PA MUSEUMS
VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Service In Uncertainty

APRIL 19 - 23, 2021
Let’s reimagine, together.
Welcome to PA Museum’s Annual Conference and thank you for joining us! Despite the challenges of the past year, we are starting to come out of this pandemic with more tools, skills, and digital practice at home and in our museum spaces.

We know there will be more obstacles to navigate and more changes to come. With all of the changes that have occurred over the past year, we are left wondering, “how do we serve our communities now?”. This year’s Annual Conference focuses on Service in Uncertainty and will cover topics ranging from how to utilize new tools and discoveries, leverage your institutional strengths, and improve the visitor experience.

Join us this week as we learn from each other: our fellow Pennsylvania museums. Although we will be in a virtual space, I have no doubt that the exchange of ideas, professional networking and discussion of trends in the museum field will be invigorating. Don’t forget to take advantage of some of the fun events happening over the course of the week and be sure to brush up on your Pennsylvania history--there are some cool prizes to be won over the course of the conference!

Enjoy the conference!

Averie Shaughnessy-Comfort
Program Committee Chair, PA Museums
Pittsburgh Native, Erie Resident.
Sheetz > Wawa, Bleeds Black and Gold

Service in Uncertainty

PA MUSEUMS’ 2021 ANNUAL STATEWIDE MUSEUM CONFERENCE
APRIL 19-23, 2021

The PA Museums’ Annual Conference offers museum professionals an interactive forum for the exchange of ideas, professional networking and discussion of trends in the museum field. The event is an excellent opportunity for professionals to reconnect and recharge as well as learn from colleagues.

Pennsylvania’s museums faced daunting challenges in 2020. As we work in 2021 and into the more distant future, we know there will be more obstacles to navigate and more changes to come. With new tools and discoveries, visitor expectations shift. People who work in museums – staff, trustees, volunteers, interns, donors, and contractors – bring with them a level of devotion and a willingness to put the museum and its future first. Still, service is central to our museum missions.

As technology, scholarship, activism, and member needs move us ahead, how can our museums continue to serve their communities? How can museum leadership and practice, embrace, support, and reward the value of service?
MONDAY, APRIL 19

9:30 - 10:30 AM
PA MUSEUMS ANNUAL MEETING

All of our registered conference attendees are welcome to join us for our Annual Meeting. There will be a brief annual business meeting of PA Museums with reports from the organization’s officers and Executive Director. Hear about PA Museums’ accomplishments in 2020 and plans for the coming year.

Welcome and Call to Order
Richard Burkert, President

Recognition of Quorum
Ben Neely, Secretary

President’s Report
Richard Burkert

Executive Director’s Report
Rusty Baker, Executive Director

Treasurer’s Report
George Brzezinski, Treasurer

Nominating Report
Bonnie Shockey, Nominating Chair

Presentation of the slate of nominations to the Board
Adjournment
Richard Burkert

10:45 - 11:45 AM
INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES 2022 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This session will provide participants with an overview of museum funding opportunities offered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). As the nation’s primary source of federal funding for museums, IMLS administers six grant opportunities and two assessment programs that are available to Pennsylvania museums.

Detailed information about each program and tips for preparing a more competitive application for the next museum grant application deadline on November 15, 2021 will be shared.

Presenter:
Mark Isaksen, Institute of Museum and Library Services

5:30 - 6:30 PM
HAPPY HOUR HISTORY HUNT AT HOME!

Just because we can’t get out to see Pennsylvania history and culture doesn’t mean we can’t experience it! Join your peers for a fun filled scavenger hunt from the comfort of your own home.

In each round your hunt MC will give you a specific type of artifact to find from your own
personal collection and bring back to the group for a show and tell. Whoever finds the most will win a prize! Bring a drink and your wanderlust for this hour long chance to unwind with colleagues!

This program will be hosted by PA Museums Board Member Kevin Schott, Associate Director for Interpretive Programs at the Penn Museum.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**

**9:30 - 10:30 AM**
**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: WHAT IS AMERICA250PA?**

In 2018, U.S. Congress named Philadelphia as one of five priority cities of celebration of America's 250th Anniversary in July 2026. In turn, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, our legislative body, and Governor created the Pennsylvania Semiquincentennial Commission (America250PA). This Commission, including academic, business, and community leaders from across Pennsylvania, joined together to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania’s integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation’s past, present and future.

For more information, please visit www.America250PA.org.
Cassandra Coleman, Executive Director, America250PA

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) selected Cassandra Coleman as Executive Director for the America250PA initiative in September, 2019. Cassandra Coleman most recently served as Special Advisor to the Office of Governor Tom Wolf, and previously served as Director of Governor Wolf’s Northeast & Central offices. In this role, she was responsible for intergovernmental and constituency services on behalf of the Governor in 28 counties.

Ms. Coleman previously served as Finance Director and Deputy Campaign Manager, respectively, for the Tom Wolf for Governor campaign from 2013-2015. She has also served as Deputy Finance Director for United States Senator Bob Casey from 2010-2013.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**

**12:30 - 2 PM**
**SAYING YES TO DIGITAL PROGRAMMING**

Digital programs have become part of all aspects of museum programs, exhibits, and education but creating quality programs often feels overwhelming for smaller museums. Learn the value of saying “YES!” to Facebook Lives, program/exhibit videos, and virtual resources for visitors while uncovering how to use some basic and inexpensive tools that will elevate your content. In this session, the experience of Pottsgrove Manor will be used to discuss the successes and learning moments during 2020 which saw massive development and expansion of quality digital resources for in-person tours as well as their social media and web presence.

Panelists will highlight learning about how to best utilize digital tools at small museums,
with a focus on developing digital programs that are mission focused. Participants will be encouraged to change to a mindset that explores what an event can be as a digital event over just digitizing an existing program. Beyond tips and tricks, the learning benefits of including digital aspects into programming as well as your institutions reach to the public will be emphasized.

**Presenters:**

*Neil Hobbins, Historic Site Supervisor at Pottsgrove Manor*

Neil is the Historic Site Supervisor at Pottsgrove Manor. Prior to joining the staff at Pottsgrove Manor, he served as an Executive Director and Educator at historic sites in southeastern Pennsylvania. Neil focuses on how to continue and constantly improve upon the educational mission at Pottsgrove Manor.

*Ann Shipley, Museum Educator at Pottsgrove Manor*

Ann is the Museum Educator at Pottsgrove Manor, starting there shortly after earning her MA at Villanova University and working at Valley Forge NPS. She has been part of the creation of mission focused programs and events alongside revamping the museum’s school programs.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

**10 -11:30 AM**

**Leveraging Your Strengths to Grow Virtual Audiences**

In 2020 the Penn Museum presented several successful live virtual events for adult audiences, including Ancient Alcohol After Hours: A Virtual Tour and Beer Tasting, and Monsters, Myths, and Legends: Spirits and Storytelling. This panel, which relates broadly to visitor engagement in the time of COVID, discusses the challenges and triumphs our teams experienced while reimagining existing in-person tour content into virtual programs that entertain, educate, and expand museum audiences.

Steps in this process include content and interactive development, partnerships with external organizations, marketing, and program evaluation.

**Presenters:**

*Amanda Grady, Group Sales Manager, Penn Museum*

Amanda Grady is a marketing professional with a background in cultural tourism and sales. In her role as the Group Sales Manager at the Penn Museum she oversees adult group visits, domestic and international tourism initiatives, and co-manages the Graduate Guide program. With a Marketing and Communications degree from Rowan University, Amanda has applied her analytic skills and data driven decision making at the Penn Museum in order to increase attendance and strategically grow revenue.

*Dr. Sarah Linn, Research Liaison, Penn Museum*

Sarah Linn is the Research Liaison at the Penn Museum, where she runs programs that serve both the Penn community and Museum visitors. She is particularly interested in making archaeological and anthropological research accessible to the public through engaging interpretive programs and exhibitions. Managing programs like Graduate Guides and
the Daily Dig, she works closely with graduate students in related disciplines to become better public educators. Sarah started at the Penn Museum while completing her PhD in Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania, where she specialized in Aegean Bronze Age archaeology.

*Lizzie Oakley, Content Provider, Penn Museum; PhD Candidate (Anthropology), University of Pennsylvania*

Lizzie is an anthropologist who studies scientific knowledge construction and communication in American museums. During the course of her fieldwork, she has visited 30 museums across the country and has collected visitor and staff perceptions of science at museums in Philadelphia. At the Penn Museum, Lizzie is able to engage her interests in archaeology and museum education by writing and presenting Daily Dig programs, museum tours and object lectures, as well as collaborating to create and narrate the virtual Monsters, Myths, and Legends events. She is also currently on the curatorial team for the Penn Museum’s forthcoming exhibit on human evolution.

*Janelle Sadarananda, Content Provider, Penn Museum; PhD Candidate (Mediterranean Archaeology), University of Pennsylvania*

Janelle is an archaeologist studying the production of Archaic Greek pottery. Her fieldwork has taken her to Italy, Turkey, and Greece. In addition to research, Janelle serves as registrar and collections manager for the Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project. At the Penn Museum, Janelle has worked to create the virtual Ancient Alcohol After Hours events and hosted the live events. She also works with the Penn Museum as an International Classroom educator, and worked in the Learning and Public Engagement department on a collections management.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

**12:30 - 2 PM**

**ACCESSIBILITY EXCELLENCE: DEVELOPING A NEW TOOLKIT TO SERVE VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES (OR, HOW TO PILOT A PROJECT IN A PANDEMIC)**

Join staff from Pennsylvania’s Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums, PA Museums, and partners from regional Centers for Independent Living for a candid roundtable discussion about measuring and improving accessibility in museums. This team has developed a new accessibility toolkit and is currently testing it at historic sites and museums across the state of Pennsylvania. They will be discussing the challenges, successes, and adaptations they have experienced in the pilot phase of the project. The session will also include information about how you can use this toolkit to support accessibility at your own organization once it launches to the public.

**Presenters:**

*Jenny Angell, Project Manager, Accessibility Excellence, PA Museums*

Jenny Angell is Project Manager for the Accessibility Excellence project, an IMLS National Leadership Grant for Museums partnership between PA Museums and the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission’s Bureau of Museums and Historic Sites. This 2-year project aims to design and implement a methodology and toolkit to help
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museums improve accessibility for traditionally marginalized communities. Previously, she was an Associate Educator at the Detroit Institute of Arts (Detroit, MI) and was part of a cross-departmental team working to improve museum accessibility for visitors with disabilities. She also served for 2 years as founding Vice Chair of the Michigan Alliance for Cultural Accessibility (MACA). Jenny holds a bachelor’s degree in Fine Art & History from St. Lawrence University (Canton, NY) and completed her MA thesis in Arts Administration & Policy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago on interpreting artists’ homes and studios for visitors who are blind or have low vision.

Janet Bowen, 21st Century Museums Educator, Pennsylvania Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums
Janet Bowen, MLS, works for the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) in support of the Bureau of Historic Sites & Museums to advance 21st Century Museums along with Diversity and Inclusion initiatives. Janet is currently working on the Accessibility Excellence project and other projects revolving around PHMC’s diversity, equity, inclusion, and access initiatives. Janet brings decades of support services in higher education with health, emergency services, and law enforcement training programs. She also specialized in dementia care both as home caregiver and professionally for several years. Janet’s own journey with disabilities culminated in a DSM V diagnosis of Autism, Level 1 (A/B) in March 2019 when she turned 48 and has built a role as a strong self-advocate for disabilities both personally and professionally. Janet is enjoying the opportunity to blend her experience with community support and her love of the humanities in her current position at PHMC. On weekends you can find her volunteering at the Shippensburg Historical Society in community programs, career support, and education.

Janet Bowen, 21st Century Museums Educator, Pennsylvania Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums

Janetta Green, Director & CEO; Center for Independent Living of Central PA
Janetta W. Green, MBA (she/her/hers) has been working for the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania since 1989. Janetta holds a Bachelor’s degree from Alderson-Broaddus University and MBA from Eastern University. She has over 34 years working in Centers for Independent Living starting as a receptionist, independent living specialist, program manager, Chief Operating Officer and now Chief Executive Officer. She is an active member of the ADA Leadership Network, holds a certificate as an ADA Coordinator, is a Certified Aging in Place Specialist, and a Certified Accessibility Inspector.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

10 - 11:30 AM
HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS IN THE AGE OF COVID—NEW SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSE MUSEUMS

The past year has shown an even greater need for the second edition of New Solutions for House Museums, published in November 2020. Author Donna Ann Harris will be joined by Brenda Reigle of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to discuss three case studies from this new book. You will learn about co-stewardship agreements, reprogramming for a mission base use, and
agreements for new site operations with “Friends of” organizations. Attendees will hear about new ideas for the operation of historic house museums that do not require deaccessioning objects, mergers or sales of historic properties, along with some lessons learned.

Presenters:
Donna Ann Harris, Principal
Heritage Consulting Inc.
Donna Ann Harris is the principal of Heritage Consulting Inc., a Philadelphia-based Women’s Business Enterprise (WBE) boutique consulting firm that aids non-profit organizations and government agencies nationwide in the following practice areas: downtown and commercial district revitalization, historic preservation, tourism product development, and non-profit organizational development.

Brenda Reigle, Director
Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Brenda Reigle is the Director of the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums (BHSM) of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)—the state’s official history agency. She currently manages a group of properties around the Commonwealth that are organized around the Trails of History and range from a Lumber Museum and a Railroad Museum to religious settlements, to battlefields, to the reconstructed home of William Penn. PHMC manages 369 buildings on over 2000 acres of property.

The BHSM is working with PA Museums on an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant project, Accessibility Excellence. Accessibility Excellence is focused on both physical and programmatic accessibility for museums. We are developing both an assessment tool to help museums and historical organizations measure their accessibility to the public, and a resource kit to help organizations improve.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22
12:30 - 2 PM
IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19:
INSTALLING THE ED COLKER EXHIBIT AT IUP

Planning, installing, and publicizing a museum exhibit is challenging enough without COVID-19. The pandemic has placed genuine restraints on traditional museum activities and public gatherings that continue to hinder exhibits and educational opportunities. The University Museum at IUP is not immune, but new and future exhibits continue to take place in dynamic ways. Current exhibits have featured virtual and in-person components in a variety of venues. The audience will learn more about how COVID-19 has transitioned the exhibit, “Print Matters: Selected Works from the Ed Colker Collection,” into a hybrid of virtual and in-person museum activities to attract new audiences.

Presenter:
Dr. Harrison Wick, hwick@iup.edu
Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist, and Member of the University Museum Board of Directors, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Indiana, Pennsylvania)
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THURSDAY, APRIL 22

5 - 6 PM
PHMC VIRTUAL COLLECTIONS SHOWCASE

PHMC brings its monthly Virtual Collection Showcase to the PA Museums conference! This “museum geek hang-out” event will include short 5-minute presentations from PHMC staff representing sites from across the Commonwealth on objects in their collections that relate to the shared theme of “sports and recreation.”

Participants will have the chance to vote for which object they like the best and respond to fun questions about their own museum collections, like “What’s your all-time fav object.” Get ready to get your geek on!

Host:
David Blackburn, Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum

Presenters:
Jennifer Royer, Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum

Joshua Fox, Pennsylvania Lumber Museum

John Fielding, Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum and Eckley Miners’ Village

Christopher O’Brien, Pennsylvania Railroad Museum

Jennifer Gleim, Pennsylvania Military Museum

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

10 - 11:30 AM
REIMAGINING LEARNING THROUGH MUSEUMS

With our current global challenges surrounding the pandemic and racial injustice, many young people’s primary way of gaining an education has shifted profoundly. This “new” approach goes by many names, but “School-at-home” is the current way millions of young people and school attending adults are accessing their education. The impact of this shift has caused institutions and parents to explore learning through a wider lens, and museums are beautifully positioned to potentially be the “New Schools of the Future.” Currently, museums hold a framework for equitable learning with extensibility beyond these uncertain times; let’s take it a step further.

Presenter:
Maleka Diggs is an unschooling advocate, community organizer, presenter, and trainer that centers equity and inclusion, especially BIPOC communities, serving families, schools (public and private), and alternative learning spaces through her organization, Eclectic Learning Network.

She is also co-founder of the Philly Children’s Movement, a multi-racial and multi-generational collective of families talking, playing, and raising up for racial justice! Her work explores the intersections of race, parenting, and education, its impact on Black and Brown peoples, and those within under-represented communities while exploring
ways to pivot away from harmful practices toward liberatory-centered approaches through unschooling and partnership-based learning practices.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 23**

3:30 - 5 PM

**“QUARANTEENING” IN VIRTUAL MUSEUM SPACES: ENGAGING TEEN AUDIENCES VIRTUALLY DURING A CRISIS**

Through virtual discussions and outreach, the Teen Ambassadors explore anthropology and archaeology. We conduct online events called Teen Science Cafes, inviting Philadelphia’s youth to explore everything the Penn Museum has to offer. Through this presentation, we hope to influence museum professionals by providing a teenager’s perspective on engaging educational youth programs.

PAPA’s Youth Council helps engage teenagers in the art world while encouraging appreciation for the arts. By learning from art world professionals, curating an exhibition, and planning events for teen audiences, the Youth Council works to create comfort and community in virtual spaces.

Due to the pandemic, museum teen programs have shifted to a virtual platform. Although this is new and unfamiliar, exploring virtual meetings, events, and outreach has been integral to the mission of connecting teens to museums.

The presentation will share how the Penn Museum Teen Ambassadors and the Youth Council at PAFA have transitioned our programming to an online space. One objective they are exploring is creating supportive environments for teens through social justice conversations, art making, and engaging events.

**Presenters:**

*Kelsea Gustavson, Teen and Undergraduate Engagement Coordinator*

*Enya Xiang, Teen Ambassador at the Penn Museum*

Enya enjoys listening to podcasts and hopes to study history and anthropology in the future.

*Faith Applegate, Teen Ambassador at the Penn Museum*

Faith enjoys learning about history and discussing relevant sociopolitical issues. She plans on studying psychology, education, and Spanish in college.

*Sajda Adam, Teen Ambassador at the Penn Museum*

Sajda enjoys learning new perspectives on different issues in science and science representation. She plans on studying psychology and history in college.

*Tal Netz, Teen Ambassador at the Penn Museum*

Tal enjoys playing soccer and plans on studying anthropology and biology in college.

*Jesse Eible Hargro, Teen Ambassador at the Penn Museum*

Jesse enjoys reading and learning about new topics, and plans on studying anthropology, archaeology, and linguistics in college.
Pennsylvania Humanities Council invites you to

**Share Your Kindness!**

The #PAKindnessPoem Project is a year-long initiative that encourages messages on social media that promote generosity, healing, reconciliation, and peace.

It culminates with an original poem by Philadelphia Poet Laureate Trapeta B. Mayson, released on November 13th, World Kindness Day.

Learn how you can participate at: PAHumanities.org/Kindness
Zahra Rice, Teen Ambassador at the Penn Museum
Zahra is passionate about the arts and plans on pursuing careers in singing and creative writing.

Sophia Roach, Teen Ambassador at the Penn Museum
Sophia enjoys writing, studying culture, and plans to study political science and cultural anthropology in the future.

PAFA Youth Council Bios
Kristina Murray, Teen Programs Coordinator

Claudia Roth Hesson, Youth Council Member at PAFA
Claudia loves a good story, whether it be reading, writing, or history, and plans on studying English and math in college.

Izzy Lee, Youth Council Member at PAFA
Izzy enjoys sculpting and going on adventures. She plans on studying architecture and environmental studies in college.

Jack Teehan, Youth Council Member at PAFA
Jack enjoys painting, linguistics, and literature and plans to study art history and French in the future.

Sarah Poinson, Youth Council Member at PAFA
Sarah loves sewing, reading and writing with her mom and plans to study fashion and textile history in college.

Lily Glaser, Youth Council Member at PAFA
Lily likes painting and sketching, but also enjoys science and math. She hopes to find a way to combine those passions when it comes to college and careers in the future.

Amelia Jeong, Youth Council Member at PAFA
Amelia enjoys literature, art and animation, and would love to pursue a career in the visual arts. She also likes to stay educated and engaged in current events.

Zlata Semianiuk, Youth Council Member at PAFA
Zlata is interested in history, politics, and the arts. As a college student, she hopes to pursue a major in animation.

Alicja Domagat, Youth Council Member at PAFA
Alicja loves drawing and learning Polish. She plans on studying in the art field in the future.

SPECIAL THANKS TO....

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Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (ex officio)

OUR STAFF

Rusty Baker
Executive Director
rusty.baker@pamuseums.org

Chrisoula Randas Perdziola
Programming Director
chrisoula@pamuseums.org

Donna Sadowski
Financial Coordinator
dsadowski@pamuseums.org

Jenny Angell
Project Manager, Accessibility Excellence
c-jangell@pa.gov

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS WINNERS!

Captain Walter Rybka
PA Museums celebrates the professional accomplishments of Captain Walter Rybka with a 2021 Individual Award of Merit. Captain Rybka retired in July 2020 as the administrator and senior captain of Erie Maritime Museum & U.S. Brig Niagara, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Captain Rybka was not from a boating family, but was a frequent visitor to the harbor, beginning a maritime interest that has lasted a lifetime. His parents took their four children to museums
of all kinds, and many National Parks and historic sites as well, which encouraged an interest in history. He and his wife Penny met while working in Galveston, and they have one daughter, Elizabeth. He has a B.A. from Macalester College.

When Captain Rybka received the American Sail Training Association’s (ASTA) Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008 at their annual conference, the following was written by CAPT David V.V. Wood, USCG Ret., in recognition of his career and contribution to the world of sail training.

“A native of Long Island, New York, he developed an early passion for maritime history—a passion he brought to his first post-college job at the South Street Seaport Museum in New York City, where he set about learning seafaring aboard the schooner Pioneer. He learned well and became her master before long. In 1977 he joined the project to acquire and restore the barque Elissa in Galveston, Texas and in 1979 became Restoration Director, a position he held until 1983. Since those early days, he has exhibited a single-minded passion for preserving—and conveying to future generation—the traditional skills, practices, and techniques of seafaring under sail.

In his own words, he believes that ‘the value of preserving anything lies in what it has to teach, and that what ships have to teach is best learned by sailing them,’ and he practiced what he preached. From 1983 until 1991, he served as a maritime preservation consultant and sail training deck officer with Elissa, while also continuing his involvement with the South Street Seaport Museum, USS Constellation, Mystic Seaport Museum, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Maritime Museum at San Francisco. He also found time to sail as mate aboard Westward and Corwith Cramer of the Sea Education Association, and as master of Californian, then operated by the Nautical Heritage Society. In 1991 he was appointed master of the US Brig Niagara in Erie, Pennsylvania, and sailed in that capacity until 2001, when he became Director of the Erie Maritime Program at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Believing that the only way to preserve a historic vessel is to keep her sailing and to train the crew(s) to sail toward the ship’s greatest potential—and recognizing from the outset Niagara’s safety liabilities—he knew that a strong commitment to sail training was the best was to keep her afloat and to continue sailing to other ports, rather than remain just another stationary museum replica. As the old saying goes, ‘Ships and men rot in port.’ He worked single mindedly for nearly fifteen years to change the ship into a better sailing ship, and was the driving force behind converting the vessel into the Coast Guard-certified Sailing School Vessel that she is today—a process that required working to overcome significant bureaucratic and regulatory hurdles. Along the way, he may well have trained more current ASTA skippers and mates in square rig than any other ASTA vessel.”

Captain Rybka is also the author of numerous articles and publications, including the 2012 book The Lake Erie Campaign of 1813: I Shall Fight Them This Day, through which he traces the Lake Erie Campaign from the struggle to
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build the fleet in Erie, Pennsylvania, during the dead of winter and the conflict between rival egos of Perry and his second in command, Jesse Duncan Elliott, through the exceptionally bloody battle that was the first U.S. victory in a fleet action. With the singular perspective of having sailed the reconstructed U.S. brig Niagara for over twenty years, Captain Rybka brings the knowledge of a shipmaster to the story of the Lake Erie Campaign and the culminating Battle of Lake Erie.

He plans to stay in Erie during retirement and has expressed interest in writing at least one more nautical-themed book and volunteering at the Erie Maritime Museum.

Annita Andrick
PA Museums celebrates the professional accomplishments of Annita Andrick with a 2021 Individual Award of Merit. Annita joined the staff of the Erie County Historical Society, now known as the Thomas B. Hagen History Center, in the spring of 1986, moving to Erie from Denver for the position of Librarian/Archivist. Her job title changed to Director of the Library & Archives in July 2000. She holds a Master of Arts in Library Science, with a concentration in Museum Studies (1985) and has completed work for a second Master’s Degree in History/Archives (all but thesis) at the University of Denver.

Annita retired during the summer in 2020 after a long career helping researchers find what they need within the History Center’s collections. Annita has extensive experience in processing archival collections, grants analysis, selection and editing of archival material, images, and research for different projects, with a strong reference component. Annita encourages study of “the flat world” as it is discovered via the 2-D collections by a wide audience of visitors and residents.

During the early years with the History Center, Annita helped write the first Disaster Plan for the organization and annual updates to the Long-Range Plan. She helped design the Library and Archives for the new Erie History Center at 419 State Street which opened in 1992. She orchestrated the move of the entire collection to temporary storage while the former Ashby Printing building was renovated into a modern history center and oversaw the storage plan and move into the new building. Annita actively worked with the City of Erie to acquire significant collections such as duplicate land records, Erie Redevelopment Authority Collection, Immigration and Naturalization papers and much more. She wrote and received several grants to help process and make these records available and to print the Bassett Glass Plate Negative Collection (over 10,000 images). Under her leadership, the archive quickly outgrew the space as she actively pursued significant personal and business collections such as the Nagle Steam Engine Company, chocolate makers, oil companies, Jarecki family papers and many more. She began the cooperative relationship with the Erie Society for Genealogical Research which ensured their organization a home base and helped provide research assistance in the Reading Room.

When the Erie County Historical Society and the Erie Historical Museum merged in 1999, Annita oversaw the merger of the library and archival material and helped organize the cataloging of the three-dimensional material
into Past Perfect. In the past few years, a new library and archives building was built behind the Watson-Curtze Mansion at 356 W. 6th Street. Once again, Annita oversaw the move of collections into temporary storage then into the new facility which she helped design.

Each year, the number of researchers has grown including on-line accessibility to the myriad of collections documenting the growth of Erie County and the City of Erie. Annita was one of the first in the NW PA region to begin digitizing collections to improve accessibility and created the business model to help make her department more financially sustainable.

During her 34 years, she has mentored over a hundred interns from the region’s many colleges and universities. She has utilized many different county programs to find the workers necessary for the many moves of the collections, assembling shelving, organizing the hundreds of boxes and thousands of books. Her expertise as an artist enabled her to create some very successful, popular exhibits such as the major construction and real estate firm, the Baldwin Brothers whose early 20th century high rise was one of the first in the City. Her knowledge of the collection has enabled many exhibits since then to be visually appealing as well as educational.

Annita is an experienced grants reviewer for the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, National Historical Publications & Records Commission and the Institute of Museums and Library Services Leadership Grants Program for multiple assignments. In addition, she has been a past member of the Pennsylvania State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) for three multi-year terms. Responsibilities included development of a 10-year action plan for use and care of PA records of the Commonwealth.

Annita has also been involved in the American Association of Museums. She was an AAM Board Member for 3 years and a Member, AAM Council of Professional Standing Committees for 2 years. She began as a Program Chair of the AAM Media & Technology Professional Standing Committee, then was voted Chair and CEO, a total of 6 years of in-depth involvement. The Professional Standing Committees are responsible for generating, developing, and guiding national programming for the Annual AAM Meeting. They select, prioritize, and otherwise develop concepts and issues compatible with the theme of the Annual Meeting. A program meeting is held in the summer to select and refine content and partner with other PSCs on the program.

Annita is currently a member of the National Association for Museum Exhibitions AAM Professional Standing Committee and locally a Board Member of the Performing Artists’ Collective Alliance (PACA), 1505 State Street, 2nd Floor, Erie, PA. She also maintains an art studio at 1505 State Street, 2nd floor.
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Senator John Heinz History Center
PA Museums awarded the Senator John Heinz History Center an S. K. Stevens Award for its exhibit “The Vietnam War: 1945-1975” that examined the controversial conflict that shaped American society.

Through powerful photographs, compelling storyboards, 20 audio/visual displays and artifacts included a 20-foot UH-1H “Huey” helicopter, the exhibit took visitors on a journey spanning the duration of U.S. involvement in Indochina, from the post-World War II advent of the Cold War to our prolonged exit in the mid-1970s.

“The Vietnam War: 1945-1975” brought to light deeply personal stories of the men and women who were impacted by the war, with a closer look at western Pennsylvania’s role, from the local soldiers who fought in combat, to those who served in support services, and protesters who participated in the anti-war movement and humanitarian causes.

To honor the region’s fallen veterans, the exhibit displayed a 22-foot-wide, 8-foot-tall replica of the Vietnam War Memorial that includes the names of 752 Americans killed during the war from eight western Pennsylvania counties.

The multimedia show, developed in partnership with the New York Historical Society, showcased key players and turning points of the complex war and explored how the conflict heavily affected our nation’s trust in government, economics, popular culture, and the identity of Americans at home and abroad. Visitors were able to get up close with the exhibition’s largest and most iconic artifact, the “Huey” helicopter with its 48-foot wingspan, used by the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1970. Visitors were also able to sit in the re-created 1960s living room that demonstrated why the conflict is often referred to as the first “television war.” Decorations included vibrant anti-war posters, artwork by Vietnam War vets and music by such artists as Creedence Clearwater Revival, Marvin Gaye and Jimi Hendrix, whose songs defined the soundtrack of a generation.

Museum of the American Revolution
Once again, the Museum of the American Revolution is being recognized by PA Museums for exceptional programs and exhibits.

This year, the Museum will receive the S.K Stevens Award for its demonstrated success with Hamilton Was Here: Rising Up in Revolutionary Philadelphia which opened in October 2018 and closed March 2019. Throughout the 5000+ square-foot exhibit, visitors journeyed through Alexander Hamilton’s Philadelphia where interactive playscapes highlighted Hamilton’s extraordinary contributions to the nation’s founding. In addition to daily museum visitors, the exhibit attracted nearly 8,000 students from 128 schools in the Philadelphia region.

The Museum will also receive PA Museum’s
2021 Institutional Award of Merit for Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier. The exhibition followed the little-known story of Anglo-Irish soldier and artist Richard St. George, whose life served as a backdrop for sharing many stories from the Revolutionary era and its international impact. A 128-page exhibit catalog accompanied the exhibition along with a unique set of educational materials designed to help visitors think differently about the long-standing impacts of the American Revolution. Cost of Revolution, which closed in March 2020, was the Museum’s first international loan exhibition and included more than 100 objects on loan from 40 different lenders from four countries.

Hamilton Was Here and Cost of Revolution are prime examples of the Museum’s work to fulfill its mission to uncover and share surprising, lesser-known stories about our nation’s founding from a variety of perspectives. They also offer special connections to Pennsylvania history – whether by illuminating how Hamilton’s time in Philadelphia shaped his life and work or by casting light on Richard St. George’s life-changing head injury at the Battle of Germantown and its impact on his life. Both exhibitions were brought to life and promoted by the Museum’s exceptional team of curators, designers, educators, and outreach coordinators, including Matthew Skic, Curator of Exhibitions at the Museum and past recipient of PA Museum’s Carol Wickkiser Memorial Award for emerging museum professionals. Matthew, a graduate of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, started working at the Museum in 2016. In a message to PA Museums last month Matthew shared, “Our staff is extremely grateful to PA Museums for being recognized again in 2021. We look forward to sharing more original research and surprising stories in future exhibits and programs.”


Fort Ligonier
Fort Ligonier like many fellow museum partners across Pennsylvania faced difficult fundraising challenges in 2020 due to the pandemic. How do they plan for their major benefit of the year when they could not host an in-person event, which typically raised 10 percent of their annual income. The Fort staff along with a volunteer committee began thinking of creative ways to coordinate a benefit that would engage supporters with the Fort while raising critically needed funds. The staff and committee chose to keep the annual benefit’s branded name, The Cannon Ball, but enhanced it by adding the following elements, an online auction, party to go, and unveiling of the new 1762 Whiskey.

The Cannon Ball Online Auction and Party to Go was developed and implemented to fundraise while weaving the Fort’s French and Indian War history through every part of the event. Fort Ligonier worked with the Pittsburgh-based and award-winning Wigle Whiskey to create the new 1762 Whiskey, which was unveiled and sold.
Berks History Center
In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the Berks History Center staff discussed what their organization could do to make a meaningful impact for the community we serve while staying true to their mission as a museum and archive. National and local headlines detailed concerns about the pandemic’s stress on our nation’s food supply. They saw an opportunity to present a history lesson that addressed the current emergency.

On April 13, 2020, Berks History Center launched “Berks History for Victory,” an educational and community story-telling project to promote the revitalization of historic victory gardening in Berks County. The initiative focused on building community food security during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing both the historical background and practical information to inspire residents to produce their own food, for their families and neighbors, at home.

The “Berks History for Victory” campaign is primarily a digital learning experience featuring historical images, personal stories, and instructional videos (from BHC staff at home) released on social media. BHC expanded the program by installing a small demonstration garden and living exhibit on the History Center’s museum grounds.

Fort Pitt Museum
The Fort Pitt Museum’s temporary exhibition Pittsburgh, Virginia tells the story of a tumultuous, but little known, period on the eve of the American Revolution when Pittsburgh—and much of Western Pennsylvania—was claimed and occupied by the rival colony of Virginia. Using a tapestry of objects and imagery from the period, it attempts to unravel the tangled web of events and animosities that came to a head with Virginia Governor Lord Dunmore’s brutal campaign against the Shawnee in 1774. In doing so, the exhibition takes a fresh look at the themes of settlement and conquest in the Upper Ohio Valley, beginning it the 17th century, just prior to European contact.

Using this approach, many of the central questions and problems in early Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania history were confronted and covered in detail, among them the impact of successive waves of settlement, both Native and European, on the region’s human and physical landscape; the institution of African slavery in the region during the era of the American Revolution; the relative absence of Delaware, Shawnee, and Seneca peoples from the region’s otherwise diverse modern-day neighborhoods; and the causes and consequences of the protracted boundary dispute between the colonies-turned-states of Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Medal of Honor Display, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum, Pittsburgh
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum houses a vast collection of over 10,000 artifacts and documents dating from the Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan and the War on Terror. Objects include uniforms, accoutrements, weapons, paintings, photos, books, personal letters, diaries, medals and a host of other peripheral U.S. military items. These artifacts provide perspective to the
experience of American service personnel which in turn makes that experience interpretable to those who have not served and provide a touchstone to memories for those who have.

Of considerable importance in the collection are seven Medals of Honor presented to individuals with ties to the Western Pennsylvania region. The Medal of Honor is our nation’s most prestigious military decoration, presented in the name of Congress for valor in action against an enemy force. Recipients represent the highest delineation of selfless courage, being soldiers who risk, and often give, their own lives to save their comrades while inspiring those around them. Initiated during the Civil War, 3524 individuals have been recognized to date with medals allotted by Congress. The museum is extremely honored to enshrine and share these medals, which we truly consider to be national treasures. Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum regards the responsibility of telling the story of each represented recipient as a paramount part of our mission and purpose. In 2019 the museum acquired new display cases specifically designed by for these historically important artifacts. The medals are now displayed together as part of a singular “Medal of Honor Exhibit” located the museum’s Hall of Valor.

In 2016, Soldiers & Sailor Memorial Hall & Museum implemented a strategic plan, Organization and Upgrading of our Museum Storage and Display Areas. Since this strategic plan has been put into place, the staff of SSMH has worked diligently to keep moving forward to reach their main goal, to strengthen their role as a museum in the community by adhering to the rigorous set standards established by the American Alliance of Museums.

Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier (exhibit), The Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia

The mission of the American Revolution is to uncover and share compelling stories about the diverse people and complex events that sparked America’s ongoing experiment in liberty, equality and self-government. The Museum’s critically acclaimed special exhibition Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier, which ran from September 28, 2019 - March 17, 2020, is a prime example of the Museum’s story-driven approach to accomplishing the mission. By telling the little-known story of Richard St. George, an Irish artist and officer in the British Army, the exhibition examined the immediate international impact of the American Revolution. Wounded in the head while fighting against the American Revolution in 1777m St. George later fought against Ireland’s first attempt to establish an independent republic in 1798 and was killed as a result. Along the way, St. George created and commissioned works of art, reunited in the exhibition, that document his journey. Cost of Revolution continued the Museum’s approach to rich, dramatic, personal storytelling with surprises at every turn.

As its overarching question, the exhibition asked visitors, what can a life tell us about an era? Inspired by two paintings of the 1777 battles of Germantown and Paoli in the Museum’s collection and based on new
research the Museum’s curators, the 5,000-square-foot exhibition brought to life St. George’s dramatic and tragic personal journey through the Age of Revolutions. St. George’s story provides a window in the entangled histories of the American Revolution and the Irish Revolution of 1798.

Thrown, Fired and Glazed: The Redware Tradition from Pennsylvania and Beyond (exhibit), Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, Lancaster

In the past 100 years there have been only a handful of significant pottery exhibits along the East Coast. There has never been one in Pennsylvania or one focusing mainly on Pennsylvania redware while covering the history and ongoing production of the craft. Thrown, Fired and Glazed: The Redware Tradition from Pennsylvania and Beyond was developed to encompass the spectrum of decorative and utilitarian redware forms, as well as the regions in which they were produced. By creating a two-and-a-half-year exhibit filled with over 400 utilitarian and slip- or sgraffito-decorated artifacts from prominent museums and private collections, Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum assembled a one-of-a-kind exhibit and catalogue.

The main focus of Thrown, Fired and Glazed: The Redware Tradition from Pennsylvania and Beyond was redware produced in Southeastern Pennsylvania in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The earliest piece exhibited was a 1684 sugar mold excavated in Philadelphia and the last-produced piece was created in 2019 by a modern redware potter using traditional techniques. The exhibit also highlighted pieces made in England, Germany, New England, the South and the Midwest. This allowed the Museum to educate visitors about regional differences in redware, the clay used and the traditional decorating techniques that varied depending on where the potter lived.

Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies, Special Issue featuring the City Beautiful Exhibition and Digital Harrisburg (collaboration of Messiah University, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, and a number of community partners) Pennsylvania Historical Association

A special issue of Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies, the scholarly quarterly of the Pennsylvania Historical Association (PHA) focused on the theme, “Harrisburg, Digital Public History and the ‘City Beautiful’”. It examines the City Beautiful movement during the Progressive Era through the lens of digital public history. The issue was published as the Winter 2020 (57.1) edition in January 2020. The special issue was an extension of Messiah College’s Digital Public History initiative and reaches out to academic and non-academic audiences. Several different components of the Initiative include oral histories, exhibits, and the Commonwealth Monument Project to honor the voices of minorities. These are showcased in this special issue of Pennsylvania History.

The issue into five parts, all relating to the concepts of approaching the public and digital history in different ways: reframing, rethinking, remembering, reimagining. The fifth part is a response by nationally known urban scholar Lisa Christoff Boehm on placing Harrisburg’s City Beautiful in a national context.
PA MUSEUMS CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose
PA Museums is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment that is free of bias and intimidation. In keeping with federal laws, state laws, and non-profit best practices, PA Museums expressly prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, body size, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran, or any other protected classification.

Discriminatory or harassing conduct by or towards any awardee, contractor, employee, member, grantee, honoree, participant, vender, volunteer, or other person participating in PA Museum programs, activities, or grant funded projects will not be tolerated.

Scope
PA Museums’ Code of Conduct is intended to cover all PA Museums members, contractors, employees, grantees, honorees, participants, sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and any other person participating in a PA Museums sponsored program, activity, or grant funded project.

PA Museums’ sponsored programs and activities include, but are not limited to: the annual conference, committee meetings, trainings, workshops, volunteer projects, publications, grant funded projects, scholarships, and awards.

By obtaining PA Museums’ membership, registering to present or attend the PA Museums’ annual conference, applying for a scholarship or award from PA Museums, or participation in any PA Museums program or activity, all participants commit to maintaining respectful and ethical relationships in accordance with the PA Museums’ Code of Conduct.

Definitions
• Discrimination is disparate, unjust or prejudicial treatment of others based on human difference.
• Harassment includes but is not limited to:
  • Sexual harassment, according to U.S. Federal guidelines is “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.” Importantly, the legal definition includes harassment that is sexist rather than sexual: it can “include offensive remarks about a person’s sex,” with this form being “illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment.”
  • Sexual assault which includes actual or attempted physical attack and any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Sexual assault is illegal.
  • Physical contact without consent or after a request to stop
  • Comments or actions the minimize a person’s life choices, identity, or safety
  • Deliberate “outing” of any aspect of a person’s identity without their consent, except as necessary to protect vulnerable people from intentional abuse
  • Sustained or deliberate disruption of presentations or events regardless of the reason or basis for such disruption
  • Deliberate intimidation or stalking of any kind—in person or online
  • Collection and distribution of harassing photography or recordings
  • Threat or acts of violence
  • Advocating for, or encouraging, any of the above behaviors

General instructions and directions shall not constitute harassment under this Cod of Conduct if communicated in a manner that is in keeping with the principles set forth above.

Reporting
Anyone who experiences or witnesses any violation of PA Museums’ Code of Conduct should report the incident to the PA Museums Executive Director or the Board of Directors as soon as possible.

If you witness sexual harassment or assault, respond first to the affected person’s needs and safety. Support that person if they choose to report the incident but respect their decision to report or not report.
Anyone experiencing or witnessing behavior that constitutes an immediate or serious threat to personal or public safety is advised to contact 911.

- Rusty Baker, Executive Director, rusty.baker@pamuseums.org, 717 909-4951.
- Board of Directors, Richard Burkert, President, rburkert@thejaha.org

PA Museums is not an adjudicating body. However, the PA Museums Board of Directors will receive complaints to support addressing grievances associated with PA Museums’ programs, activities, and grant funded projects.

- Complaints may be submitted to Rusty Baker, Executive Director, rusty.baker@pamuseums.org, 717 909-4951
- PA Museums will promptly investigate all complaints which shall include but not be limited to:
  - Discussing the complaint with the complainant.
  - Reviewing relevant documents and electronic materials relevant to the complaint
  - Discussing the complaint with the alleged harasser and give them an opportunity to respond to the complaint if the complainant wishes for the Board to actively participate in resolving the complaint.
  - Interviewing, and where appropriate, obtaining statement from witnesses to the complaint allegations.
  - Implementing appropriate disciplinary action.
  - Determining that a complaint is unmerited and ending the investigation.

Consequences
PA Museums is committed to enforcing this code of conduct at all levels of its organization. Anyone who engages in discriminatory or harassing conduct will be subject to disciplinary action from the Board of Directors.

- Individuals who are currently sanctioned for assault or harassment by an adjudicating institution (e.g., a university) will be barred from PA Museums programs, activities, and grant funded projects. Appeals may be requested in advance of participation in an activity or program; on-site conference registration for such individuals will not be permitted.
- Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately.
- The PA Museums Board may take any action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from an activity, program, or grant funded project without warning or refund.
- The PA Museums Board reserves the right to prohibit participation in future programs, activities, and grant funded projects in addition to rescinding association awards, grants, and/or scholarship, and revoking or prohibiting membership.

Adoption
This code of conduct was adopted by the PA Museums Board of Directors on June 8, 2020.