



PRESENCE

FALL/WINTER
2021

Wornall/Majors House Museums: The Past is Present.



Calendar of Events

December 10

Christmas Five Senses
Open House
Wornall House

Get into the holiday
spirit and engage all five
senses as you enjoy
music, historic décor,
and more.

\$5/child, \$10/adult

December 18

Christmas Family Fun
Day
Majors House

Create memories in a
historic setting with the
whole family!

\$5/child, adults free

*Wornall/Majors House
Museums is a 501(c)3 tax
exempt organization.*

Bouncing Back

Navigating Events & Programs as We Return to Normal

For the past two years, museums across the country have struggled to adapt and survive even as museum services are more critical and relevant than ever. But through the support of our community of donors, volunteers, and supporters, Wornall/Majors House Museums have maintained a high quality of programs while remaining financially stable. Whether you've donated your time or money, attended a program, or followed us on social media, *thank you*. The following are some of our successes that couldn't have been possible without you.

Youth Programming

While field trips to the museums have dropped dramatically, we have been able to engage youth in a variety of ways, including serving 314 students virtually for our Go West! Virtual Field Day. Our new 2021 preschool camp brought our programs to a brand new audience, and we are gradually welcoming school groups back in person to the museums. **Camp participants increased by 151% from 2020!**

Public Tours

The museums were closed for approximately two months in 2020, and attendance remained low as vacations were canceled and community members exercised caution in returning to public spaces. However, visitors are returning in robust numbers as we have proved to be a safe and welcoming environment for all. **Public tour attendance is up 22% from 2020, with two months still left to go in the year!**

Volunteers

Volunteers are back at the museums assisting with a variety of tasks. We are currently offering self-guided tours of the museums only, and our volunteers have helped us make the transition to safe, distanced self-guided tours that still maintain high visitor satisfaction. **Since the beginning of 2020, volunteerism has increased 325%!**

*Help us reach our 2021
funding goals by making a
tax-deductible donation using
the provided form!*



Volunteer Q&A: August Reed

Why did you choose to start volunteering at Wornall/Majors?

Having recently moved to Kansas City, I was looking for a way to engage with the local history. I always loved the way my professors brought people from decades and centuries ago to life, and I was drawn to the idea of having a small part in doing that myself.

What is your favorite room in the Wornall House?

Right now, my favorite room in the house is the kitchen. While the parlor highlights the house's hierarchy, I feel like the kitchen embodies the realities of that hierarchy. Some of my favorite pieces sit in the room as well, such as the machine used for hardtack.



What part of the history [of the houses] sticks out to you most?

For me, I think the most striking part of the house's history is the intense insight it provides into the family's experiences. The recorded stories about Eliza [Wornall], for example, highlight the struggles and fortitude requisite to the Wornalls' life on the frontier. On the other hand, the lack of recorded stories about the enslaved people of the household and the First People who were largely forcibly removed from the area just a few years before the Wornalls' arrival, are equally revealing of their concerns.

Youth Volunteer Program Relaunch

We are excited to announce the relaunch of our youth volunteer program! Beginning January 2022, we will once again host junior volunteers to serve as junior counselors, event assistants, and more.

Students will gain the opportunity to learn about history, serve their community, and earn community service hours in a safe and nurturing environment. To learn more, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Goebel at administrator@wornallmajors.org or 816-444-1858.

Youth Volunteer Launch Event

Join us for service and snacks. This will be a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to meet each other and museum staff. Guardians are required to register their youth volunteers in advance.

January 3, 2022

Two shifts: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM or 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Alexander Majors Barn

8201 State Line Road, Kansas City, Mo.

Volunteers from first through twelfth grade welcome!

Thank you 2021 Volunteers!

Barb Brelsford
Kelly Brown
Molly Brown
Wendy Brown
Judy Buchman
Margery Chandler
Alice Ergovich
Rachel Ergovich
Sophie Grantham
Kathryn Mack
Jordin MacKenzie
Cynthia Malone
Laura Mangnall
Master Gardeners of
Greater Kansas City
Gayle Maurin

Terri Mooney-Hooker
Tina Perrin
August Reed
Beverly Sawyer
Morgan Schoob
Richard Spacek
Garrett Stephens
Walker Stephens
Abigail Swanson
Team Shakespeare
(Heart of America
Shakespeare Festival)
Jacque Tilgner
Clara Van Draska
Sandy Wurth
WMHM Board of Directors



You Make It Happen

Help us meet our year-end funding goal

It's been an exciting year, full of challenges and opportunities. In addition to pandemic-related pressures, our historic sites require constant maintenance and vigilance so that we can properly preserve our important sites, which in turn serve as the rich backdrop to our programs about early Kansas City history.

In late 2020, it was discovered that the roof of the Wornall House needed replaced. Insurance covered the costs, but Wornall/Majors House Museums had to fundraise the deductible. Then in spring of 2021, a water leak (the result of our unexpectedly cold winter plus aging infrastructure) at the Majors House required a complete restoration of the house's historic kitchen.

Looking toward the future, the roof of the Majors Barn will need a partial replacement within the next year. The carriage house, located behind the Wornall House, is increasingly unstable and in need of refurbishment and re-imagining in the upcoming years.

Despite our challenges, the Wornall/Majors House Museums has risen to the occasion and met our fundraising emergencies as they have appeared. However, we need your help to meet our year-end fundraising goal of \$10,000 to close our budget gap for the year.

Wornall/Majors House Museums is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your tax-deductible contribution helps us to preserve our historic spaces so we can provide inclusive public history programming for all ages!

Restoration of the Majors House kitchen led to the discovery of the original flooring, hidden under flooring that had been installed in 1984! We were able to restore the original floors, which are now on view during tours of the Majors House.



There are many ways to give!

Looking for alternative ways to give to Wornall/Majors House Museums?

- Shop at smile.amazon.com and set Wornall/Majors as your preferred non-profit. We'll receive donations for every dollar you spend, at no cost to you!
- Find out if your employer offers matching gifts to double your impact.
- Talk to your financial advisor about including Wornall/Majors in your planned giving.
- Give a small monthly gift. Details at wornallmajors.org/donate.

Grateful

for our 2021 supporters.

Donors who have given \$500 or more between January 1, 2021 and print date.

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Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
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Thanks for a great 2021!

