



PRESENCE

SPRING/
SUMMER
2021

Wornall/Majors House Museums: The Past is Present.



A History of Resilience Connecting the Past and Present

Calendar of Events

May 23
Buds & Suds
Music & beer on the lawn of the Wornall House!

Fridays June 4-August 6
Friday Afternoon Camps
Children learn about history through games, presenters, and guided house tours.

June 4 Life on the Frontier

June 11 Wild Wild West

June 18 Behind the Scenes at the Museum

June 25 Myths, Mysteries & Secrets

July 9 The Frontier & the Environment

July 16 A Day in the Civil War

July 23 Native People of Missouri

July 30 Underground Railroad

August 6 Gold Rush

Health and wellness was a constant concern for settlers on the American frontier. For the Wornall family, the threat of illness was real. Based on medical records, cholera and smallpox were of particular concern and the family received smallpox vaccines and regularly took preventative medications – some more effective than others.

A global vaccination campaign has since eradicated smallpox, and improvements in sanitation have effectively eliminated cholera in the United States. The gradual acceptance of germ theory and the discovery of viruses in the 1890s revolutionized the way we diagnose and treat illnesses. Certainly we could not have the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic we have today without this crucial understanding.

An understanding of the past informs how we understand our present and look to the future. We work to help individuals make connections and see cause and effect throughout history. But we can't do it without the consistent support of our members and donors. Your membership provides reliable income that helps us provide timely, relevant programming to thousands of adults and children each year. Read on to learn how you can join our membership community and support our crucial work.

-Kerrie Nichols, Executive Director



While many of our programs have transitioned online, there are still opportunities to visit the Wornall and Majors Houses, including public tours and our frequent partnerships with Strawberry Swing Indie Craft Fair. (Pictures courtesy of Strawberry Swing.)

Members Are Our Foundation

Wornall/Majors members provide sustaining support for the Museums while enjoying great benefits!

It's time for our annual spring membership drive! Our members are a deeply valued part of our giving community that we rely on to help us preserve and protect our historic spaces.

Here's what you can do!

- Not a member? Join today by visiting wornallmajors.org or mailing the included membership form.
- Already a member? Consider renewing early - the majority of our earned income comes in the second half of the year. Early memberships provide us with crucial funding during our slower seasons.
- Know someone who loves history? A membership is a great gift they can use for an entire year! All memberships include free tours of the museums and free or reduced admission to most of our educational programs.

Membership Levels

\$35 Individual

Unlimited public tours at Wornall and Majors Houses
Two admission passes to share with friends or family
Discounted or free admission to most programs
Priority ticketing & reduced pricing for Ghost Tours

\$70 Family

All Individual benefits for two adults and all dependent children or up to two minor grandchildren plus:
Special member pricing for Camp Wornall/Majors

\$100 Contributing

All Family benefits plus:
10% discount in the Wornall/Majors gift shop

\$250 Sponsoring

All Contributing benefits plus:
Two free tickets to the Walking Tour (biennial)
Two free tickets to the annual Barn Dance
10% off one rental of the Alexander Majors Barn

Thanks to our Current Contributing & Sponsoring Members!

Beth & Jim Antrup
Chris & Harold Arens
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Ward & Sarah Brown
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Susan & Tuck Spaulding
David Van Dyne & Cecile Legandre
Esther Walker-Young & Charles Young
Jack & Marie Whitacre
Vicki & Doug Westerhaus
Wornall Homestead Homes Association
Rick & Annie Zander

New!

Never forget your membership renewal again - auto-renew!
Simply check the recurring membership box on your membership renewal form (credit card payees only).

Buds & Suds

Our newest spring fundraising event — May 23, 2021

With native plant beds, a vegetable and herb garden, gathering spaces, and educational signs, the Learning Landscape is the perfect place to gather to celebrate spring. Join us on Sunday, May 23 at 4:00 PM as we enjoy the first full planting season of the new landscape while enjoying beer from some of the hottest local breweries and music from the Charles Williams Jazz Trio.



Tickets start at just \$30 for Wornall/Majors members, with general admission \$35 and VIP \$60. Tickets and VIP information are available at <https://budsandsuds.eventbrite.com>.

Diversifying Our Narratives

Telling all parts of the Wornall & Majors stories

Providing the community with inclusive history that tells the full, rich history of Kansas City and beyond is a crucial part of our mission. We are constantly working to improve our interpretation and educational programs from diverse perspectives. Some of our recent efforts include:

- A 2019 partnership with Georgia Southern University and Tourism RESET to survey visitors and determine visitor interest areas. “slavery,” “Civil War in Kansas City,” and “original home owners” were the top three areas of interest.
- A new permanent exhibit at the Wornall House highlighting the lives of the enslaved residents of the Wornall farmstead using primary source documents. Reproduction slave garments will also be added in 2021 to complete the exhibit. Funding was provided by Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area.
- Research is underway for a new permanent exhibit at the Majors House entitled “Looking Westward.” This exhibit will newly re-imagine the story of Alexander Majors, exploring how men and women of all races and backgrounds experienced the opportunities and challenges of the western United States and how their experiences mirrored and differed from that of Alexander Majors.
- A temporary exhibit at Majors will feature a “Hall of Fame” of Black individuals who found success in Missouri and the western United States. It will open in late 2021.



African American refugees camped by the Mississippi River, 1897. Library of Congress.

Grateful

for our
Winter/Spring
supporters.

*Donors who have given
\$250 or more between
Oct. 1, 2020 and print date.*

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Bob & Sally West
Vicki & Doug Westerhaus
William V. Wolbach

Meet the Wornall/Majors Board

Chad Milton: Board Co-Chair



How long have you been on the board of the WMHM and what roles have you played?

This is my seventh year on the board and in that time I have been involved with all aspects of WMHM operations, most notably, fund development and property preservation. In that time, I have served two stints as chair or co-chair.

Where did you grow up and what got you interested in history and preservation?

I grew up in Stafford, Kansas, a small town in the center part of the state, where I was fascinated by my great-grandmother's stories of life as a settler on the 1880s prairie. Those stories linked time and place for me, and as I read and traveled, I began to understand how time and place are linked over the centuries. Now I know that when, for failure of preservation, that linkage is broken, something important is lost.

What got you interested in working with this organization and what do you hope for its future?

After coming to Kansas City many years ago, I began to learn about this city's own linkage of place and time and believe WMHM is a wonderful platform to understand that history. I like that the two properties feature two different facets of the Kansas City mid-nineteenth century story. The Wornall House has us look inward to the strong roots the house and family grew here. The Majors House has us look outward to the westward expansion and the linkage of Kansas City to Santa Fe, Denver, Salt Lake City and Sacramento and all the places in between. For the future, I want WMHM to be an expanded center of learning about this rich history, both for visitors who come to houses for tours or programs and through outreach to schools and the community.

Elizabeth "Betty" Hatting: Membership Committee Co-Chair



How long have you been on the board of the WMHM and what roles have you played?

I have been on the board for approximately a year. I am currently serving as a co-chair of the membership committee and member of the executive committee.

Where did you grow up and what got you interested in history and preservation?

I grew up in Omaha, Neb., and became very interested in history in high school. I was on an academic decathlon team and the topic my senior year was the Civil War. I spent a year immersed in all aspects of the Civil War from the basic history to related art, literature, medicine, and more. The experience opened my eyes to the scope of "history" and the importance of broad preservation efforts.

What got you interested in working with this organization and what do you hope for its future?

I became interested in the WMHM due to its excellent efforts to preserve local Kansas City history. I hope that over time it becomes even more well known and popular as an important Kansas City institution that is accessible to all and visited and supported by people from all over the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Your safety is our priority

Did you know? A recent study at the Berlin Institute of Technology claims that visitors to museums face fewer COVID-19 risks than those to grocery stores, restaurants and offices. We're taking your safety seriously, and have made modifications to our tours, including removing touchable objects and temporarily offering self-guided tours only. We can't wait to see you at the Wornall and Majors Houses!