

2024 Arkansas Museums Association Conference

Session Descriptions

Tuesday, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Good Admin, Great Office

Classroom 1

Sabrina Taylor, Executive Assistant
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

What makes a good admin? Is it organization, a winning attitude, attention to detail or something different? Museums do the work of preservation, history and education, but it can fail without great administration. This session will provide useful tips to make the back-end of the museum run efficiently and effectively. Limit 15, pre-registration required.

Making Mannequins: Part 1

Classroom 2

Angela Gibbs, Curator
Jacksonport State Park

Displaying historic garments can be a daunting task. Learn how to measure textiles, make a basic mannequin, and use various supports to create an inexpensive but quality mount for your exhibits. This hands-on workshop is limited to 10 participants. Limit 10, pre-registration required.

The Aircraft That Wasn't in Vietnam

1789 Room

Hallie Cartwright, Curator and Exhibit Designer
Arkansas Air and Military Museum

This presentation is about the CH-21 Shawnee or "Flying Banana". This helicopter was the introductory transport, supply, assault, and paratroop helicopter in the early stages of the Vietnam War. It's fame in Arkansas is due to local veteran Oscar "Max" Hall who flew the aircraft in Vietnam.

Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

A Brief History of Eclipse Prediction

Doss T. Sutton Board Room

Daniel John Kenefick, Professor
University of Arkansas Physics Department
Julia Dusk Kenefick, Associate Professor
University of Arkansas Physics Department

On April 8th of this year, at times which vary locally but which are known precisely in advance, Arkansans will be treated to a unique spectacle, a total solar eclipse. It is truly unique, because only Earth, in our solar system, is fortunate enough to have a Moon which is exactly the same apparent size in our sky as the Sun. But how do we know so precisely when, and from where, the eclipse will be viewable? The story of how scientists have learned to predict eclipses so accurately is a long and fascinating one, which is also in many respects the history of science itself. It is a story which involves many famous names, Thales of Miletus, the "first scientist," Alexander the Great, Ptolemy, Columbus, Copernicus, Kepler, Newton and Einstein. It is a story of discovery

which is still ongoing today as scientists, and the general public, gather to watch darkness at noon (as will be the case near Durango, Mexico).

Arkansas Art Pottery

Classroom 2

Amanda Colclasure, Youth Education Director
Old State House Museum

Arkansas Art Pottery: Learn about our state's art pottery makers, including Camark, Niloak, and Ouachita. The Old State House Museum has a large collection sampling of Arkansas Made Pottery and you will learn how Arkansas's natural clay resources were used to produce hand made and mass produced pottery. Then, you will make your own Niloak swirl pot using model magic.

Curation From Ground Zero

1789 Room

Hallie Cartwright, Curator
Arkansas Air and Military Museum
Samantha Bynum, Assistant Director/Curator of Exhibits
Rogers Historical Museum

Do you know what is in your collection? Do you have a deed of gift for that? When's the last time you conducted an inventory? In this session, we will cover how to rebuild your museums collection program after years of mismanagement. We will discuss cataloguing, recreating a cataloguing system, pursuing collection grants, organization, loans, donations, and more. Limit 20, pre-registration required.

Tuesday, 2:00– 5:00 p.m.

Field Trips

Arkansas River Valley Nature Center
Fort Smith Regional Art Museum

Wednesday, 9:15-10:30 a.m.

Problem Solving in Small Exhibits

Classroom 1

Jen Hughes, Curator
Arkansas Secretary of State

This presentation will explore the challenges and opportunities of creating engaging and visually appealing exhibitions with a small staff and limited space available. We will cover key aspects of exhibit development, from concept to installation. Followed by a round table discussion and workshop on frugal solutions for installation methods and materials.

I'm a Leader 101

1789 Room

Quantia "Key" M. Fletcher, Director
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Whether you're taking the lead on a project or trying to figure out how to best manage yourself, you can lead. This session is designed to inspire the next generation of leaders in the field and provide useful tools to navigate museums. Join us for a seat at the table about critical and honest conversations around what it means to lead the states heritage sites and cultural institutions.

Making Mannequins: Part 2

Classroom 2

Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

Interpreting Your Resource

Classroom 1

Kayla Gomance, Assistant Chief of Interpretation
Arkansas State Parks

Join in on this transformative session where we'll explore how to share your passion and vision with visitors. Kayla will lead you through engaging activities to help you use interpretation to connect with people from all walks of life. Come away feeling inspired to help visitors to see your museum the way you do - as a place of wonder, discovery, and endless possibilities.

I'm a Leader 102

1789 Room

Quantia "Key" M. Fletcher, Director
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

As we manage our state's most amazing institutions, it's imperative that we don't forget about those who make the magic happen. Developing strong teams lead to healthy and productive museums and cultures that impact our communities. This session is designed to share practical, useful resources and tools to support museum leadership at every level. This session is designed for executives, board members and upper-level management.

Preserving the Party

Doss T. Sutton Board Room

Laci Prince, Museum Director
Arkansas Air and Military Museum
Daniel Cockrell, Director
Old State House Museum

This session will discuss how to bring extra income into a site via weddings and private rentals while preserving the integrity of the facility and site.

Wednesday, 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Box Making Workshop: Part 1

Angela Gibbs, Curator

Jacksonport State Park

Classroom 2

Have you ever needed to make a custom box for your artifacts but are not sure where to start? Learn how by making a box of your own in this hands-on workshop! Participants will learn to measure artifacts, build their own custom box, and learn of the various methods of supporting the artifact within the box they made. Limit of 15 participants. Pre-registration required.

Evaluation Workshop: Part 1

Liya Wizevich, Research and Evaluation Specialist

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

Classroom 1

Do you know who is or isn't visiting your museum? Are you learning from visitors to improve your programs and exhibitions? In this workshop we'll explore evaluation basics and how to apply them at your institution. We'll discuss research questions, methods, and grant-funded evaluation opportunities for each of your museums.

Introduction to NAGPRA

Sarah Shepard, Registrar

Arkansas Archeological Survey

1789 Room

This session serves as an introduction to NAGPRA - what it is, what it covers, and how to assess if it affects your museum. I hope to show that the repatriation process, if necessary, does not have to be intimidating and can be mutually beneficial for tribal partners and museums alike.

Wednesday, 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Box Making Workshop: Part 2

Classroom 2

Disasters, Calamities, and Floods, Oh My!

Diane Karlson, Registrar

William J. Clinton Presidential Library

1789 Room

Does your facility have a plan when faced with a flood, fire or other emergency? Attend this session for conversations on how to prepare your staff and facility for the day when a problem occurs at the museum. And not freak out.

Having Their Say

Doss T. Sutton Board Room

Courtney Bradford, Curator

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Curator Courtney Bradford from the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center explores the unique best practices needed for acquiring, preserving, and curating collections of African American-related artifacts within cultural institutions.

Evaluation Workshop: Part 2

Classroom 1

Thursday, 9:15-10:30 a.m.

Backwards Accessibility

1789 Room

Laci Prince, Museum Director

Arkansas Air and Military Museum

Let's imagine a world where accessibility options aren't just options but a standard part of life for everyone. Reverse accessibility is the idea that some accessibility objects are actually beneficial for all people with all ability levels.

Digital Media

Classroom 1

David Kennedy, Curator of Collections and Exhibits

United States Marshals Museum

As digital media becomes more prevalent, telling stories in museums and online becomes both easier and more difficult. Obtaining, storing, and accessing data/content are very different activities in processes. Methods and practices of an active collection will be presented, allowing attendees to build or improve their own programs.

Arkansas Museums Under the Celestial Spotlight: Quantifying the 2024 Eclipse

Doss T. Sutton Board Room

Joseph Alley, Exhibition Manager and Coordinator

National Cold War Center

Everyone likes a party, but not everyone likes to be the party organizer. This is the position that most Arkansas museums have found themselves in for the upcoming eclipse in April. The Arkansas Museum Association is undertaking a study to record what our museums are doing for this historic event, and what they expect to happen before, during and after the eclipse. Join presenter Joseph Alley, of the National Cold War Center in Blytheville, AR, as he goes over the methodology for the multi-part study and presents what other museums are planning to do for eclipse.