



Community Cornerstones

68th Annual LLHSM Conference
October 29, 2022
Manchester, VT

Join us in beautiful Manchester, VT for our 68th annual LLHSM Conference! This meeting is the largest yearly gathering of local history and museum professionals in the state. It is a chance to network and learn with colleagues in a supportive environment. Join us as we talk about the community value of local history, resiliency, and practical ways to work together and tackle problems.

Support for the conference provided by the Walter Cerf Community Fund.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. SAMUEL J. REDMAN

Samuel J. Redman is a Professor in the Department of History at the University of Massachusetts. He is also the Director of the Public History Program. Redman is the author of three books, most recently, *The Museum: A Short History of Crisis and Resilience* (NYU Press, 2022). He is also the author of *Prophets and Ghosts: The Story of Salvage Anthropology* (Harvard University Press, 2021) and *Bone Rooms: From Scientific Racism to Human Prehistory in Museums* (Harvard University Press, 2016).

REGISTRATION

Registration Fees: \$15 VHS Members/\$35 Non-Members.

Registration fees include all sessions, keynote, lunch, & snacks

Contact Director of Service & Outreach Eileen Corcoran at eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org for invoicing options or other registration questions.

Updated details, full session descriptions, & registration available online at <https://vermonthistory.org/league-meeting>

Building a Safe Experience

We will monitor rates and mandates associated with COVID-19, and will follow recommended or mandatory guidelines in place at the time of the conference. We will communicate with registrants in advance about those requirements. We encourage everyone who is able to get a COVID-19 vaccine.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



8:45 to 9:30 am

Registration & Coffee

Manchester Community Library, 138 Cemetery Ave, Manchester, VT

All conference activities take place at the Library.

9:30 to 11:15 am

Welcome, LLHSM Awards, & Keynote

We'll kick off the conference with our annual LLHSM Achievement Awards, which recognize the exceptional work being done by individuals and community history organizations throughout the state to collect, preserve, and share Vermont's rich history.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Samuel J. Redman. In this talk, he will explore how museums have responded to episodes of crisis in the last 100 years or more. During episodes of crisis ranging from the 1918 influenza pandemic to the Great Depression, Second World War, and more recent debates about culture, museums have carved important paths forward through a series of urgent choices that we will reflect upon in this talk. This history also highlights how multiple crisis events often coincide and suggests how innovation and forward thinking can make museums more resilient.

11:20 am to 12:20 pm

Concurrent Sessions 1

History Matchmaker

Collections Care & Conservation Alliance

What if you didn't have to do it all alone? How can we look at creative ideas for partnerships among organizations and individuals beyond shared programs: Shared spaces? Shared purchasing? History pen pals??? Members of the Collections Care & Conservation Alliance will share some ideas and options for how we can work together to share the load, with time to see if we can make any "matches" in the room.

Communicating About History

Tori Hart, Director of Stewardship & Public Relations, VHS

Do you often find yourself struggling to communicate history work to the public? How do you answer questions like, "Why is history important?" and "What are the roles of museums in today's society?" The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) recently undertook a study to identify challenges affecting public perception of history work, and how museums can bridge the divide between what we are saying and what the public is hearing from our communications. Using AASLH's guide, *Reframing History*, full of emerging recommendations on how to tackle communications about history work, this session will provide you with some tips and opportunities for hands-on activities using your organization's communications.

The Granger House Project: A New Approach to Interpreting Humanities Content

Castleton Hidden History Project

In 2022, the National Endowment for the Humanities granted Castleton University nearly \$500,000 to begin the process of transforming a historic home on campus, the Granger House, into a museum and hands-on learning laboratory for the humanities. The project team aims to develop new ways to present humanities content and engage the general public. Over the past year, paid interns and students in history, geography, and archaeology classes have worked alongside project faculty to learn more about the property and its past inhabitants through excavations and archival research. Project staff have communicated their findings with the aid of cutting-edge technologies, including digital maps, 3-D printers, and virtual reality. In this panel, students and faculty members from the project will describe their methods and share some of their findings.

12:20 to 1:20 pm

Lunch

Join fellow conference goers in the community room at the Library for lunch and conversation. Lunch is included with your conference registration.

1:30 to 2:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions 2

The Bare Minimum: Shirking Ideals to Get Stuff Done

Teresa Greene, Collections Manager, VHS

We've all been to talks that tell us what we're supposed to do when it comes to managing our collections. But as small institutions with small (or no) staff, those suggestions can often be out of reach. Sometimes we just need to know what the minimum amount of work is that we can get away with without sabotaging ourselves. In this session, we'll talk about how to determine which steps you can skip, which steps will haunt you if skipped, and when to call something finished. Cataloging and research can be unlimited, but it doesn't have to be.

Grants for Local Historical Societies

Vermont Arts Council

Join Vermont Arts Council staff for an overview of grants available for local historical organizations, with special focus on the VAC's Cultural Facilities grants program and the new Creative Futures pandemic relief program. We'll close with some tips and advice for creating successful grant proposals.

Vampires & Fly Fishing: Walking About Manchester

Shawn Harrington, Curator, Manchester Historical Society

Want some ideas for showcasing history around town? Learn a little about Manchester's history as well as how the Historical Society is sharing that through the use of the Travelstoriys app (travelstoriys.com/tours/manchester-vermont) and the Legends & Lore historical marker program (www.wgpfoundation.org/historic-markers/manchester-vampire/). Session will take place outside, weather permitting.

2:45 to 3:30pm

Listening Session & Snacks

In 2019 we held Local History Listening Sessions around the state as part of VHS's strategic planning process. These sessions (and an associated survey) provided wonderful opportunities for discussion and feedback on what was important to the local history community in Vermont. As VHS gets ready to embark on our next strategic planning process, we'll share where we've come in the last 4 years, identify new or existing pathways in the local history community, and provide an opportunity for discussion on needs moving forward.

Updated details, full session descriptions, & registration available online at <https://vermonthistory.org/league-meeting>

Special Thanks To our keynote speaker, all the session presenters, the Manchester Historical Society, the Walter Cerf Community Fund, and all of the incredible local history organizations who make connections through Vermont history.



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The Vermont Historical Society invites you to join colleagues and friends in Manchester, VT this fall for the annual League of Local Historical Societies & Museums (LLHSM) conference! Don't miss out on a chance to get together to learn, share, and celebrate the different ways we can accomplish our important missions, especially in times of uncertainty and change.

*Support for the conference provided by the
Walter Cerf Community Fund.*