

MAUREEN AND ROBERT FREEDLAND
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Jay Odegaard
Board of Park Commissioners, City of La Crosse
odegaardj@cityoflacrosse.org

June 10, 2021

Dear Mr. Odegaard:

I request permission from the Park Board, City of La Crosse for public street space for a travelling "BUS-eum" exhibit showing on Saturday, July 10, 2021 from approximately 10 am to 6 pm.

The Bus-eum of TRACES Center for History and Culture (a 501c3) is a history museum on wheels – a traveling bus with historical exhibits highlighting aspects of American culture and history primarily in the 20th century. Many of its changing exhibits are especially relevant to contemporary events including the pandemic, and as described below.

The creator of the Bus-eum is Professor Michael Luick-Thrams. He divides his time between Iowa and Germany serving as executive director of two non-profit organizations that provide history-based public programming to educational institutions. He earned his Ph.D. in Modern European History in 1997 from Humboldt University in Berlin. He is also the author or editor of 15 books about Midwest cultural history and has organized numerous exhibits, programs, exchanges, and other cultural projects.

Dr. Luick-Thrams will also deliver a special presentation offered to the public reflecting on topics exhibited in the BUS-eum, titled, **The Making of the Holocaust: Back Stories from the Midwest**. Examples from the Upper Midwest from history and today of racism, antisemitism, prejudice against German-Americans, and anti-Catholic sentiment will be highlighted, as well as participation of Wisconsinites in pro-Nazi rallies. He poses the question of what degree any of us can fall victim to modern equivalents of the orchestrated civil distrust and ethnic hate that led to the utter disaster of the Holocaust. Details for the talk are being worked out; it is likely to be held at the Radisson Hotel. As with all Bus-eum events, there is no fee to the public.

Other standing Bus-eum topics include:

- 1918 Flu Pandemic
- 1920's Ku Klux Klan's "Second Wave"
- 1930's Depression-era Unemployment
- Social and racial injustice during WWI
- Prohibition-era Bootleggers

Local sponsor for all events is the Maureen and Robert Freedland Fund for Studies of the Shoah at La Crosse Community Foundation. Other sponsors in progress are Dane Arts, Arts Wisconsin, Radisson Hotel, and the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. The bus shall be in route from Gays Mills to Madison. Heritage sites, libraries, and colleges in several nearby states are additional locations.

The Maureen and Robert Freedland Community Fund for Studies of the Shoah (Holocaust) of the La Crosse Community Foundation was established to honor the memory of their families together with all who perished in Hitler's war against the Jews, and is dedicated to all who come to America for religious freedom.

The mission of the Freedland Fund is to encourage and support ongoing Shoah (Holocaust) education for teachers and students in our community, because the lessons of the Shoah are critical for understanding many of the problems plaguing contemporary societies.

Appropriate COVID precautions will be taken, and all directions requested by the City of La Crosse and local authorities including the Health Department will be followed.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen Freedland".

Maureen and Robert Freedland MD