CWAM Greeley 2025

By Sophia Imperioli

In 2023, I made a bold career change, stepping away from a decade in operations, logistics, and administration to pursue my passion for history. In January, I enrolled in the University of Colorado Denver's Public History graduate program, and by November, I had earned a position at the Louisville Historical Museum. Nearly two years into this journey, I've learned one crucial lesson: the more I explore this field, the more I realize how much there is still to learn.

Attending this conference would provide an invaluable opportunity to engage with leading professionals who are shaping the field through discussions and presentations of their work. By connecting with these experts, I hope to gain insights, find mentorship, and learn how to contribute meaningfully to the next generation of historians.

CWAM will expand my horizons not only professionally but also personally. I often struggle in unfamiliar environments, and this year, I have been actively challenging myself to step outside my comfort zone. Growth happens when we embrace discomfort, and attending a conference—surrounded by new people and fresh ideas—is exactly the kind of challenge I'm eager to take on. I look forward to forging meaningful connections with peers who share my passion for history.

The knowledge I gain at CWAM 2025 will have an immediate impact on my institution. As part of a small team of four, each member plays a crucial role in the museum's daily and strategic operations. I will share key takeaways, lessons learned, and professional contacts with my colleagues to ensure that my experience benefits our entire team. Additionally, any new connections I make could open doors for future institutional partnerships in programming and exhibitions.

In alignment with CWAM 2025's theme, *Mission Possible*, our museum's mission—*Be a Part of the Story*—encourages Louisville residents to shape the town's history by sharing their personal narratives. I am eager to learn how other institutions utilize artifacts, exhibits, and programming to support their own missions, so I can bring fresh ideas back to our team and drive meaningful change in our community.