

Come Curious

New branding honors the inquisitive

“I’ve driven past this house every day and I finally decided to stop in!” This is a refrain that the staff and volunteers of the Wornall and Majors Houses hear often.

Once curiosity gets the best of those passers-by, they finally stop for a tour...and are astonished to discover the depth and breadth of the stories and collections as well as the local, regional, and national history available to them through Museum tours and events.

In honor of our inquisitive guests, and to encourage even more curious callers, Wornall/Majors House Museums is proud to announce a new branding campaign, “Come curious” featuring a new agency tagline, “The past is present.”

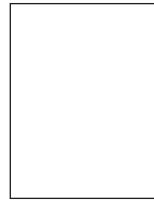
The marketing efforts have been made possible by a grant from the Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood Tourism & Development Council, and first debuted in a local theatre playbill earlier this fall, with adaptable iterations for electronic, print, and audio media.

Thanks to local partners, museum visitors, and area businesses who participated in our market research to create the campaign.

**Wornall Majors House Museums:
The past is present.**



6115 Wornall Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64113



NAME
SECOND LINE
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP

2018 Highlights



Over 1,300 students served through field trips and classroom visits



A record-setting 532 attendees of Wornall House Ghost Tours



Strong community partnerships

with organizations such as the Black Archives of Mid-America, the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, KCPT, and Project Archaeology

Rentals of the Alexander Majors Barn provide critical support for our mission of historic preservation and education. Whether you’re drawn by our site’s historical significance or are searching for a budget-friendly venue, the Majors Barn presents the opportunity for a one-of-a-kind event that your guests won’t forget!

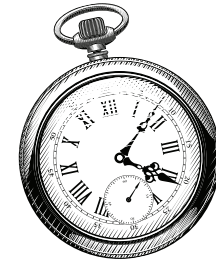
Inquire today!
wornallmajors.org/event-rentals
rentals@wornallmajors.org



PRESENCE

WINTER 2018

Wornall/Majors House Museums: The Past Is Present.



Calendar of Events

Spring 2019 TBA Victorians Uncovered
A series of programs focusing on taboo and surprising topics that were part of everyday life for Victorians.

April 18 Civil War Field Day
A “mega field trip” for schools across the metro region.

June 10-14 & July 15-19 Camp Wornall/Majors
A frontier camp featuring storytelling, reenactors and hands-on activities and crafts.

September 14 Boots & Pearls Barn Dance
Put on your western best and dance the night away in our rustic barn!

October 18, 19, 25, 26 Ghost Tours & Paranormal Investigations
Learn why the Wornall House has such a frightful reputation.

Although the House Museums sit on Missouri limestone foundations, **YOU** are the **true foundation** for a more sustainable future for two of Kansas City’s most beloved historic structures.

Each year that your support helps us protect and preserve the registered historic homes, you also enable us to share the storied legacy of both homes while advancing our mission, “to engage our community by bringing history to life through hands-on, innovative programs and experiences.”

Evidence of our combined success is a **111% increase in House Museum tours** in the past year, and a **32% increase in field trip attendance** by area schoolchildren. (See page 2 for a wonderful story about the impact an educational experience had on one young man in particular.)

This year we were also proud to present **Family Ties**, a program series in partnership with the Black Archives exploring history and community through family stories.

Looking ahead to 2019, we are already preparing for our **second annual Civil War Field Day**, as well as “revealing” programs like **Wornall/Majors Uncovered**, which will explore the secret lives of Victorians, from death to undergarments.

And we’re excited to launch a new agency marketing campaign (read more about this on mailing panel), thanks to funding from the Neighborhood Tourism & Development Council. (In fact, you may even notice the new look of our newsletter, re-monikered “Presence.”)

Your generosity, spirit, and commitment to making a difference always matter, but today your support is especially appreciated.

Will you give \$30, \$50, or \$75 today to help us continue to offer educational programs, rotating exhibits, special events & demonstrations, and summer camp experiences? Your continued support of the House Museums will ensure that you, your children, and the community have access to the best-preserved, most engagingly-showcased ways that **The Past is Present**.

Here’s to each of you who have made another wonderful year possible, and to what we’ll yet achieve – together – in 2019.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Chad Milton, Chair
Alisha Thomson, Incoming Chair



High School Junior Nears a Decade of Service:

Sees WMHM as his “second home”



Caden Gird, right, with volunteer Cooper Most, at this October's Ghost Tours.

Caden Gird first attended summer camp at Wornall/Majors House Museums back in 2011, when he was just eleven years old...and has been a dedicated volunteer ever since! He recently took a moment to reflect on his service to WMHM before December's Candlelight Tours get underway:

Why did you become involved with WMHM? Throughout the almost eight years I've been involved with the Wornall/Majors House Museums I've had the pleasure to enjoy the amazing people and history associated with the homes. Over the years there have been continual opportunities to further my passion for history with the organization.

What memories stand out over the years? From burning my hand in the blacksmith shop and Presidential Service Awards to being able to teach a variety of age groups about our local history, the memories are endless.

As a history buff, what are the perks of working at the House Museums? Not only have I been able to enjoy the immense historical benefits of working at the museums throughout the years but I've also met wonderful friends and colleagues. As I approach my eighth year with

the organization, it seems like just yesterday that I began volunteering at camps. Since then I've met countless fascinating people through the many roles that I have assumed within the museums. This organization and the people in it have held a special place in my life and I hope will continue to do so for many years to come.

What has fueled your commitment to WMHM? From the life of the Wornalls and Majors to the lives of the people who keep their legacy going, I've enjoyed every minute of my involvement with the organization. This organization has given me an opportunity to build my character and my work ethic throughout the years. In the process, this has become a second home and family to me.

We're certainly happy to have you as part of the WMHM family! Any final reflective thoughts as we enter 2019? I would like to thank everyone for the hard work that we all put into supporting this organization. I am proud, as are many others, to be a part of WMHM throughout the years.



New member benefits package in 2019

Support and preserve your local history while enjoying new member benefits in 2019. In addition to free public tours of the Wornall and Majors Houses and free or reduced admission to WMHM programs, members will receive all-new opportunities to enjoy the House Museums in 2019.

All members will receive two admissions passes to share with family and friends, and priority ticketing and reduced prices for our popular Ghost Tours. October Ghost Tours sell out every year, and we want to make sure our members are a priority in getting their tickets before anyone else!

In addition to new benefits, WMHM has also added a corporate/organization partnership member level, allowing business owners, schools, or organizations to support the House Museums, receive benefits for their employees, and receive discounted rentals of the Alexander Majors Barn.

Sign up today! wornallmajors.org/support/become-a-member/



Brookside family revels in backyard history

All four find their place at WMHM

A Brookside native, Jennie Hanna grew up visiting the John Wornall House and was eager to share the experience with her own family. She and her husband, Philip Stephens, found the Wornall and Majors Houses provided the kinds of laid-back, intellectually stimulating, and imaginative opportunities for play and discovery they desired for their sons, Walker (13) and Garrett (9). Jennie describes the museums as a place to “unplug” and step back from the 21st century. Walker's first Wornall House visit was when he was small enough to be carried through during a Ghost Tour. As soon as he was old enough, Philip and Jennie enrolled him in Wornall/Majors summer day camp. According to his parents, Walker loved Camp so much that attendance became an annual tradition for both boys.

For Garrett and Walker, the relationships formed with staff and the friends they met at Camp encouraged them to become further involved. The experience of Camp impacted all four; Phillip and Jennie both cite the warmth and welcoming attitudes of staff when asked what motivated their family to stay involved.

The Stephens-Hanna family are perhaps predisposed to an interest in the Wornall and Majors Houses. Raised in Kearney, Missouri, Philip traces his interest in the frontier and Civil War era to childhood exposure to Laura Ingalls Wilder's acclaimed Little House books. This sparked a lifelong interest in local history. “She makes fun of me,” he says, gesturing to Jennie, “for the number of books I've read about this stuff.” He is currently working on his third book – a novel set in Missouri at the end of the Civil War. As parents, Philip and Jennie both value the Wornall and Majors Houses as places that bring a complex, difficult period of regional history to life for their children.

Over the years, Walker and Garrett have come into their own as members of the Wornall/Majors volunteer community. You may have seen them both performing at this year's Ghost Tours – Walker as a wounded Union soldier, Garrett as young Frank Wornall. For Garrett, performing reenactments is the best job to have as a volunteer: “I like anything where I get to interact with the people on the tours,”



Jennie Hanna and Philip Stephens pose with their sons, Walker and Garrett Stephens, on the front porch of the John Wornall House. Families like theirs are a vital part of our volunteer community!

he says. I ask him what he thinks he will remember most about his time at the Wornall and Majors Houses when he is grown up. After a moment of contemplation, he says that he will remember that the Houses allowed him to “time travel” into the past, without a machine.



Left: Garrett Stephens, right, and Cooper Most show off period toys during Candlelight Tours in 2015.; Right: Walker and Garrett Stephens, 2018



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