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Ho-Chunk Gaming &
Conference Center, Baraboo

19TH ANNUAL | OCTOBER 15-17, 2025

Local History & Historic Preservation Conference

Common Threads: Weaving Stories Across Time & Place

About the Conference

The 2025 Local History and Historic Preservation Conference will be held at the [Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center](#)

OCTOBER 15-17

2025 Conference Pricing

Wisconsin Historical Society members receive 10% off registration. Discount taken at checkout. Join now at wihist.org/WHSMembership.

Early Bird Registration Rates

through August 18

Two-Day: \$155
Thursday Only: \$105
Friday Only: \$100

Regular Registration Rates

from August 19

Two-Day: \$175
Thursday Only: \$110
Friday Only: \$105

Student Registration Rates

payable before September 30

Student Two-Day: \$70
Student One-Day: \$40

REGISTER NOW!

Hotel Information

A block of hotel rooms has been organized at the Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel & Convention Center with special rates for conference attendees. Reservations are available by calling [\(800\) 746-2486](tel:8007462486) or by booking through the link below. The discounted

REGISTER NOW!

Check back often for announcements and updates on the 2025 conference!

SPEAKERS

SPECIAL EVENTS

SCHEDULE

HIGHLIGHTS

PRICING

HOTEL

PARTNERS

CONTACT

Keynote Speakers

**William Naąwacekǵize
Quackenbush**

*Ho-Chunk Deer Clan Tribal
Member*

*Tribal Historic Preservation
Officer*

*Cultural Resources Division
Manager*

Ho-Chunk Nation

Melanie Adams

Director

**Smithsonian Anacostia
Community Museum**



William Naąwacek ize Quackenbush began a career in the Ho-Chunk Nation Heritage Preservation Department in 1999 as a land specialist focusing on realty, land-into-trust applications, and cultural and natural resource management. In 2004, Quackenbush became the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Ho-Chunk Nation, spearheading the creation of the Nation's THPO program to address tribal preservation needs. Since 2006, Quackenbush has served as both the THPO and the Ho-Chunk Nation Heritage Preservation Department & Cultural Resources Division Manager.

Quackenbush will present "**Indigenous Oral History – Is It Relevant Today?**" The oral history of the Ho-Chunk People reflects upon a direct connection to their ancestral territories, which encompass much of Wisconsin as we know it today. Stories referring to the last glacial episode speak of the Ho-Chunk residing in what they referred to as a place of refuge – what we now know as the beloved Driftless Area. As the



Melanie A. Adams, PhD, currently serves as the Roger Ferguson and Annette Nazareth Director of the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum. Before joining the Smithsonian, Dr. Adams served as the Deputy Director for Learning Initiatives at the Minnesota Historical Society, overseeing the state's 26 historic sites. Prior to Minnesota, she spent 12 years at the Missouri Historical Society as the Managing Director for Community Education and Events. Dr. Adams is an active member of the museum community. She currently serves on the board of Museum Hue and served on the board of the American Association for State and Local History and the Association of Midwest Museums.

Dr. Adams will present "**Weathering Times of Change: How Museums Can Serve Their Communities.**" In today's rapidly changing environment, museums are at a crossroads as they try to navigate the cultural landscape in their community. There are many common issues such as audience

glaciers receded to the north, the Ho-Chunk orally memorialized the environmental change taking place and how they adapted to the environment we now find ourselves experiencing. Listen in as the Ho-Chunk Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer answers the question of how relevant of a role - if any - indigenous oral history plays in the 21st century.

development, fundraising, and how content is interpreted and shared. This keynote will be a conversation that addresses these issues as well as how museums can set themselves up for success and serve the needs of their community.

Session Schedule

Learn more about our upcoming sessions and workshops on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday by downloading our schedule below! Click to view the full three-day schedule!

 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE								
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15								
3:30 - 4:30 P.M.	Wisconsin Council for Local History Board of Directors Meeting, Sauk County Historical Society History Center, 900 2nd Avenue, Baraboo (WCLH Board Members Only)							
5:00 - 6:00 P.M.	Welcome Social Hour, Sauk County Historical Museum at the Van Orden Mansion, 531 4th Avenue, Baraboo							
4:00 - 6:00 P.M.	Conference Packet Pick-Up							
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16								
7:00 - 9:00 A.M.	Registration and Continental Breakfast Resource Center Open							
8:00 - 9:00 A.M.	OPENING PLENARY: Welcome and Wisconsin History Center Update with Christian Øverland							
	Session A	Session B	Session C	Session D	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
9:15 - 10:15 A.M.	Reclaiming History, Reviving Community: The St. James Social Story	The Why and How of Designating Local Landmarks	Indigenous Peoples' Day in Sauk County	Level Up Learning with PBS Wisconsin Education	Developing Collections Care Policies and Procedures: Strategies for Small Museums	Boost Your Web, Social, and Email Skills: Interactive Workshop	Planning to Plan: Envisioning Your Local History Organization's Future with Strategic Planning	Papers, Pictures, and Patrons: Managing a Collection in Cultural Heritage Organizations
10:15 - 10:45 A.M.	BREAK: Resource Center Open, Snacks Served							
10:45 - 11:45 A.M.	Save Your Stones: Cemetery Preservation Basics	Preservation Strategies with Local and National Designation	NAGPRA 101	Putting the Family Back Into the Story: H.H. Bennett Studio				
NOON - 1:00 P.M.	LUNCH & KEYNOTE: Indigenous Oral History – Is It Relevant Today? with William Quackenbush							
	Session A	Session B	Session C	Session D	Session E	Excursion 1	Excursion 2	Excursion 3
1:30 - 2:30 P.M.	Historic Preservation and Latinx History	Lessons in Small and Scrappy Historic Preservation	Making a Meaningful America250	Creating Connections: What Every Good Fundraiser Should Know	Local Government Records and Local Repositories	H.H. Bennett Studio Experience	The Restoration of Ringlingville at Circus World	Sacred Sites
2:30 - 3:00 P.M.	BREAK: Resource Center Open, Snacks Served							
3:00 - 4:00 P.M.	Heritage Tourism: Cultural Identity in Wisconsin Architecture	Lights On! Renovation of the Historic Auditorium in St. Croix Falls	How to Design a Traveling Exhibit for Little Money and Big Impact	No Money, No Mission	Jumpstart Digitization on a Budget			