



Museums in Partnership

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

** To visit a website, right click the blue weblink and open it in your browser.*

For past issues of MIP Newsletters, visit FOMH website, and follow the link to [News and Press](#).

Interactive Workshop for Teachers, Museum Professionals, and the Public

The Crafts



Western Carolina University is hosting a region-wide event to launch its online digital collection on the historic Craft Revival period. This Interactive Workshop for Teachers, Museum Professionals, and the Public will be held Saturday, May 23, 2009, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Asheville. The event will demonstrate how to use the Craft Revival website a research tool. A number of staffed interactive workstations will provide opportunities for participants to try out the website in a variety of ways. These include a station designed for K-12 teachers to facilitate their use of lesson plans, bibliographies, and resources; a collections-based station to assist historic museums in using the website to identify objects in their collections; a digital station to outline basic scanning techniques; and a "scavenger hunt" station where participants will solve research questions using the Craft Revival website and database. Participants can take advantage of other activities at the Folk Art Center including exhibitions on Craft Revival-era work and contemporary crafts and visits to the library, archives, bookstore, and retail shop. Registration at 9 a.m.

A preview event on Friday evening, May 22nd will feature author, Jeff Biggers. Biggers' book, *United States of Appalachia: How Southern Mountaineers Brought Independence, Culture and Enlightenment to America*, is a thought-provoking text on the region. Along with Craft Revival Project Director, Anna Fariello, Biggers will use the website to inform his thesis, that Appalachia was a think tank for many of the nation's newest ideas, rather than a backward and isolated region.

The project launch is sponsored by Western Carolina University's Hunter Library in partnership with HandMade in America's Craft across the Curriculum and the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Funding is provided by the State Library of North Carolina and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The event is free and open to the public. Teachers may apply to receive CEU credit. Visit the Craft Revival website at <http://craftrevival.wcu.edu> or email A. Fariello, Research Associate Professor, Craft Revival Project Director, Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee NC 28723, at fariello@wcu.edu, phone (828) 227-2499.

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Friends of Mountain History (FOMH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supporting museums, heritage organizations, and cultural and heritage-related programs in twenty-five counties in Western North Carolina.

Museums in Partnership (MIP), which is supported by FOMH, is a new resource for museum professionals. Museums, historic sites, and heritage-related organizations in twenty-five counties of Western N.C. receive advocacy, educational support, and financial assistance as well as the MIP Newsletter, which includes announcements and updates from the region and informal sharing of ideas through networking. There are no dues for MIP membership, and communications are via electronic media. MIP welcomes nonprofit organizations that collect, interpret, preserve, and exhibit some aspect of Western North Carolina's culture and heritage.

CALL FOR ARTICLES ABOUT YOUR SITE

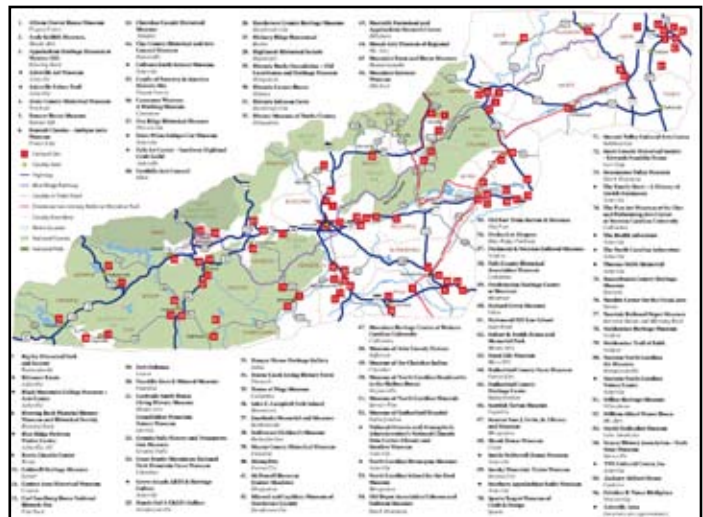


Museums, historic sites, and heritage-related organizations in the 25-county region of Western North Carolina served by FOMH are encouraged to share their news, announcements, and photographs of their programs and resources through our newsletter. Please email articles, photographs, or event listings to Ran Shaffner at highlandshistory@nctv.com for publication in a subsequent issue of the newsletter.

For a monthly listing of **MUSEUM CALENDARS OF EVENTS** during 2009, visit the Friends of Mountain History website at www.fomhnc.org or here at www.fomhnc.org/calendarofevents.php.

2009 Museum Guide and Map Now Available Online

The new 2009 Western North Carolina Museum Guide is now available for download from the Friends of Mountain History website or from here at www.fomhnc.org/FOMH2009Guide.pdf. Also available for download is the Museum Guide Map from here at www.fomhnc.org/FOMH2009Map.pdf, which locates the 86 cultural sites featured in the guide.



Tourism Builds Community

TOURISM PLEDGES NEARLY \$3 MILLION TO BUILD COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN 2009

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (March 18, 2009) — The Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority (BCTDA) announced today that it is awarding more than \$2.6 million to five community projects and serving as a potential loan guaranty to one other through its Tourism Product Development Fund (TPDF). Funding will assist with construction of projects that are expected to further enhance the community while also driving more overnight hotel stays and pumping additional dollars into the local economy.

“While other funding sources are drying up, the tourism industry is working hard to continue to build this community,” noted Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority (BCTDA) Chair Ron Storto, vice president of hospitality development for Biltmore Farms, Inc. “The dollars we are pledging today are a much-needed shot in the arm during some particularly tough times.”

The BCTDA voted to award the grants during its most recent meeting, basing its votes on recommendations from the TPDF committee. Recipients of the 2009 funding cycle for the Tourism Product Development Fund include:

- **John B. Lewis Soccer Fields**, which will receive a \$500,000 grant for lighting that will enable night time playing,
- **Momentum**, The Health Adventure’s new science and health museum, which will receive a \$500,000 grant to build an indoor planetarium within the new facility,
- **Pack Square Conservancy**, which will receive a \$500,000 grant for construction of a Visitor Pavilion at Pack Square Park,
- **Asheville Art Museum**, which will receive a \$500,000 grant for its planned expansion of galleries, public spaces, education facilities and visitor amenities,
- **Moogseum**, an innovative interactive exploratorium of science and music to be built by the Bob Moog Foundation, which received a pledge of \$600,000 in grant monies over four years, once it breaks ground, and
- **Orange Peel**, which may receive as much as \$300,000 in the form of a loan guaranty, once it gets funding for a planned expansion which includes new seating at the music facility.

In 2000, the tourism industry, and hoteliers, in particular, devised the idea to slightly increase the room tax in order to provide a funding source that could spur new projects that would benefit residents in the Asheville area, while generating additional room nights. With passage of the legislation in 2001, the room tax increased from three to four percent with the additional cent dedicated to capital projects. Visitors also pay state sales tax on their lodging.

“During the past eight years, the tourism industry has become one of the largest non-government funders of civic projects in Buncombe County,” TPDF Chair Todd Morse said. Morse, who is the principal of Chimney Rock Company and an original member of the TPDF, noted that nearly \$12 million has gone directly back to community projects since the fund’s inception.

“The dollars spent today translate into jobs tomorrow,” added BCTDA Executive Director Kelly Miller, who also serves on Asheville City Council. “The tourism industry in this County has found a way to provide its own incentive and seed money to jump start projects that are good for the community and good for business. Residents benefit, but the projects will inject more outside dollars into the region, which fuels the entire economy,” he explained.

More than 2.9 million overnight leisure visitors travel to the Asheville area each year generating more than \$1.8 billion in economic impact to the region.

In Buncombe County, our hospitality legacy is intertwined with our quality of life,” Storto said. “These are facilities and attractions that add to the visitors’ experience, but still serve the needs of residents of Buncombe County. They make us a more vibrant place to visit and a better place to live.



Haywood Street at Patton Avenue in 1925

MAY 2009 IS PRESERVATION MONTH

Declare it Nationally, Celebrate it locally, May is Preservation Month, and Asheville will celebrate again this year with a kick-off event at the newly renovated historic Aston Park on May 1, 11:30-3:00 with music and refreshments. The theme this year is Preservation Naturally, Celebrating Heritage Sustainably.

Join us at Aston Park where there will be information available on Asheville's historic neighborhoods and landmarks, rehabilitation tax credits and sustainable building practices. The picnic is the first of many events in the month of May to enjoy and appreciate both our unique natural and cultural heritage.

Each day in May you can choose a preservation related activity or event to enjoy, such as the 6th Annual Montford Music and Arts Festival in the historic Montford neighborhood, or the Griffin Awards ceremony, sponsored by the Preservation Society which recognizes outstanding historic property restoration

achievements. You could also visit one of the City's fabulous historic sites, such as the Biltmore House and Gardens or the Smith McDowell House Museum, or enjoy the spring sunshine with a walking tour of historic Montford, Riverside Cemetery, or downtown Asheville with its outstanding collection of Art Deco architecture.

Check out our calendar at www.ashevillenc.gov/preservationmonth for more ideas and events. The month is sponsored by The Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, Asheville Historic Tours, Friends of Mountain History, Joan Richards Art and Frame, Asheville GreenWorks, Friends of Mountain History, Beverly-Hanks & Associates, and the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County. Or contact Stacy Merten, Director Asheville-Buncombe Historic Resources Commission, PO Box 7148, Asheville, NC 28802, at email smerten@ashevillenc.gov, phone (828) 259-5836.

Handmade Wall Quilt Raffle

Raffle Tickets are being sold throughout the year at the Transylvania Heritage Museum for a Wall Quilt handmade by Pat Childress. The quilt is completed and on display at the Museum now.

The images on this quilt portray how farm families lived and worked during the 1880's, when the self-sufficient farmer's first objective was to feed and clothe his own family.

Pat Childress is a self-taught, award winning quilter who has been an avid quiltmaker for over 30 years. She is past president of the Western North Carolina Quilters Guild and co-chair for the 2007 North Carolina Quilt Symposium. She lives in Transylvania County with her husband Dee.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 at the Transylvania Heritage Museum, 40 West Jordan Street at <http://www.transylvaniaheritage.org>. Drawing December 5, 2009. You do not have to be present to win.



Photo: Pat Childress busy at work on a wall quilt she is donating to the Transylvania Heritage Museum for its 2009 Raffle.



Weathering the Financial Storm Resources for History Organizations

The American Association for State and Local History recognizes that history organizations are beset by multiple challenges due to the economic climate. To help, AASLH has compiled several PDF and other online resources to address your needs:

- [2009 Will Be a Pivotal Year for Museums and Cultural Nonprofits](#)
- [Alan Friedman's Advice on Leading through a Financial Crisis](#)
- [American Association of Museums Finding Calm in Crisis: A Museum Survival Guide](#)
- [Are History Organizations Responding Responsibly to the National Economic Crisis? by Terry Davis](#)
- [How to Weather the Financial Storm by the Center for Nonprofit Management, Nashville](#)
- [Why History Matters: The Gift of History](#)

NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL COLLECTIONS COLLABORATORY blog

Gretchen Gueguen, Digital Initiatives Librarian at East Carolina University, is pleased to announce the creation of The North Carolina Digital Collections Collaboratory blog at <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/collaboratory>. This blog was created for digital collections practitioners in North Carolina to share experiences, exchange ideas, and develop collaborations. We realize that many of us face the same challenges related to workflow, platforms, and institutional support, and it would be great if we could all benefit from potential solutions and approaches to issues.

Although the blog will focus on digital collections in North Carolina, we invite all to take a look as the discussions will most likely touch on issues affecting more than just our home state. We invite thoughtful comments and additions to the discussion.