



W I S C O N S I N
H I S T O R I C A L
S O C I E T Y

MINUTES

July 25, 2024

Location: Zoom

<https://wisconsinhistory.zoom.us/j/85732365005?pwd=4lnbdA6967oTaE3W579qYzIaxbPZFF.1>

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1:00 pm

Attendees: Abbie Norderhaug, Rick Pifer, Anita Doering, Jane Schetter, Kenneth Wirth, Menzi L. Behrnd-Klodt, Lucinda Kue, Kirsten Thompson, Robert (Bob) Jaeger,

Agenda items

1. Call to order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm.

2. Milwaukee Public Library Presentation

- a. Kirsten Thompson and Robert (Bob) Jaeger joined us to present about the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) Archives and their reprocessing project.
 - i. Kirsten, provided background into the MPL archives and reprocessing project. On the project, they had citizens in a variety of fields, including in the government, in archives, and other professions.
 - ii. Bob, a processing archivist, reprocessed the Zeidler collection in preparation for the DNC. They also developed programming.
 1. The GAA allowed them to work with film makers and create a fun way for people to engage with something they never interacted with before.
 2. B-roll footage of close ups of the materials. Picked the day to film and then their team filmed for a couple of hours.
 3. The film entered Milwaukee film festival and screened in May 2022.



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- iii. Kirsten, the goal of the video was to show how the Milwaukee Public Central Library belongs to the whole city so that the MPL can be seen as both a place for archives and what the MKE community members offer.

b. Q&A

- i. Rick & Menzi: Where does the experience lead as a program and will they continue it?
 - 1. Kirsten: Making the archives more relevant overall was the goal of their video
- ii. Rick, Mayor Bohn collection. Timely elements that might benefit by looking backwards. Fair employment.
 - 1. Bob, the transfer of the material would be quite large. County has the bulk of it.
 - 2. Kirsten, have a good relationship with Archives group. Raise library profile as archives holding institution.

3. 2024 Governor's Archives Award updates

- a. Abbie, we had five nominees for GAA. Awarded four. The process of selecting GAA is that the award committee meets and makes selections and then sends their recommendations to the board. The award committee decided to award four out of the five. Since the scholarship is looking for more archival-adjacent projects rather than newspaper-adjacent projects, the fifth nominee was not awarded. In the future WHRAB should explicitly specify that we are looking for archival-based, not newspaper-based projects.
 - i. Archival achievement: Latinx collective
 - 1. It started with college students who graduated. Slowly becoming a national collective. Transcribed 150 oral interviews. Some were done by graduate students and researchers. Don't transfer transcribes to us without releases. Will meet with folks at home.
 - ii. Archival Achievement: Carol Bannen.
 - 1. Advancing the mission and visibility of the Wauwatosa Historical Society. Carol oversaw the successful transition to digital accessibility using PastPerfect Museum Software, making almost all WHS's collections available in-house and online. Has facilitated



the digitization and cataloging of over 2,000 glass plate negatives from the Lefeber collection.

- iii. Archival Advocacy: Historic Madison, Inc.
 1. One of their projects has been indexing archival material from a commercial photographer. They have uploaded 20,000 digital images to WHS digital images online over the last 20 years.
- iv. Archival Innovation: Milwaukee Hip Hop Archive Project
 1. Ongoing project that will collect from Emcees, journalists, producers, and consumers. Clayborn not here to speak on them.

4. 2024-2026 grant updates

- a. We received a word in Dec. that the grant was funded; however, we were only informed yesterday (July 24, 2024) by the NHRPC. Before that, we had gotten no documentation that we had a grant.
 - i. Meaning we are/were not able to do MAC or SAA scholarships.
 - ii. However, we can do the Local History scholarships.
- b. Notification that we did get the grant award and can now move forward with spending money.
 - i. Ended up with performance objectives, holding 3 meetings a year, professional development scholarships, landscape discussions.

5. Landscape

- a. Jacob, Microsoft Forum, developing and asking questions. Exporting all the data into a spreadsheet.
- b. Lucinda, transferring information from the WHS website, updating contact info and such. Not falling into the trap of it being done 10-15 years ago, things can fall apart if not updated.
 - i. Rick, back to the workshops question, Rick met with Peter Shrake, an archivist at Circus World, and he indicated an interest for the "Pete and Greg" show to be repeated. Getting them back on the docket.
 - ii. Abbie, the call went out for speakers. Grant money to pay, a day off for DNR. Pete and Greg are doing an intro. Neil is to do a second level higher talk. The conference has really pivoted to buildings. Abbie hasn't



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seen the agenda, so I hope that next year Neil can speak. Getting a solid group of archives through.

- iii. Rick, preservation folks have a lot more resources which archives do not have.
- iv. Rick, things on photographs and legal issues.

6. Review feedback from 2022-2023 scholarships recipients

a. Abbie, 8/12 response rates.

i. Midwest and Local History Scholarship Feedback.

1. Recipients felt connecting with others was the most helpful part of the scholarship.
2. Two takeaways, going forward will rethink that. The local history conference was not what they had expected. It ended up being more conference-specific vs. programming. Talking about digital preservation and networking. Recipients said they did not learn any archival practices, which is what they had hoped
3. Since responders felt that both the process and timeline were unclear, recommended changes included making both clearer. The reason the process and timeline were unclear was because although it usually takes about a month for the scholarship reimbursement, it took longer since we had to meet with finance to discuss issues with how recipients had filled out their reimbursement forms.
4. Going forward, suggestions were made to learn regulations from finance to make the reimbursement timeline clearer, redesign the reimbursement form and what can be counted, and add a question about what would have been helpful for the recipients to the feedback survey form.

b. Rick, asks about a written survey summary. Library committee friends have scholarships, but he's been pushing them to broaden their scholarships.

7. Close

a. Meeting ended at 1:48 pm