

**Museum of North Texas History**  
720 Indiana St.  
Wichita Falls, Texas

**Jenny to Jet**  
Wichita Falls Municipal Airport  
4000 Armstrong Drive  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76305



## Welcome New Executive Director



On behalf of myself and my family, words cannot begin to express my incredible gratitude for the opportunity to lead this wonderful institution and community treasure. Since arriving in Wichita Falls, first as a candidate and then as Executive Director, we have been overwhelmed at the welcome and support received from both the Board and the Wichita Falls community. Throughout my whirlwind of a first week, I had the honor to meet many passionate members of this community, hear from your hearts the hopes for the future of this museum, and had the opportunity to share some of my dreams for the years ahead.

For those of you whom I haven't had the chance to meet, I would like to extend a personal invitation to come by and say hi. Whether it's been a few months or maybe a little longer, I would love to hear from you what makes this community so special and how this museum reflects your story.

While I might be a Sooner (don't hold it against me too much!), my roots are from right here in Wichita County. My mother's Grandma Cricket and her Grandpa came from this area, with Cricket's brother living in Wichita Falls until his death in the early 1920's and he now rests in Riverside Cemetery. In this profession, many chase the next opportunity... the next big role... the next title. I want to make it clear that my heart, my passion, and my drive will be... for years to come... focused on the growth of this institution. This IS the kind of career-defining opportunity that usually comes along just once in a career and I have zero interest in taking my passions anywhere but right here in Wichita Falls! Since the day I arrived, I have felt the special rush of coming truly home.

In closing, I look forward to the years ahead, building one of the finest teams of museum

professionals in the industry as we mold the Museum of North Texas History into the flagship institution I know without question it can be. We can only do that with your support as MoNTH moves into its next 25 years, and I could not be more excited and honored to lead it into that new era... as we share the collective history of this remarkable region!

With the Kindest of Regards,  
Jeremy L. Davis, M.A.

## Proclamations and DSA

During the May 14th Commissioners Court meeting, representatives of the Museum of North Texas History, Wichita County Historical Commission, Kell House, and the Landmark Commission accepted a proclamation from Judge Jim Johnson citing May as Historical Preservation Month.



The Texas Historical Commission (THC) awarded a 2023 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to the Wichita County Historical Commission (CHC). This annual award, initiated in 2002, affirms Wichita CHC appointees for managing well-rounded history and preservation-related programs that enrich Texas communities.

Members of the Wichita County Historical Commission received the proclamation from Judge Jim Johnson during the May 14th Commissioners Court.

Membership to the Museum of North Texas History runs on a January to December cycle. You can join or renew anytime online at the link below. You can also pick up a membership envelope when you visit the Museum.

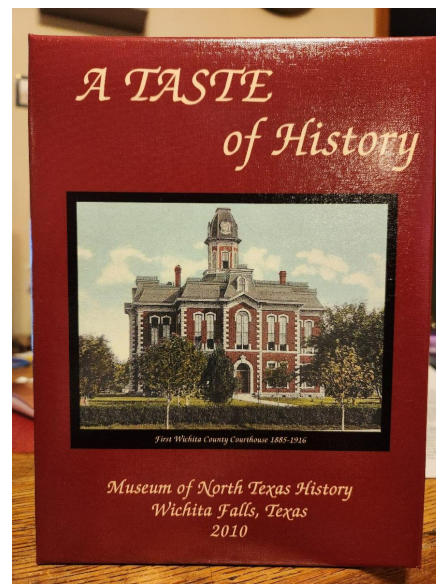
Your membership donation ensures the success of the Museum of North Texas History.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Renew your membership in person at the Museum and receive a GIFT.

Already renewed? Come by for your GIFT!

**JOIN TODAY!**



## Harvey Hall Grand Reopening



On Thursday, May 16th, the Museum of North Texas History officially reopened the renovated Ralph Harvey Jr. Exhibit Hall. We also introduced our new Executive Director, Jeremy Davis. A number of members of the Harvey family attended and were very pleased with results of our work.



From left to right: New Executive Director Jeremy Davis, Ann Arnold-Ogden (WFAAC), Board Member Medrith Collins, and Hospitality Committee member Melba Douglas.

## ACE Awards

The Wichita Falls Alliance for Arts and Culture announced the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Arts and Cultural Empowerment (ACE) Awards with an awards luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

The ACE Awards Ceremony recognizes individuals and organizations making Wichita County a more vibrant place to live. The categories include artists, arts organizations, arts educators, volunteers, and businesses that work in or support the arts in Wichita County.

Awards will be presented for the following categories:

- Outstanding Arts Educator
- Business Champion
- Artist of the Year
- Distinguished Cultural Organization
- Nadine McKown Volunteer Service Award
- Margie J. Reese Innovation Award
- The Mayor's Award



Past winners have included: Outstanding Arts Educator: Roger Palma, Business Champion of the Arts: Wichita Falls Downtown Development, The Maker Award: Shauna LaRocque, CrashWorks STEAM Studio & Makerspace, Artist of the Year: Carter Wallace, Distinguished Cultural Organization: Zavala Hispanic Cultural Initiative, Inclusion Advancement Award: Wichita Falls Housing Authority, Margie J. Reese Innovation Award: Daniel Nix, City of Wichita Falls, and Mayor's Choice

Award: Wichita Falls 4B Sales Tax Corporation.

If you know someone who has made Wichita Falls a better place through their contributions to artistic, cultural, or historical endeavors, nominate them for an ACE Award!

**NOMINATE TODAY!**

## Bit of History The Legacy of the Iron Lung



THE LEGACY  
OF THE  
IRON LUNG



museum  
NORTH TEXAS HISTORY

Citizens of Archer County contributed their nickels and dimes to purchase an iron lung during the polio epidemic. This iron lung now resides in the Museum of North Texas History. The legacy of the iron lung date back to 1928.

The concept of using a negative pressure device to facilitate breathing dates back to 1670. However, in 1928, Philip Drinker and Louis Shaw developed the iron lung we know today. A metal cylinder, enclosing a patient's body with their head exposed, was powered by an engine or manually. The negative pressure created inside the cylinder expanded the patient's lungs, bringing in air. Then, the cylinder would exert positive pressure, forcing air out of the lungs.

Though initially used as a treatment for coal gas poisoning, the iron lung served as a symbol of the polio epidemic during the 40s and 50s. Hospitals wards were filled

with children and adults, breathing thanks to an iron lung.

A museum in Marquette, Michigan houses an iron lung made with salvaged materials including iron barrels and wooden crates. In December 1940, Marquette had the largest grouping of iron lungs in the United States. Sadly, Marquette didn't long hold the record.

Recently, a man who had lived over 70 years in an iron lung passed away. Paul Alexander contracted polio at age six and lived the remainder of his life in an iron lung. After learning glossopharyngeal breathing, Alexander was able to leave the iron lung for periods of time. His story presents an amazing study in strength of character. **See his story here.**

Newer mechanisms to assist breathing have been developed using positive pressure, forcing air into a patient's lungs through intubations. However, the iron lung remains the method that most imitates natural lung expansion and breathing.

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## Uniforms of American Airmen

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### Uniforms of American Airmen - Their Heritage and Transformation

continues on display in the Ralph Harvey Jr. Exhibit Hall at the Museum of North Texas History. The uniforms reflect the changes in styles and service areas. Be sure to check out the video "fashion show" in the exhibit.



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## June Art Alley

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Young artist Anna Selmon will be our Artist in Residence for June. Watch our social media for her Art Alley exhibit.

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## June Special Days

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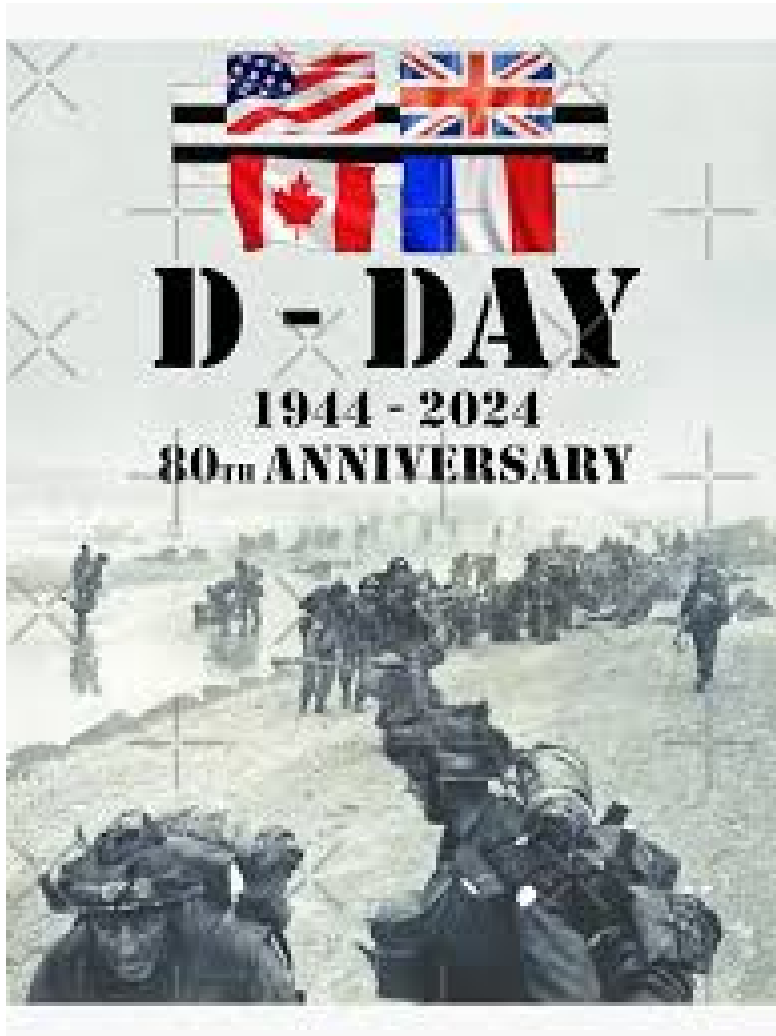
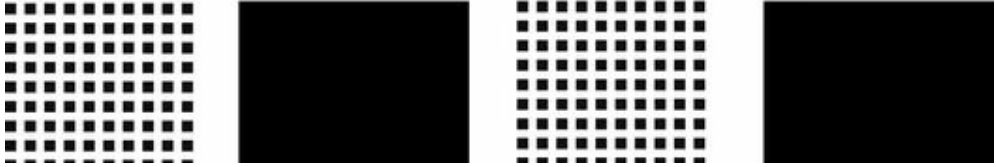


**DOWN  
TOWN**  
WICHITA FALLS  
DEVELOPMENT

AFTER HOURS

# ARTWALK

JUNE 6, 2024  
5:30PM - 9PM











**American  
Alliance of  
Museums**



**(940) 322-7628**

**Email**

[director@museumofnorthtexashistory.org](mailto:director@museumofnorthtexashistory.org)

**Website**

[museumofnorthtexashistory.org](http://museumofnorthtexashistory.org)

[Facebook](#)

**Museum Hours**

**Thursday - Saturday  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Legends of North Texas**



**Museum of North Texas History  
Officers of the Board of Directors**

**President: Lindsay Lewis**  
**Vice President: Whitney Beeson**  
**Secretary: Pam Morgan, Ph.D.**  
**Treasurer: Paul Bata**

**Executive Director: Jeremy L. Davis, M. A.**  
**Curator: Leanne Ray**  
**Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell, Ph.D.**



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**Wichita County Archives**

Located in the Museum  
Hours: 10:00am - 4:00pm  
(By appointment)  
Wednesday through Friday  
**940-763-0020**  
archives@co.wichita.tx.us  
**Carol Rudd, Archivist**

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Museum of North Texas History | 720 Indiana Avenue | Wichita Falls, TX 76302 US

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