



Greetings,

My name is Vincent Kitch, and I am the Director of Arts & Cultural Development for the City of Morgantown. There have been some exciting changes going on at the museum and I want to share that information with you.

As of July 1, 2021, the Morgantown History Museum transitioned from under the auspices of BOPARC to the City of Morgantown and became part of the Department of Arts and Cultural Development. Our department includes the museum, historic Metropolitan Theatre, and Ruby Amphitheater at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park. In addition to the city's cultural facilities, we also coordinate public art projects and support arts, culture, and history initiatives and projects with community stakeholders and organizations.

Since July, staff at the museum have updated our pre-history section of the museum and have been working on many updates. We have expanded the hours of the museum to include weekends, which has increased visitorship and made the museum more accessible to residents and visitors. The museum is now open Wednesday-Friday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

We have also been catching up on a backlog of accessions of many new artifacts and have been aided in that effort by a full time AmeriCorps member who has been organizing all of our artifacts and databases, as well as accessioning works and scanning 100s of photos.

This fall, we have partnered with the Public History program at West Virginia University and hosted a number of students who conducted research projects on artifacts in the museum and shared all of their findings with our staff to support our work. We are also working with them to seek funding for graduate students to research and develop exhibits and materials on women and enslaved people in Morgantown for 2023.

Very soon you will see some new programs and exhibits at the museum. In March and April, we will be hosting free Kids and Family Days and a new exhibition on Printmaking in Morgantown. More information on these are included later in the newsletter.

Of course, I would be remiss if I did not thank Pam Ball, long-time champion and leader of the Morgantown History Museum for her tireless efforts to bring the museum to life and to build it to the community treasure it is today. We thank her for her service and wish her the best in her retirement and future endeavors.

Thank you all for your continued support and interest in the Morgantown History Museum. I hope you will all come and see what's happening at the museum soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Vincent E. Kitch'.

Vincent E. Kitch
Director
Department of Arts & Cultural Development



KIDS & FAMILY DAYS

The museum is offering free interactive programs for children ages 8-12 on select Saturdays, listed below.

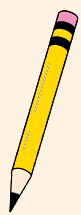
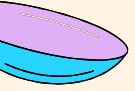


March 5

12 - 1:30 p.m. – Morgantown's Textile Industry
2 - 3:30 p.m. – Morgantown's Mining Industry

March 19

12 - 1:30 p.m. – Native Peoples in Morgantown
2 - 3:30 p.m. – Animals of West Virginia



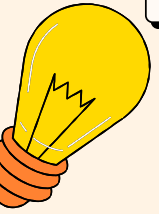
April 2

12 - 1:30 p.m. – Morgantown's Textile Industry
2 - 3:30 p.m. – Morgantown's Mining Industry



April 23

12 - 1:30 p.m. – Native Peoples in Morgantown
2 - 3:30 p.m. – Animals of West Virginia



For more information and to register your child, visit <https://morgantownhistorymuseum.org/>



Staff Expands to Include Full Time AmeriCorps Member

Lee Maddex joined the Morgantown History Museum staff in early September 2021. Lee is an AmeriCorps member and is working full time at the Museum thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of Morgantown History Museum and grants from the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia and Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia. Lee has a MA in History from West Virginia University and brings many years of history-based work experience to this position. His long-term research interest and passion is the Northern West Virginia's historic iron industry. Lee is excited to be at the Museum and helping in the archives.

Lee's first tasks has been cataloging the Museum's backlog of donations. Back logged donations ranged from Morgantown High School yearbooks, William E. Rumsey glass plate negatives, photographs, postcards, Metropolitan Theatre posters, Morgantown made glassware and much more.

Lee has also been working with non-Museum constituents including the West Virginia University Public History program and with fellow AmeriCorps volunteer Autumn Martino, who is developing the Kids and Family Days as part of her AmeriCorps service.

When not working in the Museum's archive, Lee enjoys spending time with his family. He also enjoys hiking at Coopers Rock State Forest, photography, and cooking tasty meals.

Exhibition on Printmaking in Morgantown Opens April 3

A new exhibit titled the **History of Morgantown Printers** will open at the Morgantown History Museum, April 3, 2022. The exhibit, curated by Harold "Swifty" Shaver, long time museum staff member and President of the Friends of Morgantown History Museum, will include ongoing demonstrations at the museum on printing on letterpress printing machines and bookbinding equipment.

Throughout the exhibition demonstrations and presentations will be conducted by Harold "Swifty" Shaver and a number of guest speakers and printers. Guest speakers and demonstrations over the summer will be conducted at the museum and on Facebook live.

Those interested in attending Facebook live events can view the events from the Morgantown History Museum Facebook page [@MorgantownWVHistoryMuseum](#). Details on demonstrations both at the museum and on Facebook will be posted on our website at <https://morgantownhistorymuseum.org/> and our Morgantown History Museum Facebook page.

This exhibit is supported in part by an Organizational Arts Grant is made possible through a collaborative effort between YCF and the Arts Council of Greater Morgantown, with funding from the City of Morgantown, the Monongalia County Commission, and the Douglas H. Tanner Memorial Fund for the Arts.

We would like to thank the following individuals, families, and organizations for their volunteer work and/or their generous contributions to the Morgantown History Museum:

Dr. Gene V. and Sara Jane Ball
WVU I-Serve Program
Charlie Byrer
Morgantown Public Library
Catherine Witworth
John Nutt
Mary Agnes Palmer
Chris Haddox
Arts Fund
Your Community Foundation
BOPARC
West Virginia Black Bears
Wanda Shaver
Furnishings for You
Masman Jewelers
Mountaineer Golf
University Tees
Coombs Florist
Silver Pennies
Chucks Furniture
John DeAngelis
Zack Cruze
Morgantown Running
Norm Jullian
Patricia Dudley
River Fair Trade
Harold Shaver
AL Bonner
The Cupcakerie
Clarion Hotel Morgan
Wamsley Cycle
Appalachian Gallery
Writings of the late Dr. Earl Core

Betty Wiley
Coni & Franc
Sherry McEwuen
Rick McEwuen
Soap Opera
Dr. Emery Kemp estate/Dr. Janet Kemp
WVU Athletic football office
WVU Athletic basketball office
The Book Exchange
Atrias Restaurant
Ron Rittenhouse
Appalachian Gallery
Michael Meszaros
Andrew Xanto
Professor Ron Dulaney
Professor Jeffrey Moser
WVU Architecture and Design
Friends of Morgantown History Museum
WV & Regional History Center, WVU
Charlene Marshall
City of Morgantown
Bourbon Prime Restaurants
Table 9
Lakehouse Restaurant
Sargasso
The Preston Inn
Lakeview Resort Restaurant
WVU Division of Forestry
WVU Department of History
Coopers Rock State Forest
Yale University Dept of History
The Rachael Carson Center

Terri Cutright
Arthur Otieno
James Courtney
Ray Sanders
Heidi Michaels
John Pyles
Charlotte Pyles
Brenda Shinkovich/DAR
Pamela Ball
Beth Young
Neil Burton
Bill Kawecki
Morgantown Museum Commissioners
Monongalia County Commission
James Brown & Family
Roby & Carol Young
Andrew Lohmann
Darryl DeGrippe
Andrea Ice Horton
Craig Falkenstein
Michael Attfield
Forks of Cheat Winery
Cathedral State Park
Old Hemlock Foundation
WVU Core Arboretum
Friendship Hill Historic site
Nick Hein
Morgantown Art Party
Lisa Elmaleh
Rhonda Fout
Bee Patricia Meola
Richard-Lehner
Mary Jane Coulter
Louis Birurakis

Special thanks to James and Susan Abrams for their \$100 donation and to whoever sent a \$500 anonymous donation!

Membership Application

The Morgantown Museum Commission invites you to join the Friends of Morgantown History Museum to help promote and preserve the rich history of Morgantown and the surrounding area.

Annual Memberships

\$25.00 Individual _____
\$30.00 Family _____
\$50.00 Corporate _____

Additional Contributions:

\$ _____
Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone () _____
E-mail: _____

Mail to:

Friends of the Morgantown History Museum
175 Kirk Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

NOTE: OUR EMAIL HAS CHANGED

TO morgantownwvhistory@icloud.com
Also our new hours are:

Wednesday-Friday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

To donate objects or to volunteer some time, please contact the Morgantown History Museum at (304) 319-1800 or at morgantownwvhistory@icloud.com
To make a monetary donation, go to <https://npo.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=26-0859732>. or send donation directly to MHM, 175 Kirk St, Morgantown, WV 26505.