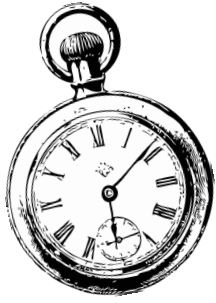




PRESENCE

SPRING
2020

Wornall/Majors House Museums: The Past is Present.



Calendar of Events

Note: We are monitoring the ever-evolving health recommendations made by the CDC and City of Kansas City, Mo. All dates below are tentative and subject to change. Check our website for current information.

Fridays June 12-August 7
Summer Camp

Summer 2020
Victorians Uncovered
History Happy Hour

September 12, 2020
Cultivating a
Neighborhood: Historic
Brookside Walking
Tour (New Date!)

I hope you are missing us as much as we are missing you right now! There is no doubt that we are in trying times in our community and as a society. We value our visitors and want to take this time of social distancing to bring you *into* our historic sites for a chance to learn about the past while taking a respite from the present - online!

We have been working hard to provide you with at-home learning resources. Our goal is simple: to continue serving the public as a leading resource for local Civil War history. Our new at-home learning resources offer virtual visitors the opportunity to engage with local history through the lenses of the John Wornall and Alexander Majors House Museums!

I hope you will visit our website at www.wornallmajors.org to learn more about our new and evolving virtual learning opportunities!

We do look forward to welcoming visitors in person as soon as we can! In the meantime, we are planning special self-guided tours for our guests to greet you back and allow you to observe whatever level of interaction and distancing makes you most comfortable. It's not the same without you here.

-Kerrie Nichols, Executive Director



Want to help? We are committed to supporting our staff and providing the best possible stewardship of our historic sites, and your financial contribution allows us to do just that. Wornall/Majors House Museums is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Donate by visiting wornallmajors.org/donate or contact Kerrie Nicholas at director@wornallmajors.org.

Recent Successes:

Museum programming and reach over the past five years

The Wornall/Majors House Museums is a data-driven institution! We carefully monitor attendance numbers, attendee satisfaction, and other important metrics to drive our growth and to discover new opportunities. Here are some of our successes, by the numbers.

Public Tour Attendance at the Wornall House

Up 20%

In the past five years

Youth field trips

Up 25%

In the past five years

Public Tour Attendance at the Majors House

Up 24%

In the past five years

Offsite outreach programs

Up 49%

In the past five years

Opportunities

In the summer of 2019, Wornall/Majors House Museums partnered with Georgia Southern University and Tourism RESET to survey visitors and determine areas of interest and overall balance of museum tours.

The surveys identified several areas of opportunity for expanding the audiences we're impacting and the subjects that our visitors are interested in learning more about.

First, we learned that efforts to expand our audience have been successful! The survey revealed that over 20% of the adults that visit our museums represent underserved populations, an unusually high percentage for a historic house museum! We look forward to continuing our efforts to expand inclusive programming and historic learning opportunities.

Second, we were learned that our visitors care about the topics of "slavery", "Civil War in Kansas City", and the "original owners of the home(s)" the most.

As we continue developing new learning opportunities in all three areas, we are excited to announce the future installation of a permanent exhibit highlighting the lives of enslaved persons who lived on the John Wornall homestead. The new installation is being developed in partnership with Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. The project will give presence to enslaved individuals by exploring their daily lives, journeys, hardships and accomplishments. The installation will be open for regular tours and field trips.



Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Thank you to all who participated in the survey!

Are you a teacher and want to learn more? Email programs@wornallmajors.org

Learning Together

Educational Resources for all Environments

Whether students are at home or in the classroom, Wornall/Majors has many ways for children to learn about nineteenth century American history.

Digital resources - We are continuously adding to our resources page to provide children and adults alike with content about local history. Resources include videos, worksheets, and links to other institutions we trust.



New field trip packages -

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer in-person field trips for the spring 2020 semester, but we'll be ready with brand new comprehensive field trip packages for the fall. These packages include a house tour and specially crafted activities meant to enhance curriculum and immerse students in a specific topic. Topics include: A Civil War Field Hospital, Sustainability on the Frontier, Daily Life in the Nineteenth Century, and A Journey Westward.

Summer Camp - Camp Wornall/Majors is offered each Friday from June 12-August 7. Each day of camp focuses on a thematic topic. Prices have been reduced to aid parents looking for an affordable summer educational solution!

All of our educational programming can be found at wornallmajors.org, with digital resources at wornallmajors.org/digital-resources.

Welcome to our new members!

Our members form the backbone of our giving community. We are currently in the midst of our member drive, as we seek new members and ask that expired members renew. Our progress has been steady - we are at 70% of our total member budget goal for the entire year! To become a member or renew, visit wornallmajors.org/support/become-a-member.

New Members

Christopher Bannister
Frederick Coulson IV
Amanda Crawley
Kathy Digges
John Doyle
Nina Hollabaugh

Stephen & Catherine Maurin
Kent & Tess Magill
Diane Marty
John & Nancy McGee
Gina Pulliam
Susan Ramza

James E. Snee
Kristin Spilker
Phil & Annie Watson
Gail Williams

Grateful for our 2020 supporters

(\$250 or more given in 2020 as of
April 28, 2020.)

Alan & Mary Atterbury
William Berkley
John Biersmith
David & Kay Bleakley
Mark Box
John & Kay Callison
Constance Cooper
Foundation
Frederick Coulson IV
Amanda Crawley
Kathy Digges
Kirk & Holly Douglass
Libby Gessley
Jean Helmers
William & Irma Lou Hirsch
Kathryn & Eric Holtze
Clay Hulen
Julie Johnson
Kearney Wornall
Foundation
Day & Whitney Kerr
Jody Ladd Craig & Bill Craig
Ford & Christine Maurer
Amanda Maurin
Janice & Bill McCollum
Miller Nichols Charitable
Foundation
Chad & Ann Milton
Cydney Nelson
Jane E. Ratcliffe Fund for
Arts & Education
Alex & Kathie Rosser
Karen Stakem Hornig
Tension Envelope
Alisha & Lendsey Thomson
David Van Dyne &
Cecile Legandre
Phil & Annie Watson
William Wolbach
Rick & Annie Zander

Bringing Our Mission Outdoors

Learning Landscape Nearing Completion

The sound of rumbling construction equipment filled the air in November as work began on the Learning Landscape at the Wornall House. A multi-month process, the grounds of the museum were transformed by the addition of gathering areas, accessible sidewalks, and points of interest.

The Learning Landscape will significantly increase programming capacity at the Wornall House by creating thematic spaces throughout the lawn and providing educational signage for visitors. Field trips will be particularly enhanced, as the merging of landscape and history opens up multiple STEM activity opportunities.

Work yet to be done includes the planting of apple trees, large bushes, and the installation of signs. This work is anticipated to be completed in late spring 2020.

The grounds will only become more beautiful as time passes. The Master Gardeners of Kansas City, Mo. are committed to planting and maintaining the native plant border and herb & vegetable garden.

But our work is not complete. Additional fundraising is needed to revamp the “carriage house” behind the Wornall House to create a meeting and event space. The structure, built as early as 1912 by John Wornall’s widow Roma, has been used for museum programs such as Ghost Tours and Summer Camp in past years. However, structural issues have made the structure increasingly unstable. We are excited to continue to grow and improve the Wornall House site. For details of how you can help, email Kerrie Nichols at director@wornallmajors.org.

From muddy construction site to beautiful landscape



The groundbreaking of the Learning Landscape (top left) was a blustery day on November 21, 2019. Construction was often a muddy affair that required some patience and flexibility from our visitors, who kept visiting without being deterred! Today, the grounds have better accessibility and visibility, and we can't wait to share the new outdoor space with you.