

GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

COLLECTIONS

JUNE - AUGUST 2026
VOL. CII NO. 1



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at the Museum

SIPPING ON HISTORY

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update from Margaret Moye.

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Park, Waterloo

PLAN YOUR *SUMMER OF FUN* AT THE GROUT!



COLLECTION'S SPOTLIGHT



BEFORE

Last year, the Wellness Center (3151 Brockway Road, Waterloo) and Trent and Violet Hunter very generously donated a large unit of high-capacity rolling shelves to the Grout Museum District for use in collections workspaces. Transportation and installation were donated, equally generously, by Tim Combs and Americans for Independent Living.

"Years ago," says Mr. Hunter, "while being shown around the archives by Nick Erickson, he shared a need they had. That simple ask stuck with me. When the opportunity came along, it felt right to reconnect and make sure these shelves landed exactly where they were meant to be."

The shelves were installed in the Catalog Room, where incoming donations are temporarily stored and processed. Collections staff have been hard at work transferring donations to the new shelves and have also taken the opportunity to reinventory each shelf as the work progresses. This will save many hours of work in the future.

The new shelves have more than doubled the storage capacity of the Catalog Room—from 650 to 1,310 cubic feet. All told, the donation of the shelves and their installation represent an approximate \$11,000 value.

Funds from the Gallagher Family Foundation have allowed for the purchase of 100 new archival safe boxes to aid in the reorganization, totaling \$820. Our most sincere thanks to the individuals and organizations that made this project possible.



AFTER



FEATURED EXHIBIT

POLLINATION INVESTIGATION

OPENING SOON! | GROUT MUSEUM'S NEW IMAGINARIUM SPACE

Nearly 90% of flowering plants rely on about 200,000 species of animal pollinators for fertilization. Explore the essential role that pollinators play in the natural world in the Smithsonian poster exhibition *Pollination Investigation*.

Through "pollinator profiles" visitors can learn about different pollinators—from butterflies and hummingbirds to bats and the wind—and their favorite flowers based on floral characteristics like flower shape, color, scent, and more.

Pollination Investigation was created by Smithsonian Gardens in collaboration with the National Museum of Natural History and made available by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. It is funded in part by the Smithsonian Women's Committee.



CAMPS BEGIN JUNE 8 | DAY CAMP & WEEK LONG CAMP OPTIONS
BEFORE & AFTER CARE AVAILABLE | PRICES START AT \$35



SIPPING ON HISTORY with Margaret

Hopeful Momentum!

Greetings, all! There have been some exciting developments this spring that I am delighted to share with you.

Your membership sustains us — not just financially, but in spirit. Knowing this community stands behind the Grout Museum District gives our team the confidence to be creative and innovative with projects, programs, and experiences.

On the city funding front, I am thrilled to share some wonderful news — city funding has been secured at 100% for FY27! This is a meaningful victory and provides us a vital bridge as we implement multiple strategies for long-term sustainability, including hiring development staff, completing internal audits of expenses, and strengthening relationships with donors and businesses. We are grateful for the support of our city leaders and will continue working diligently toward a future of financial strength.

Closer to home, the **Reimagine the Imag** campaign is gaining wonderful momentum, securing over \$35,000 so far. Our recent Trivia Night fundraiser was a wonderful success, and we are seeing campaign support steadily arrive — thank you to everyone who has contributed so far.

We also received wonderful news regarding some grant funding. The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust in Muscatine awarded us a \$200,000 grant to purchase eight new exhibits for the Reimagined Imaginarium! These eight exhibits join four additional exhibits to provide new experiences in the Imaginarium Science Gallery. We are grateful to the generosity of the Carver Trust, Ann Ginther, and our other incredible donors who are bringing this vision to life. We are also partnering with Invision Architecture on the design for the gallery and will keep you updated as details are finalized.

The best is truly ahead of us, friends. Thank you for being part of it.

Margaret Moyer

Margaret Moyer
Grout Museum District Executive Director

SUMMER PROGRAMS

STAR PARTIES

MAY 16, JUNE 20, JULY 18, AUGUST 15 | 9 PM
PRAIRIE GROVE PARK, WATERLOO | FREE
Join us and Black Hawk Astronomy Club to explore the night sky. Telescopes provided!

MEMORIAL DAY at the SBIVM

MAY 25 | 10AM - 3PM
SULLIVAN BROTHERS IOWA VETERANS MUSEUM
Special Monday hours and free admission for veterans in honor of Memorial Day.

PLANETARIUM SHOWS

JUNE 2 - AUGUST 29 | TUESDAY - SATURDAY
NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM
11AM | 1:30PM | 3:00PM
For show themes, visit groutmuseumdistrict.org.

OPEN GAME NIGHTS

JUNE 4, JULY 2, AUGUST 6 | 4-10PM | FREE
SULLIVAN BROTHERS IOWA VETERANS MUSEUM
Join *Dark Vassal Gaming* and *Friendly Meeples* for monthly games! Concessions, cash bar available.

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

JUNE 7 | 1-4PM | COST: \$40/\$50
GROUT MUSEUM

Who killed Warren Grout? An interactive murder mystery game with Weis Manson. Limited to 24 attendees. Register by May 31 at groutmuseumdistrict.org/murdermystery.

STORYTIME UNDER THE STARS

JUNE 20, JULY 18, AUGUST 15 | 9:30AM
AGE: TODDLERS | COST: \$3
NORRIS CORSON FAMILY PLANETARIUM
Enjoy 2 toddler friendly books in the planetarium. Doors open at 9AM, stories begin at 9:30AM.

SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE

JUNE 27 | 10AM-5PM
MUSEUM STORE

Take advantage of deep discounts on unique gifts, educational toys, books, and locally inspired items. This is your chance to explore great deals while supporting the museum. Stop by, browse, and save before these items are gone!

MEMBERS ONLY NIGHT

JULY 2 | 5-8PM | FREE | GROUT MUSEUM
Enjoy the Museum outside of normal hours. See the NEW Imaginarium space. Get Grout updates.

MATTHEW COLEY, MARIMBA PRESENTATION

JULY 21 | 10AM-2PM | FREE
GROUT MUSEUM
Join *Heartland Marimba* for a history of Marimba presentation.



Grout Museum District
503 South St.
Waterloo, IA 50701

SUMMER 2026

Presented by Friends of the Grout Historic Houses

Plant Sale

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026
8AM-1PM
SNOWDEN HOUSE

Garden Tours

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026
1-5PM
COST: \$15

NOW 2 EVENTS!

REGISTER at GROUTMUSEUMDISTRICT.ORG/GARDENTOURS2026 or at any garden on the day of the tour.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: KOCH CONSTRUCTION

SAVE THE DATE! Tour of Classic Homes | August 22, 2026

