



Connecticut League of History Organizations
2023 Annual Conference

community matters

**linking past and present in
meaningful ways**

June 5, 2023

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Welcome from the League

Welcome back to CCSU! We are so pleased to be hosting this year's conference back at our institutional home on campus, and in a lovely new building to boot.

The past year and a half has been a momentous one for the League. Our organization has grown, not only in membership, but in staffing. When I began my work with the League, it was me, a part-time student, and a hard-working board. Today, we have two full-time staff members and several part-timers, and our board reflects the wider diversity of Connecticut's museum and history sector.

This greater human power has allowed us to expand our services to our members and to the broader museum community, and also to engage more actively in advocating for that community at the state level. Your engagement and enthusiasm have been essential in this.

With crucial support from our partners at CT Humanities and the Public History Program at CCSU, we have been working hard as an organization to imagine the League of the future, and to bring our institutional mission into better alignment with the reality of our expanded work across the state. We have engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process that has helped us better understand not only our existing members, but also the organizations that we hope to serve in the years ahead. Today we are asking our members to approve changes to our name and bylaws to reflect our larger mission as the Connecticut League of Museums.

This is an exciting moment that will bring us all into wider and more expansive conversations with colleagues across disciplines as we work to advance the interests of the museum and cultural community, and help everyone along the way. We are already a larger and more effective League—and we are and always will be *your* League.

—Amrys O. Williams, Executive Director



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CONFERENCE THEME

Community Matters:

Linking Past and Present in Meaningful Ways

Museums inform a community, document a community, and exist as a community for sharing ideas, history, and cultural information. This year's League conference addresses the myriad issues we tackle as organizations and individuals seeking to connect with and support the communities we represent, through a series of conversations around some of the key challenges of our moment.

Session Tracks

To help you navigate the program, we have organized sessions along several thematic tracks. You don't need to stick to a track—feel free to pick and choose!

Track A: Museums 101 (D 203)

Track B: Community History (D 205)

Track C: Engaging New Audiences (W 207)

Track D: Reckoning & Recovery (W 211)

Track E: Connecticut Connections (W 213)

Room Locations

Breakout sessions and topical lunches will take place in classrooms on the second floor of Willard-DiLoreto Hall. Our end-of-day gathering at 4:30 will take place in a lecture hall on the first floor. The complex is essentially two buildings—Willard (W) to the north and DiLoreto (D) to the south—connected by a central atrium. Rooms on the Willard side (to your right as you enter the atrium from the first floor) have numbers preceded by a W, and those on the DiLoreto side (to your left as you enter the atrium from the first floor) have numbers preceded by a D. Ample signage throughout the building should help you get where you are going. Elevators are located near the atrium on the DiLoreto side, and there are staircases at both ends of the atrium.

WiFi Info

To access the Internet as a guest on campus, please connect to the **ccsu-public** wireless network and click on the link to request a guest account. After completing the registration form, a password will be emailed to you so that you may connect up to five devices to the ccSU-public network for three days.

Schedule at a Glance

- 8:00 **Registration and Museum Marketplace Open (Atrium)**
Enjoy coffee and pastries.
- 9:00–10:00 **Breakout Sessions 1A–1E (Second Floor Classrooms)**
- 10:00–10:30 **Coffee Break in Museum Marketplace (Atrium)**
- 10:00–2:30 **Resource Room Open (W 205)**
Drop in throughout the day for expert advice on your organization's challenges from museum professionals.
- 10:30–11:30 **Breakout Sessions 2A–2E (Second Floor Classrooms)**
- 11:30–12:00 **Coffee Break in Museum Marketplace (Atrium)**
- 12:00–1:00 **Breakout Sessions 3A–3E (Second Floor Classrooms)**
- 1:00–2:00 **Lunch Break and Museum Marketplace (Atrium)**
Come to the Atrium to pick up your boxed lunch. Find a spot to eat with friends, sit outside if the weather is good, or join one of the Lunch Time Meetups.
- 1:00–2:00 **Lunch Time Meetups (Second Floor Classrooms)**
- 2:00–3:00 **Optional Off-Site Field Trips**
Plan to depart by 1:45 for one of our two field trip options; advance registration required.
- 2:00–3:00 **Breakout Sessions 4A–4E (Second Floor Classrooms)**
- 3:00–3:30 **Fresh Air Break**
- 3:30–4:30 **Breakout Sessions 5A–5E (Second Floor Classrooms)**
Museum Marketplace closes—last chance to fill out your passport!
- 4:30–5:00 **Special League Announcement and Vote of the Membership (D 121)**
Drawing winners announced.
- 5:00–6:00 **Closing Reception (Atrium)**
Enjoy refreshments and network with friends old and new.

MUSEUM MARKETPLACE

Visit Our Exhibitors

8:00–4:30, Atrium

Arcadia Publishing

Capture Visual Marketing

Colchester Historical Society

CCSU Public History Program

Connecticut Digital Archive

Connecticut Explored

CT Humanities

Connecticut League of History Organizations

Connecticut Libraries & Partners for Digital
Equity, a Project of the Connecticut State
Library

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office

Connecticut Storytelling Center

The Dudley Farm Museum

Exhibista Creative

Famous Historians

Florence Griswold Museum

Godfrey Memorial Library

Greater New Haven Labor History Association

Haymaker Creative

Heritage Consultants, LLC

Nationwide Security Corporation

New England Civil War Museum

Northeast Document Conservation Center

Stanley-Whitman House

Tom Lee, Storyteller

Museum Marketplace Passport

Visit our exhibitors for a chance to win a prize!

Collect at least 15 signatures from our exhibitors in Museum Marketplace to be entered for our end-of-day drawing. Deposit your completed passport at the registration desk. Eligible entries will be drawn at random and prizes distributed at the 4:30 gathering. You must be present at the drawing to win. Prizes have been donated by exhibitors as well as CLHO board members and their institutions.

Special
Book Sale &
Signing by the
Author!



RESOURCE ROOM

Free Expert Consultation

10:00–2:30, W 205

Get help with your museum questions in our brand-new drop-in Resource Room! The room will be staffed by museum professionals with a wide range of expertise. Come with your challenges, get the advice you need, and join a wider community of colleagues. A preliminary list of our resource people and their areas of expertise is below; additional information will be available at the registration desk, at the door, or in your conference packet.

10:00–11:30

Nick Foster, Executive Director, Wilton Historical Society

Collections management, exhibition development, low-cost exhibitry, effective labels, hands-on components

Melissa Josefiak, Executive Director, Essex Historical Society

Success through collaborations: Come learn how one small historical society turned competitors into collaborators, leading to increased awareness, non-traditional partnerships and an improved financial position. We can brainstorm potential collaborators in your area and how to approach them.

Doug Shipman, Executive Director, Windsor Historical Society

Nonprofit governance, museum education programs, budgeting and planning, diversity, equity, and inclusion

Savita Trivedi, Industrial Hygenist, Conn-OSHA

Robert Hunt, Occupational Safety Training Specialist, Conn-OSHA

Safety and health hazards in the museum and cultural heritage workplace

11:30–1:00

Stacey Danielson, Independent Curatorial & Museum Consultant

Collections stewardship, exhibits, period rooms/historic house interpretation, costume/textiles, governance/board policy, nominating/recruiting, grant writing, fundraising events, strategic planning, personnel search

Joan DiMartino, Museum Curator & Site Superintendent, Prudence Crandall Museum

Adult programs, reinterpreting and re-envisioning museums, shifting the narrative to tell more inclusive stories

Leslie Evans, Director/Curator, Avery-Copp House Museum

First-person interpretation, museum theater, teaching with food, herbs, and spices

Savita Trivedi, Industrial Hygenist, Conn-OSHA

Robert Hunt, Occupational Safety Training Specialist, Conn-OSHA

Safety and health hazards in the museum and cultural heritage workplace

1:00–2:30

Lauren Bennett-Dionne, Assistant Director of Education, Connecticut River Museum

Engaging audiences through dialogue facilitation, crafting interactive interpretation, developing hands-on education programs & classroom management, tour guide training, museum educator training

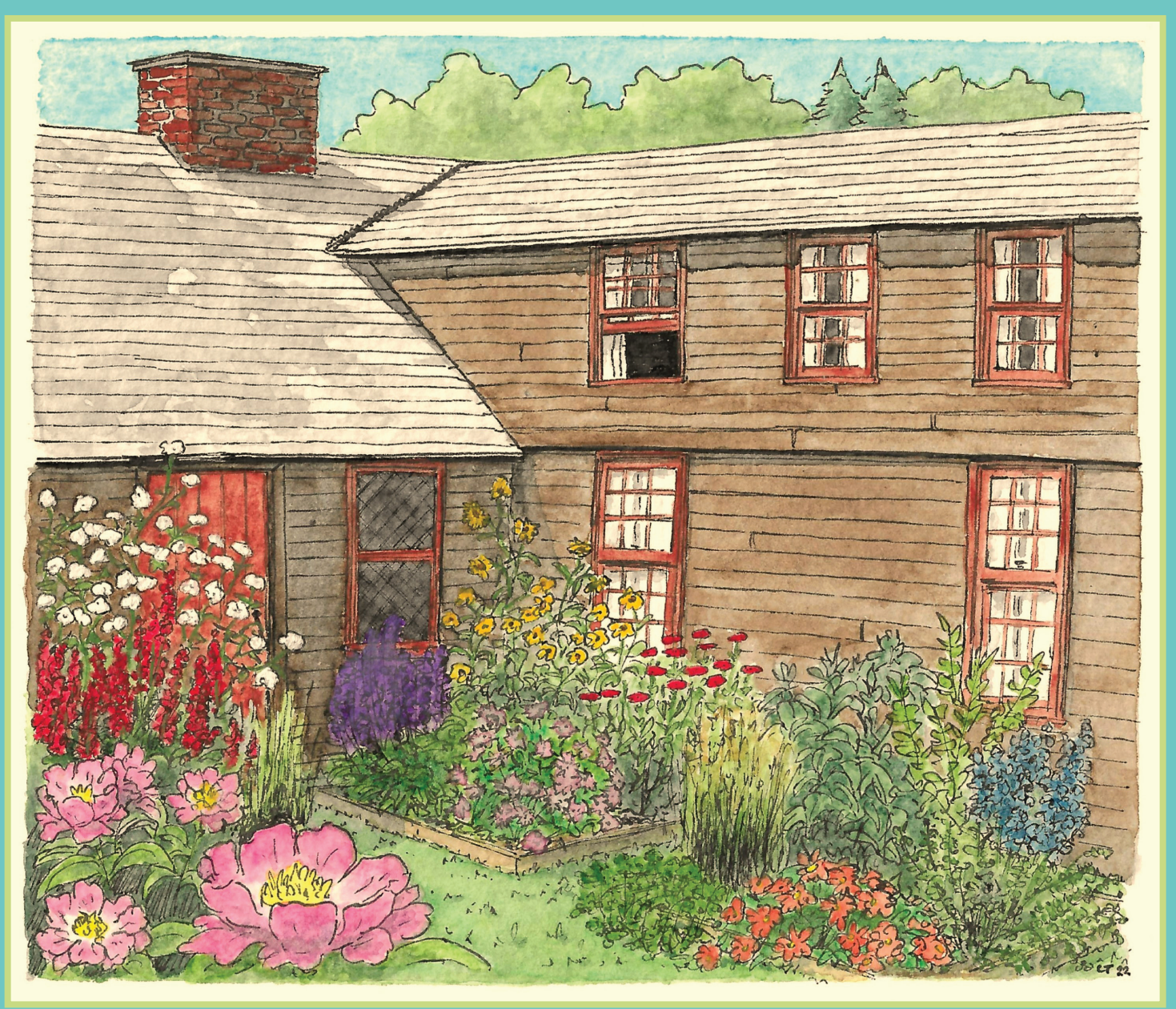
Christine Pittsley, Special Projects Director, Museum of Connecticut History

Digitization, metadata, community archiving programs

Savita Trivedi, Industrial Hygenist, Conn-OSHA

Robert Hunt, Occupational Safety Training Specialist, Conn-OSHA

Safety and health hazards in the museum and cultural heritage workplace



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CT OPEN HOUSE DAY / June 10 / 12-4 PM



CT's HISTORIC GARDENS DAY / June 25 / 12-4 PM



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Conference Sessions

9:00–10:00

Breakout Session 1

Session 1A (Museums 101)
D 203

Collections Protection

Kasey Calnan, Collections Manager, Boscobel House and Gardens, Garrison, NY
Brian Gouin, Senior Security Consultant, Nationwide Security Corporation

This session will help attendees understand why their responsibility to protect collections is so important. Ideas will be presented to mitigate threats by implementing security measures that fit within different budgets. The contents and purpose of collections emergency kits will also be discussed.

Session 1B (Community History)
D 205

Help! I Need Somebody: Enlivening History Through Community Input

Olivia Grella, Subscription Manager, *Connecticut Explored*
Kerri Ana Provost, CCHAP Archive Project Assistant, Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford
Andrea Slater, Florence S. Marcy Crofut Archivist, Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford

History is alive when organizations collaborate with the community. In this hybrid panel/think tank session, presenters will describe successful and mutually beneficial work highlighting Connecticut's many cultures. This will culminate with an opportunity for community partners to provide input in an American Revolution simulation that's under development. We want to hear from people about levels of interest in participating, and how we can help showcase our partners' holdings and advertise their events.

Session 1C (Engaging New Audiences)
W 207

Hidden Skills: Preparing for Audience-Centered Programming

Kristin Robinson, Founder/Interpretive Planner, Stage Naked, LLC

Audience-centered programs are experiences, talks, and tours that rely on conversation with your audience instead of presenting to them. Preparation means more than developing a great arc of dialogue or understanding your current or desired audience segmentation. If your interpretive staff or volunteers are more comfortable with lecture-style program delivery, skill-building from their current strengths and within their current programs can aid their transition and make audience-centered work an exciting exploration they take with the audience.

Session 1D (Reckoning & Recovery)
W 211

Engaging with the Gaps: Reinterpretation at Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center

Shannon Burke, Interpretive Consultant and Principal, Transformational Engagement
Katie Burton, Director of Strategic Storytelling, Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center, Ridgefield
Ishaar Gupta, Operations Associate, Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center, Ridgefield
Sesheta Holder, Justice & Equity Consultant, R&L Consulting, Arden, NC

Recognizing that many museums and historical societies are contemplating or undergoing similar efforts to be more inclusive and representative, internally and externally, this panel brings together staff and consultant contributors to KTM&HC's major site reinterpretation project to share the project's strategies, successes, challenges, and plans for the future.

Session 1 continues on the next page...

9:00–10:00

Breakout Session 1, cont.

Session 1E (Connecticut Connections)
W 213

America 250 | CT – Learn About the Commission, Resources, and Give Your Input

Cyndi Tolosa, Development Officer, CT Humanities

Join this session to learn more about Connecticut’s Semiquincentennial Commission, resources that they have released, and resources that are coming very soon. Be part of the first group to preview the America 250 | CT planning guide and give your feedback on what is helpful and what more is still needed. Brainstorm projects and research questions related to the four themes of Connecticut’s commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

10:00–10:30

Coffee Break in Museum Marketplace

10:30–11:30

Breakout Session 2

Session 2A (Museums 101)
D 203

Registration 101: Step-by-Step Guidelines from Object Accessioning to Data Entry

Kathy Craughwell-Varda, Director, Conservation ConneCTion, Connecticut State Library, Hartford
Diane Lee, Connecticut Collections Project Manager, CLHO; Collections Manager, Fairfield Museum
Dana Meyer, Connecticut Collections Project Assistant, CLHO

Are you overwhelmed by the paperwork for your museum collections? Are you unsure if you have the proper documentation? This session will take you through the steps of good collection management, including record keeping, managing your collection records using spreadsheets, and sharing your collections through Connecticut Collections and similar programs.



10:30–11:30

Breakout Session 2, cont.

Session 2B (Community History)

D 205

Working with Communities: A Forum on Partnership Programs with Our Community Partners

Mike Keo, Community Engagement Manager,
Connecticut Historical Society

Kamora Herrington, Founder and Director, Kamora's
Cultural Corner, Hartford, and Co-Facilitator of We
Belong: Youth Leadership and Community Cultures
of Care Program

Elena Calderón Patiño, Director, Arts & Cultural
Sustainability Program, Rhode Island State Council
on the Arts, Providence, RI

Lorén M. Spears, Executive Director of the Tomaquag
Museum, Exeter, RI, and Program Alumna of the
Rhode Island Expansion Arts Program

Kate Schramm, Director of Cultural Sustainability,
Connecticut Historical Society

Carlos Hernández Chávez, Día de Muertos
Community Celebration Co-Director, Artist,
Musician, Humanist, and Educator

Philitha Stemplys-Cowdrey, Manager, Southern New
England Apprenticeship Program, Connecticut
Historical Society

Rafael Feliciano-Roman, Founder and CEO, Afro
Caribbean Cultural Center, Waterbury, and Southern
New England Apprenticeship Program Ambassador

What is the role of institutions doing public-facing work and how do we do it together with community members? In this forum discussion, we will bring together representatives from our partner organizations and communities to share different programs that rely on participation and collaboration to consider belonging, accountability, and power.

Session 3C (Engaging New Audiences)

W 207

How 3D Scanning Can Transform Your Historic / Museum Experience

Tony Healy, President, Capture Visual Marketing,
Simsbury

Mell Scalzi, Registrar, Florence Griswold Museum, Old
Lyme

Joan DiMartino, Museum Curator & Site
Superintendent, Prudence Crandall Museum,
Canterbury

As museums and other historic sites become more popular tourist destinations, the way people interact with them is changing. Are you keeping up? With 3D scanning services, you can augment your museum experience with AR/VR solutions, collect data on artifacts, create stunning online databases, and make your museum a more enriching place for visitors. Hear stories from actual users about the potential impact.

Session 2D (Reckoning & Recovery)

W 211

Working with Indigenous Tribal Nations in Connecticut: "Native Peoples of Connecticut" Documentary Project Case Study

Karyl Evans, Producer/Director; Filmmaker, Karyl
Evans Productions

Brenda Geer, Co-Producer; Vice-Chairwoman,
Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation; Chairwoman, Native
American Heritage Advisory Council
endawnis Spears (Diné/Ojibwe/Chickasaw/Choctaw),
Researcher/Writer/Tribal Relations Consultant;
Director of Programming and Outreach, Akomawt
Education Initiative

The primary objective of this session is to help inform the audience about working respectfully and successfully with Indigenous Tribal Nations of Connecticut. The members of the panel have been working together for more than two years on a feature length documentary film project, "Native Peoples of Connecticut", about the history and current affairs of the five State and Federally recognized Native American Tribes in Connecticut. *Continued on the next page...*

10:30–11:30

Breakout Session 2, cont.

The panelists will discuss their process of approaching the tribes, building working relationships, timelines and scheduling, looking at your project from a Native perspective, respecting tribal stories and voices, and the sharing of the assets and final projects.

Session 2E (Connecticut Connections)
W 213

Connecting the Classroom & Museum

Jennifer Heikkila Diaz, Professional Learning
Coordinator, CT Council for the Social Studies
Stephen Armstrong, Social Studies Consultant

Join us to learn about the new K-12 CT social studies content standards and how historical societies and schools have been partnering to enhance students' learning experiences with standards-aligned, inquiry-based local history lessons in and outside of the classroom!

11:30–12:00

Coffee Break in Museum Marketplace

Object Lessons in **AMERICAN ART**

Selections from the
Princeton University Art Museum

June 3–September 10

Object Lessons in American Art is organized by the Princeton University Art Museum.

This exhibition is made possible by leadership support of the
Terra Foundation for American Art.

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Mary Cassatt (1844–1926), born Allegheny City, PA, died Le Masnil-Theribus, France. *Little Girl in a Large Red Hat*, ca. 1881. Oil on canvas, 43.8 x 38.7 cm. Princeton University Art Museum. Museum purchase, Fowler McCormick Class of 1921. Fund (2021.12)

12:00–1:00

Breakout Session 3

Session 3A (Museums 101)

D 203

Marketing Q&A

Emily Clark, Marketing Associate, Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme

Josh Dennis, Director of Digital Strategy, Haymaker Creative

Rich Denver, Creative Director and Graphic Designer, Haymaker Creative

Tammi Flynn, Director of Marketing, Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme

Do you have burning questions about your museum's marketing efforts? Then ask the experts from Haymaker Creative and the Marketing Team at Florence Griswold Museum! They will provide real, actionable marketing advice from questions submitted by our members.

Session 3B (Community History)

D 205

Changing the Way the Narrative is Communicated: A Contemporary Look at Collecting for Future Generations

Samariya Smith, Community History Project Manager, Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford

In this workshop, museum professionals will understand the value of taking the museum to their respective communities, and experience how collecting oral histories can make a significant difference in changing the narrative for how we collect history as organizations, and how important it is to be equitable in our efforts.

Session 3C (Engaging New Audiences)

W 207

From Bee Skeps to Venus de Milo: Creative Exhibit Outcomes to Enhance the Visitor Experience

Kathy Craughwell-Varda, Director, Conservation ConneCTion, Connecticut State Library, Hartford
Elysa Engelman, Director of Exhibits, Mystic Seaport Museum

Maggie Dimock, Curator of Exhibitions & Collections, Greenwich Historical Society

Dayne Rugh, Director, Slater Museum, Norwich

Andres Verzosa, Executive Director & Curator, Stanley-Whitman House, Farmington

Museum makeovers typically focus on making improvements to permanent exhibits with the hope that new displays will bring in more visitors. But what if that one-size-fits-all solution, isn't what your museum needs? Is there a creative approach that will work better for both staff/volunteers and visitors? In this session participants will learn about two Museum Makeover projects and how the collaborations between museum staff and Museum Makeover's Traveling Curators led to unexpected and highly effective outcomes.

Session 3 continues on the next page...



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12:00–1:00

Breakout Session 3, cont.

Session 3D (Reckoning & Recovery)

W 211

Addressing the Legacies of Discrimination: Making Slavery and Freedom an Integral Part of the Local Colonial Stories We Tell

Amy Fernand Boulton, Director of Development,
Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical
Society

Elizabeth Devine, Independent Education Consultant

Jennifer DiCola Matos, Museum Administrator,
Museum of Connecticut History, Hartford

Dr. Tracey Wilson, Education Consultant and Town
Historian, West Hartford

This session encourages historical societies to uncover histories of slavery and freedom in their colonial town. Panelists will discuss how to interpret and integrate this information to tell the colonial narrative of their town. Historical societies will be challenged to shift their gaze to include and engage a broader community. Speakers will share examples of successful community engagement projects and improved programming generated by this work.

Session 3E (Connecticut Connections)

W 213

Including Voices, Voicing for Inclusion: Recovering and Sharing Forgotten Voices of the Revolutionary War through Federal Money and Private-University Partnerships

Anna Fossi, Graduate Student, CCSU, New Britain
Leah Glaser, Professor of History, CCSU, New Britain

Andy King, Graduate Student, CCSU, New Britain

Dana Meyer, Graduate Student, CCSU, New Britain;
Connecticut Collections Project Assistant, CLHO

Peter Moran, Historical Consultant

Cheyenne Tracy, Graduate Student, CCSU, New
Britain

We will present an innovative project, funded by the National Park Service, that brought that together an interdisciplinary team of educators, archivists, university students, and historians to interpret the Revolutionary War in revolutionary ways. A resulting audio tour produced by CRIS radio makes accessible for the sight-impaired the research about the roles of women, African Americans, and Native Americans at the Redding Encampment.

1:00–2:00

Boxed Lunch Pickup

Atrium

1:00–2:00

Lunch Time Meetups

Lunch Meetup 1

Location 1

Board and Committee Member Exchange Program

Carolyn Venne, Executive Director, Friends of Wood
Memorial Library & Museum, South Windsor

Join a brainstorming session on how to “exchange” staff, interns, volunteers and paid contractors from your organization with others. By providing opportunities for cross-training, perhaps we can share some best practices and additional points of view, linking our museums and paving the ways for new and unexpected partnerships and collaborations.

Lunch Meetup 2

Location 2

Turning Points in History: What Stories Can Your Organization Tell?

Rebecca Taber, Director, Connecticut History Day,
Connecticut Democracy Center at Connecticut’s
Old State House

Want to encourage middle and high school students to do research at your organization? Join in the discussion about the 2024 History Day Annual Theme of “Turning Points in History” and share your ideas for topics, resources, and ways to reach students and their teachers.

2:00–3:00

Optional Off-Site Field Trips

We are pleased to offer two off-site field trips to local museums this year for an additional cost. Advance registration is required. Registrants should plan on driving themselves; we are also able to help organize car-pools in advance. We recommend departing CCSU around 1:45 to be on time for the tours.

Tour Option 1

Guided tour of *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* at the New Britain Museum of American Art

56 Lexington St, New Britain, CT 06052

\$15; Limited to 40 people; will tour in smaller groups

Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders! spans 50 years of innovation, wonder, and imagination. Tracing the span of Wick's career, the exhibition is organized by themes that have long fascinated Wick, including Miniature Worlds; Floor Games; Craft-Built Worlds; Optical Illusions; I Spy Games; Puzzle Challenges, Wonders of Science; Connecticut Woods; and Curiosity Shop. The exhibition pairs beloved images, including over 15 never-before-seen works, with numerous three-dimensional models upon which his photographs are based. Celebrating five decades of creativity, as well as Wick's indelible role in the development of photographic illustration, this exhibition is a must-see for art lovers of any age.

Tour Option 2

Guided tour of the New Britain Industrial Museum

59 W Main St, New Britain, CT 06051

\$10; Limited to 10 people

The New Britain Industrial Museum collects, preserves and exhibits items representing more than 200 years of New Britain innovation and invention. From 19th century hooks & eyes to 21st century ERA Cobra Cars, the Museum and its collection serve as a bridge between New Britain's past and present and provides inspiration for the future. New Britain's impact has been, and continues to be, felt far beyond its borders. Very few of the items we use or wear everyday could have been created without a machine, a part, or a concept that originated in New Britain. In fact, for most of the 20th century, every American came into contact with at least one New Britain product a day: it was either made here, had a part in it that was made here, or was made on a New Britain machine.

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2:00–3:00

Breakout Session 4

Session 4A (Museums 101)

D 203

Lights, Camera, CULTURE! How Your Organization Can Create Meaningful Media

Peter Moran, Digital Educator, The Barnum Museum, Bridgeport
Adrienne Saint-Pierre, Curator, The Barnum Museum, Bridgeport
Rui Pinho, Rui Pinho Creative
Will Sarris, Producer, William Sarris Productions

We SHOULD be making digital content about our organization, but where to start? What does it accomplish? Will it discourage in-person attendance? Can we afford it? Learn how you—Yes, You!—can create, fund, and distribute content that empowers your organization and enhances engagement with your community.

Session 4B (Community History)

D 205

Building A Community Oral History Infrastructure

John Cappadona, President, Wintonbury Historical Society, Bloomfield
Ruthanne Marchetti, Vice President, Wintonbury Historical Society, Bloomfield
Fiona Vernal, Associate Professor, History and Africana Studies, University of Connecticut
Donna Wnuck, Member, Bloomfield Humanities Committee

This panel provides an overview of Bloomfield Mosaics, one of the projects anchoring CT Humanities' new initiative, the Connecticut Oral History Project. Themes include: how communities can leverage technical assistance and training to collect, preserve, and integrate oral histories into their public programming; how to use oral histories to develop and share more inclusive stories of our past and present; lessons learned from collaborations with key stakeholders and oral history narrators; and potential models for launching a community oral history project.

Session 4C (Engaging New Audiences)

W 207

Creating and Repurposing Content for a Variety of Communication and Technology Avenues

Carolyn Venne, Executive Director, Friends of Wood Memorial Library & Museum, South Windsor
Jessica Vogelgesang, Communications Director, Friends of Wood Memorial Library & Museum, South Windsor

Learn how to create original content that can be used across a variety of communication mediums. Explore how different audiences are attracted to different media and how to work smarter not harder in your messaging. Learn how to use free or low-cost technology and software to enhance your messaging.

Session 4D (Reckoning & Recovery)

W 211

History Through Her Stories

Ashley Aberg, Project Archivist at the Greenwich Historical Society
Elise Maragliano, Museum Coordinator at the Katharine Hepburn Museum, Old Saybrook

It is often said that the past is a foreign country—perhaps to understand it better what we need is the right guide. This session will look at how two museums have used the life stories of two very different women—Frances Geraghty and Katharine Hepburn—to help visitors glimpse into the past and reflect on how that has shaped our present. Looking at the lives of Geraghty and Hepburn, one would think that they could not be two more different people. Geraghty, a poor working woman from Greenwich, and Hepburn, a world-famous Hollywood actress from Old Saybrook, are essentially from two different worlds. Through examining the artifacts and archives associated with these two women, however, we encounter many points of intersection between their lives and pivotal moments in American culture that have shaped the world we experience today.

2:00–3:00

Breakout Session 4, cont.

Session 4E (Connecticut Connections)

W 213

Connecticut Collections Basics, and Getting the Most out of CollectiveAccess

Seth Kaufman, Lead Developer, Whirl-i-Gig, Inc.
Diane Lee, Connecticut Collections Project Manager,
CLHO and Collections Manager, Fairfield Museum
Dana Meyer, Connecticut Collections Project
Assistant, CLHO

Focusing on Connecticut Collections members (but of course everyone is welcome), come learn about how the CollectiveAccess collections management system works from one of the most knowledgeable—its own developer. We plan on talking about some of the new features of the system, but also introducing users and prospective users to the basics.

3:00–3:30

Fresh Air Break

3:30–4:30

Breakout Session 5

Session 5A (Museums 101)

D 203

Resources for Nonprofits: A Funding Toolkit

Becky Vitkauskas, Grants Assistant, CT Humanities
Scott Wands, Deputy Director of Grants and Programs,
CT Humanities

Is your organization seeking funding for a project? Not sure where to start? Join CT Humanities as we walk you through our own funding opportunities, opportunities through other funders around the state, and additional resources for grant writers!

Session 5B (Community History)


D 205

My Town, My Story: A Framework for Preserving Our Collective History

Greg Colati, Director, Connecticut Digital Archive
Michael Howser, Repository Manager, Connecticut
Digital Archive

Across communities, digital photos, videos, and documents are created daily yet few are preserved. The challenge of preserving exponentially growing, digitally vulnerable content is why the CTDA is developing *My Town, My Story*, a framework for individuals and community groups to work with their local place-based organization to preserve their memories as part of a collective community history.

Session 5 continues on the next page...



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3:30–4:30

Breakout Session 5, cont.

Session 5C (Engaging New Audiences)
W 207

Where Are You Now and Where Do You Want to Be? An Interactive Mapping Exercise to Orient Your Organization Toward a Better, Healthier, and More Inclusive Future

John Cusano, Systems Advisor and Project & Research Consultant, Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County

Reflecting on the room's labeled geography, each participant moves to a spot that 'maps' their present circumstances. A facilitated full group dialogue, guided by discussion prompts, supports participant-generated ideas about how to improve inclusion and engagement. Everyone listens, supports, adds their voice, and commits to a specific action.

Session 5D (Reckoning & Recovery)
W 211

The Legacy of James Lindsey Smith

Adam Bowles, Lead Pastor, Castle Church, Norwich
Shiela Hayes, Past President, Norwich Branch, NAACP
Regan Miner, Executive Director, Norwich Historical Society

Sandra Soucy, Secretary, Norwich Historical Society

This talk explores the multi-faceted nature of enslavement, racial issues, education, political history, and religion. It features an overview of James Lindsey Smith's life, explores how modern research helps us attach a sense of place to his story, and explains how Castle Church is using Smith's legacy to transform a blighted courtyard into a beautiful community space that celebrates resilience.

Session 5E (Connecticut Connections)
W 213

Experiencing Connecticut History Day: Students Sharing Their 2023 Projects

Rebecca Taber, Director, Connecticut History Day,
Connecticut Democracy Center at Connecticut's Old State House

Connecticut History Day Students

Experience Connecticut History Day and see students in action as they present their 2023 projects. Discover how participants explore local topics and learn more about getting involved.

4:30–5:00

Special League Announcement & Vote
D 121

5:00–6:00

Closing Reception
Atrium

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A Note of Thanks

Community Matters: Linking Past and Present in Meaningful Ways is the League's first in-person annual conference back at our home base of CCSU since the pandemic. We are excited and want to offer thanks to some very special people and organizations.

First and foremost, we have to thank the faculty and staff at CCSU who helped smooth the way for this amazing day. Matthew Warshauer and Leah Glaser in the History Department, Tracey LaFrazier in the Central Reservations Office, and John Dillon in Catering all ensured the day went smoothly.

Our sincere appreciation goes to three organizations that supported the conference at the Constitution State Level: the Be Foundation, the Stanley-Whitman House, and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. Thank you for your ongoing support of the League. Likewise, we want to thank our Charter Oak sponsors: the Connecticut Digital Archive, Connecticut Explored, and the Florence Griswold Museum. We are equally thrilled to thank our Nutmeg sponsors, Exhibista Creative, Nationwide Security Corporation, the Northeast Document Conservation Center, and Stage Naked. We also greatly appreciate our Acorn sponsors: SL Communications, Ann F. Peabody Design & Illustration, and Seed Education Consulting. Your support at all levels is so valuable and crucial to our success. Thank you to our returning Tote Bag sponsor, Barker Specialty. With your generous donations and design expertise, everyone wins.

We'd also like to thank our conference exhibitors: Arcadia Publishing, Capture Visual Marketing, Colchester Historical Society, CCSU Public History Program, Connecticut Digital Archive, *Connecticut Explored*, CT Humanities, Connecticut Libraries & Partners for Digital Equity, a Project of the Connecticut State Library, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Storytelling Center, Dudley Farm Museum, Exhibista Creative, Famous Historians, Florence Griswold Museum, Godfrey Memorial Library, Greater New Haven Labor History Association, Haymaker Creative, Heritage Consultants, LLC, Nationwide Security Corporation, New England Civil War Museum, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Stanley-Whitman House, and Tom Lee, Storyteller. We hope your presence in the light-filled atrium at Willard-DiLoreto Hall and the contacts you make today expand your reach and impact across Connecticut's history, museum, and cultural communities.

Last, but not least, a great big thanks to our presenters for sharing their expertise and passion for museums and history, our student volunteers for their enthusiastic assistance, the League board members who offered help

in a number of vital ways, and of course the League staff, with a special shout out to Emily Garfinkel, Andy King, and Amrys Williams, who together have worked tirelessly to make today's experience extraordinary.

Most of all, thank you for being here today!

David D.J. Rau

Chair, Annual Conference Committee

Annual Conference Committee

David D.J. Rau, *Chair*

Stacey Danielson

Tammy Denease

Leslie Evans

Jamie Eves

Nick Foster

Emily Garfinkel

Andy King

Chris Newell

Megan Olver Siok

Amrys O. Williams

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Thank You David Rau!

Your talents and style have made the League Conference a must-attend event. We don't know how we'll do it without you!



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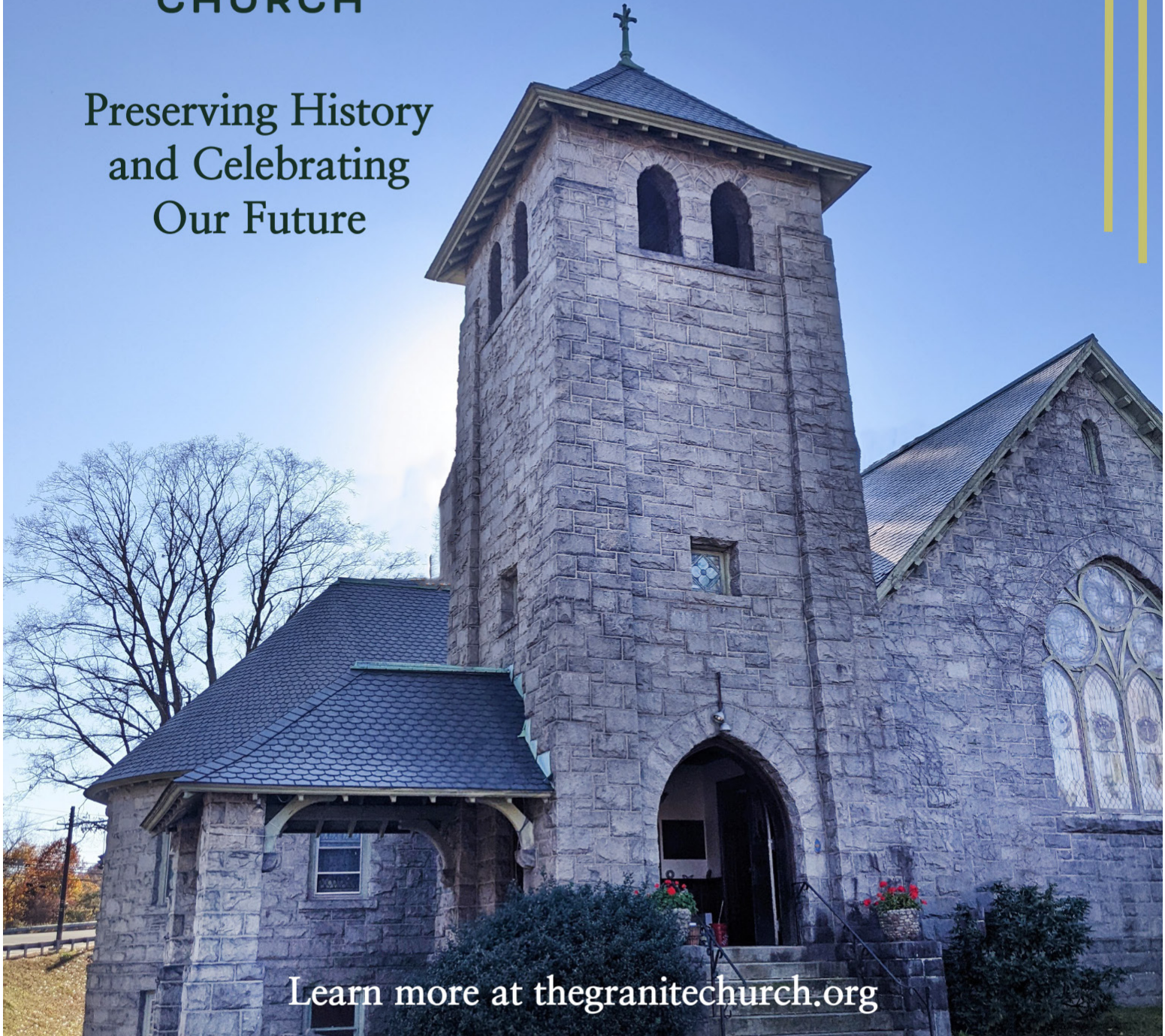
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