What's Your Local Identity?

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Active Collections

- Objects must advance the mission or they must go!
- Works well for LHS missions
- **Collecting the history of a specific town or region**
- To tell stories that are meaningful to your community, you need to know who they are!

“We believe some objects **support the mission** better than others—not based on monetary value or rarity, but based on **the stories they tell** and the ideas they illuminate. The ones that provide the **most public value** should get the largest share of our time and resources.”

“We believe we need to change the conversation from caring for artifacts to **caring about people**.”

What makes a town a community?

People!

& the things we do

Institutions

Industries

Recreation

…

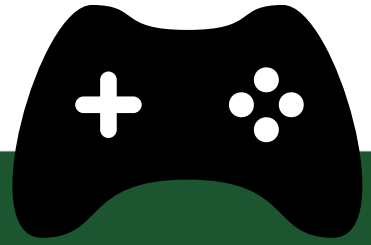
What else?

Your Local Identity = Soup

- Many different ingredients come together to make a delicious soup
- If you leave one out, the soup won’t taste as good!
- Make sure all “ingredients” are represented in your collections, exhibits, and programs

Use the collections you have

- What objects do you have that represent the people in your town?
  - How can you use them more effectively to connect with your community?
- What objects do you wish you had?
  - How can you collect these for future LHS volunteers to work with?
  - Interpreting absence



What activities do people do for fun in your community?

1. A Dungeons and Dragons group meets regularly involving people of all ages at your town library.
2. You learn about how Dungeons and Dragons works and identify key aspects: turn-based game using specific rules, special dice, and group storytelling.
3. You look in your collections for board games, dice, and objects that evoke storytelling.
4. You develop a “game night” event, incorporating these objects, to attract new community members to your LHS programs.

Game Set 2023.4.1

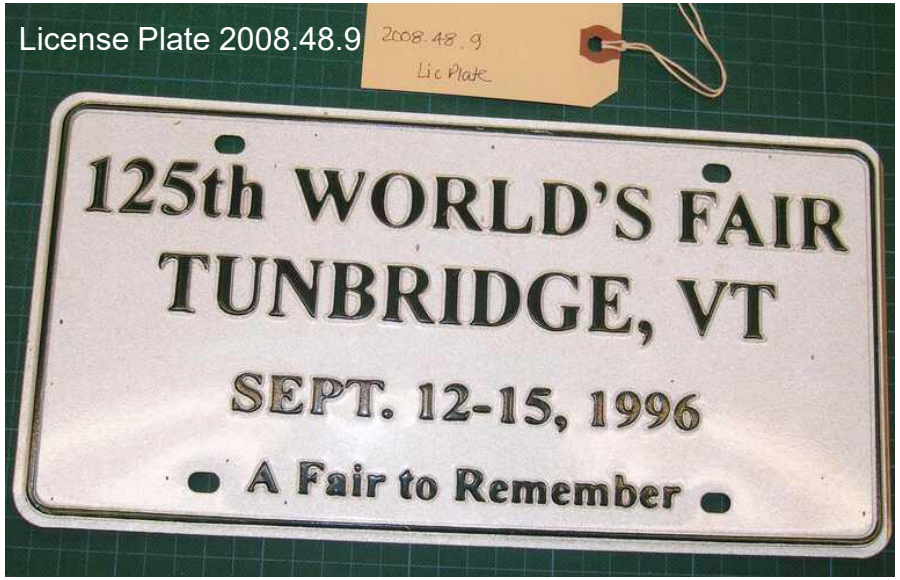
Backgammon Set 1946.15.3a-kk

Die 2014.60.1069

What is one thing your town is known for?

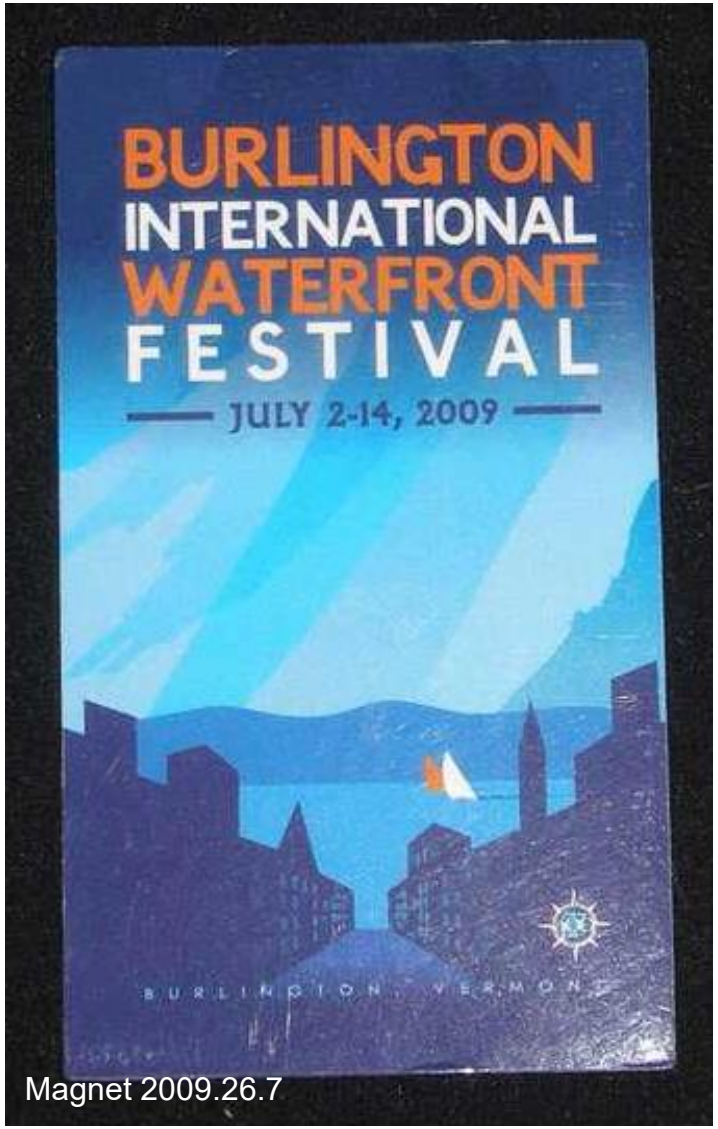
1. Your town has hosted a festival every summer for many years and it's one of the first things people associate with your town.
2. You look in your collection for objects and archival materials that depict the festival, but you don't find many.
3. You talk to people in town who attended the festival and record oral histories; the local newspaper loans your LHS articles and photos from their archives for an exhibit on past festivals.
4. Your LHS endeavors to collect history as it happens during next year's festival!

Promotional button 2003.89.14



License Plate 2008.48.9

T-Shirt 2013.23.8



Magnet 2009.26.7

How would someone from the next town over describe your community?

Discuss for 7 minutes with the people around you

What hardships has your community faced?

Discuss for 7 minutes with the people around you

Does your town have any urban legends?

Discuss for 7 minutes with the people around you

Wrapping up

Remember: gather **all** the ingredients for your soup!

- Applying what we've learned today to your LHS
- Any more questions?

Thank you!

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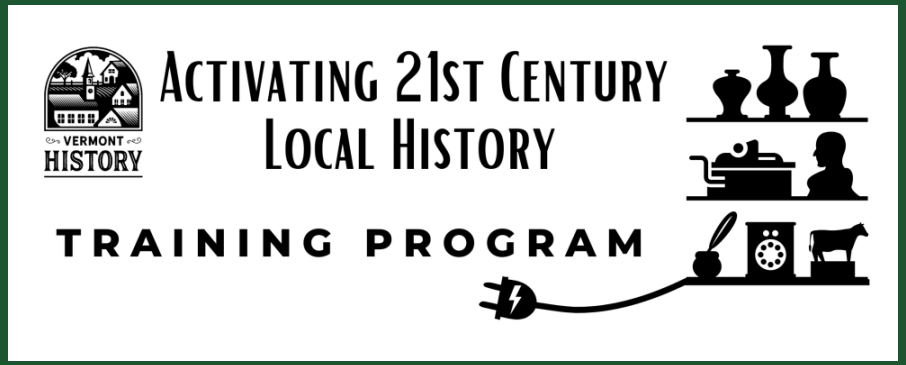
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