Montminy Gallery Welcomes New Director

Chris Campbell, Executive Director & Mary Ellen Lohmann, Director, Administration & Communications

We are very excited to have successfully recruited Betsy Knabe Roe as the new director and curator of the Montminy Gallery at the Boone County History & Culture Center. She started on May 1.

Roe brings more than 20 years of arts administrative experience to this position. She comes to us from the Sabatini Gallery in Topeka, Kansas, where she was the associate curator.

Roe is also a longtime fiber artist and an instructor of art at Washburn University and a number of other colleges and universities throughout the Midwest.

She received her a bachelor’s degree in fine arts, with a focus on ceramics, from the University of Missouri in 2000 and her master’s in fine arts in fiber from MU in 2004.

She was a student of Dr. Jo Stealey, BCHS board director and interim Montminy Gallery director, in her post graduate years.

“Her expertise as a practicing artist, gallery director, preparator, collection specialist, arts educator and community outreach coordinator, among other skills make her the ideal individual to lead the Montminy Gallery into the future,” Stealey said.

“She will make it possible to continue to schedule exhibitions of dynamic local and regional artists as well as highlight works from our permanent collection.”

In Topeka, Roe held an endowed professorship, which included teaching a variety of college art classes and leading art outreach to elementary schools throughout the state of Kansas.

“Her expertise in community outreach will enhance how we touch the lives of underserved members of our community,” said Chris Campbell, BCHS executive director.

“The staff, Montminy Gallery Advisory Council and our volunteers are excited to develop and execute a vision that makes the Boone County History & Culture Center and the Montminy Gallery an exciting destination for all ages.”

Roe’s leadership will be indispensable in fulfilling that vision. Her expertise in the visual arts, experience as a working artist and passion for making the arts accessible will be key to our growth. She is looking forward to forming relationships and building an expanding community of artists and art lovers based on inclusivity and diversity.

Please join us in welcoming her by attending an upcoming art event to meet her in person or by sending a note to her attention at the History & Culture Center, 3801 Ponderosa Street, Columbia, MO 65201.

Record Setting Attendance

The family events are growing! The “Traveling the Trails” event on April 15 brought 127 people to the History & Culture Center.

More on page 4.
Hall of Fame Enshrinee, BCHS Advocate Remembered

Chris Campbell, Executive Director

I am saddened to have to share yet another loss of a dear friend to the Boone County Historical Society. Sabra Tull Meyer passed away on April 5, 2023, yet her impact will live on in this organization and our community for decades to come.

Sabra led two amazing lives, one as a wonderful mother and wife raising four kids and a second as a nationally known sculpture artist. Many don’t know that it wasn’t until Sabra’s youngest child was in high school in the mid ’70s that she returned to Mizzou to earn her Masters of Arts in 1979 and Masters of Fine Arts in 1982. This was then, thankfully, she began to focus on sculpture.

In early 2020 we announced that Sabra would be added to the Boone County Hall of Fame to forever recognize her for that outstanding artistic legacy.

Yet, with the pandemic, our best laid plans had to be set to the side and the 2020 gala was cancelled. When we finally gathered together in October 2021 to honor both the 2020 and 2021 enshrinees, Sabra was vibrant and her effervescent presence throughout that night will stay with me forever. I am so glad we were able to celebrate Sabra’s addition to the Boone County Hall of Fame while she was here to enjoy the festivities.

A native Boone Countian, Sabra created bronze sculptures for more than 40 years and completed her final bronze in her 95th year—a sculpture of Rose Philippine Duchesne, a French nun who aided citizens across the Show-Me State in the first half of the 19th century.

Sabra is likely best known for her Lewis and Clark Monument in the Capitol Complex in Jefferson City and 10 individual busts for the Hall of Famous Missourians in the state capitol. Yet, she has also created seven busts for the Kansas City Chiefs Hall of Fame in Arrowhead Stadium, and sculptures for the Missouri Supreme Court building, Stephens College, the Columbia Public Library and Columbia Public Schools, among many others.

Sabra is a descendant of the prominent Niedermeyer family. I am so proud that she chose us to help preserve artifacts from the local leading family. She donated special items over the years, but an extremely wonderful one arrived after her death—an original portrait and pilot wings of Frederick W. Niedermeyer, Jr. as well as an original brochure promoting the Frederick Apartment building at 1001 University Avenue in Columbia.

Niedermeyer was considered one of the top three pilots in the United States air service in 1922, when he was tragically killed in a flying accident.

After Niedermeyer’s death, his father a real estate developer and former Columbia mayor, dedicated the Frederick Apartment building to his late son.

We were honored to be a friend of Sabra’s and will ensure that her legacy, and that of the Niedermeyer family, continues on through the generations.

BCHS Membership Challenge: Refer a Friend, Earn Gift

The only cultural center of its kind focused solely on Boone County, we are volunteer-driven institution serving each individual who walks through our doors—without admission. Your membership dues and donations make that possible! We know you have friends, family and business acquaintances who also believe that a community resource offering opportunities to experience our vibrant heritage is worth supporting. We need your help to reach them!

So, we are offering a challenge with a reward for your efforts. Please reach out to your network and encourage friends to join you as a member of the Boone County Historical Society.

Encourage them to join at the $100 Patron level to maximize their benefits. When they do, ask them to list your name and you can have your choice of a $50 Center Store gift card or two tickets to any concert in 2023.

This applies to individual/family and corporate memberships as long as it is a $100 Patron Membership or above. Your name must be listed when the membership is purchased. The membership form includes a line to list a referral, both on the hard copy version and at BooneHistory.org/Membership.

Once the membership is completed with your referral information, a BCHS staff member will reach out to see what thank you gift you would prefer.

Thank you in advance for your support in this fun, new initiative.
The Montminy Gallery’s new exhibition, TAUT, featuring fiber art will run May 24–July 15.

You are invited to join us for an opening reception from 5:00–7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 25 or stop by and see it anytime the gallery is open, Wed-Sat from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Traditionally, taut is defined as tightly stretched. In fiber processes taut describes the tension required in many fibers processes.

The discipline of “fiber” incorporates many processes—weaving, hand dyed cloth, stitching, printing, handmade paper, mixed media and much more.

The Montminy Gallery is pleased to feature current and former students who have been mentored in the MU School of Visual Studies fiber program by professor emerita Jo Stealey or professor C. Pazia Mannella.

The homophone—taut/taught—suggests this mentor mentee relationship. The work of these artists includes many textile and mixed media processes as well as a range of conceptual issues—sense of place, the natural environment, physical and psychological states, storytelling, insights into aspects of American culture, personal identity, memory and more.

The choice of materials and processes utilized in the work are integral to the meaning of each piece. The development of this visual language is part and parcel to the MU fiber program and is reflected in the work of all these artists. They reflect their personal views of the world we live in and are portraying a very personal form of visual poetry.

The Montminy Gallery is pleased to present the work of MU faculty as well as current and former students: Mannella, associate professor, head of fiber program; Annie Helmericks, master’s in fine arts, fiber; Betsy Knabe Roe, master’s in fine arts, fiber; Cynthia Evans, former candidate, master’s in fine arts, fiber; Sophie Pickering, current candidate, master’s in fine arts, fiber; Marina Cano, current candidate, master’s in fine arts, fiber; Farëna Saburi, current candidate, master’s in fine arts, painting and drawing; Breana Mitchell, current post baccalaureate bachelor’s in fine arts, fiber; Kailyn Hill, current candidate, bachelor’s in fine arts fiber.

Above Private Public Matter was created in 2022 by Farëna Saburi. This large piece is oil and acrylic paint on canvas, with frayed canvas threads.

Left Core Remains Series, #322 by Betsy Knabe Roe is constructed of cast Kozo paper, gold leaf and pastel.
Volunteers Needed After Record Setting Family Event

Mary Ellen Lohmann, Director, Administration & Communications

The family events are growing! The “Traveling the Trails” event on April 15 brought 127 people to the History & Culture Center, with 116 attendees and 11 volunteers who shared their time and talents.

It was a busy, fun day for all. Families learned about the trails both in mid-Missouri and nationwide from members of the Boone’s Lick Road Association and the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Children tested out items settlers carried in their wagon, made wagon wheel ornaments and helped navigate Lewis & Clark’s boat toward the Big Tree, aka the McBaine Bur Oak. There was even a guest to explain how train lines like the Katy Trail followed the old pioneer trails.

Even with great volunteer help in April, we still need more! Not every single date works for every volunteer, so we are building a team of people to help us continue this success. There are a variety of roles, from greeting guests at the front door to assisting with activities or even cleaning up after the program. For more information, fill out the form at BooneHistory.org/Volunteer or call the Center at 573-443-8936.

These upcoming events are designed for all ages and are “come and go.” So, stop by and spend 15 minutes—or as long as you like—between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

On May 13, we’ll learn about Jumping Origami. Paper can be transformed into frogs, exploding volcanos and even dueling wrestlers. Visit to discover more about this Japanese art of paper folding. Attendees will make origami, learn more about Asian culture and how international programs have made our community more vibrant and interconnected for decades.

Rollin’ Rivers is the focus on June 10. Attendees will explore how rivers are a source of water, food, fun and inspiration. Visit to learn how Missourian Mark Twain crafted life lessons on the river’s edge. Then have fun creating fish and frogs!

Learn how Fourth of July celebrations have changed over the generations from pioneer picnics to today’s fireworks on July 8. See how the American story is told in different art forms and make your own paper flag and “funworks” overflowing with red, white and blue! Stay long enough and you can try games colonial children would have played in 1776!

Clockwise (from top left) A boy navigates Lewis & Clark’s boat toward the McBaine Bur Oak. A mother helps her child create a wagon ornament. Families work together to create crafts. Volunteer Lynn Hill shares how quilts have been used since the west was settled as a way to keep warm and as a form of art.
Volunteer Spotlight: Julie Kalaitzandonakes

The work of the Boone County History & Culture Center simply would not be possible without incredible volunteers. This special section highlights an individual who goes above and beyond to serve our community and help ensure the future of this organization.

How long have you been volunteering?
I think it is five years now, maybe more. Time flies when you are having fun!

Why do you choose to help preserve and share Boone County’s history and culture?
Friends (Mike and Sharon Lynch) of BCHCC asked me to join them at the Gala. I remember Darwin Hindman won an award, and I saw and met lots of friends that night.

Why should someone support BCHS?
If we as Boone Countians don’t support and care about the Boone County History & Culture Center “neighborhood”—who will? Fred Rogers said “Taking care is one way to show your love. Another way is letting people take good care of you when you need it.”
This is how we take care of our youth and elders. This is how we take care of ourselves and allow others to know and take care of us also.

Why are history and culture important to you?
I grew up reading Little House on the Prairie books and the first year that I worked the Heritage Festival with Dick Otto it was like stepping back in time. I learned about “the bone crusher”; Tom Bass’s humane horse bit and saw kids eyes light up as Dick “talked stories”!! I feel like we have a shared our interests with the community that lives in Boone County—history and education are so important!

Why would you tell someone else to volunteer at the Boone County History & Culture Center?
Because we need you and it is so fun!! I’ve always felt welcome, well trained and supported by the other volunteers and History & Culture Center employees.
I started with the Traveling Trunk program for three years and continue to try to support it and the new Family Saturdays, which Sarah Poff runs beautifully.
When I wanted to change to something else, then president Karen M. Miller sat down with me to learn about what Traveling Trunk was doing and pick my brain for ideas to assist with the transition to a new volunteer leader (yea, Sarah!).

Anyway, she asked what else I might like to do and I mentioned how much I would like to work with the Boone Junction Village.

Hearing this she hooked me up with Bill Powell’s group. A need came up for writing a grant in our second meeting that I thought I could do for History & Culture Center. This is how we got the Easley Store professionally painted by Odneal Painting Service.

From there I went through training on the front desk. I am not able (yet) to pick up a consistent half day, but I let Madeline know I could help fill in with last minute unfilled shifts. I love how automated the process is, with the SignUp app you can see who is working, what shifts are open and the work is never the same and never dull. Join us!

Has anything about volunteering surprised you?
How many friends I have made.

What accomplishment here at the Center are you most proud to have been part of making possible?
Stepping in and helping Traveling Trunk for three years, and then walking away and letting the new leadership take it to the next level. Or it could be getting rid of the poison ivy at the stairs of the McQuitty House.

Anything else you’d like to share?
Ummm, I’m a new grandmother?! See the adorable picture!

Join Julie! There is currently a great need for volunteers to serve the Boone County History & Culture Center at the front desk and in the Waters Digital Imaging Lab. All training is provided. To get started, fill out the form online at BooneHistory.org/Volunteer or contact the Center at 573-443-8936 or Info@BooneHistory.org.
Montminy: Mural, Mural on the Wall
Jo Stealey, Interim Montminy Gallery Director

Featured through summer 2023 on the Montminy Gallery’s Tracy Montminy wall is a new exhibition, *Tracy Montminy: Mural, Mural on the Wall*. In 1948, artist and educator Tracy Montminy joined the University of Missouri Department of Art. She brought with her a national reputation and over a decade of professional experience, having painted largescale murals at city halls, public buildings, and post offices for the Works Project Administration in the 1930s.

After a resurgence of mural popularity in the 1960s, Montminy revisited the idea of a mural course and was granted permission by MU to develop the course in 1976. However, she faced a problem: the students did not have a wall to paint. The dilemma was solved when Dr. Abraham Eisenstark, then director of Biological Sciences, approached the art department with an idea for a collaborative project. Eisenstark wanted to promote the newly formed Department of Biological Sciences, a merger of Botany, Zoology and Genetics, plus students and faculty had complained to him about the ugly and cold concrete walls of the south staircase in Tucker Hall. The result was an intricate mural on the staircases that marries elements of art and science and offers an inventive interpretation of the elements of life and its evolution.

The exhibition features the research done to develop the mural, images of the final mural along with several featured articles about Tracy and the execution of the mural itself. A very special thanks to guest curators from the MU School of Visual Studies Art History program—Kristin Schwain, professor; Lorinda Bradley, visiting assistant professor; and Mary Karcher, PhD candidate.

Leap of Faith: Office Renovations Starting, Help Needed

Chris Campbell, Executive Director & Mary Ellen Lohmann, Director, Administration & Communications

Thanks to you and some fantastic discounts secured by Susan Hart, BCHS Endowment Trustee and vice president of Reinhardt Construction, roughly 65 percent of the budget to renovate the administrative space above the Montminy Gallery has been secured since this project began in fall 2021.

So, with a leap of faith that the remaining funds will come in—or that our staff can do without new flooring—cleaning and renovation of the 1,500 square-foot space commenced in late April. These improvements are critical to staff retention as major updates have not been done since the offices were constructed in 1993.

Planned updates are lighting, painting, furnishings, the addition of interior windows to let in daylight—and hopefully flooring.

The staff is most excited about more light! Especially on dark winter or stormy spring days, eight hours in a room with little to no daylight and sparse 30-year-old light fixtures is a very long day.

Thank you for making this possible for our dedicated current employees and those who will join us in the future.

If you would like to donate toward the goal of new flooring, feel free to send a check with “office flooring” in the memo line to the Boone County History & Culture Center, 3801 Ponderosa Street, Columbia, MO 65201.

Thank you Socket for your support of the History & Culture Center through FREE fiber optic internet service!
New Milestone Reached in Waters Digital Imaging Lab: 25,000 Images

The Henry J. “Hank” Waters III Digital Imaging Lab achieved a new milestone in its Digital Collections—more than 25,000 photos and historic records have been digitized.

This effort to provide a freely available, key-word searchable online archive to the public is only possible thanks to donations from members like you and our team of dedicated volunteers led by Brian Flanagan, BCHS lab coordinator.

“This is quite a feat when you think about how it was only June 2020 that the online digital collection went live to the public. It is incredible what our team has been able to accomplish.”

The fact it has continued to grow since its inception is a testament to the dedication of our volunteers. Many thanks to each and every one who has helped make progress possible over the years.

“It is truly something to celebrate as Boone County is one of only a few communities of its size in the nation to possess an online digital archive devoted to its history.”

-Steps to Access Digital Collections-

1. Visit BooneHistory.org/Digital-Collections and click on “Historic Photography Collection” or “Historic Boone County Records Collection.” This will take you to a section of the page to learn about the collection.

2. Once there, select “View the Collection”. This will take you to a new page.

3. Select a collection to view by clicking on the title. This will take you to a page to learn more about the collection you are about to see.

4. Click “Browse.” Enjoy! You can search by topics, time period, etc. by selecting an item on the left. You can also try the advanced search options below the search bar in the upper right corner.
Boone County Historical Society
at the Boone County History & Culture Center
3801 Ponderosa St
Columbia, MO 65201

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Storytellers Concert May 26

Mary Ellen Lohmann
Director, Administration & Communications

St. Louis-based musician Steve Ewing is the next artist in the Storytellers Concerts Series! Join us on Friday, May 26 and enjoy Ewing’s incredible range, which allows him to flawlessly perform original songs and cover standards we know and love.

A recent fan favorite was his Stevie Wonder Tribute Concert, but Ewing is best known as the golden voice behind the seven-piece band, The Urge.

After four independent label releases The Urge was picked up by the Immortal/Epic label and toured the country. In St. Louis they’ve entertained crowds at venues including Ball Park Village and Mississippi Nights as well as at festivals like PointFest.

Now, he will be gracing the Montminy Gallery with stories and tunes as our musical guest in the next edition of the Storytellers Concert Series.

The evening will start off at 6 p.m. with a brief reception, and the music begins at 7 p.m. Adult beverages and light refreshments are furnished by our kind sponsor the Dive Bar!

Tickets are $15 and limited. Reserve yours today. Save time and get them in advance and get them at BooneHistory.org.

This fresh take on the Blind Boone Piano Concert Series is being brought to you thanks a partnership with Colin LaVauite, host of The Big Muddy Music Hour on KBIA. Storytellers Concerts feature incredible artists who use their talents to create more than just music. Thank you to our sponsors the Missouri Arts Council, the City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs and Socket.