

MAINE BEYOND BORDERS

overcoming barriers

OCTOBER 13, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT PRESQUE ISLE
& ONLINE



ANNUAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT GUIDE

JOIN MAM FOR EXTRA CONFERENCE FUN!

- OCTOBER 12, 7:00 - 8:30 PM: Opening reception and tours of Vera Estey House Museum hosted by Presque Isle Historical Society! Free.
- OCTOBER 13 & 14, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM: Evening tours available with Presque Isle Haunted Lantern Tours! Walking or via Trolley. \$5.
- OCTOBER 14, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Maysville Museum open!

FMI on all of these events, visit mainemuseums.org/event-5220010

PRESENTING SPONSOR



HOST SPONSORS:
ACADIAN ARCHIVES
CULTURAL ALLIANCE OF MAINE

GOLD SPONSORS:
Atlantic Black Box | Maine Historical Society
McGillicuddy Humanities Center
Osher Map Library | Small Corp | Wilson Museum

SILVER SPONSORS:
Colby Museum of Art | Gnome Landscaping

THANKS TO OUR HOST COMMITTEE!

Kim Smith, Kate Webber, Abby Dunham, Cipperly Good, Kathryn Donahue, Erin Rhodes, John Taylor, Starr Kelly, & Greta Schroeder

SCHEDULE

TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
8:30 - 9 AM	Registration, Continental Breakfast, & Visit with Exhibitors	Lobby
9 - 9:30 AM	Opening Plenary featuring John Dennis	Hosted by Cultural Alliance of Maine Multipurpose Room
9:45 - 10:45 AM	BLOCK A	
	Francophone Maine: Challenges and Opportunities Across Geographical and Cultural Boundaries	Allagash Room
	Overcoming Barriers to Deaccessioning	Alumni Room
	Listening to Our Community	MMG Center
11 - 12 PM	BLOCK B	
	Volunteer Recruitment and Management for Small and All-Volunteer Organizations Roundtable Talk	Alumni Room
	Strategic Plan to Engage Audiences	MMG Center
	Maine's Queer Community Online Resources	Allagash Room
12 - 1 PM	Lunch	Kelly Commons*
1 - 2 PM	Keynote Address featuring Paul Buck	Hosted by Acadian Archives Multipurpose Room
2:15 - 3:15 PM	BLOCK C	
	Repatriation: NAGPRA and Beyond	Alumni Room
	"Every Hour Filled to the Brim": Engaging the Community as an All-Volunteer Organization	Allagash Room
	Cultivating a Community of Young Professionals	MMG Center
3:30 - 4:30 PM	BLOCK D	
	Activating Historical Collections for K-16 and Public Audiences Workshop	Allagash Room
	Tips for Disaster Planning	MMG Center
	Researching Maine's Problematic Place Names Workshop with Place Justice	Alumni Room

***LUNCH NOTE:**

Select your meal from the dining hall, located near the conference room, then dine in the cafeteria or bring a tray to the Multipurpose Room.



OPENING PLENARY

Featuring John Dennis

John Dennis is originally from Eskasoni in Nova Scotia, where he grew up and has lived most of his life. He moved to Presque Isle in 1998, but had lived in the area when he was a child. Since living here, he has worked extensively with his tribe, now called Mi'kmaq Nation. A recent graduate from MIT with a Masters degree in Linguistics, John started working for his tribe again as a Language Keeper. He is now in a new position, but is still working to preserve his culture.

KEYNOTE

Featuring Paul Buck

Paul Buck is a Professor of History and Education at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. He has a doctorate in U.S. and Canadian history from the University of Maine, which he completed in 2008. Paul is proficient in English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, and Wolof. He has either studied or taught over the course of four academic years in French Canada, Russia, and Senegal. Paul enjoys participating in his adopted community of St. Agatha, particularly in local organizations that celebrate the French language and the Acadian and Franco- American culture of the St. John Valley.

BLOCK A: 9:45 - 10:45 AM

Francophone Maine: Challenges and Opportunities Across Geographical and Cultural Boundaries

Presented by Madeline Soucie, Archivist for the Acadian Archives, University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK); Lisa Lavoie, Assistant Professor of Behavioral Science, UMFK; Patrick Lacroix, Director of the Acadian Archives, UMFK; & Anna Faherty, Archivist at the Franco-American Collection, University of Southern Maine

Fort Kent, Maine, and Clair, New Brunswick, are fully integrated borderlands. The Fort Kent–Clair community was divided by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty in 1842, which assigned the St. John River as a border between the US and Canada. For over 150 years, community members crossed this border with relative ease. September 11, 2001 and the resulting governmental response made the boundary into a barrier. COVID-19 has also tested relationships in the two communities. It is a testament to their connections that the rapport between them endures. In an examination of the effects of COVID-19 on this borderland community, the Acadian Archives in Fort Kent interviewed

current and former residents of the St. John Valley who were affected by travel restrictions during the pandemic. Their recorded experiences reflect a changing relationship between the US and Canada, including the cultural ramifications therein. There are other boundaries that affect those of French-Canadian heritage in Maine, including language loss and generational knowledge gaps. Over the last several years, an influx of francophone African immigrants has created opportunities for language renaissance and new cultural experiences. Conducting outreach across these age, ethnic, cultural, and race borders will be important to the continued vibrancy of our collecting institutions.

Overcoming Barriers to Deaccessioning

Presented by Patricia Burdick, Head, Special Collections and Archives, Colby College & Paige Lilly, Lilly Archival, Independent consultant for museums and archives

Are you ready for self-reflection about paring down your collections, no matter the size of your organization? The combined challenges of growing backlogs, artifact duplication, and the practice of catering to privilege are staring collecting institutions in the face. These challenges create tension, at the least, along with lost opportunities for advancing equity and supporting our communities. Many collecting organizations now aim to prioritize objects and archives of the highest historical value and present-day relevance. Discussing deaccessioning inevitably leads to our very human anxiety that we will make mistakes. Join Patricia Burdick and Paige Lilly for an open discussion on why change is essential and how organizations might initiate new directions by taking small steps. The workshop leaders will moderate a conversation for proactively developing deaccessioning practices in the spirit of the public trust invested in our institutions and the unique community roles we play. A list of resources will be provided after the session.

Suggested advanced reading: "Go Ahead and Tier Your Collections" found at activecollections.org/thought-pieces/2015/7/29/go-ahead-and-tier-your-collections

Listening to Our Community

Presented by Angela Goebel-Bain, History Curator, Maine State Museum & Kate Webber, Lead Educator, Maine State Museum

This session will demonstrate how museums can use facilitated community meetings to strengthen community ties while gathering data to inform strategic plans, planning exhibits, fine-tuning collection efforts, and providing more meaningful programming. In 2020-2022 the Maine State Museum embarked on a listening tour through Maine. Presenters will share the Maine State Museum's journey as they worked with mentors from the Maine Humanities Council, formed and really listened to a 12-person advisory committee, worked with facilitators, arranged meetings with community

hosts, and shared findings with our colleagues. Most importantly, they'll share how community voices are informing the museum's current work. This is a potential model for institutions of all sizes that are at a turning point and need to re-engage with the communities they serve.

BLOCK B: 11 AM - 12 PM

Volunteer Recruitment and Management for Small and All-Volunteer Organizations Roundtable Talk

Facilitated by Judy Ashby

Over and over again, MAM has heard from its members that volunteer recruitment is a growing issue. Maine's all-volunteer organizations and those with just a handful of staff members rely on critical volunteer support to stay afloat. What do you do when the volunteer base dwindles? Join your peers for an open discussion of your challenges and triumphs. A facilitator will get things started and guide the conversation. Participants will come away with concrete tips for future growth.

Strategic Plan to Engage Audiences

Presented by Cipperly Good, Richard Saltonstall Jr. Curator of Maritime History, Penobscot Marine Museum

In 2022, Penobscot Marine Museum (PMM) undertook a strategic planning exercise that, among its many goals, sought to engage visitors, reach out to new stakeholders, and re-evaluate collections and programs to reach broader engagement. The PMM staff have developed action steps to implement over the next three years to achieve their goals. This session will focus on two goals: provide context to local current maritime culture and natural resource issues in relation to broader global issues and use local economic history as a case study for global maritime economic history. Participants will brainstorm the ways they can address these two strategic goals. The staff of PMM will follow up with case studies of how past curatorial and educational endeavors have met these strategic goals and our plans for developing new initiatives.

Maine's Queer Community Online Resources

Presented by Susie R. Bock, Coordinator of Special Collections and Director of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine

A presentation on the online resources created by the LGBTQ+ Collection, the largest, most comprehensive collection of primary resources about Maine's Queer communities, to promote the use of the collection for research, education, and community empowerment. Providing online access extends the reach of the Collection as well as contributing to collection development.

BLOCK C: 2:15 - 3:15 PM

Repatriation: NAGPRA and Beyond

Presented by Julia Gray, Executive Director, Wilson Museum & Abby Dunham, Collection Manager and Curator, Wilson Museum

Many collecting institutions in Maine hold cultural items from Indigenous nations and communities. If this is your institution, what are your legal and ethical obligations to the people and communities who created these items? What are some options for both collaborating with culturally-connected communities, and for returning items? Presentors will discuss the legal landscape, evolving best practices, and case studies of NAGPRA projects, other physical repatriations, and "digital repatriation" from across Maine.

"Every Hour Filled to the Brim": Engaging the Community as an All-Volunteer Organization

Presented by Hannah Cyrus, Board President, Jonathan Fisher House

How can an all-volunteer organization increase engagement with the community? Hannah Cyrus from the Jonathan Fisher House will share recent challenges and success stories of how this totally volunteer-run historic house museum has been working to reach new community members through volunteer recruitment, new exhibits, and events, and reflect on how to manage expanding offerings without overfilling your already-full schedule. In recent years, the Jonathan Fisher House has faced an interlocking set of issues: a shrinking board of directors, a lack of volunteers, major structural issues, fundraising needs, and a desire to re-engage the local community after being closed for the 2020 season. As an all-volunteer organization with limited resources, these challenges are intimidating. This presentation will share examples of strategies and programs that have helped them make progress in these areas, and a frank discussion of continued challenges, particularly as an institution with no paid staff.

Cultivating a Community of Young Professionals

Presented by Valerie Hoffman, Office Manager, Wilson Museum

In this workshop, participants will brainstorm things community members can do with their institutions and develop a planning sheet. Valerie Hoffman, presenter, brings experience developing a community engagement program. In the summer of 2022, a common refrain heard around Castine was, "Where do you meet people our age?" This inspired the Wilson Museum to be the place where young people can meet and mingle. They developed Castine's 40 Under 40 to meet the young people who work, live, or recreate in the town. The town of Castine hosts many events for people over 40 and for children and college students, leaving an age gap; the museum set their age parameters based on these observations to 25 - 40 years old. They received

sponsorships from businesses to pay for events and give donated goods. This is a new program, but they are starting to see younger donors and more volunteers in the organization. This Summer, they are starting a planning group to give members more ownership. A couple of people from this group have been asked to join committees.

BLOCK D: 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Activating Historical Collections for K-16 and Public Audiences Workshop

Presented by Libby Bischof, Executive Director, Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education (Osher), and Professor of History, USM; Louis Miller, Cartographic Reference and Teaching Librarian, Osher; & Renee Keul, Assistant Director for Educational Outreach, Osher

Join members of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education leadership and educational outreach teams for an active learning opportunity. Together, discuss Osher's mission-driven focus on educational outreach to audiences of all ages, and engage in hands-on close-looking activities featuring maps of Maine and New England. If you're looking to activate your historic collections, practice facilitating critical conversations, and hone your close-looking skills, this workshop is for you. Osher's staff works with over 160 University classes and 6000+ K-12 students each year; come find out what's been working!

Tips for Disaster Planning

Presented by Sam Howes, College Archivist, Edmund S. Muskie Archives and Special Collections; Teresa Myers, Conservator, Maine State Museum; Kate Herbert, Digital Archivist, Maine State Archives; & B.J. Jamieson, Genealogy Reference Specialist, Maine State Library

Members of CERCMaine will provide guidance on disaster planning for cultural heritage institutions. The panel will talk about the steps involved in

creating a disaster plan and give practical tips based on experiences planning and implementing.

Researching Maine's Problematic Place Names Workshop Presented by Place Justice

Presented by Meadow Dibble, Executive Director, Atlantic Black Box & Erika Arthur, Program Associate, Atlantic Black Box

Place names have a lot to teach us about our history, values, and present-day relationships with one another. Even when these names fade into the backdrop of our lives, they continue to inform our sense of place in subtle but important ways, communicating ideas about who belongs and what matters. Here in Maine, racist and problematic place names have long marred the landscape and continue to impact our communities. By examining trends in toponymy, we can gain insight into whose perspectives have been privileged and, by contrast, whose experiences have been dismissed and forgotten. In this workshop, the Place Justice team will provide participants with foundational information about Maine's place names profile in relation to those of other states in New England and across the U.S. Sharing resources and techniques, and help you to identify problematic place names in your area, as well as develop approaches to understanding the historical context behind them. Explore ways to make the commemorative landscape more welcoming, inclusive, and reflective of the breadth of experiences of the people who have made these places what they are today. Place Justice is a statewide truth-seeking and historical recovery project of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations in partnership with Atlantic Black Box.



HOW WAS THE
CONFERENCE?
Share your experience here!



ANNUAL MEETING HOSTED ONLINE OCTOBER 18

Register online today at MaineMuseums.org or by scanning the QR code on the left. Free and unlimited to all members, the Annual Meeting of MAM membership is our members' opportunity to discuss changes to the bylaws, to elect new directors, and to hear addresses on the state of the organization from the Board President and the Executive Director. We'll host on Zoom again this year—and you're invited to join us!

One member in attendance will be selected to receive free conference registration next year!