Museums at the Center of Community
Representative, Reflective, and Relevant

Join fellow museum professionals in Ellensburg, June 12–14
for the WMA 2013 Annual Conference. East or west, large or small, museums in Washington share common values that make them vital to the communities they serve. Within an era of rapidly changing demographics and technology, museums have the potential and obligation to represent, reflect, and remain relevant to the world around them. The 2013 WMA conference will address these pertinent issues through sessions, keynotes, and networking opportunities.

This year’s conference takes place in beautiful and historic Ellensburg. The area, historically a gathering place for the Kittitas band of the Yakama Indians and other Columbia plateau tribes, became a social hub for farming and ranching families after the Northern Pacific Railroad arrived in 1886. Following the destructive fire of July 4, 1889, the town quickly rebuilt. Many of those 19th century structures are still evident today in the culturally vibrant downtown, a National Historic District. Opening day events and special opportunities will take place downtown with its museums and galleries. Conference sessions will be held at Central Washington University.

Dick and Jane’s Spot, Wildhorse Wind and Solar Facility, Kittitas County Historical Museum, and Olmstead Place State Park...just a few of the many sights in and around Ellensburg.

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Welcome to Ellensburg

Among its offerings of professional development to the museum field, the Washington Museum Association produces an annual statewide conference. This year, from June 12-14, the WMA Conference will take place in Ellensburg, a site conveniently located at the geographical center of the state. Playing off that central location with its theme, Museums at the Center of Community: Representative, Reflective and Relevant, this year’s conference provides rich content for professional advancement and renewal, occasions for networking, and a chance to explore historic Ellensburg and its environs.

Learn how to craft a membership plan through the half-day workshop; mix and mingle with colleagues during the opening reception; applaud the exemplary work of the field at the awards presentation; be inspired by the keynote speaker; and gain enlightenment through an array of breakout sessions. Fun events for rubbing elbows and kicking up heels include, driving and walking tours, lunches and breaks in the vendors’ hall, and drinks, dinner and dancing at the annual banquet.

Within a convivial setting, the WMA Conference provides professional development in different ways. In addition to the above activities, “Registrars to the Rescue,” a program offered in conjunction with the Conference, delivers hands-on collections assistance to a local museum. For one day each year, this volunteer SWAT team approach provides professional registrars onsite to tackle an organization’s current collections challenges, while laying the groundwork for museum staff to continue the work afterward. Museum professionals helping each other; that’s what the WMA and its Conference are all about.

—Eric Taylor, President, Washington Museum Association
WASHINGTON STATE HERITAGE CAUCUS

In February, WMA partnered with the Washington States Arts Alliance, ArtsWA, and the Washington State Historical Society for three days of learning and advocacy in Olympia. The annual event was well attended by Museum and Arts professionals, supporters and legislators. Pictured at the table (left to right) are present and past WMA Board members Bill Tennent, Colleen Schafroth, Ellen Terry, Betsy Millard, Vicki Blackwell, Susan Rohrer, and Susan Tissot listening as WMA President Eric Taylor addresses the Heritage Caucus attendees.

2013 Washington Museum Association Conference

was made possible by:

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registrars to the Rescue

Clymer Museum & Gallery

WMA’s second annual Registrars to the Rescue has been awarded to Clymer Museum & Gallery in Ellensburg. Registrars and collections specialists are invited to volunteer for the day. Use the application form in this newsletter or contact Rebecca Engelhardt at: rengelhardt@museumofglass.org

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Registration

Gallery One, Downtown Ellensburg

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM Preconference Workshop

Create a Membership Plan that works for you!

Presenter: Monica Miller, Associate Director, Gallery One

During this 4 hour, hands-on workshop participants will craft a membership plan addressing constituent management, creating partnerships, membership incentives and creating a culture where memberships are important. Gallery One Visual Arts Center will be featured throughout the discussion (and not always in a good way)! Despite a thriving membership, a high retention rate and a membership culture, Gallery One still has a lot of room for growth. Explore ways to strengthen and deepen your membership base with this 45 year old organization. Featuring a panel of (gasp) members that will share their thoughts on your membership!

Fee • Preregistration required • Lunch is included in registration fee.

12:30 PM – 5:00 PM Lower Kittitas County Tour

Meet at CWU Parking Lot O-5, corner of 14th & D St. Participants will visit museums and historical sites in Lower Kittitas County. Olmstead Place State Park is a 217-acre day-use park that features a working pioneer farm. The wind and sun of Kittitas County are a tremendous natural resource for producing clean, renewable energy. Puget Sound Energy’s Renewable Energy Center offers a first-hand look at these remarkable technologies. Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park features 27,000 feet of freshwater shoreline on the Wanapum Reservoir on the Columbia River. Petrified wood was discovered in the region in the early 1930s. The Wanapum Heritage Center protects, preserves, and perpetuates the history and identity of the Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids. The museum is located next to Wanapum Dam on the Columbia River.

Fee • Preregistration required • Limited to 10 Participants • Transportation and snacks provided

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM Upper Kittitas County Tour

Meet at CWU Parking Lot O-5, corner of 14th & D St.

Participants will visit museums and historical sites in Upper Kittitas County. Guides will help you to step back into time at the Roslyn Museum when Coal was King and Roslyn was a bustling industrial town. The Milwaukee Road’s mid-west train line expanded to the Pacific Coast from 1906 to 1909 and is reflected in the South Cle Elum depot. eat lunch at the beautiful swauk-Teanaway Grange, overlooking a scenic valley, and learn how a one-room schoolhouse became a meeting place and community center. Thorp Grist Mill served the residents of Kittitas County and provided ice for refrigeration.

Fee • Preregistration required • Limited to 10 Participants • Transportation and snacks provided

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Central Washington University

Gallery One Visual Arts Center

Kittitas County Historical Museum

Museum of Culture & Environment

Western Art Association/Goodey Gallery
WEDNESDAY, ELLENSBURG/KITTI TAS VALLEY TOURS, continued

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Historic Preservation Tour
Meet at Northern Pacific Depot
- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Northern Pacific Depot
- 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Downtown/Upstairs Walking Tour (Buildings TBA)
FREE • Pre-registration required • Limited to 20 Participants • Wear comfortable shoes
• Downtown portion of tour is ADA accessible

2:00 PM – 4:45 PM
Archival Methods Tour
Meet at James E. Brooks Library, CWU
- 2:00 PM–2:45 PM: Central Washington University Archives
- 3:00 PM–1:35 PM: Central Regional Branch, Washington State Archives
- 4:00 PM–4:45 PM: Ellensburg Public Library
FREE • Pre-registration required • Limited to 20 Participants

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Washington Museum Association Board Meeting
Gallery One, Downtown Ellensburg
All WMA members are welcome.

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Open House—Yard and Studio Tour
Dick and Jane’s Spot, Corner of Pearl & 1st St., Ellensburg
Welcome to Dick and Jane’s Spot, an art site and a home, filled with art by Dick Elliott and Jane Orlman, plus additional works by more than 40 Northwest artists. The yard is generally private, but it will be open for WMA conference attendees from 5-6 PM on June 12th. For 35 years, The Spot has been a colorful work in progress. You will see nail totems, telephone pole people, sculptures and paintings, thousands of bottle caps and reflectors, and things that spin in the wind. Dick & Jane’s Spot is dedicated to the philosophy that “one hearty laugh is worth ten trips to the doctor.” The location is at the corner of 1st & Pearl Street – across from the fire station. Walk to the south gate and enter by way of the back yard.

5:15 PM – 6:30 PM
Registration
420 Loft Gallery, Downtown Ellensburg

6:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Progressive Tour and Opening Reception
Downtown Ellensburg
A fun introduction to our host city.
Each location will provide a different drink and hors d’oeuvre pairing.
- 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM: 420 Loft Gallery
- 6:35 PM – 7:05 PM: Clymer Museum and Gallery
- 7:10 PM – 7:40 PM: Gallery One
- 7:45 PM – 8:15 PM: Goodye Gallery/Western Art Association
- 8:20 PM – 8:50 PM: Kittitas County Historical Museum

Thursday, June 13, 2013

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Registration
CWU Student Union Recreation Center (SURC), Second Floor

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Continental Breakfast
Ballroom B/C, SURC, Second Floor

9:15 AM
Vendor Set-Up
Ballroom B/C, SURC, Second Floor

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Welcome & Awards
Theater, SURC, Second Floor

Eric Taylor, WaMA President; Rex Buck, Jr., Wanapum; Allen Aromica, Kittitas Band; David Reichert, U.S. Representative, 8th Congressional District; Paul Jewell, Kittitas County Commissioner; Ted Barkley Ellensburg City Manager; CWU Welcome (TBA); and Davidreece, WaMA Scholarship and Awards Committee Chair

Share in the achievements of Washington’s museums as WMA honors outstanding exhibits, programs, institutions, volunteers, and staff, and presents conference scholarships.

10:15 AM -11:00 AM
Keynote Address
Theater, SURC, Second Floor

Jack Nisbet, Teacher, Naturalist, and Writer
Spokane-based teacher and naturalist Jack Nisbet is the author of several books that explore the human and natural history of the Intermountain West. Pursuing a strong interest in the power of visual education, he served as the main consultant for The Mapmaker’s Eye: David Thompson on the Columbia Plateau, on display at Spokane’s Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in 2005-6 and then across the region as a traveling exhibit. Nisbet’s recent focus has resulted in two books on the Scottish naturalist David Douglas, and he and his wife Claire have curated a new exhibit built around Douglas’s journeys through the Northwest. David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work will run at the MAC until August 24, then travel to reopen at Tacoma’s Washington State History Museum this September 21.

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
Lunch in Vendors Hall
Ballroom B/C, SURC, Second Floor

Conversation at Lunch:
Collaborative Museum Advocacy: A Washington State Case Study
Lissa Kramer, M.A. in Museology, and Betsy Davis, Executive Director of The Center for Wooden Boats, will discuss a collaborative advocacy effort for Heritage Capital Projects funding in the state legislature. Exploring the merits and deficiencies of this case can inform museum advocacy at the community, county and state levels.

Silent Auction Opens

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Theater, Ballroom A, Ballroom D, SURC, Second Floor

Adding “Layers” to Your Exhibits & Programs
Panel: Victoria Blackwell, Harbor History Museum; Susan Tissot, Clark County Historical Museum; Jeanine Greco
Add layers of interpretation to your exhibits, programs, and interactives with QR codes and digital video. Low-cost digital cameras and software give smaller museums the ability to expand exhibit narratives and reach audiences beyond museum walls. This workshop shares projects developed by the Harbor History Museum and Clark County Historical Museum, using digital video, QR codes, and social media to expand museum exhibits, programs, and interactives.

Collection Stewardship: Policies, Plans, and Procedures for Small Museums
Presenter: Cara West, Balboa Art Conservation Center
Collection policies, plans, and procedures will fulfill an institutional commitment to preservation, if established systematically and managed mindfully. Participants will learn the purpose, function, and components of a collection management policy; the importance and usefulness of collections management procedures; and the process necessary to develop a conservation/preservation plan. Whenever possible, examples and tools will be provided to help participants put lessons learned into practice.
THURSDAY, 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS, continued

Education Programs: The Heart of Your Community
Presenter: Linda Rhine, LMR - Learning, Meaning and Research
Education programming for school and public audiences can reflect your commitment to your community. Discover how developmentally appropriate programs for children, adults and families can increase the value of your guest experience and membership. What programs are you lacking and how can you get them up and running? Camp? Classes? From science to cultural institutions, come talk about what you need and try some activities that really work.

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM Coffee Break in Vendors Hall
3:15 PM – 4:30 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Theater, Ballroom A, Ballroom D, SURC, Second Floor

Enhancing Historic Community Sites through Creative Programming
Panel: Flo Lentz; Charlie Rathburn; Eric Taylor, 4Culture; Linda Van Nest; Staci Bernstein; Jane Kaplan
By instigating and supporting partnerships between artists and historic places, Historic Site(s) Specific incubates inventive interpretive programming which engages new audiences and enhances sites. This innovative initiative from King County’s 4Culture is a collaboration among its arts, heritage and preservation departments. Staff, site stewards, and artists demonstrate how this groundbreaking programming can serve as a model for advancing missions and raising profiles of historic places through creative collaboration.

Heritage Centers: Case Studies in Relevancy
Presenter: Zulma-Lin Garcia, MUSEO Consulting; Winifred Kehl, MUSEO Collective Museum Consulting
Heritage centers have collections that relate to their communities but often lack the resources to organize and preserve them. Budget-saving tips and open source museum resources can help heritage centers preserve and exhibit their collections in the best ways possible.

Rebirth of the Reach
Panel: Stephanie Button, HRIC; Lisa Toomey, HRIC; Trevor MacDuff, Three Rivers Home Link; Debbie McClary, Kennewick School District; Katy Gray, Umatilla National Forest; Denise Senor, CTE Educator and ffa Advisor
In 2012, the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center was transformed into a community-oriented project. From seeking ideas on how to downsize and build the HRIC by 2014, to repairing relationships and trust, the Reach has “risen from the ashes”. The centerpiece of change was the launch of an Education Initiative in April, which by year-end served over 4,000 K-12 students. Expanded programming will support adult learners, Tribal residents and teachers.

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Reception at the Museum of Culture and Environment
Dean Hall, CWU

5:30 PM – 9:00 PM WMA Annual Banquet
Manastash Room & Heritage Center, Kittitas Valley Event Center

Friday, June 14, 2013

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast
Ballroom B/C, SURC, Second Floor

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Theater, Ballroom A, Ballroom D, SURC, Second Floor

Listening to Your Place
Presenter: Stephanie Lile, Washington State History Museum
Why do some education and interpretation programs fly and others flop? It’s often because the true educational needs of a community have taken a back seat to the traditional menu of museum programs. This workshop will share a set of techniques for identifying the needs of the community in relation to your museum’s mission and purpose.

Saving the Stratton
Presenter: Ginny Norris Blackson, James E Brooks Library, Central Washington University
On June 29, 2007, Alaska’s oldest educational institution, Sheldon Jackson College, ceased operations without notice. The closure left an uncertain future for the over 48,000 items housed in the college’s Stratton Library, including rare books, plate glass negatives and archives. This presentation will examine how the library and museum community worked with volunteers and organizations across the state to save and restore access to these Alaskan treasures.

Collaborate or Perish
Panel: Sadie Thayer, Kittitas County History Museum; Debby DeSoer, Ellensburg Public Library; Brigid Cliff, Washington State Archives-Central Branch; Steve Hussman, Brooks Library, Archives and Special Collections, Central Washington University
This presentation will examine the benefits and challenges of collaborative dynamics in a local setting, offering as example the host city of Ellensburg and its county historical museum, the regional branch of the state archives, public library, and university; and how this relationship was both necessary and instrumental in preserving the history of Ellensburg and surrounding communities.

10:15 PM – 10:45 PM Coffee Break in Vendors Hall

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Theater, Ballroom A, Ballroom D, SURC, Second Floor

Combining Art, Science, and History to Explore Complex Societal Issues
Panel: Steven Gilbert, Particles on the Wall; Daniel Noonan, Particles on the Wall; J. Hope Amason, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology and Museum Studies, Central Washington University
Increasingly, the challenge is not generating new information, but organizing the knowledge we have to enable people in gaining insight into complex issues, such as the plutonium production at Hanford. By uniting literary and visual arts, science, and history, we allow viewers to approach complex topics from multiple perspectives in a manner that does not take sides politically or intimidate people unfamiliar with the subject.

Creating Community Historians
This panel presents two programs that further the reach and relevance of local history. The Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum’s Community Historian Project, was developed to sustain sense of place by teaching citizens how to shape, tell and retell community stories. The Washington State Historical Society’s Washington Territorial Civil War Read-In will involve hundreds of citizens in documentation of the territorial experience of the late antebellum, wartime and early Reconstruction periods.
The Story of 25 Fossils X 25 Schools
Panel: Diane Quinn, Burke Museum; Briana Nino, Burke Museum; Liz Nesbitt, Burke Museum

Inspired collaborations are core to museum work and essential to our success. When the Burke Museum partnered with business leaders to answer an urgent need in the schools, the museum’s paleontology division became central to the project. This case study—from the original request, to building the pilot program, to involving funders in meaningful service projects—illuminates how all partners benefit when museums take the lead in serving Washington students.

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM  lunch and WMA Annual Meeting
Ballroom B/C, SURC, Second Floor

Silent Auction Closes

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM  BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Theater, Ballroom A, Ballroom D, SURC, Second Floor

Creating the Exhibit Experience
Presenters: Chris Fiala Erlich, Exhibit Curator (Chair); Ann Farrington, former Creative Director, MOHAI; Meka Haglund Manchak, Exhibit Coordinator, MOHAI; Andy Granitto, Exhibit Curator, Yakima Valley Museum

Do we still need objects in history exhibits? How do we create meaningful and memorable exhibit experiences for visitors? These are some of the questions we’ll explore in this session. Panelists share ideas and experiences about what it means to give objects a pivotal role, and the challenges and rewards of doing so; designing with objects to create powerful experiences; and thinking about objects in the context of audience interests and expectations. The session will close with an open brainstorming session on creating participatory experiences in exhibits using objects.

A New Tool for Researchers In and Practitioners of Northwest History
Presenter: William D. Layman, Northwest Digital Archives

Documentation of the Northwest’s history is scattered across heritage institutions as collections and digitized objects. Locating materials and understanding the context of digital objects is difficult and time-consuming. This presentation will introduce a new tool under development that will solve many of these problems: the Cross-Search and Context Utility (XCU), which will bring together digitized content detailed metadata from collections held by Northwest institutions.

A Year Into the Incluseum
Panel: Rose Paquet Kinsley, The Wing & The incluseum; Aletheia Witman, Seattle Architecture Foundation & The incluseum; Mary Jo Maute

The Incluseum is a Seattle-based project and blog seeking to encourage social inclusion in museums. Every week for the last year, the blog has featured projects and resources furthering the field’s understanding of how museums can increasingly reflect, represent, and be relevant to diverse or marginalized segments of their communities. In this didactic presentation, presenters will share examples, lessons learned, and best practices contributed by their international and national collaborators.

3:00 PM  Vendor Hall Breakdown
Ballroom B/C, SURC, Second Floor

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM  WMA Board Meeting
Ballroom B/C, SURC, Second Floor

Help us Count!
Representatives of WMA travel throughout the state and nation to advocate for the museums of Washington. We know that not all museums in our state are members of WMA, but every museum matters, and we need your help to be sure that we are able to tell the WHOLE story.
WMA Board Member Susan Tissot (Executive Director, Clark County Historical Society & Museum) is compiling a list of all the Museums in our state. From the largest to the smallest, we want to hear from you! Please let Susan know of any museums in your region by June 1, 2013. (Phone 360.993.5679 or email: tissots@pacifier.com).

Thanks for your help!
WMA Membership Benefits Are Many...

- Network of people dedicated to museum advocacy, professional standards, clear communication, education, and diversity.
- Reduced registration fee for WMA annual meeting conference, voting privileges for Board election and WMA direction.
- Museum Messenger newsletter, including articles, reports, photos, calendars, and job listings.
- e-Messenger internet news on important legislative issues, updates, job listings, and other current museum topics.
- WMA website with a directory of Washington museums, resources, and regional news.

Additional benefits for Institutional Members:
- Expanded website listing.
- Two conference registrations at WMA rate.

Additional benefits for Business Members:
- An exhibit table at the annual conference.
- Recognition in the WMA Museum Messenger newsletter.

Join Today!
(Fill out form at right)

WMA Membership Application

Please select one of the following membership choices in the Washington Museum Association:

Personal
- $20 Individual
- $10 Student
- $10 Senior, 62+
- $100 Patron

Organizational
- $30 Institutional (non-profit)
- $100 Business/Commercial

Name ________________________________
(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Mrs or Organization Name)

Title ________________________________

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For Organizational members, please name Representative to act as voting agent and who will receive the WMA mailings:
(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Mrs) ________________________________
(Title) ________________________________
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Payment:
$_______________ Membership dues
$_______________ Additional tax deductible contribution
$_______________ TOTAL (Check payable to WMA)

By selecting a higher category of membership or giving a contribution in addition to your membership, you promote the Association’s goals. Thank you for your support!

Please mail your information and check to:
WMA Membership Coordinator
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