



SEK Museum Alliance

Mission Statement

The Mission of the SEK Museum Alliance is to work together to support the museums of Southeast Kansas through promoting their events and activities, sharing resources, and providing learning opportunities to advance our unique histories.

SEK Museum Alliance Board President

Ray Rothgeb, Independence Museum and Arts Center, Independence

Secretary

Leanne Githens, Wilson County Historical Museum, Fredonia

Treasurer

Jolene Born, Osage Mission-Neosho Co. Museum, St. Paul

Communications Chair

Gina McBride, Historical Society & Museum, Caney

E. Region VP

Carol Staton, Historical Cherryvale Museum, Cherryvale

W. Region VP

Marcia Taylor, Howard Benson Museums, Howard

Member

Ed Born, Osage Mission – Neosho Co. Museum, St. Paul

Contact us at:

sekmuseums@gmail.com

SEK Museum Alliance Newsletter

Fall 2022 Vol. 2, Issue 2

Keeping you informed about all things “Museum” in Southeast Kansas

What’s New?!

Mark Your Calendars! – November 12

How do you help researchers who want to know more about the history of their homes and property? Join us on November 12 to learn more!

Meeting details:

Date/Time – November 12, 8:30 AM registration, meeting begins promptly at 9 AM – NOON

Location – Osage Mission-Neosho Co. Museum, 205 Washington St., St. Paul, KS. Meeting hosted by the Osage Mission-Neosho Co. Museum, St. Paul.

***Educational Program:** “Researching Your Home and the People Who Lived There” presented by Diana Staresinic-Deane. This program is made possible by a grant from Humanities KS. See the article below for more information.

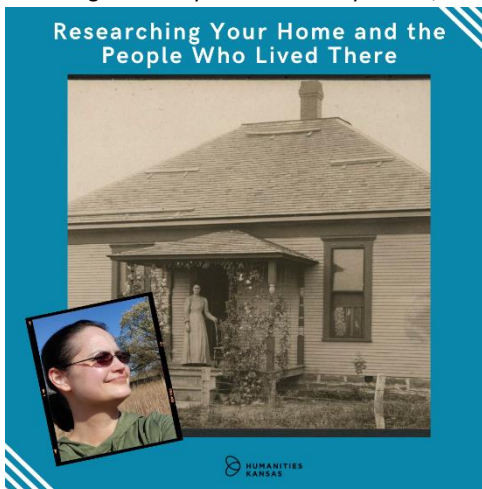
**** Attendees of this meeting will be encouraged to pay their 2023 dues at the meeting. See the article below.**

PLEASE RSVP on the website, <https://www.sekmuseums.org/>



“Researching Your Home and the People Who Lived There”, presented by Diana Staresinic-Deane

Researching a property, be it an old home, a new business, or a section of pastureland, can do more than tell us the history of a space. It can also build a human connection to the people who came before us and the times in which they lived. This talk shares creative ways to study documents and assemble relevant narratives from maps, deeds, newspapers, and often unsought or unknown resources. This is ideal for those new to seeking out family and community stories, and helpful for those stymied by a dead end.



Diana Staresinic-Deane is the executive director of Franklin County Historical Society and Old Depot Museum in Ottawa. She is passionate about collecting, interpreting, and recording local histories.

“New researchers will feel empowered to take their first researching steps,” said Staresinic-Deane. “Researchers who have been stymied by a dead end might just find the breadcrumbs they need to progress.”

Dues Benefit All Museums!



Southeast Kansas Museum Alliance (SEK MA) offers Individual, Institutional, and Business/Industry memberships. Paid membership supports the viability and sustainability of the SEK MA. Members represent a range of museums and organizations, professionals, and museum operators in a 15-county region of Southeast Kansas. The SEK MA is dedicated to nurturing collaboration among museums, supporting museums by promoting their events and activities, sharing resources, and providing learning opportunities that advance the unique histories of the region.



Annual Membership Fees:



Institutional:

- Annual budget less than \$10,000: \$25.00
- Annual budget greater than \$10,000: \$50.00
- Business/Industry: \$100.00

Individual: \$20.00

Membership is for the calendar year. To join SEK Museum Alliance, complete the SEK MUSEUM ALLIANCE APPLICATION, scan and send the form to SEKMuseums@gmail.com or mail it with your payment to: SEK Museum Alliance, P.O. Box 381, Independence, KS 67301. **We're working on an on-line payment option and hope to have this up and running by mid-December.**

Video Project a Possibility for 2023 SEKMA Project – Take the Survey!

Have you considered creating a video to promote your museum? Struggling to find the most cost-effective way to make it happen? Intimidated by the technology involved? The SEKMA board is considering a video project for 2023. The decision to proceed involves many factors, some of which are: What is the effective length of a video? How much would it cost? Would all museums be included? How would I use the video in my community and/or tourist area? Etc., etc.,



SO, we need your input! You will be receiving an email with a link to a survey asking for your input. PLEASE take the time to respond! Being an active Museum Alliance member by paying dues, responding to surveys, and attending meetings helps to make us a stronger organization.

Board Elections to be held at November Meeting

November is the designated month for elections to the SEK Museum Alliance board of directors. Just as a reminder, the board consists of 3 members from the West Region (elected by West Region members), 3 members from the East Region (elected by East Region members), and 1 At-Large member (elected by all members).



Regional board terms are 3-year terms, with no more than 1 board member from each region up for election/re-election each year. **Ed Born from the East Region, and Gina McBride from the West Region are up for election/re-election this year.**

Nomination forms will be emailed and nominations will be accepted up until the time of voting. **Museums must be paid members to be eligible to vote on the board members.**

The board officers for the coming year will be elected by the board members following the November meeting.



To The Stars: Reaching & Reflecting

Monday, November 7 – Wednesday,
November 9, 2022

Hotel Topeka at City Center

Topeka, Kansas

Join the Kansas Museum community for dynamic sessions, focused networking, and inspiring speakers, including:

- Dr. John Falk – Executive Director, Institute for Learning Innovation
- Donna Rae Pearson – Local History Librarian, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
- Kara Heitz – Podcaster; Lecturer, Kansas City Art Institute

The SEK Museum Alliance is getting noticed by KMA! We're doing exciting things and it's energizing to be a part of the larger museum community. Below is the specific conference information for our presentation.

Session Name

SEKMA Passport Project

Presenter - Marcia Taylor, Howard Benson Museums

Session Description:

The SEKMA launched a project to improve visitation of their museums in 2021. The project involved publishing a passport to distribute free to the public, that showcased museums in 15 counties in Southeast Kansas. All museums in the 15-county area were invited to participate. Thirty-four museums participated in the project. The professional looking document showcased the museums and improved visitation. Finally, a contest attached to the passports resulted in \$1000 in prizes to the public.

Session Start Date/Time - 11/8/2022 11:00am

Session End Time - 11/8/2022 11:45am

For registration information, visit their website, www.ksmuseums.org

Look At Us Go!!

We're so excited about the latest progress of the SEK Museum Alliance! In the last two months, we have: approved the 2023 Budget, approved the Bylaws, and applied for 501(c)3 designation. Our host packet which is provided to museums when they prepare for hosting a general meeting has been implemented and deemed to be working well. The programs for February and April, 2023 have been confirmed. And we are getting ready to present a session about our Passport Project at the November Kansas Museum Association Conference. In case you aren't aware, we are being noticed by both the museum and the tourist industries in Kansas. Yeah us!!



Stay Connected and Up-To-Date!



<https://www.sekmuseums.org/>

Have you bookmarked our website? It communicates what our organization is all about. This is the place to look for the latest information about future meetings, ongoing projects, minutes from previous meetings, and much more.

Join us on Facebook at “SEK Museum Alliance” to share history, tips for museum operations, resources to share, etc.

Notices



Future Meeting Dates:

February 11, 2023 - Independence

Emily Cowen, “Abandoned KS.org”

April 8, 2023 - Yates Center

Marci Penner, “KS Sampler Festival, KS Guidebook for Explorers”

Mug Sales Promotion: Profit for You, Profit for Us – Promotion for All!

A Few Mugs are still available!



*THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE
SEK MUSEUM ALLIANCE AND BEING
A VIBRANT PART OF THE MUSEUM
COMMUNITY*

Successes and Challenges!

From the feedback the board receives, one of the most beneficial elements of our general meetings is the Successes and Challenges sharing time.



As expected, there are recurring themes on the Challenges side – need more visitors, volunteers, funding, space, upkeep of aging buildings, etc., etc. While solutions are sometimes difficult to find, at a minimum, knowing that you are not the only museum struggling with a particular issue is a help.

The Success column is always encouraging and exciting! Despite the challenges, small and not-so-small museums are making things happen. Just a few include:

- Parsons – Painted a Rail Car-Caboose
- Caney – Installed a Ring security system w/ donor funds
- Cherryvale – Held 4 successful summer events
- Chanute – Increased communication between local institutions
- Galesburg – Made a video recording of interview w/ local historian
- Allen Co. – Provided dual access programming (Facebook Live/In-person)
- Osage Mission – Installed information signs
- Wilson Co. – Installed Fort Row history sign
- And the list goes on!



This sharing time at the general meetings provides resources to help you meet your challenges, or gives you an idea you hadn't thought about. Just another reason to join us at the meetings!