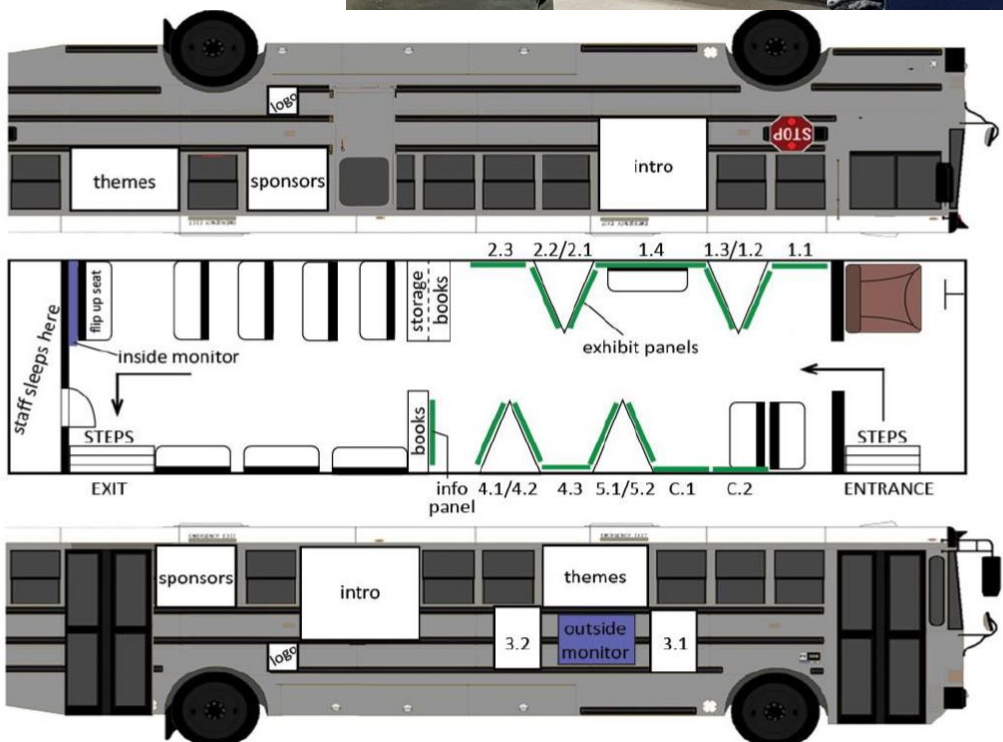
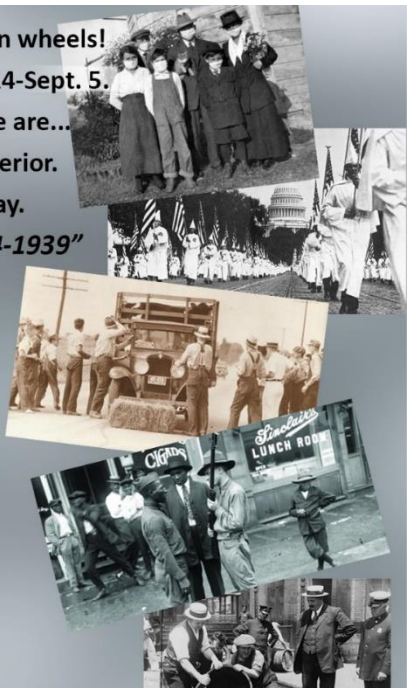


JOIN US for a unique experience: A history museum on wheels!
VISIT the *BUS-eum* in a Wisconsin city near you, Aug. 14-Sept. 5.
OUTSIDE mobile museum plus a tiny pop-up bookstore are...
SAFE to view; our history-exhibit panels are on bus exterior.
LEARN about HISTORICAL case studies relevant to today.
SEE the exhibit: *"Hidden or Forbidden No More: 1914-1939"*

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



TRACES Center for History and Culture is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.
 Contact us at staff@TRACES.org or 781-233-1111



Strong Reasons for and High Value of Proposed Event:

Our Midwest social-history project wishes to show a mobile museum in a retrofitted bus, the “BUS-eum.” Three of its five sub-exhibits are expressly relevant to NOW—thus singularly relevant and education at present:

- the 1918 global pandemic, with directly-applicable takeaways for today’s Corona crisis;
- the KKK’s “Second Wave” of the 1920s, including in Wisconsin—per the related photo, below; and
- Depression-era strife borne of mass unemployment + social-justice movements that arose from them.



Klansmen wearing masks and robes in front of St James Lutheran Church, Verona, for the funeral of Herbert Dreger, a police officer shot and killed in “Little Italy” (South Murray Street) on 2 December 1924; image and caption source:

<https://www.wpr.org/wisconsin-saw-its-first-ku-klux-klan-activity-1920s>

Maintaining the gathering at 25 or fewer visitors at a given time, with physical distancing required:

There will be no more than 25 people at a time around the BUS, scattered on all three sides, physically distanced as individuals, or couples and families. As the BUS recently has been retrofitted, all of the former interior panels now can be displayed on the EXTERIOR; no one “must” enter the BUS who does not wish to.

Whenever we reach a 25-person headcount, we will have volunteers (at least 2 at any given time, but will work towards 5) stop folks to form a socially-distanced wait line, which will also be kept distanced from the BUS. While they are waiting in line (assuming we’re lucky enough to have that much traffic—a lovely occurrence of which we cannot be sure), they will stand 1.5 meters (6 ft.) apart. Appropriate ground markings will be placed every 1.5 meters (6 ft) to show people where to stand.

If each visitor spends approximately 30 minutes viewing our BUS panels and/or our outside monitor, we could accommodate roughly 50 people per hour x 12 hours, for a total of 600 people—in a best-case scenario, based on a maximum of 25 people viewing the BUS at any given time. We’d be thrilled but surprised at that number.

Regarding the BUS' Corona-related safety considerations:

Masks will be required to be worn at all times, by all people—visitors as well as staff and volunteers. We will do this, as it protects US, too, not just the visitors. Those who might refuse [unexpected] will be asked to leave.

The repurposed bus seats in our “Mini-Auditorium” in the rear of the BUS-*eum* are vinyl-covered, allowing for quick, easy, frequent disinfecting between video showings. Similarly, our floor is vinyl-lined; our exhibit area consists of mostly flat, easily-wiped surfaces on the vertical exhibit panels, bus walls and also ceiling—in short, an environment that lends itself to swift, thorough and regular disinfecting.

On our welcome table outside the entry door, we will supply a gallon-sized pump bottle of disinfectant.

In all weather, the BUS-*eum* enjoys fresh air that constantly moves through the two doors and many windows that are always open; except during downpours, two ceiling hatches also facilitate airing.

If need be, we can pace the flow of visitors who might choose to enter the BUS to a safe, distance-assuring level. Spread over the course of a typical showing, the normal density is conducive to “safe” showing even during this pandemic; especially outside, visitors can relatively easily maintain social distance.



Although little-remembered today, America was wracked by the fear and paranoia that swept from coast to coast during the “Great War.” Pictured above, a crowd gathers for a German-language book burning at Baraboo High School in Wisconsin in 1918.

All of our on-BUS films can be viewed via our website; the exhibit-panel texts also are online:

This allows for visitors to see how the five sub-themes fit together and to engage with the curator, but further “interact” with the exhibits and related programs “socially distant” from home, school, etc. For libraries (or museums, etc.) closed or reduced to curb-side service, the BUS-*eum* offers a way to be safe and “relevant” in terms of a community’s cultural programming, despite shut downs or limitations. It also brings religious communities’ “social-justice witness” alive in the form of our socially-distanced concentric circles of chairs, where visitors might sit during “Listening Circles” or during presentations offered by Dr. Michael Luick-Thrams.