mpma

MOUNTAIN PLAINS MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

Stronger Together

NEW MUSEUM SOLUTIONS

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

65th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 11-15
BILLINGS, MONTANA
#MPMA2018

mpma.net/conference

Dear Colleagues:

We welcome you to join us in Billings, Montana. Montana's largest city is a gateway to regional history, the arts, and the outdoors. If you've spent years delaying your once-in-a-lifetime trip to see Yellowstone National Park or the Little Bighorn Battlefield, delay no longer! MPMA's 2018 Annual Conference, *Stronger Together: New Museum Solutions*, will give you the opportunity to combine business with pleasure. Billings, surrounded by towering sandstone cliffs and the Yellowstone River, offers a revitalized downtown, a citywide marathon Heritage Trail system, and access to the trout streams and hiking that resulted in Outside Magazine honoring Billings as America's Best Town of 2016.

Within the city are four museums (two accredited by the AAM) and dozens of National Register historical properties. The downtown has live music venues, a walkable brewery district offering local craft beers, and great restaurants. Less than an hour away is Pompeys Pillar, a sandstone butte with William Clark's 1806 carved signature, and Chief Plenty Coups State Park, the home of the Crow Indian leader, Plenty Coups. A three-hour drive over a spectacular mountain pass gets you to the geysers, wildlife, and canyons of Yellowstone National Park.

Montana is a storied land, and it's the happy task of museums in our region to tell and preserve those stories, and to expand the rich narratives with the truths that extend far beyond the stereotypes. The public perception of museums as safe spaces and trusted authorities remains solid, and it will continue to be so if we all work together to present and celebrate our shared cultural and natural heritage with honest inquiry, curiosity, and integrity. The conference sessions and speakers will take us down that path.

We welcome our fellow museum professionals and encourage you to come early and stay after the 2018 MPMA conference in September.

With anticipation,

Kevin Kooistra

Executive Director
Western Heritage Center
Billings, Montana
2018 MPMA Conference Co-Chair

Matthew Fesmire

Director
Yellowstone County Museum
Billings, Montana
2018 MPMA Conference Co-Chair

Cover photo credit: Visit Billings

Visit Billings

LOCATION

Billings is Montana's Trailhead. The community offers open space and a western pace with the beauty and grandeur of Yellowstone National Park and the scenic Beartooth Highway. There is history right outside your hotel window with Little Bighorn Battlefield and the Lewis and Clark Expedition trail nearby. You can enjoy fly fishing, horseback riding, walking the city's trails along the sandstone Rimrocks, and taking a tour in the Walkable Brewery District. You will appreciate the experiences and memories made for a lifetime to come.

Billings weather should be beautiful in September. The average high temperatures are 78° daytime/45° night. If you are planning to attend evening events or tours, please bring layers for lower evening and higher altitude temperatures.

GETTING THERE

BY CAR:

- 4 hours from Casper, Wyoming
- 5 hours from Rapid City, South Dakota
- 6 hours from Bismarck, North Dakota
- 8 hours from Denver, Colorado

BY AIR:

- Billings Logan International Airport is served by 8 major car rental companies and 6 airlines including Delta, United, and American.
- The conference hotel is 6 miles from the airport. The hotel does have an airport shuttle. Please inquire about this service when making your hotel reservation.
- Billings is served by Uber, Lyft, and taxi service.

CONFERENCE HOTEL

The Billings Hotel and Convention Center is the main conference hotel. Registration, all sessions, and most workshops and meals will be held there.

The hotel is 4 miles from downtown Billings.

The conference room rate is $90 per night plus tax and fees. **MPMA discounted rate ends August 26.**

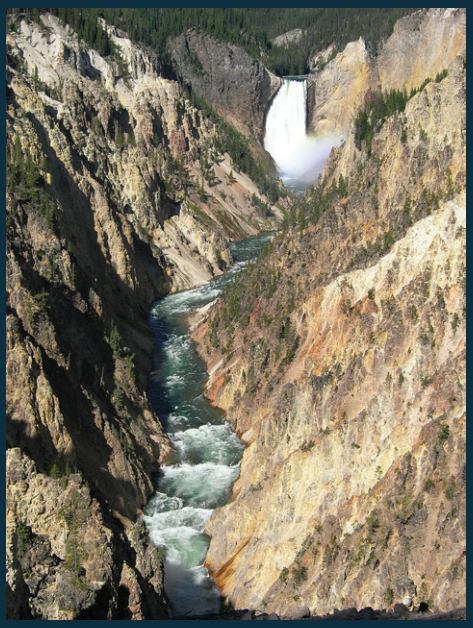
To make a reservation, visit the hotel's website: www.billingshotelmt.com. Click on BOOK NOW, then RATE OPTIONS. Enter the code: MPMA18 and reserve your room.

NOTE: The hotel has two floors but no elevator. If you need a first-floor room, please inquire about this when making your hotel reservation.

Visit the hotel website for further information about amenities: Billings Hotel and Convention Center

NEVER BEEN TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK? *NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!*

Montana Fun Adventures is offering a special one-day tour of Yellowstone to MPMA conference attendees on Tuesday, September 11, 2018.



This guided tour enters Yellowstone National Park through the Roosevelt Arch, dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903. The next stop will be the park headquarters at Mammoth Hot Springs. View (and smell!) this amazing natural feature and stop by the Albright Visitor Center located within the historic Bachelor Officers Quarters of Fort Yellowstone. The tour will move along towards the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone with stops at Artists point, Canyon Village (with gift shops), and the Canyon Visitor Education Center and Yellowstone Volcano center. Continue through the active and colorful mud pots and geysers and take a fascinating walk in the Norris Geyer Basin. Of course, there will be opportunities to view the Old Faithful Geyser, Old Faithful Inn, the Grand Prismatic Springs, and Yellowstone Lake. Keep your eyes peeled, as the trip will meander through some of our nation's iconic wildlife viewing areas!

A picnic box lunch will be provided and there will be a stop for dinner on your own.

The tour will enter Yellowstone at the north entrance and will return to Billings by way of the east entrance and Cody, Wyoming.

COST: $220 PER PERSON PLUS TAX AND FEES

TIMING:

6:00 am Bus arrive at Billings Hotel and Convention Center
6:30 am depart for YNP
11:00pm return time

WHAT TO BRING

snacks, your favorite non - alcoholic beverages (a cooler will be on board with water), camera, binoculars, light to medium weight jacket, comfortable shoes (walking will be on boardwalks or sidewalks). Walkers, canes and light weight wheel chairs are welcome.

HOW TO REGISTER

Register through Montana Fun Adventures Tours at: www.montanafunadventures.com or call 406-254-7180.

Select Yellowstone Park tour and the date September 11: you will find custom YNP tour. Click and you will be guided though the steps. Once you have completed your registration, you will be emailed a confirmation number with your receipt.

Due to weather or road conditions some of the routes may change for safety reasons.

REGISTER BY JULY 15TH

CANCELLATION POLICY

Full refund minus a $20 handing fee for cancellations before August 10. Cancellations after August 10 will not be refunded. Montana Fun Adventures reserves the right to cancel this tour due to lack of interest and registrants will be notified by August 10 and will be issued a full refund.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

6PM-9PM	MPMA Board Meeting	
6PM-9PM	Registration Open	
6:30AM-11PM	Yellowstone National Park Tour	

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7AM-7:30AM	Registration Open (for tour & workshop participants only)	
7:30AM-5:00PM	Tours	page 8
7:45AM-5:30PM	Registration Open	
8:30AM-11:30AM	Workshops	page 11
1:00PM-4:00PM	Workshops	page 12
8AM-4PM	Exhibit Hall Setup	
12:00PM-3:00PM	EMP Orientation	page 14
8:00AM-4:30PM	Receiving Auction Items	
3:30PM-5:30PM	Meet-Ups	page 14
5:45PM	Buses Leave for Evening Event	
6PM-8:30PM	A Night at ZooMontana	page 15

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

7:00AM-5:30PM	Registration Open	
7:30AM-8:30AM	2018 & 2019 Program Committees Meet	page 16
7:30AM-8:30AM	Exhibit Hall Opening Breakfast	page 16
7:30AM-5PM	Exhibit Hall & Silent Auction	page 16
8AM-12PM	Recieving Auction Items	
8:30AM-9:45AM	Concurrent Session	page 16
10:00AM-11:15AM	General Session	page 18

11:15AM-11:45AM	Exhibit Hall & R.E.A.L. Stage	page 18
11:45AM-1:00PM	Leadership Lunch	page 19
1:15PM-2:30PM	Concurrent Sessions	page 19
2:30PM-3:00PM	Exhibit Hall & R.E.A.L Stage	page 20
3PM-4:15PM	Concurrent Sessions	page 20
4:30PM-5:30PM	Meet-Ups	page 21
5:45PM	Buses Leave for Evening Event	
6PM-8:30PM	An Evening at the Western Heritage Center and the Yellowstone Art Museum	page 22
9PM-10PM	Late Night at the Bar session: Work-life balance. Really? That's a thing?	page 22

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

7:00AM-6PM	Registration Open	
7:30AM-8:30AM	Professional Networking Breakfasts	page 23
8AM-4:45PM	Exhibit Hall & Silent Auction	
8:45AM-10AM	Concurrent Sessions	page 24
10AM-10:30AM	Exhibit Hall & R.E.A.L Stage	page 25
10:30AM-11:45AM	Concurrent Sessions	page 25
12PM-1:00PM	Professional Networking Lunches	page 27
1:15PM-2:30PM	Concurrent Sessions	page 28
2:30PM-3PM	Exhibit Hall & R.E.A.L. Stage	page 29
3PM-4:15PM	Concurrent Sessions	page 29
4:15PM-4:45PM	Exhibit Hall Closing Reception	page 30
4:45PM	Silent Auction Closes	page 30
4:45PM-6:00PM	Exhibit Hall Break Down	
5:15PM-6:15PM	Meet-Ups/Awards Dinner Cash Bar Reception	page 30
6:15PM-8:30PM	Awards Dinner & Auction	page 30

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:30AM-1:15PM	Registration Open	
7:45AM-4PM	RC-MPMA Helping Hands Brigade	page 31
9AM-10:15AM	Concurrent Sessions	page 31
10:15AM-10:30AM	Break	
10:30AM-11:45AM	Concurrent Sessions	page 32
12PM-1:15PM	Business Lunch	page 34
1:30-5:15PM	Half-Day Tours	page 35
6:00PM	Buses Leave for Closing Event	
6:00PM-8:30PM	S'Mores and More at the Montana Audubon Education Center	page 36

TRACKS FOR SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS:

ADMINISTRATION (AD)
ARCHIVES/LIBRARIES (LIB)
COLLECTIONS (COLL)
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/TOURISM (CE)
DEVELOPMENT/MEMBERSHIP (DEV)
EDUCATION/AUDIENCE RESEARCH (ED)
EXHIBITS (EX)
FACILITIES/SECURITY (SEC)
INDIGENOUS (INDG)
HISTORIC PRESERVATION (HP)
INTERPRETATION (INT)
SMALL MUSEUMS (SM)
TECHNOLOGY (TECH)
VISITOR SERVICES/VOLUNTEERS (VS)
EMERGING MUSEUM PROFESSIONAL (EMP)

Pre-Registration Required

Events with this icon require advanced registration and a ticket or wristband will be necessary for entry. Please check conference registration for pricing and other information on page 37

WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 12

Rowene Weems

TOURS

◆ T1: MUSEUMS, ART, AND NATURE TOUR

Bus loads at 7:30. Departs hotel at 7:45. Returning to Conference hotel at 4:15.

Pre-registration required. Limited to 25 people. $55 registrants / $65 guests

Enjoy a one hour and 30-minute drive to the Tippet Rise Art Center, set amid the rolling foothills of the spectacular Beartooth-Absaroka Mountains, in Fishtail, Montana. The Tippet Rise Art Center features classical music and large-scale contemporary sculptures fixed among a 10,000-acre working ranch. Selected as "Best Museum of the Year, North America" by Leading Cultural Destinations Awards in 2017, Tippet Rise links nature, architecture, art, and music in a dramatic landscape.

After a scenic drive and lunch in the Grizzly Bar in Roscoe, the tour will continue to Columbus and the *Museum of the Beartooths* (MOB), which explores local history at the confluence of the Stillwater and Yellowstone Rivers. Guide Penny Redli will provide Crow Indian history, featuring the second Crow Agency, on the drive to Columbus.

Leaving the MOB, the tour will head back to Billings and the Montana Audubon Center. Located within walking distance of the Yellowstone River, the Montana Audubon Center is a conservation education facility, working in partnership with the regional Yellowstone River Parks Association, providing a variety of programs and outdoor educational experiences.

Guides: Carolyn Sevier, Director, Montana Audubon Center & Penny Redli, Director, Museum of the Beartooths.

◆ T2: POMPEYS PILLAR (LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL MONUMENT) AND LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD

Bus loads at 8:00. Bus departs hotel at 8:15. Returning to Conference hotel at 4:45

Pre-registration required. Limited to 54 people. $55 registrants / $65 guests

A full day tour of two of Montana's most significant historic sites. The tour begins with a 30 minute drive to Pompeys Pillar National Monument where, on July 25, 1806, William Clark of the Lewis & Clark expedition left the only known on-site evidence of the Corps of Discovery's search for the Northwest Passage—his signature—carved in stone. Captain Clark named the Pillar "Pompy's Tower" in honor of Sacagawea's son Jean Baptiste

Charbonneau, whom he had nicknamed "Pomp." Spend the morning exploring this famous site along the Yellowstone River and enjoy the exhibits at the Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center, a 5,700-square foot museum interpreting Clark's return down the Yellowstone in 1806.

The tour then heads to Hardin and the Big Horn County Museum for a picnic lunch. After lunch, the tour moves to the Little Bighorn Battlefield, the site where George Armstrong Custer and the 7th Cavalry were defeated by a combined force of Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho. The area memorializes the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry and also the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho in one of their last armed efforts to preserve their way of life. The national monument has an interpretive center, driving tour, national cemetery and memorial.

Guide: Shane Doyle, Ed.D. is a Crow tribal member with an extensive background in education, history, and cultural programming and projects. Dr. Doyle is a lead actor and consultant for the History Channel's "Lost Treasures of the Little Bighorn Battle, set to premiere this summer.

Sponsored by James R. and Christine M. Scott

◆ T3: BILLINGS MUSEUM TRIPPER

Bus loads at 8:00. Bus departs hotel at 8:15. Returning to Conference hotel at 4:00

Pre-registration required. Limited to 32 people. $55 registrants / $65 guests

Come see what Billings has to offer! The morning will allow us to stretch our legs and be outdoors as we visit the historic Billings Railroad Depot and the outdoor history exhibit, Pictograph Cave State Park, and the Luther Sage "Yellowstone" Kelly Interpretive Site. Pictograph Cave State Park, just 15-minutes from downtown Billings, is a National Historic Landmark dedicated to interpreting and preserving pictographs and artifacts found in three sandstone caves. At the Yellowstone Kelly site, you'll visit his grave and view interpretive panels to learn the story of the famous fur trader, scout, and war veteran.

A picnic lunch on the observation deck of the nearby Yellowstone County Museum, will give you a great view of Billings and the Yellowstone River Valley, and allow you to explore one of the region's best collections relating to life in the Yellowstone River Valley. The tour moves on to the Moss Mansion Historic House Museum. The palatial mansion, designed by architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh (New York's Waldorf Astoria and Plaza Hotel), offers

unrivaled craftsmanship, exquisite décor, and revitalized programming.

The final stop will be Wise Wonders Children's Museum, the newest museum to grace the Billings' landscape. The educational center provides a playful learning environment for children and families. At each stop, staff will introduce their facilities.

Guide: Matthew Fesmire, Director, Yellowstone County Museum

◆ T4: HISTORIC RED LODGE & THE BEARTOOTH PASS

Bus loads at 7:45. Bus departs hotel at 8:00. Returning to Conference hotel at 4:45.

Pre-registration required. Limited to 32 people. $55 registrants / $65 guests

This full day trip takes you to the historic mining town of Red Lodge, at the base of the Beartooth-Absaroka Mountains, and to the top of Beartooth Highway, above the tree-line at over 9,000 feet.

Enjoy an early morning drive on beautiful highway 212 to Red Lodge. At Red Lodge you'll have plenty of time to roam the historic downtown and visit the Red Lodge Clay Center, Carbon County Arts Guild, and Carbon County Historical Society and museum. We'll enjoy a catered Italian buffet by Robert Carrington, chef and co-owner of the Red Lodge's *Pom Italian*, hosted by The Carbon County Historical Society. After lunch, experience an exhilarating drive up the Beartooth Pass "the most beautiful drive in America," stopping at the Observation Point with an elevation of 9,190' ASL. This scenic mountain road, which leads to the northeast entrance of Yellowstone National Park, often closes by early October. Look for Yellowbellied Marmots, Pika, and Mountain Goats on the Pass - also bring a jacket!

The return to Billings will feature a stop by the Gallery of Charles Ringer, famous for his kinetic and structural sculpture, to meet Charles and view some of his work.

Guide: Sarah TV Russell, Director, Carbon County Historical Society.

◆ T5: HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

BILLINGS WALKING TOUR AND A BEER

Shuttle loads at 2:30. Departs hotel at 2:45. Returning to Conference hotel at 5:00.

Pre-registration required. Limited to 20 people. No fee.

The tour starts at 3PM at the historic Parmly Billings Library, now home to the Western Heritage Center, in downtown Billings. In 1882, the Northern Pacific Railway created Billings. Spend an hour walking the streets with Kevin Kooistra, director of the Western Heritage Center, to learn why the railroad placed its tracks through the middle of downtown and how this continues to shape our history today. We finish by sampling some of Montana's best micro-brews at Angry Hanks—an old-time service station turned brewpub. They serve eight delicious ales on tap including Anger Management Belgian-style Wheat & Street Fight Imperial Red.

WORKSHOPS

◆ W1: THE VISIBLE VAULT

8:30am-11:30am
Pre-registration required.
$40 registrants/$90 guests
Limited to 15 people

Shuttle loads at 8:00am. Departs hotel at 8:15am. Returns to conference hotel at 11:45am

Participants will have access to the Yellowstone Art Museum's unique Visible Vault. The workshop will foster learning and camaraderie with others in different disciplines. Participants are asked to view the storage area both as professionals and as visitors, make comments, and help in hands-on tasks including working as a team to rehouse two objects with unusual storage requirements while working in full view of the public. They will gain a new understanding of increased accessibility within a secure but publicly visible working environment. This knowledge can be taken back to their home institutions to further accessibility within their own collection spaces.

Presenter: Kelly Price, Registrar, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, Montana

◆ W2: THE ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

8:30am-11:30am
Pre-registration required.
$40 registrants/$90 guests

In the third edition of The Oral History Manual, due out in the spring of 2018, Manual co-authors and workshop leaders introduce the concept of the oral history life cycle. The workshop will cover application of the life cycle concept to the historical organization setting.

Presenters: Barbara W. Sommer, BWS Associates, St. Paul, MN / Mary Kay Quinlan, Associate Dean, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Editor, OHA (Oral History Association) Newsletter, Lincoln, NE

◆ W3: IMLS GRANT APPLICATION WORKSHOP

8:30am-11:30am
Pre-registration required.
$40 registrants/$90 guests

Learn about preparing successful IMLS grant applications and draft your own on the spot. Then, participate in a mock peer review panel to evaluate the work of others. Worksheets and support materials will be provided.

Presenters: Connie Bodner, Supervisory Grants Management Specialist & Kelly Monahan, Museum Program Specialist, Institution of Museum and Library Services, Washington, D.C.

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◆ W4: THE EVOLUTION OF A PROGRAM: DIALOGUE-BASED PROGRAMMING

1:00pm-4:00pm
Pre-registration required.
$40 registrants/$90 guests

Learn the tools the Bullock Museum has successfully used to incorporate dialogue into all levels of their programming. Presenters will share program models, successes, and failures. Participants will leave with concrete ideas for using dialogue in their own institutions.

Presenters: Kate Betz, Head of Education and Interpretation & James McReynolds, Public Programs Manager, Bullock Texas State History Museum, Austin, Texas

◆ W5: RESEARCH: OFF THE PAGE

1:00pm-4:00pm
Pre-registration required.
$40 registrants/$90 guests

Research and interpretation are integral components to all public history projects. This workshop will provide hands on opportunities to get off the page and into the heart of researching and will demonstrate an inspirational understanding of historical techniques. An added bonus will be demonstration of Montana Historical Society online tools available to sweeten the process.

Presenters: Bobi Harris, Historical Interpreter & Zoe Ann Stoltz, Reference Historian, Montana Historical Society, Helena, MT

MUSEUMHACK

Museum Hack will lead two Audience Engagement Workshops that will help spark innovative and creative thinking about how to attract and engage audiences of all ages. Based on their week-long training program, these mini workshops offer a framework by which institutions can begin to incorporate Museum Hack techniques into their spaces to bring in new audiences and re-engage with existing ones. Participants will learn and practice techniques for high-level audience engagement, "hack-style" tours, and playful activities in their own museum spaces.

MHW1: MUSEUM HACK AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP: PASSION-BASED STORYTELLING

9:30am-11:30am
Pre-registration required. Limited to 30 people.
Registrants: $60 for one/$110 for two
Guests: $120 for one/$230 for two

This workshop will focus on approaching a museum collection from a narrative perspective and dig for the non-traditional, and truly human, elements of spaces and objects in order to tell fascinating, passion-based stories and create stronger connections between the audiences and institution.

MHW2: MUSEUM HACK AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP: ACTIVITY DESIGN

1:00pm-3:00pm
Pre-registration required.
Limited to 30 people.
Registrants: $60 for one/$110 for two
Guests: $120 for one/$230 for two

Many of today's visitors want a more participatory experience, where they feel invested in the stories and spaces of the museum. Museum Hack has developed a series of engaging activities that help visitors look closer, make personal connections with objects, and have a lot of fun in exhibit spaces. This workshop will focus on additional tools for engagement.

◆ EMP: EMERGING MUSEUM PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION

12:00pm-3:00pm
Pre-registration required.

Level 1: for students who will be entering the field.

12:00pm-12:30pm Lunch Gathering and Icebreaker

12:30pm-1:00pm Introduction to MPMA and Building Your Contacts

The EMP orientation will introduce participants to MPMA, offer suggestions on how to create professional contacts, and navigating the transition from student to professional.

1:00pm-1:30pm Dress for Success and Interviewing Tips:

In this session we'll cover interview tips, making a good impression, and how to dress for success.

1:30pm-1:45pm Break

1:45pm-2:45pm Hiring 101: Internships

This panel of directors, hiring managers, and supervisors' highlights what they look for in internship applicants.

Presenters: Patti Wood Finkle, Director, Casper College Museums, Casper, WY / Valerie Innella Maiers, Professor, Museum Studies and Art History, Casper College, Casper, WY / Kristin Martin, Programs Director, Museum of World Treasures, Wichita, KS / Erin Brown, Curator of Collections, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie, OK / Nathan Turner Regional Director Museums and Historic Sites, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie, OK / Casey Seger, Registrar, Great Plains Art Museum, Lincoln, NE

MEET-UPS

M1: FOR NEW, CURRENT, AND FUTURE MEMBERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

4:40pm-5:30pm

Gather with the MPMA Membership Team and meet with colleagues from our ten states. This is a great way to get more involved with MPMA.

Hosts: Kelli Bacon, CLG Coordinator & preservation archivist, History Nebraska, Lincoln, NE / Hillary English, Membership & Exhibit Hall Coordinator, MPMA, Littleton, CO

M2: SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT GATHERING

3:30pm-4:00pm

Scholarship recipients receive information about attending the conference.

MPMA Scholarship Committee Chair: Patti Wood Finkle, Director, Casper College Museums, Casper, WY (MPMA scholarship recipient 2008)

M3: MENTOR ICEBREAKER

4:00pm-4:45pm

Mentors and mentees are introduced to each other at this time and will travel together to the opening event.

MPMA Mentor Chair: Lisa Berg, Curator of Education, Star of the Republic Museum, Washington, TX

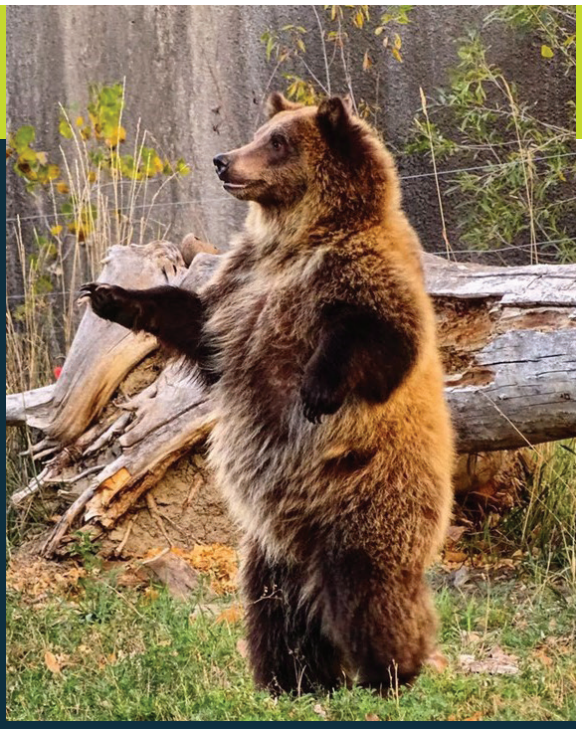
M4: KNITTING KNETWORK

4:30pm-5:30pm

Calling all knitters! Join experienced and novice knitters to gather and knit and network Knitting helps develop listening skills and fine tunes focus for meetings and sessions. Plus, you'll meet new friends.

Hosts: Jenny Yearous, Curator of Collections Management, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND / Cori Sherman North, Curator, Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery, Lindsborg, KS

EE1: A NIGHT AT ZOOMONTANA



Pre-Registration Required.
$25 registrants/$40 guests

Buses load up at 5:30 and 5:45 p.m.
Depart Conference hotel at 5:45.p.m.
and 6:00.p.m.

Return to Conference hotel starting
at 8:00 p.m.

Reconnect with friends, roam the zoo, enjoy a glass of local wine or beer, and dig in to this truly Montana event. Join us for an evening of great food, music, and animals in the beautiful park setting of ZooMontana. Montana's only zoo and botanical park focuses on wildlife native to Montana, the Rockies, and other cold temperature regions at
or above the 45th Parallel.

Dan McCaffree is coming down from Roundup, Montana to prepare you some great Chuckwagon cookin'. Dan cooks over an open fire in Dutch ovens and bakes with sourdough. Dan has travelled all over the U.S.A competing in American Chuck Wagon Association Cook Off. His Musselshell chuck wagon and kit are authentic and his cooking is the real deal.

Local acoustic musicians Ed Kemmick and friends promise to entertain us with live performances of early 20th century country western music harkening to the days of the railroad coming to town.

EE1A: BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR AT ZOOMONTANA

Pre-registration required. Open to conference registrants only.
Limited to 20 people. $10 registrants

Ever wanted to go behind the scenes at a zoo? Now's your chance. Explore the similarities and differences between how zoos and museums function in this unique opportunity, made possible by RC-MPMA.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

BR1: JOINT MEETING OF THE 2018 & 2019 PROGRAM COMMITTEES

7:30am-8:30am

Members of the MPMA 2018 Program Committee will meet members of the 2019 Program Committee over breakfast. Come see what your colleagues look like in this non-conference call meeting.

BR2: EXHIBIT HALL OPENS WITH BREAKFAST AND COFFEE

7:30am-8:30am

Fresh coffee and breakfast await you as the conference gets into full swing in the Exhibit Hall. This is a great opportunity to see the latest products served up by our exhibitors and to meet up with old friends.

EXHIBIT HALL & SILENT AUCTION

7:30AM-5:00PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:30AM-9:45AM

A1: SURVIVING YOUR COLLECTIONS MOVE (C)

Museum of the Rockies collections professionals will offer tested solutions for a successful collection move of any size, scope, and budget. From object tracking to overcoming obstacles and maintaining staff happiness, attendees will learn strategies, techniques, and solutions for their own move. Participants are encouraged to bring questions for discussion.

Presenters: Lisa Verwys, Registrar & Collections Manager for Cultural History; Melissa Dawn, Assistant Registrar for Cultural History; Amy Atwater, Paleontology Collections Manager-Registrar, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, MT

A2: FEDERAL MUSEUM COLLECTIONS: STRONGER TOGETHER FOR AMERICAN HERITAGE (C) (LIB)

Federal collections are, by law, objects for which the government has retained ownership. Agencies are taking an active role in identifying collections and being more engaged in their management. What are the roles and responsibilities of museums? Panel discussion includes museum and government representatives. Q & A will be encouraged.

Presenters: Greg Liggett, State Office Paleontologist, Montana State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Billings, MT / Michelle Knoll, Assistant Curator, Archaeology, Natural History Museum of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT / David K. Wade, Curator, Billings Curation Center, Montana State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Billings, MT / John Scannella, John R. Horner Curator of Paleontology, Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

A3: LAUNCHING MUSEUM BACKPACK PROGRAMS (ED)

Join panelists from three diverse museums to learn how each institution has developed a backpack program, and the challenges and successes each have faced. Investigate visitor focus, content criteria, and the logistics involved in developing gallery backpack programs.

Presenters: Aidan Brady, Museum Outreach Coordinator, South Dakota State Historical Society, Pierre, SD / Noël Bella Merriam, AT&T Director of Education, San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX / Abby Mechling, Director of Education, The Contemporary Austin, Austin, TX

A4: GOOD VS. BAD DESIGN (EX) (SM)

This session will show how to evaluate good vs. bad design. Examples will be offered and participants will be coached through evaluating what works and what doesn't. Participants will be introduced to principles of design, design language, and resources and leave with increased confidence to evaluate design in various projects and work with designers.

Presenters: Erin Brown, Curator of Collections, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie, OK / Lauren Hunley, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Carbon County Museum, Rawlins, WY

A5: BUILDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CE) (ED)

This session includes program description, demonstrations, and participatory activities that have been found to be effective catalysts for museum engagement. It will highlight a variety of planning models available to museum staff members and will propose Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) as a versatile tool for strengthening museum engagement and programming.

Presenters: Linda Duke, Director, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art; Dr. Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, Executive Director, Chapman Center for Rural Studies; Dr. David Procter, Director, Center for Engagement and Community Development, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

A6: BUILDING STRENGTH WITH NEH SUPPORT (AD) (EX)

National Endowment for the Humanities grants help organizations, large or small, maintain and convey the cultural heritage of their communities. Join us to discover how to identify appropriate grants, navigate the application process, and prepare competitive proposals.

Presenters: Tricia Brooks, Senior Program Officer & Jeff Hardwick, Acting Director, Division of Public Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC

GENERAL SESSION

10:00AM - 11:15 AM

CONFERENCE WELCOME

Ken Egan, Executive Director of Humanities Montana, welcomes conference attendees and shares how museums represent and challenge our histories and our communities and through this make profound connections to our lives.

REIMAGINING THE ADULT MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

Museum Hack leads tours at some of the top museums across the country. Their tours offer an alternative spin and feature some of the strangest, wildest, sexiest stories hidden throughout the museum. The Museum Hack team works with museums around the world to bring in new, and engage current, audiences through storytelling, marketing, training, and more. Find out why Museum Hack loves museums and how their approach and techniques may help your audience love your museum even more.

MUSEUMHACK

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK & R.E.A.L PRESENTATION STAGE

11:15am-11:45pm

Real, Engaged, Audience, Learning is an "unplugged", "intimate", "authentic" "rapid" hands-on experience. Located in the Exhibit Hall, the R.E.A.L. Presentation Stage is your destination for a lively thought- provoking encounter. Here, conference attendees will learn about trends, techniques, and innovations in 10-minute how-to presentations. A schedule of R.E.A.L. Presentation Stage activities will be in the final conference program.

LEADERSHIP LUNCH

11:45am-1:00pm
Pre-registration required.
$25 registrants / $35 guests

Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney welcomes us to Montana and shares strategies on how to be a successful advocate for museums on a local level.

RETHINKING THE ROLE OF COLLECTIONS IN YOUR MUSEUM

Trevor Jones, CEO of History Nebraska will base his address on the *Active Collections* project and book (www.activecollections.org). During this thought-provoking session Jones will ask us to think about whether our collections are working for us or against us. Active Collections critically examines existing approaches to museum collections and explores practical, yet radical, ways that museums can better manage their collections to actively advance their missions. The talk will explore new ways at looking at our collections, drawing on fields as diverse as forest management, library science, and the psychology of compulsive hoarding.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:15pm-2:30pm

B1: ISSUES FROM THE FIELD: WORKPLACE SUSTAINABILITY (PART 1 OF 2) (AD)

The newly established MPMA Workplace Sustainability Committee will address labor-related issues in the museum field such as salary negotiations, work load balance, how to hire and keep good employees, and more. Today's session will explore the ongoing field-wide discussion on these issues as a means of beginning the conversation in our region. (Part 1 of 2)

Presenters: The MPMA Workplace Sustainability Committee

B2: MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION (HP) (CE)

Museums and the historic preservation field have similar goals: both want to save the past. Come learn how museums can collaborate with historic preservation professionals and engage each of their audiences in new ways.

Presenters: Kelli Bacon, CLG coordinator/ preservation archivist, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, NE / Mark Rodman, Chief Preservation Programs Officer, Denver, CO / Samantha Long, Carbon County Preservation Officer, Carbon County Historical Society, Red Lodge, MT / Elisabeth DeGrenier, Community Historian, Western Heritage Center, Billings, MT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

B3: ONLINE EDUCATION: EXPANDING YOUR REACH (ED) (TECH)

The Yellowstone Art Museum has been adapting its Art Suitcase program for 47 years to bring art to students in the region. The Buffalo Bill Center of the West has reached over 63,000 students worldwide using Skype in the Classroom. This session includes discussion with the audience on strategies and techniques and a chance to experience a Skype lesson firsthand.

Presenters: Mary Serbe, Education Diretor, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, MT / George Miller, Outreach Educator & Education Web Content Creator & Renee Tafoya, Skype Educator, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY

B4: STRENGTHENING MUSEUMS SECURITY & SAFETY (SM) (CE)

Learn basic security suggestions for your institutions, with Museum of the Rockies and Montana State University Police Department. Better protect your museum, its objects, and people regardless of size and budget. This session includes security audits, staff training, and more.

Presenters: Stephen Keim, Safety & Security Manager, Montana State University Police Department; Ronda Harrison, Safety & Security Officer, Museum of the Rockies,Bozeman, MT

B5: ENGAGING A CULTURAL CONTINUUM: THE HOUSE MUSEUM TRANSFORMED (SM) (CE)

Learn how engaging the public in culture, past and present, has transformed the mission, message and medium of the house museum: through its history, arts, humanism of place in song, story and performance, and sense of constant, questioning encounters.

Presenters: Jane Lewis, Executive Director, Villa Finale: Museum & Gardens, San Antonio, TX / Vincent Michael, Executive Director San Antonio Conservation Society, San Antonio, TX

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK & R.E.A.L STAGE

2:30pm-3:00pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3:00pm-4:15pm

C1: COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT SWAP-MEET (COLL) (SM)

Informal meeting talking about Collections Management "secrets" and in-house DIY tips. This is not a traditional panel, everyone will be encouraged to share what works and what doesn't in your collection endeavors.

Presenters: Jenny Yearous, Curator of Collections Management, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND / Jenni Opalinski, Curator, Historic Waco Foundation, Waco, TX

C2: MUSIC LICENSING & MUSEUMS (ED) (AD)

This session will focus on the legalities surrounding the public performance of music in museums. What are the Copyright implications when using music in an exhibit or bringing in a band or singer songwriter to perform at a museum event? We will examine how to legally license your music and which performing rights organizations you need to deal with to get this accomplished. There is a lot of confusion in the museum space about music licensing and this session will answer the tough questions and help museums comply with the Copyright law.

Presenters: Dan Spears Vice President, Licensing, BMI, Nashville, TN / Tim James, BMI songwriter

C3: RESUME BUILDING, COVER LETTERS, & CV'S (EMP)

Writing a resume can be difficult. Learn what to include and how to arrange the information to create an outstanding museum resume. This session will also look at ways you can build and improve your resume for landing that job and how volunteering and other experiences can bulk up your resume.

Presenters: Valerie Innella Maiers, Professor, Museum Studies and Art History, Casper College, Casper, WY / Stephen L. Whittington, Executive Director, National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum & President, MPMA, Leadville, CO / Nathan Turner Regional Director Museums and Historic Sites, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie, OK

C4: BUILDING COMMUNITY: THE BENEFITS OF CULTURAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS (AD) (DEV)

Cultural Partner organizations offer an opportunity for the arts and culture institutions in a community to collaborate on a wide range of projects and programs. This session will explore the benefits and challenges of such collaborative work.

Presenters: Will Stoutamire, Director, G.W. Frank Museum (UNK), Kearney, NE / Corby Skinner, Marketing Professional, Skinner Benoit Public Relations LLC, Billings, MT

C5: A NEW VOLUNTEER CORPS: USING NON-TRADITIONAL RECRUITS (VS) (ED)

Museums who specifically target non-traditional volunteer groups (i.e., children, special needs audiences, families) can find huge programmatic success while benefiting from their efforts. Learn how several museums have successfully created a corps of non-traditional volunteers.

Presenters: Lauren Hunley, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Carbon County Museum, Rawlins, WY / Carolyn Sevier, Center Director, Montana Audubon Center, Billings, MT

C6: CAPITAL PROJECTS: START WITH THE TOOTSIE ROLL, NOT THE HARD CANDY SHELL (EX) (ED)

Focusing on planning new facilities, renovations and expansions, this session highlights the importance of defining the visitor experience, content goals and experiential takeaways before any physical design of the building takes place.

Presenters: Carolynne Harris, Principal, Carolynne Harris Consulting, Denver, CO / Seth Frankel, Principal, Studio Tectonic, Boulder, CO

Meet-ups

M5: IPMN

4:30pm-5:30pm

"MITAKUYE OYASIN" (WE ARE ALL RELATED) – MAKING RELATIVES AT MOUNTAIN-PLAINS MUSEUMS

Museums are a valuable partner and resource for American Indians. They serve all people as an honest and meaningful conduit to Native cultures—present and past—in all their richness, depth, and diversity. Your museum can play an important role in fostering inclusive and engaged conversation about issues relevant to Indigenous peoples in your region. Mike Jetty (Spirit Lake Dakota/ Turtle Mt. Chippewa), Indian Education Specialist at the Montana Office of Public

Instruction, will share some "Essential Understandings" about American Indians and demonstrate how they can provide a relevant framework for your ongoing Indian education efforts.

M6: COSMA

4:30pm-5:30pm

COSMA, the Coalition of State Museum Associations, invites all representatives from state museum associations to a casual meet up. Greet your counterparts from other states and compare notes with colleagues.

Host: Debra Mitchell, Executive Director, Museums Association of Montana

◆ EE2: AN EVENING AT THE WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER AND THE YELLOWSTONE ART MUSEUM

Pre-registration required.
$25 registrants / $40 guests

Depart Conference hotel at 5:45. p.m. and 6:00. p.m. Buses load up at 5:30 and 5:45 p.m.

Return to Conference hotel starting at 8:00 p.m.

Start your evening by visiting the Western Heritage Center, an AAM accredited museum interpreting the history of the Yellowstone River Valley. Located in the historic Parmly Billings Library building, the museum engages visitors and residents through original research, outreach programming, and hands-on exhibits.

A few blocks away, your next stop is the crown jewel of art museums in Montana—the Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM). The YAM is the largest contemporary art museum in Montana. Experience an array of art in the juried exhibition, *Montana Triennial*. You'll enjoy a sampling of good food, wine, and craft beers at each location. Classical music provided by members of the Billings Symphony will fill the room.

LATE NIGHT AT THE BAR SESSION

9:00pm-10:00pm

EE3: WORK-LIFE BALANCE. REALLY? THAT'S A THING?

An informal discussion with members of the MPMA Workplace Sustainability committee on issues like work-life balance, income inequality, lack of transparency in hiring, and more. Share your thoughts, concerns, and solutions in a safe and casual environment.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING BREAKFASTS

7:30am-8:30am

BR3: VOLUNTEER MANAGERS BREAKFAST

Pre-registration required.
$25 registrants / $30 guests

BUILDING AND MANAGING A LARGE VOLUNTEER CORPS

Chris Waite has been the Volunteer Coordinator for the City of Billings Parks and Recreation Department since 2013. In this capacity, he works with over 2,000 volunteers on a variety of projects ranging from trail construction and tree planting to cemetery record keeping and park patrols. Chris will offer insight on how he successfully recruits, maintains, and manages a large volunteer corps.

BR4: CURCOM BREAKFAST FOR CURATORS

Pre-registration required.
$25 registrants / $30 guests

The Pros and Cons of Visible Collections

Bob Durden, Senior Curator of the Yellowstone Art Museum will give a brief presentation about the museum's Visible Vault. The facility

opened in 2010 and houses the museum's 7,500 plus permanent collection objects, and archival matter, along with space for a resident artist's studio. Durden will talk about the concept of the building and the pros and cons of making the collections "visible."

EXHIBIT HALL OPEN

8:00am-4:45pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:45am-10:00am

D1: POSTER SESSION

The Poster Session is an exhibit of Poster Presentations with an academic or professional focus. Each presenter makes brief remarks and answers questions to those who are circulating in the room. The format provides an introduction for people who have never presented at a conference or who want to present new research. (See list of presenters, poster titles, and abstracts here

Chair: Dr. Eileen Johnson, Director of Academic and Curatorial Programs, Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

Sponsored by Museum of Texas Tech University

D2: THE DAM COLLECTIONS MOVE (COLL) (INDG)

In 2017, the Denver Art Museum packed and moved over 57,000 objects from the Gio Ponti building in anticipation of the building's upcoming renovation. This session will explore how it was done and provide tips and tricks on moving collections applicable to any museum.

Presenters: Laura Elliff Cruz, Collections Manager; Juhl Wojahn, Assistant Collections Manager; Stefani Pendergast, Assistant Collections Manager, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

D3: REACHING RURAL STUDENTS: MUSEUM PARTNERSHIPS THAT EXPAND OUTREACH (ED) (SM)

Join educators in a discussion of the unique needs of rural schools and how to better reach students throughout the Mountain Plains with thoughtful collaborations. Explore rural field trip research and brainstorm ways to expand outreach for museums of any size or budget.

Presenters: Angie Weikert, Director of Operations, Education, & Public Programs, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, MT / Sabre Moore, Executive Director, Carter County Museum, Ekalaka, MT / Cindy Shearer, Executive Director, Gallatin History Museum, Bozeman, MT

D4: REIMAGINING THE HOUSE MUSEUM (SM) (CE)

The Moss Mansion House Museum recently introduced self-guided tours and cultural center activities as a means to better connect with guests. Museum staff and partners are excited to share why this decision was made, how it was funded, and the results produced so far.

Presenters: Jenna Peete, Executive Director & Jennette Rasch, Curator, Billings Preservation Society/Moss Mansion, Billings, MT

D5: USING FIRST-PERSON INTERPRETATION (ED) (SM) (INT)

Join panelists Robert Brown, Jennie Pak, Kristjana Eyjolfsson, and a cast of hundreds for a presentation about the pros and cons of first-person interpretation. What are the costs? What about costuming, scripting, recruitment, and training? What are your options? Is it worth it?

Presenters: Robert M. Brown, Ph.D., retired Executive Director, Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT / Jennie Pak, Speaker, Humanities Montana's Speakers' Bureau, Missoula, MT / Kristjana Eyjolfsson, Director of Education, Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, MT

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK & R.E.A.L STAGE

10:00am-10:30am

Sponsored by M. Catton & Co., LLC.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:30am-11:45am

E1: COLLECTIONS ADVICE FOR EMERGING PROFESSIONALS (COLL) (EMP)

This session will give students and emerging professionals valuable knowledge through the advice and experiences of those who have worked in collections management for a number of years. Topics include preservation, storage, dealing with sensitive collections, environmental monitoring, accessibility, ethics, and repatriation among others. Includes a heavy Q&A component.

Presenters: Heidi Vaughn, Director, Laboratory of History Museum, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma / Delaynna Trim, Curator of Collections, Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, Shawnee, Oklahoma / Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Collections Manager, Archaeology Division, Sam Noble Museum, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

E2: COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING: AN EXPERIMENT IN REACHING NEW AUDIENCES (ED)

The American Museum of Western Art in downtown Denver, has been exploring collaborations with other local museums and organizations in order to reach new audiences and create interdisciplinary connections for our adult visitors.

Presenters: Kristin Fong, Deputy Director and Museum Educator & Colleen Sullivan, Programs and Marketing Coordinator, American Museum of Western Art—The Anschutz Collection, Denver, CO

E3: GUNS OF THE WEST (COLL) (EX)

With a goal of sharing knowledge and building professional confidence to manage firearms as collections, panelists will discuss legal issues with firearm collections, conservation and collections management practices, and interpreting firearms, both modern and historic.

Presenters: Steve Bauer, Senior Special Agent (Retired), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Cody, WY / Henry Crawford, Curator of History (Retired), Museum of Texas Tech University, Founder of History by Choice, Lubbock, TX / Anna Goss, Associate Registrar, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY / Danny Michael, Assistant Curator, Cody Firearms Museum, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY

E4: CONVERGENCE II: HERITAGE INTERPRETATION PLANNING (INT) (ED)

This session will share the effort to develop inclusive and relevant heritage interpretation programs. Aiming to encourage comprehensive understanding in heritage conservation and motivate students for heritage advocacy, the featured programs focus on heritage resources of communities, comply with the state curriculum standards, and explore outlets for implementation.

Presenters: Hyojung Cho, Associate Professor; Katherine Holt, Graduate Student; Elise Dukart, Graduate Student; Ivana A. Montenegro, Graduate Student, Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

E5: OUT-OF-THE-BOX COLLABORATION (SM) (CE)

Learn how rural museums can gain exposure through collaboration with other organizations you might not expect. This panel will offer practical advice for partnerships.

Presenters: Sarah Russell, Executive Director, Carbon County Historical Society & Museum, Red Lodge MT / Tracy Timmons, Executive Director, Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, Red Lodge MT / Kim Kapalka, Executive Director, Carbon County Arts Guild, Red Lodge MT

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING LUNCHES

12:00pm-1:00pm - *$20 registrants/$30 guests*

✧ L2: EDCOM LUNCH FOR EDUCATORS

Pre-registration required.

SMALL MUSEUMS: OPEN TO ALL

Kristjana Eyjólfsson, Education Director at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Montana, will share strategies and techniques for smaller museums to develop educational programs for people with special needs and for non-traditional educational groups (homeschoolers, Hutterite Colonies).

✧ L3: SMALL MUSEUM AFFINITY COMMITTEE (SMAC) LUNCH

Pre-registration required.

MISTAKES WERE MADE!

"We couldn't fit the exhibit through the door." "When were we supposed to finish the strategic plan?" Museums begin with big dreams and lots of mistakes. In this lunch session, Kelli Toohill, Executive Director of the Wise Wonders Children's Museum in Billings, will invite participants to learn from museum "Uh-Oh's" across Montana, share their experiences, and brainstorm solutions. Wise Wonders had its share of mishaps as a new museum but found assistance and guidance from peer institutions. Now they are returning the favor and will encourage and enable attendees to find solutions to major and minor problems through collaboration. No museum is perfect, so let's spread our knowledge and be stronger together for it!

✧ L4: RC-MPMA LUNCH FOR REGISTRARS AND COLLECTIONS MANAGERS

Pre-registration required.

CURATING A LIVING MUSEUM

Dine with us for a short RC-MPMA business meeting and then join Jeff Ewelt, Executive Director of Zoo Montana, as he gives an inside look at caring for a collection that lives and breathes while showcasing how surprisingly similar museums and zoos are (come prepared, there may be animals!).

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:15pm-2:30pm

F1: ISSUES FROM THE FIELD: WORKPLACE SUSTAINABILITY(PART 2 OF 2) (AD)

The newly established MPMA Workplace Sustainability Committee will address labor-related issues in the museum field. Today's session will continue the conversation from yesterday, focusing on developing an action plan and potential deliverables for the Committee to work towards. (Part 2 of 2)

Presenters: The MPMA Workplace Sustainability Committee

F2: COLLECTIONS BASED LEARNING BEYOND THE GALLERY TOUR (COLL) (ED)

This session will explore new ways that museums can use their collections to connect learners more closely with objects, creating a deeper and more personal experience. It will also discuss how those activities connect different departments and reach new audiences.

Presenters: Angela Watts, Associate Collection Manager, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

F3: COLLABORATION TOOL KIT – CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY (ED)

Learn how the benefits of collaborating with other local institutions and public schools can increase community awareness by using a long-term partnership as a model. We'll go over the steps to take to find possible partners, set up a partnership and how to navigate funding, standards and curriculum changes.

Presenters: Kirsten Bell, Curriculum and Teacher Development Specialist & Laurel Olson, Manager of School Programs, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, CO

F4: LIVING HISTORY SWAP-MEET (INT) (ED)

Come to this informal session to talk about living history and character-based program development and more. This session for those in the know and those who'd like to know! Bring your questions and share your expertise.

Presenters: Henry Crawford, History By Choice, Lubbock, TX / Jason Harris, Director, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher, OK

F5: MUSEUM SOLUTIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION (LIB) (EX)

Hear from the project manager and the Executive Director of The Scott Family Amazeum about how they maintained their focus and their sanity during the recent construction of the new children's museum in Northwest Arkansas.

Presenters: Brock Cline, Business Development Officer, Nabholz, Jonesboro, AR / John Strack, Sr. Project Manager, Nabholz, Rogers, AR / Sam Dean, Executive Director, The Scott Family Amazeum, Bentonville, AR

F6: POWERFUL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS (LIB) (TECH)

Digital collections raise awareness and increase curiosity about museums. Panelists will discuss the impact of adding digital content to the Montana Memory Project and the Digital Public of America and will share some examples of digital collection curation.

Presenters: Jennifer Birnel, Montana State Library, Montana Memory Project Director, Choteau, MT / Sabre Moore, Executive Director, Carter County Museum, Ekalaka, MT / Colleen Curry, Supervisory Museum Curator, Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center, Gardiner, MT

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK & R.E.A.L STAGE

2:30pm-3:00pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3:00pm-4:15pm

G1: REORGANIZING COLLECTIONS STORAGE (COLL) (AD)

Learn how three institutions tackled reorganizing their collections. Their successes and disappointments will strengthen your future project!

Presenters: Sarah C. Schroeder, Assistant Collection Manager, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS / Megan Sims, Collections Assistant, Vertebrate Paleontology, KU Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS / Stephanie Teasley, Registrar, Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS

G2: MUSEUM EDUCATION SWAP-MEET (ED) (CE)

Looking for creative ways to maximize resources, provide quality programs, and develop unique work-based relationships? Come to this informal meeting to talk about educator "secrets" in program development and more. Bring you questions AND share your expertise.

Presenters: Susan Rowe, Heritage Education Program Manager, Lubbock Lake Landmark/Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX / Jason Harris, Director, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher, OK

G3: RESUME REVIEW (EMP)

A panel of directors, hiring managers, and supervisors will review your resume one on one, so come prepared. This is an opportunity to have a set of trained eyes review your resume.

Presenters: Nathan Turner Regional Director Museums and Historic Sites, Oklahoma Territorial Museum, Guthrie, OK / Kevin Kooistra, Executive Director, Western Heritage Center, Billings, MT / Stephen L. Whittington, Executive Director, National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum & President, MPMA, Leadville, CO , Erin Brown, curator.

G4: BALANCING ON A TIGHTROPE (AD)

Feeling burnt out? Let's talk about how to re-energize mid-career professionals. What can museums do to help their workers find balance? How can we help our co-workers before they leave the field in exhaustion? We are not trying to solve all the problems in this session, just start the conversations.

Presenters: Delaynna Trim, Curator of Collections, Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, Shawnee, Oklahoma / Ronette Rumpca, Curator of Interpretation, South Dakota State Historical Society Museum, Pierre, SD / Sarah Polak, Experience Coordinator, Raising Nebraska, Grand Island, NE

G5: CURRENT RESEARCH FROM THE FIELD (ED) (EMP)

The Current Research from the Field session provides an opportunity for professionals in the museum and heritage fields to present their research to their colleagues. Students, emerging

professionals, and established professionals who work or study in the region will present current research or work in progress on matters relating to museums and heritage.

Chairs: Nicky Ladkin, Assistant Director, Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX / Mark Janzen, Director of Museum Studies, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK

Presenters to be selected from proposal submission process. See them HERE.

EXHIBIT HALL CLOSING RECEPTION

4:15pm-4:45pm

SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

4:45PM

MEET-UPS

5:15pm-6:15pm

M7: UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Join UCO's networking reception and catch up with current and past students and hear what's happening on campus and beyond.

Hosts: Mark Janzen, Director of Museum Studies & Heidi Vaughn, Director, Laboratory of History Museum, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK

M8: TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Join this gathering of faculty, alumni, current students, and those interested in learning more about the Museum Science Program in Lubbock, Texas.

Host: Nicky Ladkin, Assistant Director, Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

M9: MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA

All members of the Museums Association of Montana, and non-members who work in Montana museums, are welcome to join for this informal networking opportunity.

Host: Debra Mitchell, Executive Director, Museums Association of Montana

EE4 AWARDS DINNER & AUCTION

Pre-registration required.
$35 registrants/$45 guests

5:15pm-6:15pm Cash Bar Mix 'n Mingle

6:15pm-8:30pm Dinner/Program

Join us for our traditional banquet, which is anything but traditional. Catch up with new and old friends and see good work acknowledged with MPMA Annual Awards. Meet the leaders of tomorrow with the introduction of the 2018 scholarship recipients. The evening wraps up with MPMA's high-energy live auction, the proceeds of which help fund the scholarship program.

Not ready for the fun to end? Kick up your heels! There's a band in the hotel bar after the dinner and auction ends.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

M9: RC-MPMA HELPING HANDS BRIGADE

◆ *Pre-registration required. Limited to 20.*
7:45am-4:00pm

Helping Hands Brigade is an annual event hosted by the Registrar's Committee of the Mountain-Plains Museums Association (RC-MPMA) for registrars, collections managers, conservators, curators, and others. Come share your skills with the Yellowstone County Museum. Helping Hands is a great way to get behind-the-scenes at museums to make new friends.

Group will leave from the front lobby of the Conference hotel. Load up is at 7:45 a.m., departure at 8:00 a.m., return to hotel by 4:00 p.m. Lunch Provided. (20 max).

Hosts: RC-MPMA Chair Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Collections Manager, Archaeology, Sam Noble Museum, Norman, OK; RC-MPMA Vice Chair Heather Coffman, Registrar, Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, Lawton, OK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:00am-10:15am

H1: INTERNSHIP DESIGN & MANAGEMENT: TOOLS FOR SUCCESS (ED) (AD)

Internships are critical elements of the modern museum professional's educational portfolio. Whether paid or unpaid, brief or extended, local, regional, or international, there are a variety of best practices for creating, maintaining, and engaging internships. This session will provide tools and tips to maximize the success of an internship for the museum and the intern.

Presenters: Mark Janzen, Director of Museum Studies, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK / Nicky Ladkin, Assistant Director of Academic Programs, Texas Tech University, Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX / Heidi Vaughn, Director, Laboratory of History Museum, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK

H2: CREATING BRIDGES THROUGH VISUAL THINKING STRATEGIES (ED) (INDG)

By creating bridges using Visual Thinking Strategies across multi-cultural and multi-state educational settings, we engaged in honest inquiry, and acknowledged different ways of knowing. Through this professional development we learned together and provided safe space.

Presenters: Lynn Verschoor, MS, MFA, Director, South Dakota Art Museum, Brookings, SD / Mary Moeller, ED.D, Associate Professor, Teaching Learning and Leadership, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD / Kay Cutler, Ph.D., Professor, Teaching Learning and Leadership, Director of the Fishback Center for ECE, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD / Erik Holland, Curator of Education, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND

H3: CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CLASSIC PROBLEMS (SM) (CE)

In an age of low funding and high-tech expectations, museums must find new ways to display their collections without breaking the bank. Learn how to promote archival collections and encourage community collaboration for small, underfunded institutions and how to teach these skills to students and museum professionals alike.

Presenters: Kimberly Selinske, Public History Graduate Student; Carly Boerrigter, Public History Graduate Student; Thomas Cauvin, Assistant Professor of History, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

H4: SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR START-UP MUSEUMS (AD)

Starting a museum from the ground up is a monumental task. Learn how The Cade Museum for Creativity + Invention was set up for success through a dedicated focus on community, a robust educational program, flexible building design, and targeted fundraising.

Presenters: Alan Reed, FAIA, LEED AP, President & Design Principal, GWWO, In./ Architects, Baltimore, MD / Phoebe Miles, Board President & CEO, Cade Museum for Creativity + Invention, Gainesville, FL

BREAK

10:15am-10:30am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:30am-11:45am

I1: STRATEGIES FOR DEACCESSIONING SWAP-MEET (COLL)

Deaccessioning is a strategic tool used to improve a museum's collection, although the word strikes fear into the hearts of even the most seasoned professionals. The panel will share their experiences, strategies, and will answer questions to help you tackle deaccessioning.

Presenters: Katie Herrick, Director, Stanton County Museum, Johnson, KS / Elisa Phelps, Director of Collections and Library Division, History Colorado, Denver, CO / Lisa Verwys, Registrar & Collections Manager, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, MT / Melissa Thompson, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND

I2: MUSEUM HACK. NOW WHAT? (ED) (SM)

You attended a Museum Hack workshop. Now what? Join us for a conversation on implementing and adapting Museum Hack techniques for your own museum. What are the challenges and opportunities? Is the approach fundamentally different from the "traditional" museum tour? Join us as we share our experiences and then join the conversation and share your own.

Presenters: Jason Harris, Director, Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher, OK / Delaynna Trim, Curator of Collections, Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, Shawnee, Oklahoma

I3: FLASH! MUSEUM CONSULTING (AD) (COLL)

Do you have a pressing problem for which you could use advice, but don't need a full session on the subject, a consultant, or even a MAP? Get five-minute answers on collections, exhibits, administration, marketing, and careers from senior professionals.

Presenters: Steve Friesen, Friesen/Dakin Museum Consulting, Denver, Colorado / Jay Smith, Museum Director, South Dakota State Historical Society, Pierre, South Dakota / Nicky Ladkin, Assistant Director Academic Programs, Associate Chair Heritage and Museum Sciences Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas / Steve Whittington, Executive Director, National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Leadville, Colorado / Heidi Vaughn, Director of Galleries and Museums, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmund, Oklahoma

I4: GETTING GOVERNMENT BUY-IN (AD) (SM)

A panel of museum professionals from diverse municipal museums will discuss challenges unique to city and town museums. From working with small staffs, to garnering tax support, to utilizing Friends groups, this session will give municipal museum professionals insights on how to succeed and flourish amidst the red tape.

Presenters: Laura Browarny, Museum Program Coordinator, Town of Windsor Department of Parks, Rec & Culture, Windsor, Colorado / Susan Hawksworth, Director, Smoky Hill Museum, Salina, Kansas / Teresa Kreutzer-Hodsen, Curator of Collections and Program Director, Hastings Museum, Hastings, Nebraska

✦ L5 BUSINESS LUNCH

12:00pm-1:15pm
Pre-registration required.
$25 registrants / $35 guests

CONTEMPORARY ART IN ITS CONTEXTS: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE MUSEUM NOW?

A moderated discussion about contemporary art and its relationship to place-making and community building in the region. The work of each of these artists presents unique challenges to museum curators—how do public art installations, video and electronic works, multi-media dance performance, and graffiti art challenge and expand the role of the museum in today's cultural landscape? The innovative and challenging works of these four artists intersects, recasts, and confronts many of the traditional roles of our regional cultural institutions. How might the museums of today accommodate the flow of relevant new ideas that fall outside of conventional norms mediated by the art market?

Moderator: Leanne Gilbertson, Assistant Professor of Art History and Director of the Northcutt Steele Gallery at Montana State University, Billings, MT

Panelists:
Patrick Zentz, Sculptor
Wendy Red Star, Multiple Format Artist
Tyson Middle, Graffiti Artist
Bently Spang, Multiple Format Artist

TOURS

◆ T6: HUNTLEY PROJECT MUSEUM OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE & POMPEYS PILLAR (LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL MONUMENT)

Bus loads at 1:30. Bus departs hotel at 1:45. Returning to Conference hotel at 5:15pm

Pre-registration required. Limited to 32 people. $35 registrants/$45 guests

Head east of Billings to Pompeys Pillar National Monument where, on July 25, 1806, William Clark of the Lewis & Clark expedition left the only known on-site evidence of the Corps of Discovery's search for the Northwest Passage—his signature—carved in stone. Captain Clark named the Pillar "Pompy's Tower" in honor of Sacagawea's son Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, whom he had nicknamed "Pomp." Spend the morning exploring this famous site along the Yellowstone River and enjoy the exhibits at the Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center, a 5,700-square foot museum interpreting Clark's return down the Yellowstone in 1806.

The tour moves to the neighboring Huntley Museum of Irrigated Agriculture. The Huntley Irrigation Project began operations in 1907 as one of the first large scale federally sponsored irrigation projects in the United States. A collection of homestead buildings, turn of the century farm implements, and artifacts interpret local and agricultural history.

Guide: Kelli Maxwell, Director, Huntley Museum of Irrigated Agriculture

Sponsored by the Montana History Foundation

◆ T7: CREATING A HERITAGE TRAIL

Bus loads at 1:30. Bus departs hotel at 1:45. Returning to Conference hotel by 4:45

Pre-registration required. Limited to 32 people. $35 registrants/$45 guests

Through the combined efforts of the City of Billings, the Billings Chamber of Commerce, and several community organizations, an effort to surround Billings with a network of walking trails with historical interpretation is now underway. Join Mayor Bill Cole and cartographer Ralph Saunders as they introduce you to the trail system and the recently completed Luther Sage "Yellowstone" Kelly grave and interpretive site along the rimrocks. You'll also visit an undeveloped site along the trail to hear the plans for future development and interpretation of the William Clark crossing site on the Yellowstone River. A great trip for those

wanting to improve your community by including historical interpretation along a system of walking trails.

Guide: Billings Mayor Bill Cole

◆ T8: CHIEF PLENTY COUPS STATE PARK (CROW INDIAN RESERVATION)

Bus loads at 1:30. Bus departs hotel at 1:45. Returning to Conference hotel at 5:15pm

Pre-registration required. Limited to 32 people. $35 registrants/$45 guests

This afternoon excursion will take you to Chief Plenty Coups State Park, situated within the Crow Indian Reservation in south-central Montana, 35 minutes south of Billings. This day-use park preserves the log home, sacred spring, and farmstead of Chief Plenty Coups. Plenty Coups (Aleek-chea-ahoosh, meaning "many achievements") was a man of war—and then a man of peace—whose vision helped lead his people from the arduous transition of nomadism to settlement on a reservation. The on-site museum introduces visitors to Crow culture and Plenty Coups far-reaching impact. The state park is a National Historic Landmark.

Guide: Aaron Kind, Park Manager, Chief Plenty Coups State Park

◆ EE5: S'MORES AND MORE AT THE MONTANA AUDUBON EDUCATION CENTER

Pre-registration required.
$20 registrants/$30 guests

Event hours: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Buses load up at 5:45 and 6:00 p.m.

Depart Conference hotel at 6:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Busses return to Conference hotel starting at 7:45 p.m.

We love being outdoors in Montana. Join everyone for a gathering at the Montana Audubon Education Center, located within walking distance to the Yellowstone River, to say goodbye to friends and spend some time around open campfires, eating locally smoked BBQ, and drinking locally produced hard cider and craft beers. Finish off the night with S'mores and enjoy local musicians playing bluegrass and acoustic music.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

FULL REGISTRATION PACKAGES

Full registration includes registration fees plus 3 lunches and 3 evening events. Additional events and meals may be added a la carte. *Students must provide a copy of a student ID

EARLY BIRD FULL REGISTRATION (RECEIVED BY JULY 15)

Member	$375 ☐
Student*/Retiree Member	$275 ☐
Student*/Retiree Non-Member	$300 ☐
Non-Member	$500 ☐

ADVANCED FULL REGISTRATION (RECEIVED BY AUGUST 12)

Member	$415 ☐
Student*/Retiree Member	$315 ☐
Student*/Retiree Non-Member	$340 ☐
Non-Member	$540 ☐

FULL REGISTRATION (RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 3)

Member	$455 ☐
Student*/Retiree Member	$355 ☐
Student*/Retiree Non-Member	$380 ☐
Non-Member	$580 ☐

BASIC REGISTRATION

EARLY BIRD BASIC REGISTRATION (RECEIVED BY JULY 15)

Member	$220 ☐
Student*/Retiree Member	$120 ☐
Student*/Retiree Non-Member	$145 ☐
Non-Member	$275 ☐

ADVANCED BASIC REGISTRATION (RECEIVED BY AUGUST 12)

Member	$260 ☐
Student*/Retiree Member	$160 ☐
Student*/Retiree Non-Member	$185 ☐
Non-Member	$315 ☐

FULL BASIC REGISTRATION (RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 3)

Member	$300 ☐
Student*/Retiree Member	$200 ☐
Student*/Retiree Non-Member	$225 ☐
Non-Member	$355 ☐

DAY PASSES

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DAY PASS (RECEIVED BY JULY 15)

Member	$130 ☐
Student*/Retiree Member	$100 ☐
Student*/Retiree Non-Member	$125 ☐
Non-Member	$175 ☐

ADVANCED REGISTRATION DAY PASS (RECEIVED BY AUGUST 12)

Member	$160 ☐
Student*/Retiree Member	$130 ☐
Student*/Retiree Non-Member	$155 ☐
Non-Member	$205 ☐

FULL REGISTRATION DAY PASS (RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 3)

Member	$200 ☐
Student*/Retiree Member	$175 ☐
Student*/Retiree Non-Member	$195 ☐
Non-Member	$245 ☐

SUBTOTAL _____

WORKSHOPS, MEALS, TOURS, & EVENTS

** Non-registrants are those attending workshops only and guests. Non-registrants/guests may not attend sessions, meet-ups, receptions or any other events without a non-registrant/guest price option.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

T1: MUSEUMS, ART, & NATURE TOUR ☐
*Registration limited to 25

T2: POMPEYS PILLAR/LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD ☐
*Registration limited to 54

T3: BILLINGS MUSEUM TRIPPER ☐
*Registration limited to 32

T4: HISTORIC RED LODGE/ BEARTOOTH PASS ☐
*Registration limited to 32

T5: (FREE) DOWNTOWN BILLINGS WALKING TOUR

Conference Registrants	**$55 EACH** ☐
Non-Registrants	**$65 EACH** ☐

WORKSHOPS:

W1, W2, W3, W4, W5:

Conference Registrants	**$40** ☐
Non-Registrants	**$90** ☐

MHW1 & 2:

Conference Registrants

FOR ONE	**$60** ☐
FOR BOTH	**$110** ☐

Non-Registrants

FOR ONE	**$120** ☐
FOR BOTH	**$230** ☐

MEET-UPS (FREE):

M2: SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT GATHERING	**FREE**	☐
M3: MENTOR ICEBREAKER	**FREE**	☐
M4: KNITTING KNETWORK	**FREE**	☐

EVENING EVENT:

EE1: A NIGHT AT ZOOMONTANA

Conference Registrants	**$25** ☐
Non-Registrants	**$40** ☐

EE1A: BEHIND-THE-SCENES AT ZOOMONTANA

Conference Registrants	**$10** ☐

*Registration limited to 20

$10 fee initiates or renews your yearly RC-MPMA Membership

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

SPECIAL MEALS:

BR1: 2018/2019 PROGRAM COMMITTEES	**FREE**	☐
BR2: EXHIBIT HALL OPENING BREAKFAST	**FREE**	☐

L1: LEADERSHIP LUNCH

Conference Registrants	**$25** ☐
Non-Registrants	**$35** ☐

SUBTOTAL _____

MEET-UP:

M5: IPMN FREE ☐

NM6: COSMA FREE ☐

EVENING EVENT:

EE2: PROGRESSIVE RECEPTION:

Western Heritage Center/Yellowstone Art Museum

Conference Registrants $25 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $40 ☐

EE3: LATE NIGHT AT THE BAR FREE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

SPECIAL MEALS:

BR3: CURCOM

Conference Registrants $20 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $30 ☐

BR4: VOLUNTEER

Conference Registrants $20 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $30 ☐

L2: EDCOM

Conference Registrants $20 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $30 ☐

L3: SMAC

Conference Registrants $20 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $30 ☐

L4: RC-MPMA

Conference Registrants $20 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $30 ☐

MEET-UPS:

M7: UCO FREE

M8: TEXAS TECH FREE

M9: MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA FREE

EVENING EVENT:

EE4: MPMA AWARDS BANQUET AND LIVE AUCTION

Conference Registrants $35 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $45 ☐

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

M9: RC-MPMA HELPING HANDS BRIGADE FREE

SPECIAL MEAL:

L5: BUSINESS LUNCH

Conference Registrants $25 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $35 ☐

TOURS:

T6: HUNTLEY PROJECT/POMPEYS PILLAR

*Registration limited to 32

Conference Registrants $35 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $45 ☐

T7: CREATING A HERITAGE TRAIL

*Registration limited to 32

Conference Registrants $35 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $45 ☐

T8: CHIEF PLENTY COUPS STATE PARK

*Registration limited to 32

Conference Registrants $35 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $45 ☐

EVENING EVENT:

EE5: CLOSING EVENT:MONTANA AUDUBON EDUCATION CENTER

Conference Registrants $20 ☐
Conference Non-Registrants $30 ☐

TOTAL _____

DIGITAL CREDENTIALING AT MPMA

MPMA's Digital Credentialing Program offers unique learning credentials to participants. For $15, participants earn a digital badge detailing the skills and knowledge enhanced through conference attendance. These badges can be shared across multiple social media platforms, web outlets, and resumes. Multiple subject areas are offered including collections management, education & interpretation, and general museum training. Sign up for digital credentialing when you register for the conference online. You'll receive your credentialing information by email. Further information is also available HERE.

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Conference scholarships provide financial assistance to those studying and/or working in MPMA's ten-state region so they may attend the annual conference. For details on all scholarships, including deadlines and forms, visit: MPMA 2018 Conference Scholarships. **The deadline for scholarship applications is: June 8.** Scholarship recipients meet on Wednesday, September 12 at 3:30pm for the Scholarship Gathering (M2).

MENTOR PROGRAM:

The mentoring program is a way to build your professional network by serving as or being paired with a mentor. This is an informal program that assigns conference newcomers to active members of MPMA. Mentor assignments are for the conference only although mentors may reach out to mentees prior to the conference and both may elect to stay in contact after. All mentors and mentees gather on Wednesday, September 12 at 4:00pm for the Mentor Icebreaker (M3). Sign up for mentoring when you register for the conference online. More information available HERE.

CARPOOLING/ROOM SHARING:

If you are interested in carpooling to Billings or finding a roommate, MPMA may be able to help you. Select "interested in carpooling" and/or "interested in sharing a room at the conference hotel" in online registration and you will be contacted for more information.

HOW TO REGISTER:

Register online here: MPMA 2018 Conference Registration

You may pay registration fees by credit card or check through online registration.

Questions: director@mpma.net

All speakers are expected to register for the conference

No event tickets will be sold onsite during the conference.

Cancellation policy and refund information is available HERE

EXHIBIT HALL REGISTRATION is available here: 2018 MPMA Conference Exhibit Hall Registration

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK

Pick up registration materials at the MPMA Registration Desk at the conference hotel.

REGISTRATION DESK HOURS DURING CONFERENCE:

TUES, September 11:	**6:00PM-9:00PM**
WED, September 12:	**7:45AM-5:30PM**
for workshop & tour participants only	**7:00AM-7:30AM**
THU, September 13:	**7:00AM-5:30PM**
FRI September 14:	**7:00AM-6:00PM**
SAT, September 15:	**8:30AM-1:15PM**

EXHIBIT HALL

The Exhibit Hall will be located at the conference hotel.

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS:

THU, September 13:	**7:30AM-5:00PM**
FRI, September 14:	**8:00AM-4:45PM**

See Schedule-at-a-Glance (pg 5) for additional exhibit hall events.

SECURITY AND CONFERENCE ACCESS

Name badges are required for participation in the conference. Tickets or wristbands are required to attend all tours, workshops, or events.

2018 SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS

MPMA's annual conference features a silent and live auction with 100% of the proceeds funding the associations' scholarship program. You can support the auction by donating (and bidding on) auction items. More information is available HERE.

MESSAGE BOARD

A message board will be located by the registration desk where you can post messages, job announcements, check for lost items, etc.

CONFERENCE APP

The 2018 Conference App is sponsored by Piggyback. App information will be available soon. Check the MPMA conference website for updates: 2018 MPMA Conference.

THANK YOU

conference sponsors as of May 2018

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