MAC News

Midwest Archives Conference

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/macnewsletter

Part of the Archival Science Commons

Recommended Citation


This MAC News is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in MAC Newsletter by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
It’s Not Too Early to Start Thinking About It: ArchivesFest in the City of Festivals!

Summerfest, Polish Fest, PrideFest, Germanfest, Feste italiane, Labor Fest, Arab World Fest, Mexican Fiesta, Petfest, Oktoberfest, Indian Summer Festival! What do these have in common?

(Continued on page 3)

MAC Seeks Nominations for Presidents’ Award

The MAC Presidents’ Award was established in 1986 as a means for MAC to recognize significant contributions to the archival profession by individuals, institutions, and organizations not directly involved in archival work but knowledgeable about its purpose and value. A committee comprising the three most recent past presidents of MAC chooses recipients based on nominations submitted by committees in each of the 13 states in the MAC region. Each state committee may put forward only one nomination per year. As many as three awards may be presented each year. Recipients are invited to attend the Members’ Meeting held at MAC’s Annual Meeting to receive their awards.

MAC uses this award to reward, and to shine a light on, many individuals and organizations—profit

(Continued on page 5)
In Milwaukee, if we love something, we fest it, most often on the lakefront.

Just as the snow is (probably) melting and spring is (theoretically) here, from April 27 to 30, 2016, the Midwest Archives Conference will further this noble tradition and celebrate ArchivesFest in the city of festivals.

While many of the festivals in Milwaukee honor the multitude of immigrant groups that have arrived on the shores of Lake Michigan for more than two centuries, other festivals celebrate new cultures and common interests—so why not ours? Archivists descending on this city deserve a celebration as well. We envision a jovial and merry Annual Meeting—a long weekend with food, drink, music, motorcycles, and mingling to celebrate and expand the horizons of our unique archivists’ culture.

But to fully participate in the events, you should learn from Wisconsinites How to Fest Properly. We offer the following helpful tips.

First, get to know the festival grounds.

The Hilton Milwaukee City Center Downtown will serve as the home base of ArchivesFest, where you can attend the conference workshops, sessions, and meetings, but also from which you can easily explore a lively city.

From your ArchivesFest epicenter, you may discover that Milwaukee is home to many renowned art venues. The Milwaukee Art Museum on the Lake Michigan shore houses more than 25,000 items and features a set of movable wings (the work of architect Santiago Calatrava) whose 217-foot span opens and closes twice daily. It is within walking distance from the hotel. Marquette University’s Haggerty Museum is also minutes away. On Marquette’s campus, you can visit the Joan of Arc Chapel, which originally stood in a French village south of Lyon in the fifteenth century. Disassembled brick by brick, it was transported across the Atlantic and, after a few stops, was reassembled in 1964.

Also close is the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, home of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, which will be performing Brahms Symphonies No. 1 and No. 2 during the weekend of the Annual Meeting. For theater fans, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre will present August Wilson’s Tony-winning drama Fences over ArchivesFest weekend.

As part of your festival travels, you may get to know Milwaukee as a place of history. Traveling very far back into that history—and just down the street at Milwaukee Public Museum—see the most complete mammoth skeleton discovered in the United States. The mammoth lay buried south of Milwaukee until the 1990s and represents the multiglaciated geological past of Wisconsin. Walk farther to the Milwaukee County Historical Society for city and regional history, and marvel at the 1913 Second Ward Savings Bank that houses MCHS. It served as the backdrop for the bank-robbery scene in the 2009 Johnny Depp and Christian Bale movie Public Enemies. For much more recent pop culture history, wander the lovely Riverwalk along the Milwaukee River and take a selfie with the 2008 Bronze Fonz statue, commemorating the set-in-Milwaukee Happy Days sitcom.

Irish Fest is one of many held at Henry Maier Festival Park. In the 1920s, the land served as an airport, and, in the 1950s, as a Nike missile site. Since 1970, it has been the grounds of Milwaukee’s many festivals.


To experience some of the ethnic flavor of Milwaukee’s festivals and to discover the city’s immigrant-rich history, you should find your way into the many distinctive urban neighborhoods that lie closest to ArchivesFest. Explore, for example, the Historic Third Ward, just south of the hotel, nestled between downtown, the Milwaukee River, and the lake. Originally home to a large number of Irish immigrants, the Ward has a rich heritage. The walking
tour, available as a download, features buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, built both before and soon after a massive fire in 1892. Other delightful nearby neighborhoods include Bay View, Walker’s Point, the East Side, and Brady Street.

You’d be amiss to attempt a Milwaukee festival without finding the sources of beer. ArchivesFest proves no exception, and honestly, beer is not hard to find. The city boasts at least 15 breweries, from the giant Miller-Coors to productive craft breweries like Lakefront Brewery, Milwaukee Brewing Company, and Sprecher Brewery, to tiny brewpubs offering their own lagers, pilsners, and ales, such as the Water Street Brewery, not far from the conference hotel. Some breweries offer their own entertainment complex. Explore, for instance, the Horny Goat Hideout—a brewery, bar, grill, and casual sports and games complex on the Milwaukee River.

Proper celebration of a Milwaukee festival also requires good food. While the fest committee and our sponsors will provide some local flavor at breaks during the meeting, don’t miss the many excellent dining experiences in Milwaukee. Our committee will put together a list of suggestions and descriptions of close-to-fest restaurants, diners, and bar-and-grills for your culinary adventures.

Our tours committee is arranging a variety of interesting, enjoyable, engaging, and more-or-less archival preconference tours to acquaint you with Milwaukee’s best qualities. Stay tuned for tour announcements in upcoming articles.

Wear appropriate attire (black leather and boots).

Our opening reception will take place at a site celebrated in honor of our hometown industry the world over—the Harley-Davidson Museum. Besides great entertainment, quintessential Milwaukee flavor, and a chance to network, you’ll receive complimentary admission to this spectacular museum.

Visit the museum to experience the history of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company and culture from its beginnings in the family shed to its current global acclaim. You’ll see bikes—including Serial #1, bikes owned by celebrities, and bikes appearing in classic films. You’ll be stunned by a board track for daredevil racers! You’ll learn about the development of the four-stroke engine and listen to recordings of classic Harley-Davidson engines in the hallowed Engine Room as they evolved to be bigger and more sophisticated. You’ll witness a motorcycle culture ignite, accelerate, and travel the open roads of the world. You can even sit on “archive bikes” in the experience gallery—and take photos!

During the reception, The Shop, purveyor of Harley-Davidson art, attire, and accoutrements, will be open.

Reserve your seat for your favorite shows.

Having become acquainted with the festival grounds and attended the opening ceremony, you should be ready to take in the heart of the ArchivesFest—the presentations, workshops, and vendor fairs that make up the Annual Meeting.

On the main stage at ArchivesFest will be our plenary speaker, Dennis Meissner, 2015–2016 president of the Society of American Archivists. He serves as head of collections management at the Minnesota Historical Society and is an advocate and contributor to the development of EAD. With Mark Greene, Meissner is a More Product, Less Process prophet and guru. Come and give it up for an archivist who gave us all license to save ourselves a lot of time!

Beyond the main act, festivals in Milwaukee feature hundreds of great performances in multiple venues, and ArchivesFest will be no exception. In keeping with the diverse nature of our hometown festivals, the Program Committee has structured the Annual Meeting to offer many kinds of presentations concurrently, so that you can experience a breadth of style as well as content. Premeeting offerings will include the opportunity to register for an SAA Digital Archives Specialist workshop, in addition to other workshop selections.

Unique this year will be the depth of the poster session participants. The Program Committee will ask recent graduates—from 2013, 2014, and 2015—to present posters as well, making it a Students and New Graduates Poster Competition. Come to ArchivesFest to experience what the newest generation of our particular culture has to offer.

And, of course, at ArchivesFest, act like a true festgoer—post and tweet your experiences, photos, discoveries, and good times using #MAC16.

Party with old friends and total strangers.

Who better to meet up with at a festival than old pals from grad school, work colleagues, and network peers? Maybe a total stranger! MAC Pals will again link experienced MAC Annual Meeting attendees with those new to the meeting
to help them find their way around ArchivesFest and reap the greatest benefits from our quality programming. MAC Pals has brought together new-ish and old-ish archivists successfully. You can sign up to participate when you register for the meeting.

**Stay too long and go home too full.**

It’s not a festival if you go home early or hungry. Using these tips, we guarantee that ArchivesFest in the City of Festivals will fill you up with many quality experiences, new contacts, professional knowledge, ideas, innovation, and excitement about our common endeavors. We hope to see you at ArchivesFest in the City of Festivals—Milwaukee in April 2016!

---

**MAC Seeks Nominations for Presidents’ Award**

(Continued from page 1)

and nonprofit—who have directly benefited archival repositories in MAC’s region. Awardees have included folks who provided resources that helped MAC members acquire and care for important collections; volunteers and benefactors who made notable contributions to the success of an archives; public officials who went to bat for archival programs in their states or regions. The Presidents’ Award gives us a way to recognize the important contributions of our stakeholders. As such, it is one of the more important advocacy tools that MAC possesses. Sadly, no awards were made in 2015; that means that we squandered an opportunity to thank some people who have helped us. Let’s not let that happen in 2016! Please start thinking about people who have made an important difference to your program, and then nominate one of them for the Presidents’ Award.

To nominate someone, please complete the nomination form on the MAC website and address it to the appropriate state chair no later than January 15, 2016. Full contact information for the state chairs can be found on the MAC website under “MAC Presidents’ Award,” www.midwestarchives.org/assets/documents/dsaform.pdf. The Distinguished Service Award was created to recognize individuals who give generously of their time and talent with little or no formal recognition and who likely have never served in an elected MAC position. Since its inception, MAC has made this award to a very small group of deserving individuals.

Please consider nominating someone for his or her dedication to MAC. The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2016. For guidelines, visit midwestarc .memberclicks.net/distinguished-service-award. For more information, contact Tanya Zanish-Belcher at zanisht@wfu.edu.
My interest and involvement in archival use and scholarship continues to grow. Being a part of MAC’s Annual Meeting allowed me to meet new people in the field, share my passion for archival work as social activism, and learn from others new and innovative ways to understand the past.

I am especially passionate about an archives’ ability to help empower silenced communities, voice their narratives, and expand their collective memories. My academic intent is to advance diversity and social justice. Currently, I am a first-year graduate student at the University of Louisville in the pan-African studies doctoral program with a certificate in public history. My concentration is African American history, more specifically focusing on the civil rights era.

My interest in archival studies lies in its ability to hold much importance in society, because it concerns the preservation of people and communities. I truly believe archives are the “first” places that hold a person’s and a community’s voice. Archival research, because of its importance in vocalizing societies, is an act of social justice. Archival studies attempt objective assessments of marginalized groups that have been misunderstood and/or historically misrepresented.

Several experiences have allowed me to make a connection between the importance of archival work and the ability to be a tool to empower the black community. This includes learning the techniques of archival management and historical preservation, while a class featuring oral history allowed me to conduct interviews, transcribe, and index. My training in archival studies provides me with the opportunity to preserve and highlight the black experience. I am currently writing a paper looking at the connection of archives and public memory and at how black women have recently used traditional and nontraditional methods of archiving to create change and agency for black people.

I am delighted to receive the Archie Motley award, especially in remembrance of Archie Motley, his legacy to the field of archival studies, and his place in creating a space and voice for the black community and other marginalized communities. Additionally, I am honored to be in such great company with all the other winners. Thank you for awarding me this scholarship and the opportunity to experience such a wonderful conference. I am excited to be a part of the MAC community, and I look forward to attending more conferences!

By Angelica Bullock, Pan-African Studies and Public History, University of Louisville

My first MAC Annual Meeting provided a memorable gateway to archives as a profession. An added bonus was that I was able to share my own research and experience in audio preservation with a poster titled “Deafening Silence: Preservation of Sound Recordings.”

Truth be told, I did not know what to expect at a conference for archivists. I considered myself an amateur in archives, with only one short-term internship under my belt prior to attending MAC 2015. As an aspiring music archivist, I thought of myself as a newbie in unfamiliar territory, but little did I know that I was about to find myself quite at home!

I was very excited to attend MAC 2015 for many reasons, including its program heavy with sessions focusing on audiovisual (AV) archives. It was my deep interest in issues related to preservation and access of archaic audio formats that led me to take my first archives course last fall, and the sessions at MAC 2015 truly ignited a passion for seeking opportunities in AV archiving. Recently, I landed my first preprofessional position as a student assistant for AV collections at UW-Milwaukee Archives, in addition to ongoing volunteer work at Marquette University Archives and Special Collections exploring all aspects of archives as a profession. The inspiration to pursue these opportunities came after witnessing the tireless efforts and unmeasurable wealth of knowledge shared by professionals at MAC 2015!

What drew me to a professional interest in archives is simply a moral obligation as an information specialist to preserve what is old. However, my journey so far has allowed me to look at preservation from a different angle—not just as a means of conserving what is old, but also how it creates access for others to be inspired by the past.

I am extremely grateful to have received the Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Minority Students, which will allow me to continue graduate studies as a second-year MLIS student at UW–Milwaukee. MAC 2015 was a wonderful opportunity for a budding music archivist like myself, who was nervous about how to fit into a community of seasoned archivists and curators. Thank you for changing that mindset and welcoming me to be a part of the MAC family. I am already looking forward to MAC 2016 in Milwaukee!

By Treshani Perera, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Archives and Marquette University Archives and Special Collection
MAC Members Rock at SAA’s 2015 Annual Meeting

The Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting took place August 16–22 in Cleveland, Ohio, and several dozen MAC members made their presence known by leading tours; hosting workshops; presenting posters; and leading and participating in panels, research forums, and pop-ups. The many members who served on the Local Arrangements Committee did an excellent job of organizing the meeting and keeping it running smoothly. The dessert reception at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was a highlight for many people.

SAA President-Elect Dennis Meissner shared directions and initiatives for his year as president during the Leadership Plenary.

Anne Thomason, Adam Paradis, Rachel Vagts, and Carrie Hintz presented the panel, “Dancing to a New Tune: Managing Your Career in the Archives Profession.” Not pictured are moderator Jennifer Johnson and Jamie Martin (Jenny read Jamie’s material in absentia).
Jennie Thomas, Jill Tatem, and Janet Carleton were members of the SAA Cleveland Local Arrangements Committee, with Thomas and Carleton serving as chairs.

Daria Labinsky, Assistant Editor

The Woman Archivists Roundtable featured MAC members Leslie Van Veen, Alex Orchard, Alison Stankrauff, and Kristen Chinery.

Harvey Long, a student in the MLIS program at University of Wisconsin–Madison, presented a poster session titled, “From the Bottom Up: Digitizing Oral Histories of the Civil Rights Movement.”

Jennie Thomas, Jill Tatem, and Janet Carleton were members of the SAA Cleveland Local Arrangements Committee, with Thomas and Carleton serving as chairs.