

# The Future of Kansas History Summit

## Schedule

*Keep checking the website for updates to the Schedule*

### Thursday, September 24, 2026

- 2:00 **Early bird tour of the Charles Curtis House in downtown Topeka**  
Curtis was the Vice President of the United States from 1929 – 1933 and served under President Herbert Hoover. This is his family home from 1907 until his death in 1938. Curtis was a member of the Kaw and Osage nations, and the first Indigenous U.S. Vice President. The house is now a state historic site but is not yet open to the public. *The tour is free for Summit participants, but registration is required.*
- 3:00 Hotel check-in
- 4:00 **Registration Desk Opens at the Kansas Museum of History opens**  
The Summit begins. Get your meal tickets, drink tickets, nametags, and other important information. The newly renovated Kansas Museum of History will be open for participants to enjoy.
- 4:30 Guided tour of the new Kansas Museum of History (optional)
- 5:00 Guided tour of the new Kansas Museum of History (optional)
- 5:30 **Reception** at the Kansas Museum of History.  
Join us for heavy appetizers, drinks, and conversations.
- 7:00 ***The Importance of Local History in Storytelling*** with Kansas author and historian, Candice Millard. Inspired by America's 250<sup>th</sup>, Millard will discuss her *New York Times* bestselling books, including *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Hour* and *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine & the Murder of a President*. Two unique artifacts from the collection of the Kansas Museum of History with ties to the national stories featured in Millard's books will be on display for one night only!
- 8:00 Book signing with books available for purchase.

### Friday, September 25, 2026

- 7:30 **Breakfast buffet** available
- Table Conversations** with experts from the Kansas State Historical Society. Drop in and ask questions about:
- researching African American history in your town
  - placing a historic building in your town on the register
  - protocol when working with Native American artifacts
  - what to accept into your collections
  - how to handle donations with sensitive information

- 8:30      ***The New Kansas Spirit: The Future of Kansas History*** presented by Dr. Bill Tsutsui. Bill is a historian, Kansas history enthusiast, author, and Chancellor of Ottawa University.
- 9:15      Small group discussions moderated by Kansas historians
- 10:00      Break
- 10:15      ***Kansas Commemorations: Past, Present, and Future***  
Kara Heitz and Jay Price, Kansas historians and members of the Kansas America 250 Commission, share past celebrations of national anniversaries and Kansas connections to revolutionary ideas, and highlight changes in Kansas since the bicentennial. Patrick Zollner moderates the conversation as participants consider the impact of these changes on our state's museums and historical societies.
- 11:00      Small group discussions moderated by Kansas historians
- 11:45      **Lunch** (provided)
- Noon      **Spotlight on Local Historians!**  
While we enjoy lunch, local historians from across the state will share recent research and updates on special projects. Details coming soon!
- 1:00      Special presentation (it's a surprise!)
- 1:30      Up-to-date with the ***Kansas State Historical Society***
- 2:00      ***History Makers: The Future is Now***  
Join directors and board members from the Miners Hall Museum, Franklin County Historical Society, Scott County Historical Society, Lincoln County Historical Society, and the Wabaunsee County Historical Society as they share their work as part of the special "History Makers" strategic doing project led by Humanities Kansas. Learn how you can be involved in 2027!
- 2:45      **Putting it All Together** with Bill Tsutsui
- 3:30      Adjourn!