

Dear Friends,

The Vermont Historical Society takes its leadership role in Vermont's story very seriously. We work continually to develop the best possible programs and to fulfill our mission of engaging Vermonters with their rich heritage. To that end, we regularly review our programming to make sure it meets our goals in a sustainable, quality way.

After conducting an in-depth review and inquiry over the last ten months, the Board of Trustees have decided to suspend Vermont History Expo, effective immediately.

Part of our analysis of Expo included a thorough investigation of all the ways in which we work with cultural organizations and local communities, with an eye to strengthening and improving our history work in every part of the state. We conducted a statewide inquiry, with thousands of responses from Vermonters to our surveys.

We're excited to share with you the results of our analysis and planning as we pursue the following programming starting this summer and going into the future. We want to join with you to celebrate history year round, in all the places that it happens.

Festivals & Pub Trivia

VHS is coming to you, bringing hands-on activities, fun trivia, and the cooler side of history out around the state. We'll visit festivals, fairs, brew fests, restaurants, and pubs to meet new people, play games, give out prizes, and encourage exploration of the lighter side of the past.

Local History Gallery : www.vermonthistory.org/LLHSM

Visitors to the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier will now see a new 500 square foot gallery highlighting local history. Every six months, VHS will work with a new local historical society or cultural organization to showcase their unique history and perspective in the heart of Vermont's premier history museum.

Digital Vermont : www.digitalvermont.org

Vermont history is headed to the future as we build a web portal to share both our own and other organizations' library, museum, and archive collections & exhibitions digitally. VHS has already started sharing its own collections on the new platform and we're working on a pilot project with local historical societies to upload & share their own collections.

"Before Your Time" Podcast

A podcast is a way to tell stories – deep dive stories, with a tight focus on specific objects, thoughtful re-examinations of major historical figures, and big questions explored through the lens of Vermont history. We're partnering with the Vermont Humanities Council to record podcasts that will be available through the internet for download & listening at any point.

Vermont Days

We love every corner of our green mountain state, and we want people to get out and explore, learn, and share their stories with each other. In the coming years, we will encourage that

exploration through partnership with the State's Vermont Days program, an initiative that encourages collaboration between state parks, fish & wildlife, historic sites, and the historical society. We intend to expand this successful annual event with addition of Expo-like exhibits and activities state-wide.

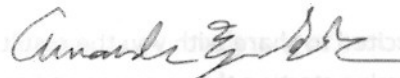
Thank you for all of your support, encouragement, participation, and enthusiasm over the years as we hosted Vermont History Expo. We have so many special memories of our time in Tunbridge together.

We're excited for our next steps, and we're excited to partner with you as we chart the future of Vermont's story. If you have any ideas for how to connect with us in this work, we'd love to hear them!

Sincerely,



Steve Perkins
Executive Director
Vermont Historical Society



Amanda Kay Gustin
Public Program Manager
Vermont Historical Society