

## KMHA Annual Meeting Coming to Owensboro, May 31st-June 2nd



No annual meeting would be complete without opportunities to visit local museums and heritage sites for the opportunity to experience the local community and network with colleagues. This year's annual meeting provides opportunities to see many of Owensboro and the surrounding areas most well-known museums and heritage sites including the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, the Owensboro Area Museum of Science & History and the International Bluegrass Music Museum. One of the event highlights is a Monday evening picnic at the Rosine General Store next door to Bill Monroe's Birthplace. The meeting will end with a trip to the legendary Moonlite B-B-Q Inn. To learn more about the city of Owensboro, visit the Owensboro-Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau at [www.visitowensboro.com](http://www.visitowensboro.com).

Time is running short for you to sign up for the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance annual meeting in Owensboro, May 31st-June 2nd. This year's theme is *Remaining Relevant: Strategies for Sustainability*.

Our keynote speaker is Dave Shuffett, host of KET's *Kentucky Life*, a magazine program featuring profiles of people, places, and ideas. While individual stories focus on local communities, *Kentucky Life* strives to show the connection to the state at large. The end result is a celebration of unique regional characters and cultures which make up the stories of the rich heritage we all share.

The meeting will also include two days of educational sessions covering diverse topics such as audience development, marketing, community development, technology, site expansion and exhibition and program development. A full schedule and description of sessions is available [here](#).

The Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance would like to thank the International Bluegrass Music Museum, the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, the Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History, the Owensboro-Daviess County Convention & Visitors' Bureau and Murphy Catton, Inc. for their support of our annual meeting.

So, what are you waiting for? Visit [www.kymuseums.org/annualmeeting](http://www.kymuseums.org/annualmeeting) to download the registration forms and hotel information, and join us in Owensboro. See you there!



2009 KMHA Annual Meeting Host

## Letter from the KMHA President

One of the benefits of our annual meeting is that we take time away from our hectic schedules to reconnect with old friends and get to know new colleagues. We discuss issues, events, and what is going on back home. Not only do I look forward to the formal side of the annual meeting, but also to those informal gatherings that often lead to an in-depth exchange of ideas. Once again, the program committee has worked hard to create an environment for those conversations by assembling an engaging series of tours, presentations, and social events. Plus, we truly conclude the program with a “taste” of all that the Owensboro area has to offer during our business meeting at Moonlite B-B-Q!

This year’s theme of “Remaining Relevant” is a phrase often heard around many museums and historic organizations. As we begin anew as the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance, we too are facing the challenge of providing the proper support and services expected from our members. Through the diligent work of the staff and board, we have been able to tackle our short term goals within the first year. During the next twelve months, we will shift our focus to our programs. Already, we have begun work on and are excited to participate in the IMLS “Connecting to Collections” project. This project and partnership will bring to bear resources that will allow KMHA to accomplish some of our more ambitious goals. In addition to maintaining our established services, this will make for a very busy, but important year for KMHA.

I hope you seize the opportunity to join us in Owensboro. Our conversations will be much richer with you there!

Scott Alvey  
KMHA President

*Access up-to-date events  
and exhibit calendars at:*  
**www.kymuseums.org**

## Federal Formula Grant Coalition Update

Since our last Bulletin, there has been a great amount of activity regarding the Federal Formula Grants Initiative. If successful, this initiative will allow for direct block grants to states through IMLS reauthorization. The states would then decide how funds are best apportioned.

In December, we informed you that the Coalition was working on draft legislation to potentially submit to congress. In February, the American Association of Museums held its Museums Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. Over 300 museum professionals from all types of museums attended the event. After talking with members of congress, the Coalition and its partners decided a “Museum Champion” was needed on Capitol Hill that could work to persuade his or her fellow legislators of the important work being done in our nation’s museums.

**The board of the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance has actively supported this initiative. On two occasions this year, the KMHA board has been part of an effort to make the case for increased funding for IMLS reauthorization to the new Obama administration and the Capitol Hill committees directly involved in approving these efforts.**

The work for this effort is ongoing. To find out more, as well as how you can help, visit <http://aaslh.org/Federal-FormulaGrant2.htm>.

## Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance to Partner on IMLS “Connecting to Collections” Project

The Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance (KMHA) will partner with the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) on a two-year project titled *Kentucky’s Cultural Heritage: A Statewide Plan for Collections Assessment and Care*. With the support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Statewide Planning Grant for the Connecting to Collections initiative, this unique statewide partnership will work to assess collections care needs in the state as well as develop a plan to provide training, support, and capacity to ensure the ongoing preservation of the state’s heritage.

The partnership will form a statewide task force made up of representatives of museums, historical societies, libraries, and archives in the state that will be charged to carry out activities to meet three goals:

- Initial assessment: This will be done through a statewide survey to assess the status of collections care across the state with supplemental data supplied by select focus groups.
- In-depth assessment: Using the data gleaned from the initial assessment, the task force will create and implement a pilot collections assessment project for three to five organizations across the commonwealth. The results of this intensive assessment will be used to create a statewide collections management plan.
- Disaster planning and preparedness: The task force will create and conduct a series of disaster planning and preparedness workshops across the state. These workshops will help organizations with their disaster planning efforts and assist the task force in creating a statewide disaster response team.

In 2009, the project partners will be selecting task force members to create and implement the initial survey instrument and begin conducting focus groups. In 2010, the in-depth assessment and disaster planning components will be the priority. Ultimately, at the end of the project, Kentucky’s cultural and heritage community will have achieved the following:

- A general assessment of the status of the commonwealth’s cultural and heritage collections
- A process for conducting collections needs assessments for individual institutions
- A plan for providing training to the staff of institutions to improve care and housing of collections
- Disaster training for heritage institutions, an increase in the number of disaster management plans and the implementation of initial steps towards developing a statewide disaster response team

KMHA is pleased to be a partner in such an important project for Kentucky’s museum and heritage community. The work being done in this project can be a help for all of our institutions for years to come. KMHA will keep members up-to-date on all facets of this project as they develop, and we hope that everyone will participate.

