

Banner Creek Science Center & Observatory

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www.bcscience.org

Freedom's Frontier Traveled to the **Banner Creek Science Center and Observatory** for the Thursday, July 12, 2018 Partnership Meeting.

Located in a picturesque setting in Holton, Kansas, Banner Creek Science Center and Observatory is the premier natural and physical sciences education and research facility in the area. The state-of-the art observatory and equipment offer patrons a chance to see the stars like never before.

In addition to offering regular observation sessions, Banner Creek conducts science classes, seminars, and special events in the learning center to share the joy of science with the community. Banner Creek Science Center and Observatory, wants to ignite the flames of curiosity, stimulate an interest in the STEM fields, and provide a fun and safe environment for scientific discovery.

Your journey to scientific discovery awaits.

Partner Meeting

Banner Creek Science Center and Observatory 07.12.2018

Visual Thinking Strategies. Allana Saenger, who is the Curator of Design at Riley County Historical Society talked about a session she found particularly interesting at the [Mountain-Plains Museums Association](#) conference last year in Denver. She attended the conference with a Freedom's Frontier Professional Development Scholarship.

The session, *Exploration and Engagement Through Visual Thinking Strategies*, focused on [Visual Thinking Strategies \(VTS\)](#), which is a discussion-based teaching method for pre-K through 8th grade, often used with art. Allana said this could be used with all ages in museums, not just with art, but also with artifacts that have a narrative. She led the group through an exercise by asking [three simple questions](#):

- What's going on in this picture?
- What makes you say that?
- What else can we find?

As Partners examined the picture Allana brought with her, and provided details about it, she paraphrased and repeated the things they described and continued asking just those three questions. The exercise showed that discussion is fostered as each person involved presents new ideas, or points out details observed.



Podcasting about our kid-friendly sites. An Sasala, University of Kansas student and Hall Center for the Humanities Fellow, has been working on a series of "podioguides" that are hosted on SoundCloud (download from iTunes or Google Play stores), and provide information about kid-friendly sites in the heritage area. The title of the series is More Than a Yellow Brick Road. There will also be transcripts available. These audios will present tourists with stories, music, and information in a humorous way, and promote travel to low-admission-cost sites with family-friendly activities.

An is getting information from the microsites at www.freedomfrontier.org, and through contacting sites chosen for the initial audios in the series. Each podioguide will be about 20 minutes in length, with one episode as an overview of FFNHA and its themes.

For more information about this project, contact FFNHA Managing Director [Julie McPike](#).



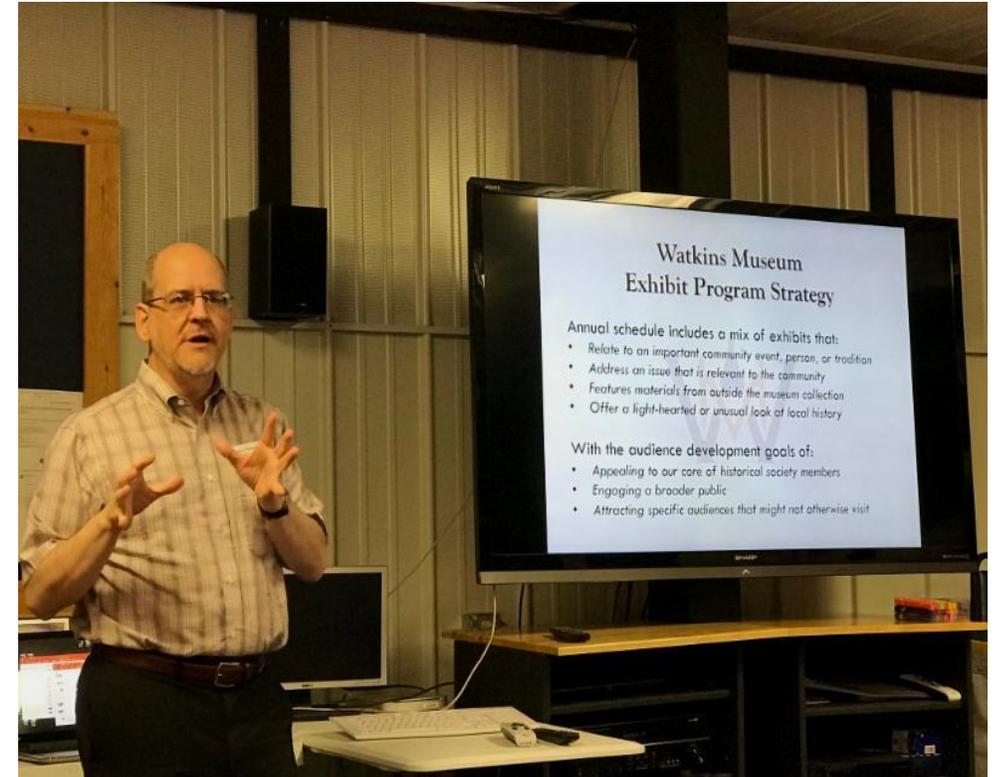
Taking the exhibit on the road. FFNHA Partner Advisory Group Chair **Steve Nowak**, Executive Director of the Watkins Museum of History in Lawrence, is teaching a class at University of Kansas, with **Brittany Keegan**, the Watkins museum's Curator/Collections Manager. Museum studies students will work on designing exhibits. Steve wants the students to research, design, and pitch their exhibit ideas to FFNHA. In the most recent Partner Advisory Group conference call, the partners in the group discussed how this class might create a traveling exhibition for and about the heritage area.

On that call, Steve described his favorite day of the month, the day when he gets to count the monthly visitor attendance and see that it has once again increased over the previous years' numbers for the same time period. This is the year that Steve hopes the museum is on track to hit 25,000 visits in a single year. He credits the steady increases with frequent changes to exhibits that are a regular feature of the museum.

In a panel discussion, Steve was joined by **Kerry Altenbernd** from Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park, and **Deborah Barker**, who retired this year from Franklin County Historical Society and is on the FFNHA Board of Trustees. They each recounted stories of exhibits that they had created for their sites.

During the day, as the discussion continued about the prospective traveling exhibition, FFNHA Managing Director **Julie McPike** recorded the ideas from the brainstorming sessions. Some of the factors that need to be worked out include:

- Exhibition fabrication parameters, cost, and funding
- Costs to ship the completed exhibition
- How to include components that can be customized and made local for sites that use it
- Things to include in the toolkit
- A promotional media kit



FFNHA will continue to update the partners on this project as details are set. Look for information to arrive in your email, either through the *Monday Minute*, or possibly a Survey Monkey survey. If you have questions, or would like to share your ideas, you can also contact [Steve Nowak](#), [Julie McPike](#) or [Jim Ogle](#).

Save the Date

Wednesday, August 1 – Deadline for **Interpretive Grant** consultation. Interpretive Grant applications due **Wednesday, August 15**. Ask Lexi Ray your Interpretive Grant questions. **Application Guidelines:**

<http://www.freedomfrontier.org/uploads/resources/Interpretive%20Grant%20Application-%206-2015.pdf>

Wednesday, August 15 – Deadline for **Professional Development** applications. (Submit well in advance of the event you wish to attend.)

Program Overview:

<http://www.freedomfrontier.org/uploads/resources/FFNHA%20Professional%20Development%20Scholarship%20Program%20Overview%20LR%202017.pdf>

Scholarship Application:

<http://www.freedomfrontier.org/uploads/resources/FFNHA%20Professional%20Development%20Scholarship%20Application%20-%20LR%202017.pdf>

Thursday, September 13 – Partner Meeting, McClure Archives, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO. If you have questions, contact **Sonia Smith** at ssmith@freedomfrontier.org.

Check our calendar for more upcoming events – and add yours!

www.freedomfrontier.org

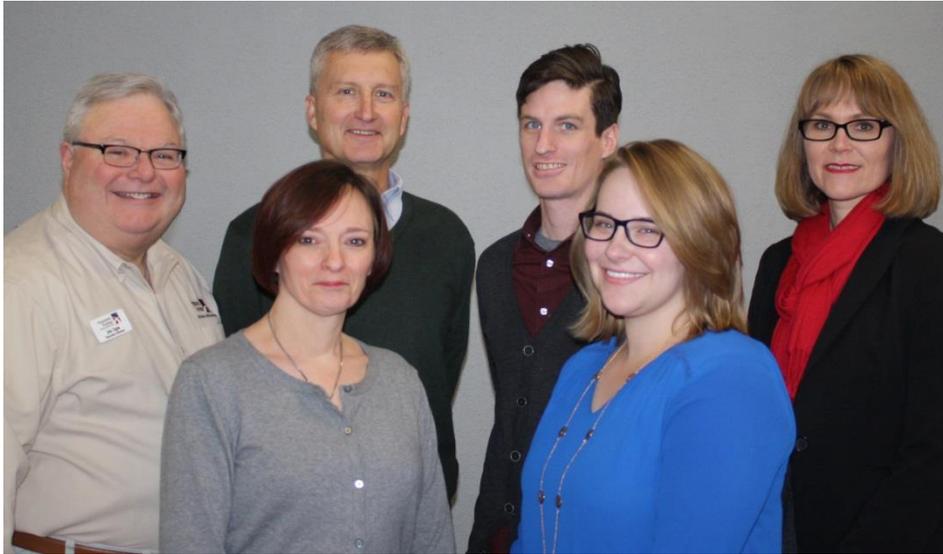


Mark your calendar for the next Partner Meeting. You never know who you might see. Lisa Irle, formerly with the Johnson County (MO) Historic Courthouse, came just to visit with us, and see old friends. She's seated with Marilyn Davis from Humboldt, Kansas. And there's also all the information, networking and sharing that happens at our Partner Meetings.



Partner Meeting

Bates County Museum 05.10.2018



From left: Jim, Sonia, Doug, Johnny, Lexi, and Julie.

Find our contact information online at:

www.freedomsfrontier.org/pages/Contact, and on our Facebook page at: <http://bit.ly/2rMGOZx>.

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NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



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