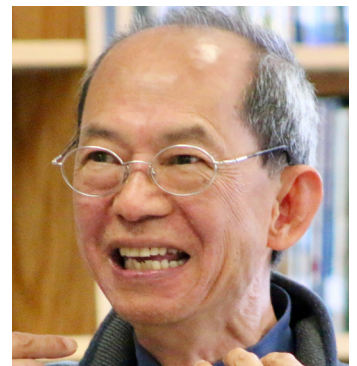


# FOCUS ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The new Wisconsin history center will become nationally known for transforming how history is shared and understood thanks to its dedication to diversity and inclusion. *All* guests will feel welcome, see themselves reflected in the stories being shared, and be able to fully enjoy a museum experience unlike any other. Multiple voices and perspectives will be integrated into storylines that traditionally have been presented only from a white male point of view. In addition, the history center will feature the newest technology and adhere to the latest national accessibility standards, ensuring that guests with disabilities and others with sensory or cognitive issues will enjoy their museum experience.

## The new history center will build bridges of understanding.

**B**y including voices from all ethnic groups of Wisconsin throughout its storylines, the new history center will challenge guests to evaluate what they had previously learned as facts about the events and people of our history and look at today's world with new eyes. This process will inspire deep thinking and build bridges of understanding that will inform a better future for Wisconsin. Expanded relationships with the 12 American Indian nations of Wisconsin, the African American, Asian American, and Latinx communities, as well as the LGBTQ community and others will allow the Wisconsin Historical Society to offer perspectives that will connect guests to their shared heritage in new ways. Programming will nurture these diverse viewpoints and facilitate and encourage an ongoing, respectful dialogue of listening, learning, and empathizing.



“This museum can play an active role in educating Wisconsin residents on the long history of Mexican/Latino settlement in the state and work to demystify the claim that this migration is new, foreign, or to be feared.”

Sergio Gonzalez, Author of *Mexicans In Wisconsin*



American Indian session in Madison



Latinx session in Milwaukee



African American session in Madison



African American session in Milwaukee

## We have taken the first steps to establish a statewide dialogue.

**T**he Wisconsin Historical Society has dedicated itself to transforming its culture by growing deeper relationships with underserved communities to ensure that their voices and perspectives are weaved into organization processes and included in stories shared in the new state history center.

Internally, the Society is committed to creating a diverse workforce. It has established a Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Team and has partnered with the YWCA to form a Change Team that will continually address these issues. In addition, we have established strong partnerships with organizations such as the Latino Chamber of Commerce and the Wisconsin Black Historical Society, and the Society Press has published more diverse titles, including an exploration of Wisconsin’s gay history.

Externally, more than 60 “Share Your Voice” new museum listening sessions across the state — including with all 12 American Indian nations of Wisconsin, as well as the African American, Asian American and Latinx communities — have produced honest, valuable conversations.

“That’s why it’s important to have different voices in the room,” an African American woman said at a session in Kenosha after a white man positively reacted to a potential new museum exhibit. “This supper club thing is not my experience at all. ... African Americans in a lot of [those] places were not welcome. ... A supper club experience is not my experience and not my grandparents’ experience at all. ... That does not even register with me.”

Written recaps of sessions can be found online at [wihist.org/yourvoice](http://wihist.org/yourvoice).

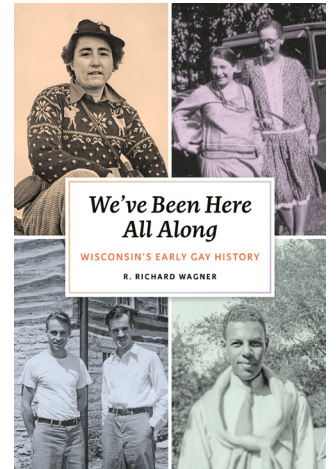


Asian American session in Milwaukee



**There's no limit to the stories we'll be able to tell in the new history center.**

**W**hether it is Wisconsin's historic standing in the struggle for suffrage as the first state to certify the 19th Amendment in 1919, the march from Wautoma to Madison for migrant worker rights in 1966, Milwaukee's civil rights marches of 1967-68, or bowling leagues for black women, the new Wisconsin history center will be able to tell stories better than any other place by leveraging the vast resources of the Wisconsin Historical Society, which dates to 1846. Strong partnerships with Wisconsin's ethnic groups will ensure that diverse perspectives are shared throughout exhibits. For example, relationships with the American Indian nations of Wisconsin will allow for an authentic wild ricing experience including narration by tribal elders in their native language, and will offer a balanced perspective on the exploration and preservation of natural resources. In addition, the history center will tap into Wisconsin Historical Society Press resources cultivated over decades while publishing books examining Wisconsin's diversity, such as *We've Been Here All Along*, a history of the state's LGBTQ population, *Somos Latinas*, *The Story of Act 31*, and *Hmong in Wisconsin*. Indeed, there's no limit to the stories we can tell.





## Guests of all abilities will feel welcome and be able to enjoy exhibits.

**C**reating an unforgettable history center where *all* guests will feel welcome is a top priority for the Wisconsin Historical Society. In addition to including diverse voices in stories, the center and its exhibits will adhere to the highest nationally recognized design standards for accessibility. Guests with cognitive or sensory challenges, and others with physical disabilities, will enjoy a museum experience that will have them coming back for more. Whether it be closed captioning, hearing loops, low-vision apps, assistive listening devices or other tools and technology, all visitors will have what they need to comfortably immerse themselves in an exciting experience. Also, the facility's physical layout will have the space, ramps and other features to provide effortless access to programs and collections.

In more than 60 "Share Your Voice" listening sessions, residents across Wisconsin have shared their thoughts and identified barriers experienced at other facilities. These enlightening conversations will allow the Society to achieve its goal of delivering a museum designed *by* the people, *for* the people.

# UNFORGETTABLE DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN

To make the history center a reality, we need you now! For information or to make a gift, contact:

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