

GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT | TOUCH IT. SEE IT. FEEL IT.

COLLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2024
VOL. LXXXVI NO. 2



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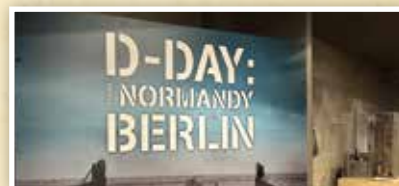
BLACK STORIES COLLECTIVE
BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES
ON DISPLAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28

Hear from Cedar Valley Black business owners and learn what it takes to start a business, how each business impacts the community, and what it takes to keep a business running.



WHO WE ARE: BOSNIANS IN THE CEDAR VALLEY
ON DISPLAY THROUGH NOVEMBER 2

As a result of the Bosnian War of the 1990s, refugees sought a safe place to call home and many settled in Iowa. With them they brought unique culture that has enriched the Cedar Valley and surrounding areas. Find out what it took to journey to Iowa from a war-torn region.



D-DAY: FROM NORMANDY TO BERLIN
ON DISPLAY THROUGH MAY 31, 2025

2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy in northern France.

Many Iowans were involved in those landings, the liberation of Europe and the ending of the Holocaust. Nearly 227,000 Iowans served in the war and almost 8,400 died.

In commemoration of that struggle for liberty, the exhibit showcases the D-Day landings and the year-long struggle through northern Europe.



UPCOMING EXHIBIT

ON THE BALLOT:
CEDAR VALLEY AFRICAN AMERICANS IN POLITICS
OPENS NOVEMBER 5 | GROUT MUSEUM OF HISTORY & SCIENCE

Visit the Museum's latest installment in the *Black Stories Collective* series: "On the Ballot: Cedar Valley African Americans in Politics" at the Grout Museum of History and Science.

Learn about local African American politicians throughout the history of the Cedar Valley and their impact on the political landscape. This installment will include artifacts from the Museum's Collection and the community, newspaper clippings, Voices of Iowa Black Stories Collective interviews, archival photographs and more.

Opening on election day, you won't want to miss it!

Photo Caption & Credit (Above): Image taken by Iowa Public Radio. Nia Wilder was among the candidates elected to the Waterloo City Council in 2021. Voters there made history, electing a majority Black city council for the very first time.



NEW SENSORY FRIENDLY SIGNAGE

The Museum District now has sensory friendly signage and labeled maps, additions that will help visitors better know what to expect in each exhibit area. Sensory bags and weighted plushies are also available to check out at no additional cost.

This Museum update, along with the new Sensory Friendly Planetarium Shows, was made possible thanks to support from *Waterloo Community Foundation* and the *Otto Schoitz Foundation*.

MUSEUM SCHOOL 2024 - 2025

The 2024-25 Museum School season is fast approaching, and the Education Department at the Grout Museum District can't wait to get started!

Throughout the month of August, staff reviewed and refined lesson plans to make them even more interactive and fun for our visiting 3rd Grade friends.

As always, Museum School is being offered to all participating schools completely free of charge. The Museum relies on community support to make this possible!

If you are interested in sponsoring a week (or weeks!) of Museum School this year, please contact Teresa Bryant at teresa.bryant@gmdistrict.org for more information on how you can help.



MEET THE DISTRICT'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARGARET MOYE

Greetings to all! I am very excited to be at the Grout Museum District after my recent move to Waterloo.

I relocated to Waterloo in April in preparation for my June wedding. I have spent the last six years as the Director/ Curator of the Mahaska County Historical Society and Nelson Pioneer Farm & Museum in Oskaloosa, IA. While in Oskaloosa, I discovered a deep passion for community collaboration as a tool in the preservation of local history. I had the opportunity to develop rich partnerships

with other organizations across Mahaska County that amplified the strengths of all to create a more meaningful experience for our visitors. I look forward to cultivating similar relationships with the Grout's members, the people of Waterloo, and the organizations and businesses across the Cedar Valley.

A little about me, I grew up on a farm in western Illinois. After studying history at Knox College for my undergraduate, I completed my Masters in History, specializing in Public History with a museum studies certificate, from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. I began my professional career as an educator and event coordinator in Leadville, Colorado, before returning to the Midwest to lead the Mahaska County Historical Society. I am an avid reader (especially of folklore around the world), a crafter, tea enthusiast, and enjoy music and theater. My husband and I both enjoy cooking and hiking together. He has already been showing me the wonderful access to trails here in Waterloo/Cedar Falls!

I am honored to join the incredibly knowledgeable and talented staff here at the Grout and look forward to contributing to the success of this phenomenal cultural resource.

FALL PROGRAMS

REGISTER AT: GMDISTRICT.ORG/CALENDAR

SENSORY FRIENDLY PLANETARIUM SHOWS

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
9:30 AM | AGES 5 & UP | \$2

NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM

Visit outside of normal hours for a sensory friendly planetarium experience. Planetarium lights will remain dimmed, sound muted, and the planetarium door will remain open to allow guests the freedom to move around.

STAR PARTIES

SEPTEMBER 14 | OCTOBER 12
9:00 PM | FREE

PRAIRIE GROVE PARK, WATERLOO

Join the Black Hawk County Astronomy Club and the GMD for a free star gazing opportunity. Telescopes will be provided.

TEA PARTIES

SEPTEMBER 28 - VICTORIAN TEA
NOVEMBER 23 - HARVEST TEA

10:00 AM - NOON | SNOWDEN HOUSE
\$12 MEMBERS | \$18 NON-MEMBERS

Join Museum Staff for themed tea parties with treats, crafts, and more!

STROLLING WITH THE SPIRITS

OCTOBER 12

WALKS AT 3:30 & 7:00 PM
ELMWOOD CEMETERY

\$10 MEMBERS | \$15 NON-MEMBERS

Bring the past to life as you walk through the oldest cemetery in town and hear from reenactors as they retell the stories of some of Waterloo's founding individuals. *Ages 12 and up.*

HALLOWEEN PLANETARIUM SHOW

OCTOBER 26 | 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 PM
NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM

\$20 MEMBERS | \$30 NON-MEMBERS

Explore some of the most frightening and unsettling things about our universe. Enjoy a cash bar and themed photo booth prior to the show. *This is an adults-only show and does contain bright flashing lights and loud sounds.*

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM | SULLIVAN BROTHERS IOWA VETERANS MUSEUM

FREE ADMISSION: VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY

Free admission in recognition of service.



Grout Museum District
503 South St.
Waterloo, IA 50701

FALL 2024

Friends of the Grout Historic Houses Fall Fundraiser

All proceeds go towards the maintenance and upkeep of the District's historic houses.

Paranormal 101 Presentation & Book Signing

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

5-6:30 PM

COST: \$15 MEMBERS, \$20 NON-MEMBERS

REGISTER AT: GMDISTRICT.ORG/PARANORMAL101

Unveil the mysteries of the unknown at an exclusive Paranormal 101 event at the historic Snowden House! Join local author and paranormal investigator, Katie Hopkins for an electrifying exploration into the realms beyond the ordinary, where ghosts, spirits, and supernatural phenomena come to life. Learn about the history of the paranormal, why research is important to paranormal investigators, and different types of investigation methods. Whether you're a seasoned investigator or a curious newcomer, this event is for you! Are you ready to awaken your inner paranormal investigator? Join us and let the adventure begin!

Paranormal Investigations at the Russell and Snowden Houses

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

7-11 PM

COST: \$50 MEMBERS, \$55 NON-MEMBERS

REGISTER AT: GMDISTRICT.ORG/INVESTIGATION

Are you ready to explore the realms of the unknown? Join paranormal investigators Josh and Katie Hopkins and Lollman Paranormal for a paranormal investigation at the historic Rensselaer Russell House Museum and Snowden House! Using the latest paranormal investigation equipment, you will venture into shadowy corridors where spirits of the past may still linger. The Russell House and Snowden House stand as witnesses to centuries of history, with tales of love, loss, and tragedy etched into their very foundations. Now, it's your turn to become part of the story. Katie and the Russell House were featured on "My Ghost Story" on the *Biography Channel* in 2012.