA; Nicholas Erickson, Grout Museum District, Waterloo, IA

Commemorating the 250th in a Red State: Doing Whole History with Local Communities

Roundtable, Room: Rookwood

How do we hold unified 250th commemorations based on accurate and whole history in conservative states? Panelists from Indiana, North Dakota, and Utah share their projects’ successes and failures in hopes of honing a set of best practices for doing history with a variety of communities. Of special interest is doing history with rural and small-town stakeholders, including those with traditional values, that incorporates difficult topics and marginalized peoples. Attendees are encouraged to learn from, discuss, and challenge their findings.

Chair: Jill Weiss Simins, Indiana Archives and Records Administration, Indianapolis, IN; Ryan Cole, Speechwriter at U.S. Senate, Author of Light-Horse Harry Lee: The Rise and Fall of a Revolutionary Hero, Washington, DC; Jennifer Ortiz, Utah Historical Society, Salt Lake City, UT; Bill Peterson, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND; Trait Thompson, Executive Director, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK

2 – 3:15 pm CONTINUED

Creating Safer Workplaces

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon H–I

For the last eighteen months, AASLH's Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Task Force has been working to provide resources for organizations to make the workplace safer and more equitable. This session will take some of the recommendations from the Task Force's report and provide practical takeaways for those wanting to improve their workplace culture and protect co-workers as well as the organization.

Chair: Bethany Hawkins, AASLH, Nashville, TN; Sean Blinn, Heritage Trail Association, Bridgewater, NJ; Veronica Gallardo, Surratt House Museum, Historical Resources Division, Maryland- National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Clinton, MD; Richard Josey, Collective Journeys, LLC, Newport News, VA; Jennifer Van Haaften, Wisconsin Veteran's Museum, Madison, WI

Creating Together: Community Engagement in Exhibition Development

Roundtable, Room: Caprice 2

Are you interested in engaging local communities in exhibition development? Learn what your organization should consider before embarking on this work. Panelists will share their project goals, what they tried, what worked, what they would do differently next time, and how they sustain successful efforts.

Chair: Michael Denison, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC; Trudy Gaba, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH; Stacey Kutish, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH; Lindsay Newton, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO

Let's Engage and Collaborate: Building a Teacher Network

Lightning Round, Room: Salon B–C

What makes a meaningful teacher network? What support can cultural institutions provide educators and what contributions can teachers make to our work? Hear from cultural institutions and teachers alike as they share their experiences, lessons learned, and proud moments from their teacher network journeys.

Chair: Sarah Harris, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA; Kimberly Huffman, Wayne County Schools Career Center, Smithville, OH; Jason Raia, Founding Forward, Valley Forge, PA; Natacha Scott, iCivics, Boston, MA; Laura Vlk, Bill of Rights Institute, Williamsburg, VA

Making Sense of Numbers: Storytelling and Finance at Historic Sites

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon D–E

Museum practitioners can feel that their passion for history and storytelling is at odds with the pragmatic world of finance. This session builds confidence in tackling financial activities by helping attendees understand that the skills that ensure success in public history and finance (communications, research, evaluation) are complementary.

Chair: Rebekah Beaulieu, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH

National Register of Historic Places Nominations 201: Challenges, Obstacles, and Opportunities

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon F–G



The process for listing a property on the National Register should proceed smoothly, until it does not. This session will provide a review of the nomination process, identify typical challenges during the process, and highlight three case studies which possessed unique attributes and presented several obstacles that needed to be overcome for a successful nomination.

Chair: Patrick Hyland, Perspectus, Cleveland, OH; Lauren Burge, Perspectus, Cleveland, OH; Polly Bloom, Perspectus, Cleveland, OH; Mary Rody, Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH

Public History and Christian Communities: Reckoning with Shared Authority

Roundtable, Room: Julep

Christian communities interpret their histories in public at sites across the country but are sometimes overlooked by public historians. This panel asks and answers two interrelated questions: What are the costs of ignoring Christian interpreters of the past? What are the potential benefits of taking them seriously?

Chair: Devin Manzullo-Thomas, Messiah University, Mechanicsburg, PA; Emily Arledge, St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA; Susan Fletcher, Buffalo Bill Center for the West, Cody, WY; Sean Jacobson, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL

Sharing LGBTQ+ Stories Through Historical Markers and Monuments

Experiential, Room: Rosewood

LGBTQ+ stories have largely been excluded from historical marker programs. An ambitious three-year project called Marking Diverse Ohio aims to change that. Join in a gallery walk of ten new Ohio Historical Markers in the project and learn about the successes and challenges of sharing LGBTQ+ stories through historical markers.

Chair: Alex Ingley, Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH; Susan Ferentinos, Public History Consultant, Port Townsend, WA; Tony Pankuch, Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, Akron, OH; Nancy Yera, Ohio Lesbian Archives, Cincinnati, OH

Writing and Editing Excellent Museum Exhibition Label Copy

Experiential, Room: Caprice 1

Despite having many new ways to connect with our audiences, museums still primarily communicate in blocks of text. We publish copy on our websites, online object descriptions, and exhibition graphic panels. However, the quality of our compositions—especially exhibition labels—is often underwhelming. Want to write better label copy? Join us.

Chair: John Russick, Bronzeville Center for the Arts, Milwaukee, WI; Kris Nesbitt, Black Ensemble Theater, Chicago, IL

3:15 – 4:15 pm

Break in Exhibit Hall

Room: Hall of Mirrors

Sponsored by Prycer Consulting

Meet Your 250 State Commission

Room: Pavilion Ballroom

Are you looking for inspiration, resources, or guidance on how to observe the U.S. 250th anniversary in your state? Connecting with your state 250th commission is a great place to start. Representatives from various state commissions will be available to answer questions and meet local planners. Sponsored by American Battlefield Trust.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4:15 – 5:30 pm

Bridging the Gap: Museums, Classrooms, & Authentic Storytelling

Idea Studio, Room: Mayflower 1

Join us in outlining a K-12 teacher resource guide rooted in museum education practices. Using Mount Vernon's Descendant Audio Tour as a case study, we'll explore strategies for teaching complex histories. Through insights from collaboration with descendant communities and educators, we'll tackle challenges like language, classroom needs, and authentic storytelling.

Chair: Jocelyn McLaughlin, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Mt. Vernon, VA; Alissa Oginsky, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Mt. Vernon, VA

Colorado Heritage For All

Roundtable, Room: Caprice 2

The goal of the Colorado Heritage for All Initiative is to list 150 new sites in the State and/or National Register of Historic Places that represent historically marginalized communities to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the U.S. and the 150th anniversary of Colorado statehood. This roundtable will center around the challenges faced around changing perspectives and diversifying the registers, the successes earned by working with local communities and stakeholders, the methods used to increase the number of nominations while maintaining the integrity of the system, and, of course, the failures endured.

Chair: Patrick Eidman, History Colorado, Denver, CO; Lindsey Flewelling, History Colorado, Denver, CO; Damion Pechota, History Colorado, Denver, CO

Exhibitions 101

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon B–C



You don't need a lot of money or a ton of staff to produce high quality exhibitions! In this session presenters will walk attendees through the basics of exhibitions, from research, writing, and editing

to design and fabrication—all on a shoestring budget.

Chair: Bailey Yoder, Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, Akron, OH; Natalie Fritz, Clark County Historical Society at Heritage Center, Springfield, OH

Finding Our Collective Courage: Dialogue, Museums, and Democracy

Roundtable, Room: Caprice 1

In today's rapidly changing world and an increasingly polarized United States, museums are being called upon to become more than just spaces of reflection—they must also be catalysts for dialogue, social justice, and democratic engagement. This session will explore how museums, particularly those involved with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC), are leading the way in creating spaces for dialogue around democracy, citizenship, and human rights.

Chair: Sarah Case, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, New York, NY; Ann Burroughs, Japanese American National Museum/National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, Los Angeles, CA; Brandon Dillard, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA; Cameron Walpole, President Lincoln's Cottage, Washington, DC

How to Expand Equity and Work-Life Balance Though a Four-Day Work Week

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon F–G

"The American Experiment" in the workplace has long been a struggle to balance profit and sustainability with employee needs. Join the Taft Museum of Art's Director of Human Resources and fellow team members as they discuss the challenges and successes of implementing a four-day work week. This session aims to inspire new perspectives on work-life integration to promote equity in the workplace.

Chair: Perry Ralenkotter, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH; Stephanie Price, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH; Jess Runyon, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH; Lindsey NeCamp, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH; Kareem Simpson, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH

Made By Us Meet-Up

Idea Studio, Room: Bluegrass A-B

Come mingle with the Made By Us coalition, the nationwide network of history organizations serving young adults. Learn about our resources and meet our team and others in our community of practice! New faces welcome.

Chair: Caroline Klibanoff, Made By Us, Atlanta, GA

(Re)designing Volunteer Programs for the Future

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon H–I

Volunteerism has been a part of the American experiment since almost the very beginning. Today, many history organizations rely on volunteer contributions. As volunteerism evolves, how do we establish or re-form our programs to create opportunities that serve both our institutions and people who want to help us?

Chair: Rebecca Martin, Smithsonian Gardens, Washington, DC; Karen DePauw, Sharon Historical Society and Museum, Sharon, CT; David Pfeiffer, Johnson County Museum of History, Franklin, IN; Jeannette Rooney, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN

THURSDAY CONTINUED

4:15 – 5:30 pm CONTINUED

Revvng Up Engagement

Experiential, Room: Rookwood

Two automotive museums are enhancing student experiences by offering educational hands-on activities that go beyond traditional guided tours. Committed to active engagement, these museums provide unique opportunities to interact with exhibits, explore automotive technology, and participate in creative, problem-solving challenges that bring the world of cars to life.

Chair: Carrie Cox, National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, KY; Rex Bennett, Lane Motor Museum, Nashville, TN

Values Matter: Building Shared Purpose in Chaotic Times

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Rosewood

For six months, one group of museum leaders experimented with using core values as a meaningful compass for their work. Join this session to learn how to transform workplace conflicts, build empathy, and create more purposeful institutions in a rapidly changing world. Attendees will leave with a step-by-step guide for identifying and activating values at work.

Chair: Andrea Jones, Peak Experience Lab, Brentwood, MD; Ann Bennett, Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD; Janna M. Bennett, Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County, Crawfordsville, IN; Erik Mason, Longmont Museum, Longmont, CA; Anne Miller, Newport News Parks and Recreation, Newport News, VA

We F***ed Up: Chocolate at Old North Church

Experiential, Room: Salon D–E

Public history can be hard, and museums make mistakes—like a program that created a misleadingly rosy view of history. Learn how Old North Church's colonial chocolate program messed up and the lessons staff learned. Then, experience the current, nuanced interpretation of that colonial industry and its reliance on enslaved labor.

Chair: Emily Spence, Old North Illuminated, Boston, MA

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Diversity and Inclusion Mixer

Cost: Free, Preregistration Recommended

Room: Regency Ballroom, Hyatt

All are welcome to enjoy a lively evening of networking with the AASLH Diversity and Inclusion Committee! Come meet committee members, other conference attendees, and local Cincinnati professionals to celebrate the diversity of the field. The mixer is a great space to connect with peers and learn about future initiatives of the committee. Ticket includes one drink ticket and light appetizers. Sponsored by Amplifier, ticket cost underwritten by Rancho Los Cerritos.

Ohio Local History Alliance Business Meeting

Cost: Free

Room: Julep



Please join us for the Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Business Meeting. Meeting activities include election of OLHA's line officers for the coming calendar year as well as reports from line officers and committee chairs. All are welcome to attend, but only OLHA individual/affiliate members and representatives of OLHA organizational members are eligible to vote.

EVENING EVENT

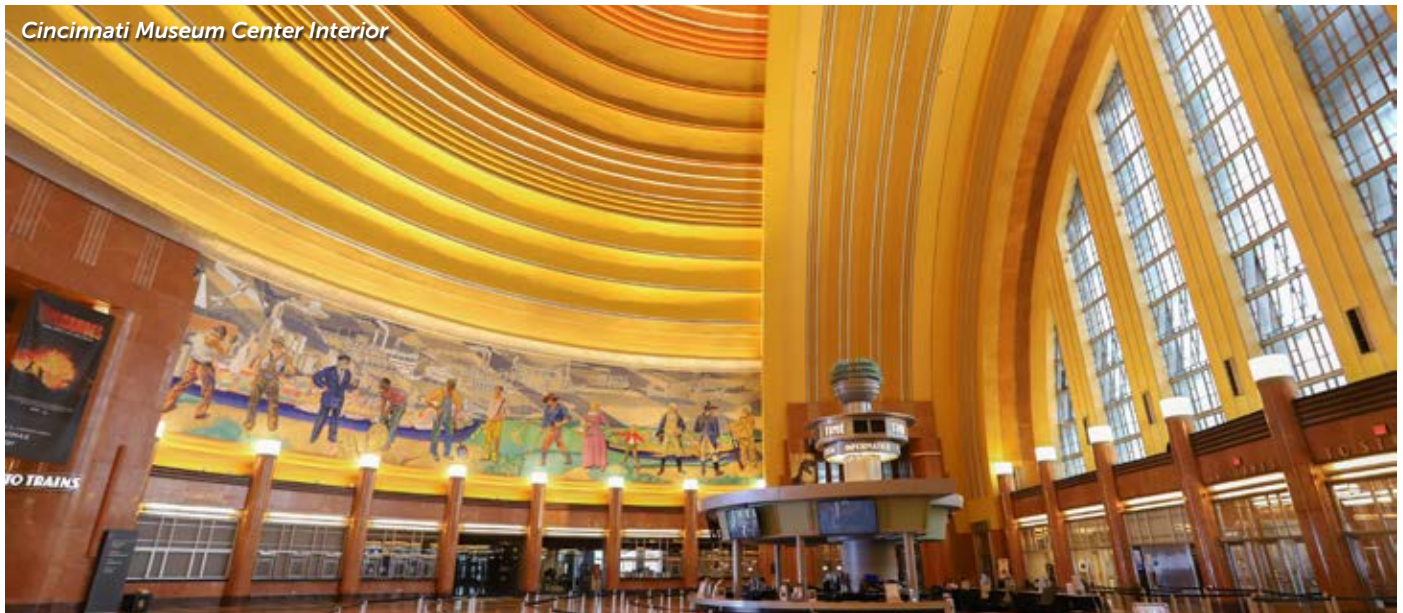
6:30 – 10 pm

Evening Event: Cincinnati Museum Center

Cost: \$65, Preregistration Required

See page 16 for details.

Cincinnati Museum Center Interior



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

BREAKFAST SESSION

8 – 9:30 am

STEPS Session and Breakfast

Cost: \$29, *Preregistration Required*

Room: *Bluegrass A, Hyatt*

Are you a member of the STEPS (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) community? Do you want to learn more about how STEPS can help your organization or hear from others who have used the program to improve theirs? Attend this session to learn more about the program, STEPS groups, and tips for being successful in the program.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:30 – 9:45 am

AASLH Membership Committee Meeting

Meeting, Room: *Julep*

AASLH is starting a new Membership Committee to help us reach more of the 21,000 history organizations in America and the thousands of history professionals and volunteers who steward them, including those who are under the age of 40. You are invited to add your voice to this important committee. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Chair: Eric Morse, AASLH, Nashville, TN

Behind the Scenes: An Experiment of Enslaved Interpretation in the North

Idea Studio, Room: *Caprice 2*

Enslaved individuals who were left out of the historical record were as essential to revolutionary America as the founding figures many historic sites were established to celebrate. This roundtable discussion will examine how historic sites in Northern states are not only interpreting the institution of slavery as nationally significant, but also how many are sharing previously unknown histories, resulting in a more inclusive narrative.

Chair: Sharece Blakney, Morven Museum and Garden, Princeton, NJ; Melissa Kiewiet, Dyckman Farmhouse Alliance, New York, NY; Bernadette Rogoff, Monmouth County Historical Association, Freehold, NJ; Jesse Gordo Simons, Morven Museum and Garden, Princeton, NJ

The Biggest Little Experiment: Embracing Young Audiences in Museums

Idea Studio, Room: *Salon B–C*

Young children are often seen as disruptive risks in museum spaces, but they are the museum audience of the future! This practical session explores scalable strategies for engaging young children through play, storytelling, and imagination. Come ready to refresh a program idea and develop playful, resource-conscious activities for your site!

Chair: Melanie Holland, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA; Rachel Gibson, Modern Museum Education, Charlotte, TN; Bethany Hrachovec, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN; Elizabeth Lukas, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA

Bite-Sizes and Baselines: Community-Based Work at Different Stages

Roundtable, Room: *Caprice 1*

Successful community-based work requires content, expectations, and workflows to be shared in bite-sized pieces. Establishing baselines for community collaborators, staff members, and various audiences requires negotiation and compromise. Three sites share how they have gone about or plan to go about community-based work and the different stages of such processes.

Chair: Michael Madeja, Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia, PA; Heather Bruegl, The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, Dearborn, MI

Giving Voice Through Historic Records

Roundtable, Room: *Salon D–E*

This session will include two case studies illustrating how research in archival and government records helped tell untold stories. In Minnesota, public history researchers, documentarians, and museum leaders worked in tandem to narrate the history of racist housing deeds, illustrating how these early 20th-century restrictions laid the foundation for contemporary racial disparities in Minneapolis and its surrounding communities. In northern Kentucky, migration of Black families across the Ohio River to Cincinnati and other large cities across the country left a void in the historical record. Researchers will present lessons learned in telling their stories.

Chair: Aaron Noble, New York State Museum, Albany, NY; John Crippen, Hennepin History Museum, Minneapolis, MN; Hillary Delaney, Archive and History Center, Boone County Public Library, Burlington, KY

Grief and Remembrance at Museums and Historic Sites

Roundtable, Room: *Salon H–I*

This session will consider the human experiences of loss, grief, and remembrance and how museums can provide a space for reflection and healing. Presenters will share how they are interpreting the expressions of grief of the communities of people who historically occupied their sites, and how each site is connecting those experiences to the experiences of visitors today.

Chair: Rob DeHart, Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, Washington, DC; Callie Hawkins, President Lincoln's Cottage, Washington, DC; Tramia Jackson, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, VA

Hard Choices: Redefining Your Museum's Legacy Through Deaccessions

Roundtable, Room: *Mayflower 1*

As historical organizations navigate the reality of diminishing resources and acute space constraints, being able to build diverse and relevant collections for a 21st-century museum requires us to make hard choices about legacy collections. Panelists will detail experiences with high-volume deaccessioning while navigating delicate donor, community, and political expectations.

Chair: Katherine Gould, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH; Amanda Bryden, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL; Kisha Tandy, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis, IN

FRIDAY CONTINUED

8:30 – 9:45 am CONTINUED

Museum Leadership in a Time of Change

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Continental Ballroom

Many museums report that attendance isn't back to pre-pandemic levels, costs are up, membership down, philanthropy is changing, and turnover is high. A sustainable future might seem out of reach. The good news is that every museum has unique assets and strengths that leadership can use to help them thrive.

Chair: John Russick, Bronzeville Center for the Arts, Milwaukee, WI; Matt Kirchman, ObjectIDEA, Salem, MA; Andrew Simnick, Operationally, Chicago, IL

Nature as Living History: Expand Your Museum Outdoors

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon F–G



Trees are living history. A museum's landscape can attract an audience that appreciates both the outdoors and history. Learn more about arboreta and how they act as a tree museum that provides beauty, education, and plant knowledge while learning horticulture best practices.

Chair: Leslie Wagner, The Dawes Arboretum, Newark, OH; Greg Payton, The Dawes Arboretum, Newark, OH

Policy Potluck: Cooking Up Plans for Small Museums

Nuts and Bolts, Rookwood

Discover how well-crafted policies and plans can transform your small museum's operations. This session offers actionable ideas, ready-to-use templates, and step-by-step guidance to help you streamline daily tasks, better define personnel roles, and shape your museum's long-term vision. Leave prepared to tackle challenges and build a stronger foundation.

Chair: Kenny Libben, Cleo Redd Fisher Museum, Loudonville, OH; Ann Bennett, Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD; Marissa Hamm, Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN

Revolutionary Spaces: Building a Culturally Responsible Museum in THIS America

Canceled

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Break in Exhibit Hall

Room: Hall of Mirrors

NCPH Poster Session

Room: Pavilion Ballroom



Built on the National Council on Public History's model, the poster session at AASLH 2025 is an opportunity to share project-based work with attendees in a creative, visual format that invites lively discussion. It can include works-in-progress, student-driven work, ephemeral or temporary projects, and collaborative or experimental work, especially for presentations where visual or material evidence represents a central component. Sponsored by the National Council on Public History. See the full list on page 41.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11 am – 12:15 pm

Exploring Visitor Understandings of Enslavement

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon B–C

A recent shift in visitor feedback, coinciding with the discovery of the enslaved cemetery at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, prompted a redesign of their interpretive offerings addressing slavery at the plantation, including school tours, specialty guided tours, audio tours, and site signage. This redesign required a new understanding of how visitors process and learn about slavery at the site, in ways they aren't always able to accurately articulate. This session will address some of the ways staff have collected this feedback, analyzed it, and reinvented our offerings to address their visitors' needs.

Chair: Sjobor Hammer, Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, Nashville, TN

From Exclusion to Belonging: The Future of DEAL

Conversation/Provocation, Room: Rookwood

As the U.S. approaches its 250th anniversary, history practitioners must transform exclusion into belonging. This session explores the emotional, systemic, and transformative challenges of DEAL work, inspiring participants to create bold strategies for inclusion while embracing accountability and hope as pathways to a "more perfect union."

Chair: Veronica Gallardo, Surratt House Museum, M-NCPPC, Clinton, MD; Alison Bruesehoff, Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site and Museum, Long Beach, CA; Jesse Kramer, Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN

National Council on Public History Poster Session

9:45–10:45 am *Pavilion Ballroom*

Be sure to stop by the NCPH Poster Session to hear from students and colleagues from around the country as they share their projects.

<i>A Name, A Voice, A Life: Interpreting the Stories of Black Newporters from the Page to the People</i>	Kaela Bleho	Newport Historical Society, Newport, RI
<i>An Antebellum Study of the Slave Trade in Galveston, Texas</i>	Jeremy Pedigo	San Jacinto College, Katy, TX
<i>Bar Culture and the Queer History of Lynn:</i>	Andrew Darien	Salem State University, Salem, MA
<i>Challenging the Myth of the "Sole Survivor"</i>	Anna Coleman	University of Kansas, Olathe, KS
<i>Contextualizing the Gaya•neñ•hsä•gó•neh Monument at Syracuse University</i>	Cameron L. Kline	Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
<i>Digital Preservation and the Community-Engaged Museum: A Study of the May-Stringer</i>	Hannah Thieryung	University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
<i>Disability in Place: Federal History in Fraught Times</i>	Monica Berg	IU Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN
<i>From the Jacksons' Living Room: Archives, Memory, and the Movement</i>	Jack Schmitt	The Henry Ford, Benson Ford Research Center, Dearborn, MI
<i>From Walls to Words: Turning Exhibit Research into Scholarship</i>	Jennifer Rogers	Collin County Farm Museum, McKinney, TX
<i>Impact of Balanced Sports Interpretation</i>	Kathryn Leann Harris	Interpreting Sports, Somerville, MA
<i>Indiana Commemorates the 1976 Bicentennial</i>	Allison Trammell and Summer Whelan	IU Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN
<i>Loving Your Old House</i>	Jessica Spiess	Historic Madison, Inc., Madison, IN
<i>Making Memory Material</i>	Dominique Stringer	Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN
<i>Melanie's Park and Navigating Hot Water with the Puyallup Tribe</i>	Claire Keller-Scholz	Parks Tacoma, Tacoma, WA
<i>Re-Imagining the Manassas Museum</i>	Mary Dellinger	Manassas Museum System, Manassas, VA
<i>Spoke '76: Developing Video Games as Public History</i>	Erin Carosella	Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL
<i>The Marymount Tradition: A student-led oral history and digital humanities seminar centered on the legacy of Women Religious at Loyola Marymount</i>	Laura Haushalter	Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
<i>The People & Places Project: Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Langston Boulevard</i>	Bennett King	Goucher College, San Diego, CA
<i>The Williamsburg Bray School: A History Through Records, Reflections, and Rediscovery</i>	Elizabeth Drembus Nicole Brown	William & Mary Bray School Lab, Williamsburg, VA William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
<i>Vanishing Spaces - DIY Accessibility Exhibit Design</i>	LaShell Martinez	Collin County Farm Museum, McKinney, TX

11 am – 12:15 pm CONTINUED

FSA Tips: Real Talk About Burnout

Idea Studio, Room: Continental Ballroom

The work of documenting, preserving, and sharing history can take its toll. Systemic issues like capacity limitations, fatigue, and the pressures of standards and best practices only worsen things for many people in our field. If you add in daily challenges like tough organizational dynamics, volunteer relationships, difficult visitor interactions, emotionally fraught collections, cultural microaggressions, and more, the risk of burnout is real. Join FSA in openly sharing experiences and collaborating on realistic, actionable strategies for self and communal care amidst systemic burnout.

Chair: Katherine Lowe, The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, PA; Tamara Hemmerlein, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN; Katie Henry, Oregon Heritage Commission, Salem, OR

How Many Spinning Wheels Do You Really Need?

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon F–G



Does your museum have objects that just sit there and contribute nothing? Do you want to experiment with doing something different?

This is the session for you! Join presenters as they discuss the devilish topic of deaccessioning, draw deductions for the divestment of detritus, and offer you direction for decluttering.

Chair: Andrew Richmond, Meander Auctions and Wipiak Consulting and Appraisals, Marietta, OH; Amanda Bryden, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL; Erika Holst, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL; Becky Odom, Ph.D., Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH; Lesley Poling, Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH

Leading Change in Historic Times

Roundtable, Room: Caprice 2

A Change is Gonna Come! Historic sites must respond to new research, evolving communities, shifting political and cultural landscapes, and the evolution of post-pandemic behaviors. In this session, four leaders will share change management successes and lessons learned and provide attendees with tools and insights to inspire and align stakeholders.

Chair: Nikki Stewart, Old North Illuminated, Boston, MA; Martina Dodd, Banneker-Douglass Museum, Annapolis, MD; Kyera Singleton, Royall House and Slave Quarters, Medford, MA; Stephanie Tuszynski, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, DC

Making History Resonate, or Hiding Spinach in Brownies

Roundtable, Room: Mayflower 1

How do you use your museum's resources to engage your audiences in surprising and meaningful ways? From meteorites to murals, learn how the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg, Texas, and the Taft Museum of Art in Cincinnati, Ohio, are using their collections to tell important

stories in unexpected ways. Come with your own museum's stories to workshop with the group.

Co-Chairs: Melissa Peña, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX; Elise Solomon, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH

Meaningful Collaborations with American Indian Tribes

Roundtable, Room: Caprice 1

In this session, attendees will learn how to build meaningful partnerships with American Indian Tribes. This roundtable features diverse perspectives on fostering respectful, collaborative relationships to accurately share tribal stories. Gain practical insights and strategies for co-creating content that benefits both Tribes and cultural institutions, with time for audience discussion.

Chair: Carla Mello, Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH; Rita Walaszek Arndt, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; Heather Bruegl, The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, Dearborn, MI; Chief Glenna J. Wallace, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Wyandotte, OK

Partnering with PBS: Ken Burns's THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Lightning Round, Room: Pavilion Ballroom

Ken Burns's THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION is coming to PBS this fall, and PBS stations around the country are collaborating with local history organizations around education and engagement. In this session, attendees will learn about collaboration opportunities and film resources to help plan community engagement through the semiquincentennial.

Chair: Sumner Menchero, Public Broadcasting Service, Arlington, VA

Program Evaluation: Why? When? How? YES!

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon H–I

Program evaluation helps us make informed choices about how to deploy our resources to serve audiences. This session provides historic site staff with a foundational introduction to evaluation with specific focus on needs of smaller organizations. During the session, participants will develop a preliminary plan for evaluating a program at their site.

Chair: Elisabeth Nevins, Seed Educational Consulting, Jamaica Plain, MA; Sheila Brommel, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; Kayla Stielow, Charles Lindbergh House and Museum, Little Falls, MN

Shared Risk, Shared Strategy: Developing Climate Resilience Together

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Rosewood

Discover FAIC's Climate Resilience Resources for Cultural Heritage and work with colleagues to address shared risks. Learn how to use climate risk maps, assess site vulnerabilities, brainstorm mitigation activities, and strengthen community relationships. Bring your laptop or mobile device and leave ready for resilience planning at your site.

Chair: Tiffani Emig, Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, Washington, DC; Danielle Sakowski, Environment and Culture Partners, Tacoma, WA; José Ortiz, Archivo Histórico de la Fundación Sila M. Calderón, San Juan, PR

11 am – 12:15 pm CONTINUED

Small Museums Committee Meeting

Committee Meeting, Room: Julep

Do you want to deepen your connection to AASLH? Are you looking for ways to connect with other small museum professionals beyond each year's conference? Consider getting involved with the Small Museums Affinity Committee. Join us for our annual in-person meeting where you can get to know committee members, meet other small organization staff and volunteers, ask questions, share what needs you have, and learn about what we do. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend.

Chair: Sean Blinn, Heritage Trail Association, Bridgewater, NJ

What Would You Do When Faced with an Ethical Dilemma?

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon D–E

A board member wants to buy an artifact? A donor wants free rent for their special event? Engage with your colleagues in exploring how you might handle ethical dilemmas. Examine the development of ethics in our field and how to keep your Code of Ethics from sitting on a shelf.

Chair: Leah Craig, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY; Susannah Koerber, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis, IN; Karen Whitecotton, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK

12:30 – 2 pm

LUNCHEON AND PRESENTATION AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards

Cost: \$25 for lunch, Preregistration Required
Room: Regency Ballroom, Hyatt

The business meeting of AASLH will be held during this luncheon including reports from Council and the President and CEO and announcement of new Council members. AASLH will also honor the best in state and local history with the 2025 Leadership in History Awards, highlighting the great work in history organizations throughout the country. Note: There is a fee for the lunch portion of this event. To just attend the presentation without a meal is free and does not require preregistration.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2:15 – 3:30 pm

Connecting a Region Through a Scalable Panel Exhibition

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon F–G

With the 250th on the horizon, a group of history organizations in western states partnered on creating a dynamic and scalable exhibition for any organization to use and/or customize that foregrounds the region while connecting to national topics. Learn how this tool was created and leave with concrete, actionable ideas for collaborations around shared anniversaries.

Chair: Jay Baersten, Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, WA; HannaLore Hein, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, ID; Nicole Harvey, Oklahoma History Center Museum, Oklahoma City, OK; Gwendolyn Lockman, History Colorado, Denver, CO

Engagement Over Content: Field Trips That Develop Historical Thinking Skills and Pride of Place

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Caprice 1



So often, museums and cultural institutions focus their field trip experiences on content, not the skills that help students learn effectively. Join three Athens, Ohio-based cultural

institutions and one social studies teacher as they share their experiences working with 8th grade students learning American history to develop historical thinking skills, research skills, and pride of place.

Chair: Jessica Cyders, Southeast Ohio History Center, Athens, OH; Angela Hall, Athens Middle School, Athens, OH; Trevellya Ford-Ahmed, Mt. Zion Black Cultural Center, Athens, OH; Brian Koscho, Invisible Ground, Athens, OH

Get Future Ready with Youth250: A Live Consultation with the Next Generation

Roundtable, Room: Mayflower 1

The U.S. turns 250 next year, just as the largest youth generation in U.S. history crosses the threshold into adulthood. Are you ready to meet their needs? Help is on the way - for this anniversary and beyond. In this session you will connect with Youth250, a national effort helping institutions get future-ready and center youth in the 250th. Hear directly from the Youth250 Bureau, a team of next-gen consultants offering FREE support to institutions through February 2026, and explore tools like the Gen Z Engagement Scorecard. Come ready to hear from the future itself!

Chair: Hope-Marie Delgado, Made By Us, San Antonio, TX; Corinne Lerma, Made By Us Youth 250 Bureau, Cincinnati, OH

#AASLH2025



2:15 – 3:30 pm CONTINUED

History: Essential, Urgent, Present, and Future

Lightning Round, Room: Continental Ballroom

The field has been talking for years about history needing to be relevant. That conversation has been useful, and the outcomes needed, but we may have lost sight of history's deep necessity. This session will present four perspectives on the essentialness of history to individuals, communities, and society followed by a time of facilitated, active, collective exploration among participants. Join presenters in this mashup of Lightning Round and Conversation/Provocation, with the goal of revealing deep purpose and energizing us all with renewed clarity and determination.

Chair: Steve Boyd-Smith, Amplifier Experience Design, St. Paul, MN; Jenn Edgington, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL; Reggie Guyton, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Springfield, IL; Sarah Pharaon, Dialogic Consulting, South Orange, NJ

Increasing Access Through Museums for All

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Caprice 2

This session will highlight the national Museums for All program that currently helps create economic equity for admission to over 1,300 museums, zoos, and other nonprofits. Presenters will share their experiences working with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to reach SNAP recipients and insights from the Cincinnati Museum Center about what implementing and expanding the program can look like.

Chair: Brendan Cartwright, Association of Children's Museums, Arlington, VA; Gwen Elliott, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH; Bobbie Lorenz, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, Columbus, OH

New Museums in a New Era

Roundtable, Room: Rosewood

What is it like creating museums with social justice messages amid political division and debate? Join the founding directors of three museums-in-progress as they reflect and share updates on their uniquely American experiments.

Chair: Whitney Owens, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH; Ben Garcia, American LGBTQ+ Museum, New York, NY; Lisa Yun Lee, National Public Housing Museum, Chicago, IL; Woody Keown, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH

Playing with the Past: Reframing Typical Collections Interactions

Experiential, Room: Rookwood

Have piles of discarded items from your organization that you are not sure what to do with? Not sure how to incorporate collection items into interpretive hands-on programming? Want to engage with ALL museum-goers? Join presenters as they share tips and tricks and showcase hands-on activities for "playing with the past!"

Chair: Arabeth Balasko, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH; Evan Lewis, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH

Unearthing History from the Ashes

Lightning Round, Room: Salon D–E

As the U.S. approaches its 250th anniversary, history faces scrutiny amid current turmoil. With efforts to "whitestream" history, the challenge is to uncover strategies for teaching difficult historical truths that provoke critical thought and foster a deeper understanding of the past, encouraging reflection and discussion.

Chair: Christopher Miller, C.J. Hawkins, LLC, Cincinnati, OH; Littisha A. Bates, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH; Rodney Coates, Miami University, Oxford, OH; Asia Harris, Three49 Media, Cincinnati, OH; Jennifer Suchland, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

When Preservation and Interpretation Disagree

Conversation/Provocation, Room: Salon H–I

How might historic sites decide whose stories to prioritize? What happens when preservation recommendations conflict with the pursuit of inclusive and relevant interpretation? Presenters will explore these questions by discussing several key decision points in the 2000-era restoration of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House and invite attendees to consider how they determine their priorities.

Chair: Christina Hartlieb, Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati, OH; Zinnia Stewart, Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati, OH; Abigail Zhang, Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati, OH

WORKING GROUPS

2:15 – 4:15 pm

Interpreting Historic House Museums Today

Room: Bluegrass A–B, Hyatt

The 2025 Historic House Museum Summit, *Interpreting Historic House Museums Today*, held in April 2025 at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, brought leaders in the field of interpreting historic house museums together to discuss how these museums are interpreted the way they are today and what the future is for telling the stories connected to these historic places. The working group will explore the recommendations from the summit and how AASLH, and the rest of the field, can use the findings from the summit to prepare this part of the sector for the future of historic house interpretation.

Co-Chairs: Rena Lawrence, Log Cabin Village, Ft. Worth, TX; Lisa Worley, Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI

2:15 – 4:15 pm CONTINUED

Salaries, Demographics, and Perspectives of the Public History Workforce

Room: Buckeye A–B, Hyatt

This working group session will share early insights from the National Survey of Public History Practitioners and raise questions about what's next. Building on new data about the demographics, salaries, and perspectives of the public history workforce, panelists will discuss how to use the project's findings to create more inclusive environments for staff and volunteers and stronger, more sustainable institutions.

Chair: John Marks, AASLH, Nashville, TN

Underground and Punk Archives in Local Communities

Lightning Round, Room: Salon B–C

Examine the similarities and difference between four local approaches to preserving the history of their music communities from both academic and community-based initiatives, including the Louisville Underground Music Archive, the Memphis Punk Archive, the Southern Punk Archive, and the Nashville Underground Music Archive.

Chair: Jonathan Sewell, Nashville Underground Music Archive, Nashville, TN; Kevin Bailey, University of Louisville Archives and Records Center, Louisville, KY; Dan Drinkard, Memphis Punk Archive and Seasick Records, Birmingham, AL; Heather Fox, University of Louisville Archives and Records Center, Louisville, KY; Randy Gue, Emory University Libraries, Atlanta, GA; John Rash, Southern Punk Archive, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Oxford, MS; Scott Satterwhite, University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL

3:30 – 4:15 pm

Closing Reception in Exhibit Hall

Room: Hall of Mirrors

4:30 – 6 pm

PLENARY SESSION

Stronger Together: New Experiments from the Creative Economy

Room: Pavilion Ballroom

See page 11 for details.

EVENING EVENTS

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Women's History Meet Up

Room: The Lounge at 1931

Cost: Free, Preregistration Not Required

AASLH's Women's History Affinity Community will gather to network and connect. Attendees are responsible for their own food and drink. We look forward to seeing you there!

6:30 – 8 pm

Choose Your Own Adventure

Cost: \$50, Preregistration Required

See page 17 for details.

8:30 – 11 pm

AASLH After Hours

Cost: \$20, Preregistration Required

Room: Continental Ballroom

See page 17 for details.



American Sign Museum

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

FORUM

8 am – 1 pm

CEO Forum: Political Pressures, In and Out

Cost: \$195, Preregistration Required

Room: Buckeye A, Hyatt

This forum offers confidential and supportive space for CEOs and Executive Directors of large institutions to share strategies to discuss how they manage political tensions, such as external pressures from elected officials and funders and internal pressures from staff and volunteers. Participants will discuss real-world examples, exchange practical approaches, and explore paths forward.

Chair: John Marks, AASLH, Nashville, TN; Madeleine Rosenberg, AASLH, Nashville, TN

WORKING GROUP

8:30 – 10:30 am

Building Humane Leadership and Work Cultures

Working Group, Room: Buckeye B, Hyatt

This group, drawn from 2024 History Leadership Institute participants, discusses the evolution of leadership skills/training and how social movements, DEAI, and trauma-informed practices have shaped this revolution. Focusing on democratizing work cultures and empowering leaders at all levels, this group will imagine a more humane and inclusive future for our field.

Chair: Aja Bain, AASLH, Nashville, TN; Ann Bennett, Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD; Janna M. Bennett, Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County, Crawfordsville, IN; Araceli Hernandez, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, NE; Kara Knight, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; Maria Quintero, JFK Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, MA; Deana Thomas, University of Kentucky Libraries, Lexington, KY

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9 – 10:15 am

Bridging Divides: Navigating Challenging Histories Through Community Engagement

Roundtable, Room: Rookwood

Local historians face challenges exploring difficult topics. Presenters will describe experiences and techniques they used to reimagine walking tours, present a photography exhibit by a Somali photographer, and document the Latino community. They will share strategies to reframe conversations and spark dialogue, enabling visitors to thoughtfully engage with challenging histories.

Chair: Angela O'Neal, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus, OH; Rebecca Asmo, Ohio Humanities, Columbus, OH; Jason Crabill, Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, Lancaster, OH; Kaitlyn Donaldson, Lorain Historical Society, Lorain, OH; Doreen Uhas-Sauer, Rickenbacker Woods Foundation, Columbus, OH

Documenting Immigrant Communities in Appalachia

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon B–C

This panel will discuss the Italian Diaspora Archive Resource Map (IDARM) Project, an initiative funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, focused on Italian history in a corner of Appalachia that has more Italian Americans per capita than anywhere else in the nation. Presenters will discuss their work identifying needs and challenges, strengthening institutional partnerships, and developing a digital map created from their research.

Chair: Nancy Caronia, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA; Lina Insana, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA; Melissa Marinaro, Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Local Memory, Lord Dunmore's War, and the 250th

Roundtable, Room: Julep

In 2024, Virginia and West Virginia launched their 250th programming by commemorating Lord Dunmore's War and the Battle of Point Pleasant. Local tradition presents the battle as the first of the Revolutionary War, but most historians disagree. This session will provide an overview of the challenges of overcoming local memory, advocate for the importance of including Native American perspectives into 250th events, and include examples of how these early 250th events illuminate challenges ahead.

Chair: Melissa Bingmann, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV; Travis Henline, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA; Lauren Wingate, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Partnerships Between Local Media and History Organizations for Greater Impact

Roundtable, Room: Mayflower 1

News is the "first draft of history"—and today, many local outlets are eager to partner with history organizations. Attend this session to hear how local news organizations are collaborating with history organizations to combine resources for community engagement, increase the reach of untold stories, fundraise, and more. This session will explore examples and tips to inspire your own projects.

Chair: Samantha Ragland, American Press Institute, Lake Worth Beach, FL

The Power of Place-Based Immigrant History: Sparking Conversation and Building Empathy

Roundtable, Room: Salon F–G

Who more fully embodies the American Experiment than immigrants? These courageous travelers have enriched and transformed our diverse nation. This roundtable will feature four place-based museums of immigration history discussing place-based history and history as a source of empathy for immigrants in the present and the future.

Chair: Anne Delano Steinert, Over-the-Rhine Museum, Cincinnati, OH; Kira Manso Brown, The Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History, Kingston, NY; Nicholas Fessenden, Baltimore Immigration Museum, Baltimore, MD; Kat Lloyd, Tenement Museum, New York, NY

SATURDAY CONTINUED

9 – 10:15 am CONTINUED

Regional Sites, National Stories: Building a National Narrative Through Historic Preservation

Roundtable, Room: Caprice 1

Large-scale historic preservation initiatives at the Seward House Museum, National Women's Hall of Fame, and the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park have yielded marked improvement in capacity and ushered in a new era of storytelling. Through candid reflections, panelists will impart the complexities, differences, and similarities of managing their transformations. In this robust roundtable discussion, presenters will expound on their transformative historic preservation projects and how they were an opportunity to enhance operations and fully activate service to the public.

Chair: Mitch Maniccia, Seward House Museum, Auburn, NY; Nellie Ludemann, National Women's Hall of Fame, Seneca Falls, NY; Brittany Lane, Harriet Tubman National Historic Park, Auburn, NY

Uniting in the Cause of Freedom

Idea Studio, Room: Pavilion Ballroom

Throughout American history, citizens have organized to make change at the community, regional, and national levels. Levi and Catharine Coffin were anti-slavery Quakers connected to one of the most successful Underground Railroad efforts in the United States. The Coffins' commitment to the anti-slavery cause emboldened the communities in Indiana and Ohio to aid freedom seekers through the Underground Railroad. Presenters will discuss how history institutions can use historic examples, like the Coffins, to inspire Americans today to shape change in communities large and small.

Chair: Joanna Hahn, Levi and Catharine Coffin State Historic Site, Fountain City, IN; Cicero Fain, Marshall University, Huntington, WV; Andrew Feight, Shawnee State University, Portsmouth, OH; Kisha Tandy, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis, IN

Unlocking Teen Genius: Designing Historic Spaces for Democracy's Next 250 Years

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon H-I

This session addresses the urgent need for cultural organizations to adapt to a changing civic landscape where young people demand more relevant and engaging learning experiences. By anchoring our work in developmental science and teen-centered civic pedagogy, we ensure that history organizations can meet the dual challenge of preserving the past while activating future democratic participation. The session will equip cultural institutions with actionable strategies to become dynamic, youth-centered hubs meaningfully advancing civic readiness.

Chair: Fernande Raine, History Co:Lab, Milton, MA; Tess Benoit, History Co:Lab, Winston Salem, NC

Whose Tour Is It Anyway? Experiments in Visitor Engagement

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Caprice 2

How can historic houses remain relevant to today's visitors? Gone are the days in which a traditional lecture-style house tour kept an audience engaged. Over the past three seasons, Historic Hudson Valley has transitioned its tour program from a facts-and-figures-based tour to a more visitor-centered experience and will share strategies to help other museums do the same.

Chair: Nicole Wallace, Historic Hudson Valley, Tarrytown, NY; Nerissa Tackett, Historic Hudson Valley, Sleepy Hollow, NY

10:15 am – 10:45 am

Beverage Break

Room: Fourth Floor Foyer

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:45 am – 12 pm

2026 Annual Conference Roundtable

Roundtable, Room: Julep

Join members of the 2026 Annual Conference Program Committee to kick off the planning for next year's joint conference with the National Council on Public History in Providence, RI. This is a time to reflect on next year's theme and share ideas for sessions and other programming with the Program and Host Chairs.

Chair: Bethany Hawkins, AASLH, Nashville, TN; Kacie Lucchini Butcher, University of Wisconsin Madison, Madison, WI; Meghan Hillman, National Council on Public History, Indianapolis, IN; Jennifer Saunders, New York State Museum, Albany, NY

Bridging Journeys: Parallels Between U.S. Immigration and Underground Railroad Freedom Seekers

Roundtable, Room: Pavilion Ballroom

Since its inception, immigration has been a part of the American Experiment and a topic of debate. Using lessons gleaned from the Underground Railroad experience, experts in various fields will seek to provide information that separates fact from fear for insightful conversation on this emotional topic.

Chair: Frances McGee-Cromartie, Daughters of the American Revolution, Columbus, OH; Karen Bradley, Bradley and Associates, Dayton, OH; Valerie Boyer, Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH

10:45 am – 12 pm CONTINUED

Embracing Community Led Accessibility— A Partnership for All

Roundtable, Room: Salon F–G

Accessibility can be such a loaded word, especially for historic spaces and structures: ADA compliance, building codes, changing language, funding, etc. It can be a lot! Listen to Cincinnati Museum Center's experience of leaning on strong community partnerships with organizations such as Easterseals Redwood and Cincinnati Association of Blind & Visual Impaired to create their museum into a place that is more accessible and welcoming for all. You will walk away with practical tips and tricks to help your nonprofits leverage trust building among community partners and become more disability, economically, and culturally accessible for all!

Chair: Gwen Elliott, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH; Ashley Johnson, Easterseals Redwood, Cincinnati, OH; Vicki Lorenz, Cincinnati Association of Blind & Visually Impaired, Cincinnati, OH

Liberty's Laboratory: Interpreting the American Paradox at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello

Roundtable, Room: Caprice 1

Representatives from Monticello's Education and Visitor Programs department and its Getting Word Oral History Project will discuss the site's ongoing, 30-year experiment in interpreting slavery at an active site of history. Panelists will discuss engaging in an ethical interpretive practice that requires an ongoing commitment to civic engagement and perpetual (re-)evaluation.

Chair: Brandon Dillard, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA; Ashley Hollinshead, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA; Jenna Owens, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA; Auriana Woods, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA

Misinformation Managed: Building a Coalition for a Full American Story

Roundtable, Room: Mayflower 1

Recently, history education was accused of politicization and its attention to underrepresented histories dubbed irrelevant. This session will ask attendees to address these issues by posing two questions: how can museums help teachers present multiple historical perspectives, and how can public historians support teacher training to advance the use of critical historical thinking skills in everyday life?

Chair: Jennifer Van Haaften, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison, WI; David Childs, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY; Marina Dieringer, Canal Winchester High School, Canal Winchester, OH; Nicole Moore, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA

Sharing U.S. History Knowledge with the World on Wikipedia

Roundtable, Room: Rookwood

Whether it's on your phone, through a digital assistant, or as part of a new A.I. model, Wikipedia content pervades our lives. A group of historians recently participated in a special series of Wiki Education's Scholars & Scientists courses, aimed at improving Wikipedia's coverage of American history ahead of the semiquincentennial. Presenters will discuss their participation in the program, describe future plans to continue improving Wikipedia's coverage of American history in advance of the 250th anniversary, and describe how attendees of the conference are able to participate.

Chair: Will Kent, Wiki Education, Chico, CA; Kaitlyn Donaldson, Lorain Historical Society, Lorain, OH; Angela O'Neal, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus, OH

So You Want to Publish a History Book?

Roundtable, Room: Salon H–I

Publishing state and local history—in either a print or an electronic format—can be quite a daunting challenge. Issues from editing to printing and marketing can sometimes feel overwhelming. This roundtable will provide suggestions and answer your questions about starting and completing a publishing project.

Chair: Thomas Mason, Indiana University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN; Aja Bain, AASLH, Nashville, TN; Rebekah Beaulieu, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH; Kent Calder, University of Oklahoma Press, Corpus Christi, TX

The Three-Legged Race: Transformational Owner/Advocate Partnership

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Salon B–C

The goal of this nuts-and-bolts session is to share the lessons learned as two organizations work in partnership to open and support a new public historic site. This will be accomplished by presenting and describing the thinking behind—and the practices emerging from—their collaborative practices.

Chair: Suzanne Savery, Delaware Division for Historical and Cultural Affairs, Dover, DE; Vince Watchorn, Friends of Cooch's Bridge Historic Site, Montchanin, DE

Where History Walks and Talks: Immersive Storytelling in Action

Nuts and Bolts, Room: Caprice 2



Explore the power of dynamic indoor and outdoor walking tours and living history to captivate audiences and bring stories to life.

This session will provide actionable strategies to create immersive experiences, blend historical narratives with interactive storytelling to engage participants, and deepen their connection to local history, culture, and community heritage.

Chair: Shelby Boatman, Clinton County History Center, Wilmington, OH; Kate LaLonde, Worthington Historical Society, Worthington, OH; Dayna Jalkanen, Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, Columbus, OH

SATURDAY CONTINUED

HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS

1:30 – 5 pm

Beyond Maps: How to Bring Emotional, Disturbing, and Poignant Primary Sources into the Classroom

Cost: \$45, *Preregistration Required*

Room: Julep



How do historians and educators introduce students to historical documents that tell our most intense and distressing history? This interactive workshop highlights suggestions for digging deeper into primary sources, including those considered sensitive or unpleasant. We can help students process these historic documents if presented in a safe, inclusive environment.

Chair: Traci Manning, Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Youngstown, OH; Dante Bernard, Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Youngstown, OH

Cincinnati's Food Story: Building History, Culture, and Community Through Cooking

Sold Out

Location: *Cincinnati Museum Center*

Engage your senses in a hands-on cooking workshop in Cincinnati Museum Center's Cr(eat)e Culinary Studio and delight in local delicacies that connect history and community. Dive deep into Cincinnati's immigrant food culture with presentations, art, and story maps from local authors and food historians Dann Woellert and Dr. Alan Wight. Limited to 20 participants. Transportation provided.

Chair: Arynn McCandless, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH; Meagan Aylward, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH; Alan Wight, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH; Dann Woellert, Author and Food Historian, Cincinnati, OH



**EMMETT
TILL & MAMIE
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A mother's
bravery.

Her son's lasting
legacy.

Hear their
story.

Bring the award-winning *Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See* to your institution! Recognized with a 2024 History in Progress Award from AASLH, this traveling exhibit traces the stories of Emmett Till and his mother—his fateful trip, the trial, her fight for change, a community's reckoning with its past. Designed for families by The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, the Till family, the Till Institute, and the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, the exhibit comes with an age recommendation of 10 and up.

We are booking for April 2026 through 2028.

For more information, visit

emmetttillsexhibit.org

Email: exhibit@emmett-till.org

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AASLH LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

AASLH would like to thank our Legacy Society members who have generously decided to include AASLH in their estate planning to help leave a lasting legacy for the history community. If you would like to know more about the AASLH Legacy Society or if you are interested in joining, please contact John Dichtl at dichtl@aaslh.org.

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Ms. Melissa Bingmann
Mr. Robert M. & Ms. Claudia H. Brown
Ms. Mary Case & Mr. Will Lowe
Mr. Stephen & Ms. Diane Elliott
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Mr. Max and Ms. Mary van Balgooy
Mr. Jim* and Ms. Janet Vaughan
Mr. George L. Vogt
Anonymous

*Deceased

SPECIAL THANKS

AASLH and OLHA would like to recognize the many volunteers who contributed their valuable time, energy, and expertise to the success of this year's conference. Thank you!

2025 Program Committee

Aaron Noble, New York State Museum, Albany, NY, Program Chair
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Alison Bruesehoff, Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, Long Beach, CA
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Sarah Pharaon, Dialogic Consulting, New York, NY
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Jamie Simek, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, IN
Cori Silbernagel, The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, Cincinnati, OH
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Cyrus Moore, Baltimore Community Museum
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Rebecca Wingo, University of Cincinnati

HOTEL AND TRAVEL



Cincinnati skyline above the Roebling Bridge

Conference Center Location

The 2025 Conference will be held at:

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza

35 W Fifth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati

151 W 5th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Airport Transportation

The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport is approximately 13.4 miles from downtown Cincinnati. It is serviced by most major airlines including American, Delta, Frontier, and Southwest. There are several options for getting to/from the airport.

Public Transit by TANK

CVG Airporter Shuttle

Cost: \$1.50 each way

Stops at 5th/Elm, 0.1 miles from the conference hotels.

Accessible Service Options

Executive Transportation 859-261-8841

Express Mobile ADA 859-655-4600

Ride A WAV Cincy 859-918-9900

zTrip 513-962-1122

Rideshares

Uber and Lyft both service the Cincinnati area.

On-Airport Services

- Executive Transportation @ Baggage Claims 3 & 4
- zTrip taxis & private ride services at Ground Transport East on the Baggage Claim level

Transportation in Cincinnati

The **Connector Light Rail** is free to ride and makes a 3.6-mile loop from the Central Business District to the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood to the Banks neighborhood. Hours of operation vary by day.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Waiver and Photo Release

By submitting a registration for the AASLH Annual Conference, you authorize AASLH to use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to you, including your image, likeness, and/or voice without compensation. AASLH may use this material in various publications, recruitment materials, or for other related endeavors in print and online, including the AASLH website and email correspondence. You also agree that you are not aware of health or medical conditions preventing your safe participation in the activities for which you register, and release and discharge AASLH, their respective affiliates and subsidiaries, as well as any event sponsor, jointly and severally, from any and all liability, damages, costs (including attorney fees), actions or causes of action related to or arising from or out of

your participation in or preparation of any of the events for which you register.

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AASLH is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants and AASLH staff. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, AASLH staff, service providers, and others are expected to abide by this Meeting Safety & Responsibility Policy. This policy applies to all AASLH meeting-related events, including those sponsored by organizations other than AASLH but held in conjunction with AASLH events, in public or private facilities. See <https://aaslh.org/annualconference/2025-annual-conference> for the complete statement.