

# La Crosse Historic and Cultural Museum Planning Task Force

## Comments from April 12, 2018

Tell us about a cultural facility you visited. Characterize why it was a great experience.

- General comments
  - Interactive (3)
  - Location – needs other things around the museum
  - Themes
  - Clean
  - Talks
  - Entertainment
  - Hands on (2)
  - Involvement
  - Rotating exhibitions
  - Guest lectures
  - Guest artists
  - Take home pieces
  - Museums are beginning to focus more on visitors and their interactions versus collections and things
  - Readings
    - Nina Simon – The Participatory Museum, The Art of Relevance
    - Elaine Heumann Gurian – Civilizing the Museum
- Buffalo Bill Museum of the West (2)
  - Water Walk
  - Renaissance Festival
  - Set in Stone
  - Ethnic foods tastings
  - Reenactments
  - Outside space
  - Interactive ‘real space’
  - Mixed media
  - No static displays
  - Entertainment
  - Almost completely private funding
  - 5 museums in 1 facility
- Duluth, MN (2)
  - Well laid out
  - Lots of traffic
  - Right down by the lake
  - Authentic spaces
  - Interactive displays
  - Location is next to other exciting things happening
  - Canal Park nearby has a ship to visit also
  - Food places nearby
  - Great destination
- Dubuque National River Museum (2)
  - Showcasing life on Mississippi
- Minneapolis Art Museum

- A variety of artists and cultural arts
- Sense of connection to the exhibits
- Friendly place and not pricey
- Huge collections
- Minnesota Historical Society
  - Good exhibits and clean
  - Cultural collections
  - Interactive experiences
  - Learning takes place
- Chippewa Valley Museum and Paul Bunyan Museum, Eau Claire, WI
  - Located in Carson Park
  - Good quality displays and activities
  - Ice cream parlor
  - Elements of indoor and outdoor
  - Good parking nearby
- House on the Rock
  - Many collections
  - Very overwhelming
  - Nice house
  - A lot in the warehouse building
  - Authentic spaces
  - Family friendly
  - Has a hook – brewery
  - Depth
  - Reenactors
  - Tastings, beverages, food
- Zibiwing
  - Movement
  - Local food
  - Feelings
  - Displays
- Wing Luke Museum, Seattle, WA
  - All community curated
  - Great use of social media to bring people to the museum
- Leivstreise, Stoughton, WI
  - Newer green building
- New York Tenement Museum (2)
  - Restored tenant apartment
  - Told stories of residents over 100 year period
  - Combine with walking tours in neighborhood
  - Food events
- Mill City Museum, Minneapolis, MN
  - Ability to tell interesting story using narrow industry focus
  - Interactive
  - Integrate into historic buildings
- Dubuque
  - Integrated with River Walk
- Civil Rights, Memphis, TN
  - Loved the films and audio
  - Easy parking

- Versailles
  - Indoor and outdoor
- Desert Museum, Tucson, AZ
  - Everything relates to the area
  - Easily accessible
  - Good signage
  - Built to be a museum, so excellent floor plan, layout and space
- Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ
  - Excellent displays throughout
  - Easily accessible
  - Much related to the Navajos – Kochina doll collection, a Hogan to sit in
  - Built to be a museum, so excellent floor plan, layout and space
- Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, BC
  - Huge displays
  - Much related to local/area culture
  - Good lighting and signage
  - Many spaces to sit and view or rest
  - Built to be a museum, so excellent floor plan, layout and space
- Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, MI (2)
  - Acres of displays both indoors and outdoors
  - Extremely well planned
  - Built to be a museum, so excellent floor plan, layout and space
- Madeline Island Museum
  - Old cabin houses, most in the permanent exhibit which includes many artifacts from the early history of the island and area
  - New addition houses the temporary exhibits, gift shop and conference room
- WWI Museum, Kansas City (2)
  - Along with artifacts and information, very engaging tour of what bunker life was like
  - Actively engaging the visitor
- Holocaust Museum, Washington, DC
  - Deep engagement of both emotion and fact
- Ellis Island
  - Experiencing the actual site while gaining knowledge of the time and events
- Lincoln Museum, Springfield, IL
  - Hologram presentation
- Arabia, Kansas City, MO (2)
- Cahokia Mounds, Dubuque (2)
- Effigy Mounds
- City Museum, St. Louis
- Mining Museum, Minneapolis
- House on the Rock
- Vesterheim, Decorah, IA
- Mining and Rollo Jamison, Platteville, WI
- Castlerock Museum Arms and Armor, Alma, WI
- Cincinnati Museum Center
- Lake Superior Railroad Museum
- St. Louis Historical Society
- Milwaukee Art Museum
- Milwaukee Public Museum

- Manitowoc Maritime Museum
- H.H. Bennett, Wisconsin Dells
- Sturgeon Bay Museum
- Pacific Science Center, Seattle, WA
- EMP, Seattle, WA
- OMSI, Portland, OR
- MOHAI, Seattle, WA
- Paris Opera
- Harriet Beach Stowe Center
- Mark Twain House and Museum
- Singapore
- Hong Kong
- Kyoto
- Wisconsin Veterans Museum
- The Seleg of Miller Park
- Vicksburg, MS

## Were there facilities you visited where you did not like the experience?

- General comments
  - Clutter
  - Dirty – dust, bat feces
  - Improper information on written materials or from tour guide
  - Everything jammed in
  - Storage instead of display
  - Historic houses in general tend to be extremely static, they tend to collect pieces without being able to share a larger story
  - Too much reliance on technology because can become outdated very quickly
  - Little opportunity to interact for the visitor even if has large collection
- Winona
  - Dark
  - Outdated exhibits
  - Yellow labels
- Platteville
  - Odd collection of 3 old buildings, but lots of space for collections
- Viroqua
  - Exhibits warehouse
  - Difficult use of space
- Field Museum
  - While big and grand (a quintessential museum), displays are outdated
- Milwaukee Art
  - Sterile feeling, but beautiful building
  - Little explanation
- Eiffel Tower
  - Disappointing
- Jello Museum, LeRoy, NY
  - Very cluttered displays in small spaces
  - Too much to read
  - Who really needs to know everything about jello???
  - In an old building never intended to be museum
- Deke Slayton Museum, Sparta, WI
  - Great artifacts/memorabilia, but too cluttered and too much to read
  - In an old building never intended to be museum

## Day Trip Ideas

- Vesterhiem, Decorah, IA
- River Museum, Dubuque, IA (4)
- Maritime Museum, Manitowoc, WI
- Potosi (2)
- Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien, WI (2)
- Winona (3)
- Chippewa Valley Museum, Eau Claire, WI
- Black Holocaust Museum
- Dells
- Viroqua
- Leivsreise
- Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison, WI
- Platteville
- FSPA Heritage Collection at St. Rose Convent
- Children's Museum, La Crosse
- Deke Slayton Museum, Sparta, WI

## La Crosse Museum Ideas

- General comments
  - Driftless area
  - Authentic experiences
  - Cultural
  - People
  - We can't lose sight of others needs as we determine what works and what doesn't
  - A facility that will entice families, engage the school systems, and promote education
  - Our children now are our future history tellers – how do we engage interest now to keep our history to continued to be told
- Name Ideas
  - La Crosse Cultural and History Center