

WASHINGTON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION



# MUSEUM MESSENGER

Volume 27 / Number 1



Winter 2017



## ARTS & HERITAGE DAY

OLYMPIA, WA  
02.08.2017

### INSIDE

*Message from the President.....2*  
*Arts & Heritage Day – Museum Advocacy in Olympia.....3*  
*OASIS – WaMA 2017 Conference in Moses Lake .....4-5*

*Opportunities for Awards.....5*  
*Registrars Rescue Tacoma .....6*  
*Best Museum and Curator Blogs .....7*

## The WaMA Museum Messenger

is published by the Washington Museum Association, a 501(c)3 federally recognized non-profit organization consisting of institutions, businesses, and individuals. The WaMA mission is to promote increased professionalism in and communication among all museums within Washington State. All articles within this issue may be reproduced and circulated to staff with appropriate credit given to the Washington Museum Association and the contributing author.

**The Washington Museum Association was established to represent and serve museums of all types and sizes throughout Washington State.**

### OUR MISSION

- Encourage and facilitate the use and development of the highest professional standards.
- Further the role of museums as community partners in education.
- Act as a clearinghouse and communication network for information of special interest to museums.
- Constitute a statewide voice for a diverse constituency and display leadership in supporting cultural diversity and the open expression of ideas.
- Serve as a statewide advocate for museums and actively promote the collection, preservation, exhibition, and interpretation of historic, scientific, artistic and cultural material, sites, practices, and ideas.

### OFFICERS

**President:** Joseph Govednik, Curator, Foss Waterway Seaport, Tacoma

**Vice-President:** Elizabeth P. Stewart, Museum Director, Renton History Museum, Renton

**Secretary:** Cyndi Upthegrove, Managing Trustee, Highline Historical Society, Burien

**Treasurer:** Colleen Schafroth, Executive Director, Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldendale

### DIRECTORS

**Richard Beckerman**, COO, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle

**Richard Castellano**, Executive Director, Island County Historical Society, Coupeville

**Freya Liggett**, Museum Manager, Moses Lake Museum & Art Center, Moses Lake

**Hillary Ryan**, Associate Director of Communications, Museum of Glass, Tacoma

**Sadie Thayer**, Museum Director, Kittitas County Historical Museum, Ellensburg

### CONTACT WMA

Visit our website:

[www.washingtonmuseumassociation.org](http://www.washingtonmuseumassociation.org)

Send an email:

[contact@washingtonmuseumassociation.org](mailto:contact@washingtonmuseumassociation.org)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Joseph Govednik, President, WaMA**

Greetings and Happy New Year! 2016 was a very exciting and active year for WaMA. We are so thankful our members, volunteers, and sponsors for making WaMA one of the best state museum associations around!

2016 marked some milestones for our organization.

Our 2016 conference in Tacoma was a huge success both financially for WaMA and in deliverables to our membership. The success of our conference was a combination of committed volunteers and the in-kind donation of space provided by the Washington State History Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Museum of Glass, and Foss Waterway Seaport. Thank you all for making this conference a success.

A 2016 annual report will be ready no later than February. Your Board of Directors, whom all volunteer their time to WaMA, are working on all the tasks I outlined during the annual membership meeting at the 2016 conference. These included updating our bylaws, submitting annual reports, succession planning, and other administrative aspects to insure transparency and streamline our operations.

Finally, and far more exciting than an annual report, we added a third WaMA event in addition to our annual participation in Arts and Heritage Day and the State Museum Conference! Last November, we hosted an informal gathering in Moses Lake and met to make new connections over dinner and drinks. This event provided the opportunity for our members and allowed professionals to gather and casually discuss the upcoming conference and ways to enrich the experience for our members.

Please remember to mark your calendars for Arts and Heritage Day on February 8 and the annual conference in Moses Lake on June 21-23. Our theme for the 2017 conference is "Desert Oasis"-so come prepared for some fun in the sun at Moses Lake!

Yours in Museums,

Joseph Govednik



# ARTS & HERITAGE DAY

**Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup>** is our annual Arts and Heritage Day

in partnership with the Washington Arts Alliance. This year is a budget year, so many legislative pieces affecting our museum, heritage, science, and arts communities will be on the table. Come to Arts and Heritage Day in Olympia and see first-hand the power and excitement of grass-roots advocacy!

The event kicks off with the evening reception hosted by WaMA on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup>. The next morning, dark and early at 7am the Heritage Caucus is held at the State Capital and all are invited to attend.

**Join your colleagues** and cultural supporters statewide for this two-day event, presented in cooperation with the Washington State Arts Commission, the Washington Museum Association, ArtsWA, Artist Trust and Arts Ed Washington.

## LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

**Sponsored by the Washington Museum Association**

**Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

**Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm**

**Where: Historic Lord Mansion, home of the State Capital Museum, 211 21st Avenue SW, Olympia, WA 98501**

**RSVP to Susan Rohrer by January 30, (360) 586-0116, or [susan.rohrer@wshs.wa.gov](mailto:susan.rohrer@wshs.wa.gov)**

Join heritage and arts supporters from across Washington State at a reception for our legislators. Legislative receptions are a key tool for interacting with lawmakers and budget creators in an informal, friendly atmosphere. It's also a great way to connect with your cultural colleagues, which can help your organization well into the future.

The event will be held in the mansion's Coach House which is adjacent to the Lord Mansion, at the rear of the property. A small parking lot and street parking surrounds the museum property. For ease of access, park at the rear of the property on nearby streets, close to the Coach House. Please be mindful of parking restrictions in the historic neighborhood.

If you can't attend, you can still help! **Please ask your legislators to attend**, and let us know if you've done so by sending an email to [info@washingtonstatemuseumassociation.org](mailto:info@washingtonstatemuseumassociation.org).

## ARTS & HERITAGE DAY

**A civic participation day, including pre-scheduled meetings with individual legislators from every district in Washington.**

**When: Wednesday, February 8**

**Where: State Capital, 415 15th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501**

**How: Sign up to participate at [http://washingtonstateartsalliance.org/event/arts-heritage-day/?event\\_date=2017-02-08](http://washingtonstateartsalliance.org/event/arts-heritage-day/?event_date=2017-02-08)**

**Highlights: Making the case for museums, heritage, and arts! Connecting with colleagues and caretakers of Washington State's cultural legacies!**

On February 8, Arts & Heritage Day will begin with orientations for participants, followed by pre-arranged meetings with legislators throughout the day, lunch on your own with colleagues and friends, maybe even a performance or two! This is a great opportunity for advocates to talk with their legislators about statewide arts and heritage issues and local concerns, thank them for their support, and share specific stories and highlights from our work in our communities, schools, and venues statewide. Your presence, along with many other arts and heritage advocates from across the state, helps legislators learn who we are when we talk about the importance of the arts and heritage in our communities. With newly elected legislators and the reshuffling of legislating positions, this is a particularly important year to join your peers in Olympia.

As we work to confirm appointments with legislators, we are seeking advocates to meet with legislators. (If you have never advocated in Olympia before, don't worry; we will pair newbies with seasoned advocates. It is a great way to learn.) Register on the Arts Alliance website at [www.washingtonstateartsalliance.org](http://www.washingtonstateartsalliance.org) if you are interested in participating on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Draft Issues Brief will be available on the Arts Alliance website soon. Please note that the Issues Brief will change in the weeks ahead.

In your response please include:

- Your name
- Are you willing to lead the meeting?
- Your home district and your work district. If you don't know your district you may find out here: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder>
- Would you like to carpool?

If you're unable to attend but would still like to help, please forward this email to other arts supporters in your district and have them get in contact with Arts and Heritage Day.

We truly appreciate your work on behalf of public support for the arts, humanities and heritage in Washington, and look forward to seeing you in Olympia on February 8.

***“As you walk  
through the desert of life,  
may you always find your oasis...”***



For visitors museums serve as an oasis full of precious items and inspiring stories. They can transport visitors to places far from the everyday world.

But for museum professionals, that place of respite can sometimes be a mirage. Hectic deadlines, limited funds, long hours, and public indifference can lead museum workers to search for well-traveled paths through the desert. Thankfully there are sources of support; like desert blooms, museum professionals are finding ways to tap deep into those sources to restore beauty.

Just as water runs beneath the surface of an arid desert, your WaMA colleagues offer wellsprings to create your personal oasis. Rediscover your personal haven and share it with others at the 2017 WaMA Annual Meeting in Moses Lake, WA.

This year's Annual Meeting offers your chance to explore the Columbia Basin's land of contrasts. Where water has nourished the state's largest agricultural center, it has also nourished the unexpected. From aerospace to data farms, the Columbia Basin never ceases to surprise. The Moses Lake Museum & Art Center, the site of our Annual Meeting, sits at the heart of Eastern Washington's massive Bureau of Reclamation project. Originally founded as the Adam East Museum in 1958, the museum has since flourished to provide cultural services for the whole greater Columbia Basin.

When you arrive at the conference you'll find yourself at the center of a professional oasis, surrounded by peers who have faced similar challenges. Engage with others who are bridging barriers between communities, sharing digital collections, and working with unconventional partners. (Take a break in the massage chair if it all becomes too much!)

Reinvigorate yourself with a visit from Museum Hack, a band of renegade museum tour guides. Their VIP Guide will discuss how to approach the challenges of engaging new audiences in a shifting cultural climate. Pre-register for one of Museum Hack's engaging workshops to develop the confidence and skills to tell fascinating stories about your institution from a place of personal connection and passion.

**Join WaMA in Moses Lake this summer and leave refreshed and ready to take on the museum world!**

**OASIS • WaMA 2017 Annual Conference • OASIS**

**Scholarship Application and Award Nomination**

**FORMS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

**Award of Excellence Nominations – Deadline, February 17, 2017**

**Conference Scholarship Applications – Deadline, February 17, 2017**



# OASIS, WaMA's 2017 Conference Will Restore Your Soul

Conference sessions have been set for the Washington Museum's Association's 2017 Annual Meeting in Moses Lake, WA, June 21–23, 2017, and it is shaping up to be our best ever! Museum Hack will set the tone with workshops designed to remake your museum tours and programs in ways that create lasting memories and great word-of-mouth. Learn to customize your museum's experience in ways that will build new audiences for the future.

Continuing on our theme of remaking the museum experience, sessions explore such cutting edge topics as:

- **Incorporating geocaching into your programs**
- **Building bridges among diverse audiences**
- **Sharing digital collections**
- **Cultivating unconventional partners**
- **Interpretive planning**
- **Writing compelling exhibit text**
- **Commemorating WWI**
- **Creating a collections workplan**
- **And many more!**

Share ideas with colleagues from Seattle Art Museum, Washington State Historical Society & Museum, 4Culture, Museum of Northwest Art, Skagit County Historical Museum, Kittitas County Historical Museum, Humanities Washington, Yakima Valley Museum, Quinalt Indian Nation, and many others.



Registration is now open at our web site, and local accommodations are also available at a reduced conference rate.

Conference scholarships are now available for museum volunteers, board members,

students, and working professionals. Scholarships offset the costs of attending the conference; scholarship winner register for the conference and are reimbursed for some portion of their registration. Scholarship applications are available on our web site at [www.washingtonmuseumassociation.org](http://www.washingtonmuseumassociation.org). Deadline for scholarship applications is February 17, 2017.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR AWARDS

**WaMA Awards of Excellence:** Your museum has been doing unique and compelling projects that serve your community in new ways. Isn't it about time you got some recognition for all that hard work? The Washington Museum Association gives Awards of Excellence in the categories of Exhibits, Projects, Publications, and Individual Achievement at our Annual Meeting every June, and we want to know about your areas of accomplishment. Nomination forms are available on our web site at [www.washingtonmuseumassociation.org](http://www.washingtonmuseumassociation.org); deadline for application is February 17, 2017. Work must have been completed between June 1, 2015 and December 31, 2016. Award-winners will be acknowledged during the WaMA Annual Meeting, June 21 – 23, 2017, in Moses Lake, WA.

**AASLH Leadership in History Awards:** The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) bestows Leadership in History Awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history, in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. Nominations for the 2017 Awards are due March 1, 2017, and applicants are encouraged to start at least 3 – 4 weeks before the deadline. Museums can self-nominate and WaMA Co-Vice President Elizabeth Stewart is Washington state representative for the program. For more information, check out the awards page at <http://about.aaslh.org/awards/>, and contact Liz Stewart at [estewart@rentonwa.gov](mailto:estewart@rentonwa.gov) for assistance. Let's make sure Washington state museums are recognized nationally for the work we do!

# R2R



Above: Ester Harrison fits jacket onto hanger at SCC.  
(Photo courtesy of Pacific Lutheran University)



Above right: Stefanie Teraskaki displays one of the custom hangers that was built to support one of the SCC costumes.  
(Photo by Sarah Samson)



Right: Elizabeth Mauro inserts stockinette padding into apron at SCC.  
(Photo courtesy of Pacific Lutheran University)

Below: At Tacoma Historical Society (left to right): (front row) Travis Monagle, Renée Crist, Beth Bestrom, (middle row) Mary Bowlby, Jessica Wilks, Claire Keller-Scholz, (back row) Margaret Bullock, Ellica Spjut, Melanie Wachholder.



## Registrars Rescue Tacoma!

Washington Museum Association was pleased to host its 2016 Annual Conference in the Museum District in Tacoma in late June. Preceding the conference, registrars and collections specialists from Washington museums, along with sponsor Art Work Fine Art Services of Seattle, gathered again for the *Registrars to the Rescue* event. Inspired by the density of museums in the region, the committee decided to take on two locations this fifth annual year.

On June 22, 2016, seven volunteers joined the staff at Tacoma Historical Society under the direction of R2R co-coordinator Jessica Wilks and THS collections manager Claire Keller-Scholz to complete inventory and rehousing work that began with the relocation to their new facility in 2014. The team was able to rehouse 25 boxes of fragile objects and inventory, measure, and photograph 150 artifacts to help to ensure high-quality, long-term care of the collection.

At the same time, across town, an unprecedented 22 registrars and collections specialists descended upon the Scandinavian Cultural Center on the Pacific Lutheran University campus. There, they were joined by Director Elisabeth Ward and nine volunteers from the SCC membership who brought their sewing skills. Together the teams built padded hangers (with custom stitched muslin covers) for 111 pieces from the Nordic costume collection. In addition to rehousing artifacts, the R2R volunteers were able to instruct the SCC members in the proper techniques to continue the project which will allow them to complete the work for the remaining xx pieces in the collection.

WaMA President Joseph Govednik says, "We are gratified to know that our support will help ensure the long-term preservation of these important historical objects." We look forward to planning for our sixth annual R2R event in Southwest Washington State in June 2017. We hope that you will consider joining us if you are in the area. Thank you to Washington State RCWR state coordinators for helping to spread the word and bring such qualified volunteers to our event. It is truly amazing how our network of museum professionals comes together to support each other in the work that we do.

# 2017 DATES TO REMEMBER

**FEBRUARY 8**  
**Washington Arts & Heritage Day,**  
Olympia WA

**FEBRUARY 17-28**  
**DEADLINE for WaMA Scholarships**  
**and Awards of Excellence**

**FEBRUARY 27-28**  
**AAM Museum Advocacy Day,**  
Washington DC  
Register at: <http://www.aam-us.org/advocacy/museums-advocacy-day/register2017>

**MARCH 1**  
**DEADLINE for AASLH**  
**Leadership in History Awards**

**WaMA**

## BUSINESS MEMBERS

*support the businesses that support us:*

4Culture • Acme Scenic & Display, Inc.  
Artech Fine Arts Services • Hanford History Project  
Friends of Karshner Museum and Center for Culture & Arts  
KelTech Plastics • Minotaur Mazes • Museum of Flight  
Southwest Solutions Group • STQRY  
Washington State Historical Society  
Washington State Housing Finance Commission  
Westport South Beach Historical Society • Workpointe

## NEW MEMBERS

Sara Bacon • Theresa Ball • Claire Bennett • Emily Bowden • Jacob Bridy  
Emma Cantrell • Lauren Carroll • Rick Chandler • Susan Checchi • Sara Cordes  
Rebekah Cousins • Teofila Cruz-Urbe • Cathy Denning • Jundt Art Museum  
Grayson Dirk • Sydney Dratel • Benjamin Dudzik • Kate Dugdale  
Carolyn Dunand • Sarah Ellis • Jenny Fisher • Becky Forsberg  
Lakewood Historical Society • Ross Fuqua • Amy Gorton • Margaret Greutert  
Alaina Harmon • Morgan Hayes • Lydia Heins • Larissa KnoppvElizabeth Korsmo  
Debbie Kray • Andree P Larson • Nicole LaRue • Secretary of State of Washington  
Pamela Maldonado • Cerena Mann • Meredith Martin • Ken McCarthy  
Layla McGee • Sarah Mejia • Micah Merryman • Sara Elena Morales  
Erika Naficy • Angie Ong • Jessica Long • Alexandra Palmer • Katherine Palmer  
Patricia Prewitt • Abigail Rhinehart • Alaria Sacco • Margaret Saunders  
Evan Smeenge • Mary Mikel Stump • Eileen Tomczuk • Halee Turner  
Chris Uebelhor • Inland Northwest Rail Museum • Elisabeth Warsinske  
Hollie Wilcox • Tasia Williams • Hallie Winter • Catherine Wood • Sheila Zopfiop

# Best Museum & Curator Blogs To Follow

*Here's a round-up of some top ranking museum blogs.*  
*Who are you reading? Share with us on Facebook!*

**Museum 2.0, Nina Simon** — <http://museumtwo.blogspot.com/>

**Center for the Future of Museums** — <http://futureofmuseums.blogspot.com/>

**CultureGrrl** — <http://www.artsjournal.com/culturegrrl/>

**ExhibiTricks** — <http://blog.orselli.net/>

## Museum Messenger NEWSLETTER AD RATES:

**Half Page** (4 1/2" x 7 1/2") **\$250**  
**One-Third Page** (4 3/4" x 4 1/2")  
OR (2 1/4" x 9 1/4") **\$160**  
**Quarter Page** (3 1/2" x 4 1/2") **\$135**  
**One-Sixth Page** (2 1/4" x 4 1/2") **\$90**  
**One-Twelfth Page** (2 1/4" x 2 1/2") **\$55**

**To Inquire or Purchase:** contact *Museum Messenger*  
editor Freya Liggett at [fliggett@cityofml.com](mailto:fliggett@cityofml.com).

**Ad Preparation:** for production requirements before  
sending your materials, please contact Andy Granitto  
at [andy@yakimavalleymuseum.org](mailto:andy@yakimavalleymuseum.org).

Opinions expressed in the articles in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of WaMA. Unsolicited articles, photographs, and graphics are always welcome. WaMA reserves the right to edit material submitted.



## WAMA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS ARE MANY...

- Network of people dedicated to museum advocacy, professional standards, clear communication, education, and diversity.
- Reduced registration fee for WaMA 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.
- WaMA website with a directory of Washington museums, resources, and regional news.

### Additional benefits for Institutional Members:

- Expanded website listing.
- Two conference registrations at WaMA rate.

### Additional benefits for Business Members:

- An exhibit table at the annual conference.
- Recognition in the WaMA *Museum Messenger* newsletter.

**JOIN TODAY!**  
(Fill out form at right)

## WaMA Membership Application

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

Personal \_\_\_\_\_ Organizational \_\_\_\_\_  
\$20 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Institutional (non-profit)  
\$10 Student \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Business/Commercial  
\$10 Senior, 62+ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$100 Patron \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr/Ms/Miss/Mrs or Organization Name)

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

For Organizational members, please name Representative to act as voting agent and who will receive the WaMA mailings:

(Mr/Ms/Miss/Mrs) \_\_\_\_\_

(Title) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership dues

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional tax deductible contribution

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL (Check payable to WaMA)

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:

WaMA Membership Coordinator  
P. O. Box 10633, Yakima, WA 98909