Conference Program

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

40TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE & EXPO

Sept. 22-25, 2026 | West Palm Beach Marriott

Celebrating 40 years of championing and empowering Florida's museums.

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GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

This year, we're **Soaring to New Heights**! Join us for inspiring educational and general sessions designed to spark new ideas and elevate your museum work. Be sure to celebrate with us at the **FAM Awards & Reception on Thursday evening** at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, home of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. Throughout the conference, enjoy special evening events hosted at museums throughout the West Palm Beach area—all included with your conference registration. These gatherings offer a wonderful opportunity to experience local museums, connect with colleagues, and build new professional relationships in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

REGISTRATION OFFICE HOURS

(Ballroom Foyer)

Tuesday, September 22, 12:30 – 5:00 pm
Wednesday, September 23, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm
Thursday, September 24, 8:00 am – 4:15 pm

Closed during lunch each day.

BADGES

Badges must be worn for admission to all FAM events.

CONNECT ONLINE: #FAM2026

Let's be friends…on Facebook, Instagram and X! Follow the FAM Annual Conference and tag your friends in photos so we can all share in the fun. Simply use the official conference hashtag: #FAM2026 in your posts.

GET YOUR PUBLICATIONS OUT THERE

Table space is available in the lobby to display and distribute your museum's publications.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE TOTES

Totes are courtesy of St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum and RLA Conservation. Thank you for the generous sponsorship.

ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE & MARITIME MUSEUM

RLA Conservation of Art & Architecture
Los Angeles Miami

ANNUAL CONFERENCE TRANSPORTATION

NET WEAVE
Social • AI • Digital

This year, transportation is provided by Netweave Social Networking. Please thank them for their support.

SILENT AUCTION

Outbid your museum colleagues to take home that fabulous prize! Auction items will be on display in the Expo Hall. High bidders will be announced at the end of the auction.

VISIT LOCAL RESTAURANTS

A list of local restaurants will be provided as suggestions for lunch on your own and dinner.

EVALUATION FORM

Please help us understand what worked at the conference, what didn't, and what you would like to see next year. You can complete a paper survey for each session you attend and place in the drop box at the registration table. After the conference, we'll email a survey to all attendees as well. Please tell us what you think! Help us continue to develop a conference that meets your needs.

REGISTRATION LIST

Registration lists, complete as of September 18, 2026, accompany your registration materials.

THANK YOU AWARDS COMMITTEE

A special thank you to the FAM Annual Awards Committee members. They review submissions and assist with the awards presentation for special recognition awarded to Florida museums, museum professionals, and other key leaders who help make museums successful. The 2026 committee members are: Tiffany Baker, Andrea Nalls, and Tish Sheesley.

DROPEVENT

Capture the moments that matter! We're using DROPEVENT to collect and share photos from the conference. Snap pictures throughout the day and upload them instantly! All photos will be available in one shared gallery for everyone to enjoy. Just snap the QR code and share directly from your device!
Webpage: dropevent.com/FAM2026
Email: FAM2026@dropevent.com
Subject line will be used as the caption





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HOTEL FLOOR PLAN



THANK YOU REVIEW COMMITTEE

A special thank you to the FAM Program Review Committee members. They play an important role in the conference process by lending their expertise to review proposals, provide feedback, and identify co-presenters. The 2026 committee members are: Victoria Billig, Erin Blankenship, Tiffany La Britt, Rachel Porter, and Grace Robinson.

THANK YOU LOCAL HOST COMMITTEE

Thank you to our local host committee that helps plan and implement our evening events, which are great networking and learning experiences during our conference: Jeremy Johnson with Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum; Katrina Heller with the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum; Rena Blades; and John Blades.

Finally, thank you to FAM staff, Malinda Horton, Gary McKenzie, Daniel Daglis, and Laura Nemmers for their tireless work organizing the annual conference.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Consider organizing a session for the 2027 FAM Annual Conference. The Session Proposal Form will be available online in the fall. Fill out the online form at www.flamuseums.org.

NO SMOKING

Please do not smoke in the registration area, meeting rooms, exhibit hall, or in any of the museums toured during the conference.

RESPONSIBLE DRINKING POLICY

FAM recognizes the value of networking through receptions and social events and the potential for alcohol abuse. FAM encourages responsible drinking. In support of this policy, all receptions and evening events will also offer non-alcoholic beverages. Alcohol will not be served to anyone under the age of 21. Be safe and have fun!

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SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

12:30 – 5:00 pm
Registration Open
Ballroom Foyer

5:00 – 7:30 pm
Flamingo 40 Tiki Party: Soaring to New Heights
Hotel Courtyard

7:30 pm
Dinner on Your Own

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 am – 3:30 pm
Registration Open
Ballroom Foyer

8:30 – 10:00 am
Soaring to New Heights
Welcome & Community Forum {GEN}

10:15 – 11:15 am
Common Grounds Collective
Common Grounds Collective: Education {ED}
Common Grounds Collective: Collections {COL}
Common Grounds Collective: Administration {MGT}
Common Grounds Collective: PR/Marketing {MKT}
Common Grounds Collective: Development {INC}
Common Grounds Collective: Curatorial/Exhibitions {EXH}

11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Keynote Luncheon {GEN}
Henry Morrison Flagler, Inventor of Modern Florida: His Impact and Lasting Legacy

1:15 – 3:15 pm
SESSIONS
New and not-so-new CEO Roundtable: Camaraderie and Solutions {MGT}
At the Core: Adopting Standards for Collections and Museum Management {COL}
How We Make Historically Accurate AI Videos for Museums {CUR/EXH}
The WOW Factor: How Wonder Shapes Visitor Experiences and Communities {COMM ENG}
Why didn't I think of that?! Every Tour Question Answered {ED}
AI-Powered Fundraising for Nonprofits {INC}

3:30 – 5:00 pm
Expo Opening Reception & Networking Event

5:30 – 9:30 pm
Evening Event
Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:30 – 7:30 am
Museum Professionals on the Move
(Group Run/Walk)

8:00 am – 4:15 pm
Registration Open
Ballroom Foyer

8:00 am – 5:30 pm
Expo Open

8:00 – 8:45 am
Breakfast in Expo Hall

8:45 – 10:30 am
Expo Showcase {GEN}

10:30 – 11:00 am
Break in Expo Hall

11:00 am – 12:00 pm
SESSIONS
The Challenges and Opportunities of Operating National Historic Landmarks in Florida {MGT, COL}
Seat of the Muses: An Unexpected Collaboration {COMM ENG}
Soaring Beyond the Field Trip: Elevating K–12 Teacher Support {ED}
State of Florida DHR & DAC Grant Programs {INC}
Building A Docent Program for the Next Generation {EDU,GEN}
10 Reasons Your Social Media Isn't Working {TEC,MKT}

12:00 – 1:30 pm
Lunch on Your Own

12:00 – 1:30 pm
Directors Only Luncheon

1:30 – 2:30 pm
Bring & Brag {GEN}

2:30 – 3:00 pm
Break in Expo Hall

3:00 – 4:00 pm
SESSIONS
Governance Gone Wrong: Three Mistakes That Could Sink Your Museum {MGT}
Exhibit Design Geek-Out: Vendors, Materials, Mounts & Museum Hacks {CUR/EXH}
90 Years of Community Storytelling (Grant) {EDU,COMM ENG}
Motivating the Museum Volunteer {HR}
Beyond the Lecture: Alternative Programming for Community Engagement {COMM ENG} {FIN}
Beyond the Gala: Building Year-Round Engagement Through Recognition Programs {MKT}

4:30 – 5:30 pm
Expo Closing Reception

6:00 – 9:30 pm
Awards Presentation, Reception, and Evening Event
Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, Historical Society of Palm Beach County

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:30 – 9:30 am
Common Grounds Collective: Bringing It All Together — Breakfast & Wrap-up
Common Grounds Collective: Education {ED}
Common Grounds Collective: Collections {COL}
Common Grounds Collective: Administration {MGT}
Common Grounds Collective: PR/Marketing {MKT}
Common Grounds Collective: Development {INC}
Common Grounds Collective: Curatorial/Exhibitions {EXH}

9:30 – 11:00 am
Museum Meet Cutes: Facilitated Roundtables {GEN}

Conference Ends

PLEASE SEE FULL SCHEDULE BELOW FOR MEETING ROOM NAMES AND MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

12:30 – 5:00 pm

Registration Open
BALLROOM FOYER

5:00 – 7:30 pm

EVENING EVENT

Flamingo 40 Tiki Party: Soaring to New Heights
HOTEL COURTYARD

Get ready to kick off the celebration in true Florida style! Join us for a fun-filled 40th Anniversary Tiki Party as we celebrate four decades of the Florida Association of Museums. Enjoy tropical vibes, island-inspired entertainment, great food, refreshing drinks, and plenty of opportunities to mix, mingle, and make memories with your museum colleagues.

Grab your brightest tropical attire, channel your inner flamingo, and get ready to soar to new heights as we celebrate FAM's past, present, and exciting future. 🌴🦩🍹

7:30 pm

Dinner on Your Own
Visit nearby City Place or Clematis Street and have a networking dinner with a friend or new acquaintance. A list of restaurants will be provided.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 am – 3:30 pm

Registration Open
BALLROOM FOYER

8:30 – 10:00 am

Soaring to New Heights Welcome & Community Forum {GEN}
SALONS D–E

Opening Session Breakfast: Soaring to New Heights Welcome & Community Forum: Join us for the Opening General Session where we welcome you to the 2026 FAM Annual Conference and give you an opportunity to network with colleagues in your field. This general session includes a fun activity with guiding questions to get the creative juices flowing. Let's get the conference started right with a networking session that will set the stage for what is to come. New attendees do not want to miss this session!

Rob Overton, Executive Director, UWF Historic Trust & FAM President

Malinda Horton, Executive Director, FAM

Laura Nemmers, Program Manager, FAM Foundation

Breakfast sponsored by:

Creative Arts UNLIMITED INC.

10:15 – 11:15 am

Common Grounds Collective
Expand your professional network and share your expertise at the Common Grounds Collective. Modeled after the Florida Association of Museums webinar series, these dedicated roundtable sessions offer a space to discuss industry trends, voice shared concerns, and find potential project collaborators. Sessions are organized by specialization, including Education, Collections, Administration, PR/Marketing, Development, and Curatorial. Join your discipline's group to build new connections, re-engage with colleagues, and collaborate. We will reconvene at the conclusion of the conference to review key insights and takeaways from each table.

Common Grounds Collective: Education {ED}
SANIBEL 1

Chat with colleagues in the field about industry trends and learning models. Share concerns about engagement, volunteers, or school groups. Discuss ideas about how you can collaborate or possibly share resources with one another on museum educational endeavors! Come prepared with exciting topics, ideas and questions to share to make the most of this open roundtable discussion.

SESSION TRACKS

This year's conference includes topical sessions loosely organized under the following headings:

- Collections {COL}
- Community Engagement {COMM ENG}
- Museum Learning {ED}
- Exhibitions {EXH}
- General {GEN}
- Human Resources {HR}
- Income/Fundraising {INC}
- Administration/Finance/Management {MGT}
- PR/Marketing {MKT}
- Technology {TEC}

Common Grounds Collective: Collections {COL}
GALLERY A

Chat with colleagues in the field about industry trends in cataloging, AI, workflow, or general collections care and exhibition planning. Share concerns about rising costs, climate control, archival supplies, disaster planning and more. Discuss ideas about how you can collaborate with colleagues in your area on sharing resources and creating a network of like-minded individuals. Come prepared with exciting topics, ideas and questions to share to make the most of this open roundtable discussion.

Common Grounds Collective: Administration {MGT}
SANIBEL 2

Chat with colleagues in the field about navigating the day-to-day operations of administration and leadership. Share concerns about combating staff burnout, retaining talent in a competitive job market, working with a board, strategies to keep doors open, visitors engaged and more. Discuss opportunities to pool resources, develop joint advocacy campaigns and strategies for building a better and stronger museum. Come prepared with exciting topics, ideas and questions to share to make the most of this open roundtable discussion.

Common Grounds Collective: PR / Marketing {MKT}
GALLERY B

Chat with colleagues in the field about industry trends using social media strategies, and effective and creative ways to capture the attention of visitors in a competitive market. Share concerns about the use of AI, creating new audience demographics on a tight budget and more. Discuss ideas regarding how you can collaborate with other museums in your area by cross-promoting or possible joint ventures to make your museum better and stronger. Come prepared with exciting topics, ideas and questions to share to make the most of this open roundtable discussion.

Common Grounds Collective: Development {INC}
GALLERY C

Chat with colleagues in the field about industry trends in capturing the attention of major donors. Share concerns about turning major donors and members into sustained partners. Discuss ideas about how to collaborate with area colleagues on multi-institutional grants or fundraising projects that can make your museum a success. Come prepared with exciting topics, ideas and questions to share to make the most of this open roundtable discussion.

Common Grounds Collective: Curatorial / Exhibitions {EXH}
POLO D – E

Chat with your colleagues in the field about industry trends regarding the incorporation of community curated or co-created exhibitions and more. Share concerns about the pressure to deliver "blockbuster" exhibitions on tight budgets. Discuss ideas about how to collaborate on research, deaccessioning, traveling exhibitions or sharing objects in the collection. Come prepared with exciting topics, ideas and questions to share to make the most of this open roundtable discussion.

11:30 – 1:00 pm

Keynote Luncheon {GEN}
SALONS D – E

Henry Morrison Flagler, Inventor of Modern Florida: His Impact and Lasting Legacy

When Henry Flagler first visited Florida, the locals claimed they made their living on "sweet potatoes and consumptive Yankees." But within just 35 years, using his Standard Oil fortune, Henry Flagler had built a transportation system that spanned the state from Jacksonville to Key West, established America's first hotel system all along the way, and made agriculture and tourism the mainstays of the State's economy, an economy that rocketed Florida from perhaps the poorest state in the Nation to an economy today that is larger than that of the entire country of Mexico. Les Sandiford, author of Last Train to Paradise, now in its 44th printing, Harvey Oyer, a fifth generation Floridian and author of an award-winning series of children's books on early Florida, and John Blades, Executive Director Emeritus of the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, whose career there spanned three decades, will discuss Flagler's transformation of Florida and his lasting legacy.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

- *John Blades, Executive Director Emeritus, Flagler Museum*

Following a four-year stint in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, John Blades began a career that spanned more than two decades at one of America's best known Gilded Age historic house museums, Hearst Castle, in San Simeon, California. In 1995 he was appointed the executive director of the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum. Over the next two decades, he oversaw two dozen capital projects that restored Whitehall to its original glory, making it one of the most respected house museums in the nation. During his tenure, the Flagler Museum was re-accredited twice by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and received more than 70 local, state, regional, and national awards. These included the designation of the museum as a National Historic Landmark, the Ross Merrill Award (the only national award for conservation), and numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute for Museums and Library Services, and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2024 Blades' tenure spanning more than half a century as a museum professional was recognized by the Florida Association of Museums with a Lifetime Achievement Award. John Blades retired from the Flagler Museum in 2016. However, in 2022 he returned as the Flagler Museum's executive director, retiring again in 2025.


JOHN BLADES

- *Les Standiford, Best-Selling Author, Nationally Recognized Historian*

Les Standiford is the author of 25 critically acclaimed books, including 10 novels and the New York Times best-selling non-fiction Last Train to Paradise, now in its 40th printing. His novel Spill and his non-fiction work The Man Who Invented


LES STANDIFORD

Christmas, a New York Times Editors' Choice, were made into feature films. The latter starred Christopher Plummer and has been listed by numerous publications as among the Top Ten Christmas films of all time. He is Distinguished University Professor of English and Founding Director of the Creative Writing Program at FIU and holds an MA and PhD from the University of Utah. In Spring 2024 he was named a "Florida Icon" by Florida Trend magazine. His book Battle for the Big Top, which examines the cultural influence of the American Circus, received the 2022 Gold Medal for General Interest Non-Fiction from the Florida Book Awards. His most recent book is Coral Gables: From Bankruptcy to Beauty—an account of the iconic city's creation and the preservation movement to save it.

- *Harvey E. Oyer III, Attorney, Archaeologist and Historian*

Harvey E. Oyer III is a fifth generation Floridian and is descended from one of the earliest pioneer families in South Florida. He is the great-great grandson of Captain Hannibal Dillingham Pierce and his wife Margretta Moore Pierce, who in 1872 became one of the first non-Native American families to settle in Southeast Florida. Oyer is the great-grand nephew of Charlie Pierce, the subject of this book series. Oyer is an attorney in West Palm Beach, Florida, a Cambridge University educated archaeologist, and an avid historian. He served for many years as the Chairman of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County and has written or contributed to numerous books and articles about Florida history. Many of the stories contained in this book series have been passed down through five generations of his family. Oyer has won numerous awards for his Adventures of Charlie Pierce children's book series.



HARVEY E. OYER III

Keynote Luncheon sponsored by:

Keynote Speech sponsored by: Historical Society of Palm Beach County

1:15 – 3:15 pm

SESSIONS

New and not-so-new CEO Roundtable: Camaraderie and Solutions {MGT}

GALLERY A

Geared to new and not-so-new CEOs this roundtable is an opportunity to bring issues, concerns, or things you are noodling on in an environment of peers who are likely considering similar topics at their museum. The roundtable will be facilitated by two experienced directors. The goal is a group discussion with the opportunity to create a network, be less isolated, identify pros, cons, and solutions, and share in the joy and camaraderie of leadership.

Myriam Springuel, Retired Director, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Smithsonian Affiliations

Monica M. Drake, MA, CPM, Historical Museum Operations Manager, Heritage Village Museum & Park, Pinellas County Government

At the Core: Adopting Standards for Collections and Museum Management {COL}

GALLERY B

American Alliance of Museums accreditation is a seal of approval, but it can seem a far-off aspiration when your collections are spilling out of closets and the plan was developed in a different century (if at all). In this workshop session, participants will receive expert support and actionable guidance to develop plans and policies, and learn how to implement them following the AAM Core Standards, regardless of accreditation status or goals.

Rachel Basan Porter, Director, Research and Programming, Florida Historic Capitol Museum

Elise LeCompte, Museum Consultant

Jessica Uelsmann, Senior Registrar, Harn Museum of Art

How We Make Historically Accurate AI Videos for Museums {CUR} {EXH}

POLO D – E

Artificial intelligence is creating new opportunities for museum storytelling, but accuracy remains essential. This session explores how historically accurate AI-generated videos are researched, developed, and reviewed by subject matter experts before reaching museum audiences. Through real-world case studies, attendees will learn how museums can use AI to create engaging visual content that enhances interpretation, supports educational goals, and maintains scholarly integrity.

Kevin Hohl, Chief Executive Officer, AR Machine

Don Ulinski, Creative Director, Augmented Reality Machine, Inc.

Chad Jarae, Lead Cinematographer, Augmented Reality Machine, Inc.

Joe Dooley, Sons of the American Revolution, Louisville, Kentucky

The WOW Factor: How Wonder Shapes Visitor Experiences and Communities {COMM ENG}

SANIBEL 1

Museums are sites of wonder. What if we could design for wonder in ways that have long-reaching impact? In this workshop session we'll talk about why wonder is a fruitful framework for visitor engagement and explore how wonder-centered experiences attract visitors, increase community investment, and deepen the personal and cultural value of museums. You'll participate in a slow looking experience designed to inspire awe and spark creativity and join the conversation.

Katie Nickel, Head of Educational Programs, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

Jennifer Lemmer Posey, Tibbals Curator of Circus, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

Connie Cuadrado, Director of Education, Sarasota Art Museum

Angelica Hull, Director of Grants and Advocacy, Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County

Why didn't I think of that?! Every Tour Question Answered {ED}

SANIBEL 2

Are you curious about how other museums schedule tours, communicate with groups, or manage their docent teams? Join other tour coordinators at this informal guided workshop to get all the behind-the-scenes details! Compare processes, discuss current challenges, and share practical solutions with others who have been there. Bring your laptop and be ready to take notes! From online tour request forms to docent training, no task or topic is too mundane at this roundtable.

Charles Dickens, Manager, Tours and Volunteers, The Florida Holocaust Museum

Yara Lugo, Manager, Education Initiatives and Outreach, The Florida Holocaust Museum



AI-Powered Fundraising for Nonprofits {INC}

GALLERY C

Your donor data holds the answers to raising more. Join fundraising expert Vicki Pugh from Advancement Experts and AI expert Caitlen Macias from BotQueen for this hands-on session. You'll learn how to use Large Language Models like Claude to analyze donor data and make smarter fundraising decisions with confidence. We'll show you how to organize your data into giving tiers so you can see your strengths, gaps, and opportunities clearly. We'll also cover grant writing with AI to draft stronger proposals in less time, and donor communications, showing you how to personalize outreach with AI without losing your voice. By the end, you'll leave with a clearer picture of your donor base and practical tools you can put to work right away. If your team is ready to raise more, this session is for you.

Caitlen Macias, Founder and CEO, BotQueen
Vicki Pugh, CEO, Advancement Experts

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Expo Opening Reception & Networking Event

SALONS A – C

Join us in the Expo Hall for the Opening Reception where you can visit with our vendors and enjoy light fare. We will also have some networking opportunities for you to meet and greet new people in the field!

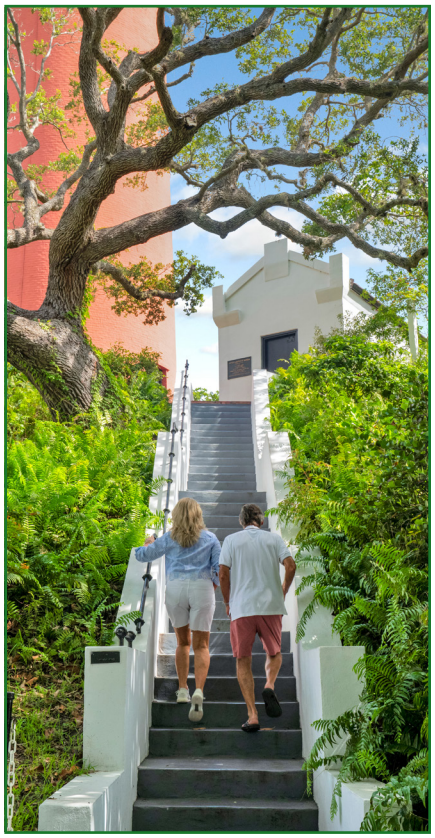
Sponsored by:

CONSTELLATION florida

5:30 – 9:30 pm

EVENING EVENT

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum



Join us for an evening at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum! Stroll through our beautiful historic grounds and step inside exhibits that bring the region's history to life, including the Tindall Pioneer Home and Lighthouse Keeper's Workshop. As the sun sets, experience a special evening climb of our iconic 1860 lighthouse and take in breathtaking views of the Jupiter Inlet and surrounding landscape. Join us for an evening of delicious food, refreshing drinks, and great company. Please note it will be a Cash bar of wine/beer.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:30 – 7:30 am

Museum Professionals on the Move (Group Run/Walk)
MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY

Join your colleagues for a fun group run/walk at a conversational pace. We'll follow an out-and-back route along Clear Lake so you can control your own distance and timing.

8:00 am – 4:15 pm

Registration Open
BALLROOM FOYER

8:00 am – 5:30 pm

Expo Open
SALONS A – C

8:00 – 8:45 am

Breakfast in Expo Hall
SALONS A – C

Join us in the Expo Hall for a continental breakfast and network with your colleagues and exhibitors.

Breakfast sponsored by:

Creative Arts UNLIMITED INC.

8:45 – 10:30 am

Expo Showcase {GEN}
SALONS D – E

Vendors will have the opportunity to showcase their business in speed round presentations. Come learn all about our fabulous Expo Vendors and learn what they can do for your museum.

10:30 – 11:00 am

Break in Expo Hall
SALONS A – C

Join us in the Expo Hall for a break from your morning sessions. Enjoy a light snack and drink, and visit with your colleagues and exhibitors.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

SESSIONS

The Challenges and Opportunities of Operating National Historic Landmarks in Florida {MGT} {COL}
GALLERY A

Steven High, Executive Director of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and John Blades, former Executive Director of the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum will discuss how the form of ownership and governance of the institutions they oversaw greatly affected a variety of factors relating to the operation of those historic sites and museums: including membership and fundraising, paid staff and volunteer management, and budgeting.

John Blades, Executive Director Emeritus, Henry Morrison Flagler Museum

Steven High, Executive Director, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

Seat of the Muses: An Unexpected Collaboration {COMM ENG}
GALLERY B

Discover a museum–university partnership that invites Creative Writing students to create original poems, stories, and illustrated displays based on collection objects. Grounded in Falk and Dierking's Contextual Model of Learning, the program meaningfully integrates personal, socio-cultural, and physical contexts through student-driven curation. Participants gain experience in research and writing, while the museum benefits from fresh interpretive content and expanded engagement. Presenters will outline the methodology and resources needed to bring this program to your institution.

Jayme Jamison, Program Coordinator, Bartow Executive Airport

Soaring Beyond the Field Trip: Elevating K–12 Teacher Support {ED}
SANIBEL 1

This session explores how The Ringling reimagines school tours as standards-aligned, educator-centered experiences that support K–12 classrooms. By offering clear learning outcomes at booking, streamlining logistics, and reducing financial barriers through free admission and bus support, the program strengthens access and instructional value. Participants will gain adaptable strategies to design scalable, equitable tour systems that deepen partnerships with teachers and transform field trips into meaningful extensions of classroom learning.

Brooke Keller, School and Teacher Program Coordinator, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

Emma Driggers, Education and Engagement Coordinator, Manatee Village Historical Park

State of Florida DHR & DAC Grant Programs {INC}
SANIBEL 2

Successful grant applications to the Florida Department of State's Division of Arts & Culture {DAC} and Division of Historical Resources {DHR} help museums improve services to their communities. Learn more about these funding opportunities and what it takes to develop competitive applications to support programs, exhibitions, historic preservation, and other projects.

Teri Abstein, PhD., FCCM, Assistant Director, Florida Department of State, Division of Arts & Culture

Alexa Wilson, Historic Preservation Grant Specialist, Division of Historical Resources

Nicole Hu, M.A., FCCM, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist, Division of Historical Resources

Building A Docent Program for the Next Generation {ED} {GEN}
POLO D – E

The Florida Holocaust Museum's (FHM) Student Docent and Ambassador Corps trains undergraduate interns as docents to lead tours and represent the museum's mission on campus and in the Tampa Bay community. Join The FHM's Education Team as they share lessons learned from the first two years of this program. Attendees will learn how the

program cultivates a new generation of docents with fresh perspectives and practical experience and how they can build similar partnerships with local universities.

Yara Lugo, Manager, Education Initiatives and Outreach, The Florida Holocaust Museum

10 Reasons Your Social Media Isn't Working {TEC} {MKT}

GALLERY C

10 Reasons Your Social Media Isn't Working explores the most common mistakes that keep organizations from turning social media activity into meaningful results. This session looks beyond likes and follower counts to examine why content fails to connect, including unclear goals, inconsistent messaging, weak storytelling, poor audience targeting, ineffective content choices, and an overreliance on promotional posts. Participants will learn how to recognize what is holding their social media back, understand what audiences actually respond to, and make practical changes that improve engagement, strengthen their brand, and turn social media into a more effective communication and marketing tool.

Kevin McNulty, President & CEO, NetWeave Social Networking

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Lunch on Your Own

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Directors Only Luncheon

BISTRO 1001, PRIVATE DINING ROOM

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Bring & Brag {GEN}

SALONS D – E

In this fun and engaging session, various museum representatives share a program or activity of which they are particularly proud. Multiple 5-minute presentations not only allow our colleagues to pat themselves on the back, but also inspire innovation, creativity, and dedication. Presenters are pre-registered.

Sponsored by: CONSTELLATION florida

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Break in the Expo Hall

SALONS A – C

Sponsored by: AMELIA ISLAND MUSEUM OF HISTORY — UNLOCK THE PAST

3:00 – 4:00 pm

SESSIONS

Governance Gone Wrong: Three Mistakes That Could Sink Your Museum {MGT}

SANIBEL 2

Good governance is often discussed in theory—best practices, bylaws, board matrices. This session takes a different approach: an honest, first-hand account of three serious governance mistakes I have witnessed or been part of over the course of my career, each one severe enough to threaten an organization's survival. One of them did. Through these real stories, we'll unpack what went wrong, why it went that far, and—most importantly—what boards and executives can do differently to catch these failures early or avoid them altogether. This is a candid, discussion-based session for museum leaders who want to move past governance clichés and into the messy, high-stakes reality of ensuring that an institution thrives.

Rena Blades, President, Delos Consulting

Exhibit Design Geek-Out: Vendors, Materials, Mounts & Museum Hacks {CUR} {EXH}

SANIBEL 1

Get nerdy with exhibition design in this interactive resource exchange. Share and discover favorite vendors, materials, hardware, mounting solutions, fabrication techniques, accessibility accommodations, digital tools, online resources, and visitor engagement strategies. Facilitators and participants alike will contribute practical tips and trusted recommendations for building great exhibit design, creating a crowd-sourced toolbox of real-world solutions. Leave with new contacts, fresh ideas, and resources you can immediately apply to exhibitions of any size and budget.

Véronique Côté, Executive Director, Florida Atlantic University Galleries

George Schwartz, Conservator/President, ConservArt, Inc.

90 Years of Community Storytelling (Grant) {ED} {COMM ENG}

POLO D – E

Drawing on 90 years of collecting at the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, this session explores how collections and historic places can inspire innovative public programming. Through examples including traveling trunks, Pop-Up Portable Presentations (POPPs), mock trials conducted in a historic courthouse, and cemetery tours, presenters will share practical strategies for transforming institutional assets into engaging educational experiences that strengthen community connections and expand museum audiences.

Erica Grant, Director of Curatorial Affairs, Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Kalani Rasouli, Director of Research and Archives, Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Casey Lipschutz, Education Coordinator, Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Rhonda Gordon, Director of Outreach and Volunteer Services, Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Motivating the Museum Volunteer {HR}

GALLERY A

Did your volunteer just tell your Executive Director how to do their job better? Museums of all sizes are dependent on volunteers. Bring your challenges and solutions to this lively discussion as we explore the rewards of motivating the various museum volunteer demographics. Together we will gain insight into how other professionals handle similar situations in their organizations and develop ideas to bring back to our institutions.

Joleen Koehly, Curator of Art & History, Flamingo Gardens

Allie Leydon, Community Engagement Manager, The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature



PALM BEACH COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

★ Beyond the Lecture: Alternative Programming for Community Engagement {COMM ENG} {FIN}

GALLERY B

The Boca Raton Historical Society/Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum is constantly exploring new methods of increasing membership, attendance, and funding for our museum. Staff will share some of our recent offerings including hits and misses and how to integrate our core belief that sharing local history is key to building a sense of community.

Susan Gillis, Curator, Boca Raton Historical Society/Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum

Olivia Hollaus, Executive Director, Boca Raton Historical Society/Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum

★ Beyond the Gala: Building Year-Round Engagement Through Recognition Programs {MKT}

GALLERY C

What if your gala, awards ceremony, anniversary, or milestone event could become much more than a single night? Using the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame as a case study, this interactive session explores how recognition programs can become year-round platforms for storytelling, relationship-building, media outreach, sponsor and partner engagement, and institutional visibility. Participants will discover practical ways to uncover stories and engagement opportunities before, during, and long after an event concludes. The session will also include a fun, hands-on creative activity designed to get participants thinking outside the box about engagement and storytelling, and inspire fresh ideas they can take back and apply to their own organizations.

Lauren Parker, Strategic Communication and Engagement Manager, Florida Inventors Hall of Fame

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Expo Closing Reception

SALONS A – C

Join us for the Expo Hall Closing Reception with light fare. Enjoy an opportunity to visit with vendors and your colleagues and make a last-minute bid on an auction item!

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FAM MACHINE

6:00 – 9:30 pm

Awards Presentation, Reception, and Evening Event

Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, Historical Society of Palm Beach County

Join us for a special evening at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, home of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks as we gather with colleagues and friends to celebrate Florida's museum community. Explore this beautiful museum and its fascinating history while we recognize the outstanding achievements of our colleagues through the **FAM Awards presentation**. It's an evening of celebration, connection, and appreciation—and a wonderful way to celebrate FAM's 40th Anniversary!

Awards Sponsored by:

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:30 – 9:30 am

Common Grounds Collective: Bringing It All Together — Breakfast & Wrap-up

SALONS D – E

Throughout the conference, the Common Grounds Collective provided an opportunity to connect with colleagues, exchange ideas, and explore shared challenges and opportunities across the museum field. At the conclusion of the conference, we'll come together once more to hear key insights and takeaways from each discipline-based roundtable. Discover what your colleagues are thinking, celebrate the connections you've made, and leave with new ideas, perspectives, and potential collaborations to carry forward into your museum work.

- **Common Grounds Collective: Education {ED}**
- **Common Grounds Collective: Collections {COL}**
- **Common Grounds Collective: Administration {MGT}**
- **Common Grounds Collective: PR/Marketing {MKT}**
- **Common Grounds Collective: Development {INC}**
- **Common Grounds Collective: Curatorial/Exhibitions {EXH}**

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9:30 – 11:00 am

Museum Meet Cutes: Facilitated Roundtables {GEN}

SALONS D – E

Looking for meaningful connections with your colleagues? Have a burning question but not sure where to find the answer? Join us for small-group, focused conversations about the hottest topics being discussed in the sector today. Take a seat at the table with the topic of your choice and collaborate, share ideas, and troubleshoot problems in a flexible, informal setting.

Tiffany Baker, Museum Director, Florida Historic Capitol Museum

Conference Ends

VENDORS AND CONSULTANTS

ADM2 EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS AND AR MACHINE, INC.

BOOTH NUMBER: 10

Kevin Hohl, CEO, AR Machine, Inc.

Christine Renc-Carter, Executive Director, Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art at St. Petersburg College

ADM2 Exhibits & Displays and AR Machine bring together physical craftsmanship and digital innovation to create engaging museum experiences. ADM2 is a full-service exhibit house specializing in museum design, fabrication, installation, large-format printing, vinyl graphics, signage, and custom environments. AR Machine creates immersive digital experiences through interactive touchscreens, augmented and virtual reality, custom software, and emerging technologies. For more than seven years, our companies have partnered on over 100 projects for museums, universities, and cultural institutions. Together, we provide an integrated approach to exhibit development, combining design, fabrication, graphics, technology, and collaborative problem-solving to bring stories to life for museum audiences.

CONSTANT LIFE AI

BOOTH NUMBER:1

David Jeannot, Director of Media, djeannot@constantlife.com

Scott Coloney, Founder & CEO, Computer Biology Labs, scoloney@computerbiologylabs.com

Mohn Malleshappa, Developer, mohang@computerbiologylabs.com

Shreyas Patil, Developer, shreyash@computerbiologylabs.com

ConstantLife.AI brings history to life through immersive AI-powered conversations, helping museums connect visitors with the past like never before. From speaking with an AI-powered George Washington to future exhibits featuring your own collections, we turn static displays into living dialogue—deepening engagement and creating unforgettable, personal connections between museums and their audiences.
Questions or partnership inquiries: support@constantlife.com

CONSTELLATION CULINARY GROUP

BOOTH NUMBER:2

Danielle Buxton, Director of Business Development, danielle.buxton@constellationculinary.com

John Dangaran, District Manager, john.dangaran@constellationculinary.com

Sharla Evans, District Manager, sharla.evans@constellationculinary.com

Constellation is a trusted culinary and hospitality partner to Florida's leading cultural institutions, including the Norton and Pérez Art Museum. Through cafés, full-service dining and events, we create tailored programs that elevate the guest experience, reflect each institution's mission, generate earned revenue and deliver memorable moments through exceptional hospitality.

CREATIVE ARTS UNLIMITED

BOOTH NUMBER:3

Chuck Stanmore, CEO, chucks@creativeartsinc.com

Roger Barganier, President, rbarganier@creativeartsinc.com

Creative Arts Unlimited is a comprehensive design, build and installation firm that transforms ideas into inspiring destinations. For more than 25 years, we have worked on our own or collaboratively with other designers and builders to create consistently compelling spaces. Museums, hospitals, libraries, corporate headquarters and retailers have all benefitted from the immense professional pride and dedication to quality practiced daily by our artists and craftsmen. Our turnkey approach assures you will be working with the same dedicated team - from design, to build, to installation, to maintenance - and ensures a successful end product.

GOOSEPEN STUDIO & PRESS

BOOTH NUMBER: 4

Nathan Moehlmann, Principal/Creative Director, nwm@goosepenpress.com

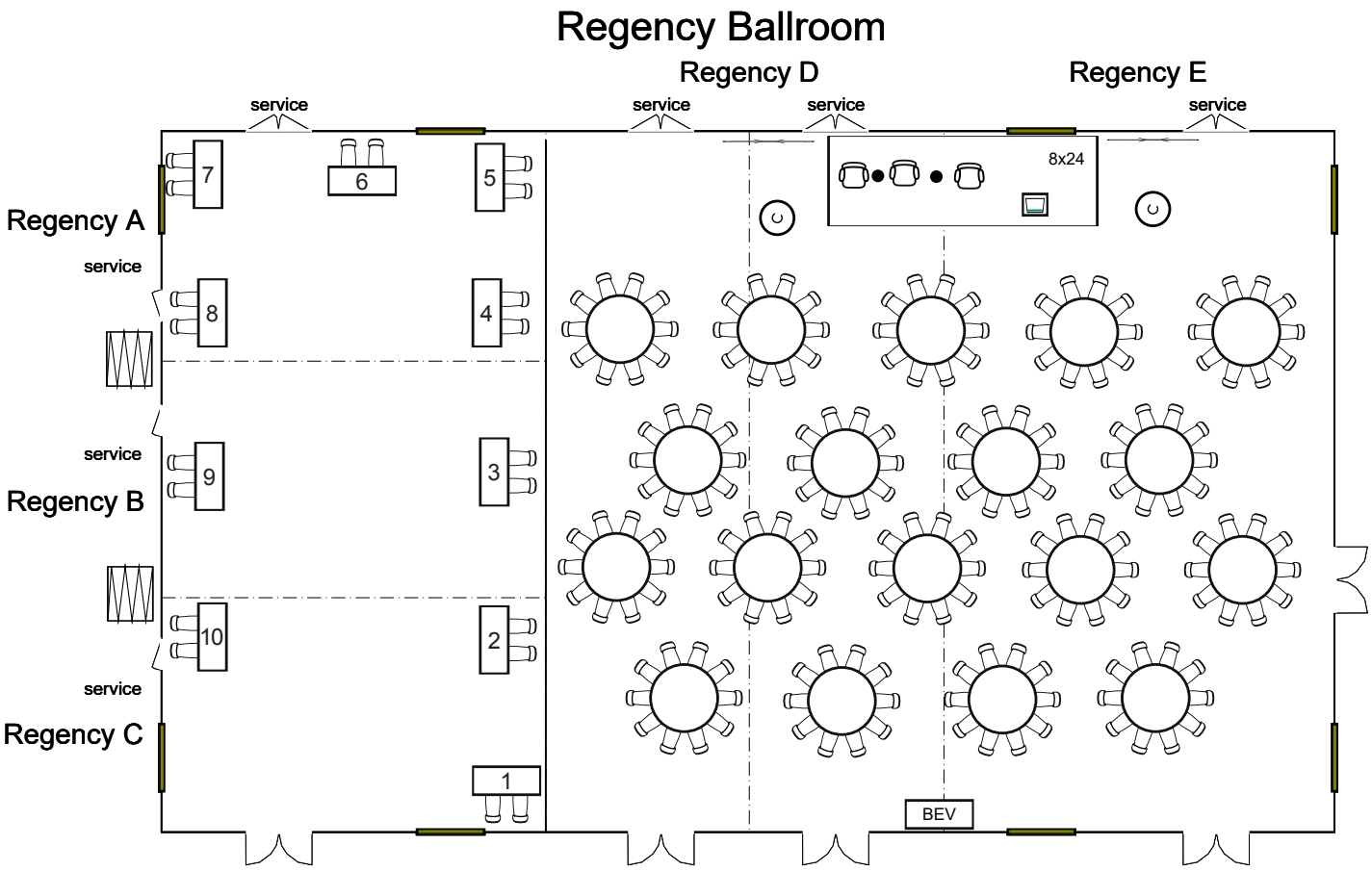
A book design and production studio, Goosepen creates distinctive publications for museums, artists, publishers, and collectors. With the trust and partnership of many wonderful clients, Goosepen books have won state, regional, and national awards. Our services are comprehensive: conceptualization of a book's structure; acquisition of scholarly contributions; editing and proofreading; image rights management; indexing; reproductions (photography and scans); color corrections and image preparation; cover design, interior design, and typesetting; print management; and distribution arrangements. Be in touch! Let's make a book.

GRANT AND FUNDING SOLUTIONS COMPANY (GAFS CO.)

BOOTH NUMBER: 6

Shaundelyn Emerson, Director, Shaundelyn@gafsco.com

Grant and Funding Solutions Company (GAFS Co.) helps nonprofits and local governments secure funding through grant strategy, grant writing, grant management, proposal development, and compliance support. Our team has helped clients secure more than $600 million in funding across infrastructure, public safety, resilience, utilities, parks, museums, historical places, broadband, housing, and community development.



MBA DESIGN & DISPLAY PRODUCTS

BOOTH NUMBER: 8

Mark Fireoved, Regional Sales Manager, mfireoved@mba-usa.com

MBA mila-wall is a modular wall system ideal for changing exhibition spaces, multi-purpose area and traveling exhibits. MBA mila-wall offers flexible design, easy installation, and efficient storage options.MBA offers a cost-effective & sustainable wall solution.

MUSEUM OF FLORIDA HISTORY

BOOTH NUMBER: 5

Sam Wilford, Executive Director, Museum of Florida History, sam.wilford@dos.fl.gov

Jennifer Tobias, Executive Director, Grove Museum, jennifer.tobias@dos.fl.gov

The Museum of Florida History's Traveling Exhibit Program (TREX) offers high-quality and affordable exhibits nationwide. Let us help bring some of Florida's rich history and culture to you.

NETWEAVE SOCIAL NETWORKING

BOOTH NUMBER: 7

Pamela Whitman, VP/COO, pamela@netweaveonline.com

Kevin McNulty, President/CEO, kevin@netweaveonline.com

NetWeave Social is Manatee County's original social media agency, offering a range of services including social media management, AI consulting, training and coaching, and speaking engagements. We emphasize a cosourcing approach, where we handle the majority of social media tasks while clients contribute key content. This collaboration ensures effective and engaging social media strategies. NetWeave also provides analytics and consulting services, and has a diverse client portfolio. Our goal is to help businesses create a professional and impactful social media presence.

NORTHEAST DOCUMENT CONSERVATION CENTER

BOOTH NUMBER: 9

Kathryn Marchese, Marketing Manager, rmarchese@nedcc.org

Founded in 1973, the Northeast Document Conservation Center preserves cultural collections nationwide. The Center offers a range of services and resources on the conservation of paper, Asian art, books, and photographs, as well as digital imaging, audio reformatting, and preservation training. Explore nedcc.org for services and free resources.

The FAM and FAMF Boards Thank You for Attending the FAM 2026 Annual Conference

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Museum of Florida History's Traveling Exhibits (TREX) Program

FLORIDA'S HISTORY *Within Reach*

The TREX program allows cultural institutions and communities nationwide to enjoy a glimpse into Florida's rich heritage. Let us help bring some of Florida's history and culture to you through high quality and affordable traveling exhibits.

SOME HIGHLIGHTED EXHIBITS INCLUDE:



Movie Posters

Alligators: Dragons in Paradise
Florida Movie Posters
Centennial Faces
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Florida in World War II
Holiday Traditions in Florida
The Lure of Florida Fishing
The Maple Leaf: An American Civil War Shipwreck
Seminole People of Florida: Survival and Success
Toys! Florida Kids at Play
Visions of Florida: The Photographic Art of Clyde Butcher
Viva Florida! Florida Before Statehood



Florida in World War II


Visions of Florida: The Photographic Art of Clyde Butcher


Holiday Traditions in Florida


Alligators: Dragons in Paradise

For more information, contact: TREX Coordinator
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850-245-6416 • MFHTrex@dos.fl.gov