

Kutsche Chronicle

The Kutsche Office of Local History
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Grand Valley State University

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Art by Jasmine Bruce ('18) for the Black Lives Matter downtown Grand Rapids mural project of 2020
Photo by Kendra Stanley-Mills - GVSU University Communications



Local History Roundtable

March 23, 2022 · 1:00 - 5:00 pm
GVSU Allendale Campus & Zoom

We are pleased to welcome our local history friends back to campus this year for the 13th Annual Local History Roundtable, with a slate of speakers exploring what it means to be **“Living with History”** in West Michigan.

Learn more and register at
gvsu.edu/kutsche/rt

Our keynote address is **“Bursting the Midland Bubble: Midland’s Black History, In Our Words”** with **Afua Ofori-Darko**, co-founder of Anti-Racist Midland and the Voices of Black Midland oral history project.

We also have a panel discussion, **“Marking Our Histories in New Spaces,”** featuring local public history projects and perspectives from

- **Kate Crosby** - Tri-Cities Historical Museum
- **Rebecca Hopp** - Former Mayor of Ferrysburg, Michigan
- **Kimberly Van Driel** - Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc
- **Matthew Vriesman** - Anti-Racist APUSH & Kent County educator

We look forward to seeing you there!

Teaching West Michigan Histories



Ready for Phase II

Through the Teaching West Michigan Histories project, we are working to make the local history of underrepresented populations more accessible and classroom-ready for K-12 educators in our region.

We began this project by collecting data about existing resources to identify current strengths and areas of need. Rebekkah Bowen, our undergraduate student staffer working on this project said, “It’s been incredible to see so many organizations in West Michigan devoted to preserving and telling the stories of diverse groups in the area.” As we continue to work on this project, we will also revamp and update our Map of Local History Resources at gvsu.edu/kutsche/map.

Kutsche Office Awarded Special Projects Graduate Assistant

We are pleased to announce that the Kutsche Office received a Special Projects Graduate Assistant for the 2022-2023 academic year. This highly-competitive program from the GVSU Graduate School will allow us to further develop the Teaching West Michigan Histories project. The graduate assistant will advance the project by writing pilot lesson plans on the history of underrepresented populations in West Michigan. If you know a GVSU graduate student who has a background in education or community projects, please share this exciting opportunity with them!



The Kutsche Office joined nine other state and local history organizations to make History Detectives happen in 2022. On Saturday, January 22, 2022, a broad collection of West Michigan history webinars premiered on the History Detectives YouTube channel. Local experts have pre-recorded informative and engaging programs on everything from midcentury gay nightlife on the lakeshore, to tips on researching your own home's history, to a dive into historic Black newspapers in the area.



See these and other upcoming programs at HistoryDetectivesGR.org.

Help Us Make History



Supporting the Kutsche Office of Local History advances Dr. Paul Kutsche's mission of using history to give voice to diverse communities. As a bridge between academic and public history, we help amplify West Michigan stories while fostering the next generations of local historians.

Backing from our generous donors allowed us to pivot to online programming during a tumultuous 2020-2021. Patrons helped fund more than 40 unique online programs that were viewed over 3,000 times in 2021 alone. In the coming year, we will continue to provide superb local history programming along with a heavy focus on bringing West Michigan history into the K-12 classroom.

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to donate today at gvsu.edu/kutsche/donate.