



# *ArchivesFest*

**Session Evaluation Form Available @**

***bit.ly/MAC16-Session-Eval-Form***

**or**

**complete paper copy  
and turn in at back of room**

Clockwise from upper left: Festival goes dance at Summerfest, 1984, Milwaukee Public Library Historic Photos; PrideFest Milwaukee parade heads to Veterans Memorial Park, 1995, Archives Dept., University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Libraries; Papa Lou leads woodwind band at Festa Italiana, 1983, Milwaukee Public Library Historic Photos; & Indian Summer Festival at Henry Maier Festival Park, late 1980s (?) Archives Dept., University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Libraries



CRP & A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD  
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

# Center Background

- Center founded in 1997
- Home office in Madison, WI
- *To preserve and present significant images of railroading*
- Five core aspects:
  - Collections
  - Conferences
  - Travelling exhibitions
  - Awards program
  - Publications



# Collections



- Comprised of ~200,000 images in our Railroad Heritage Visual Archive
- Collections from more than twenty different photographers/artists

# Conferences

- 14th annual  
Conversations  
About Photography  
conference  
(thirteen hosted on  
the Lake Forest  
College campus)
- Hosting a second  
conference this Fall  
at University of  
Connecticut



# Travelling Exhibitions



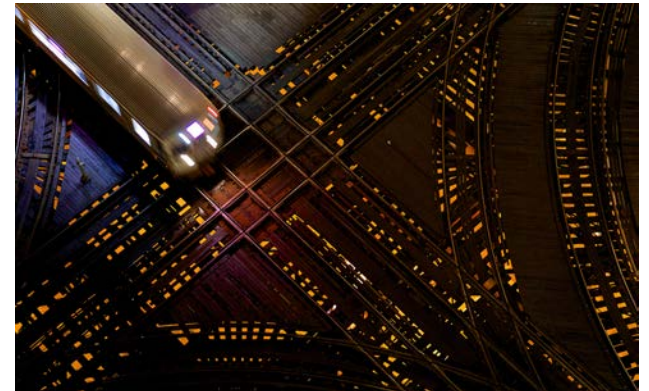
- Created more than 20 separate travelling exhibitions (including several at the MSOE Grohmann Museum)

- Typically around 4-6 are in circulation throughout a given year and throughout the US



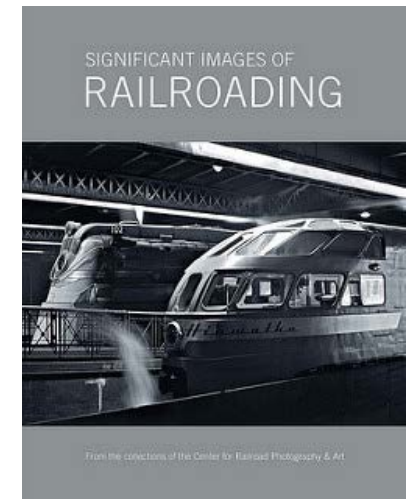
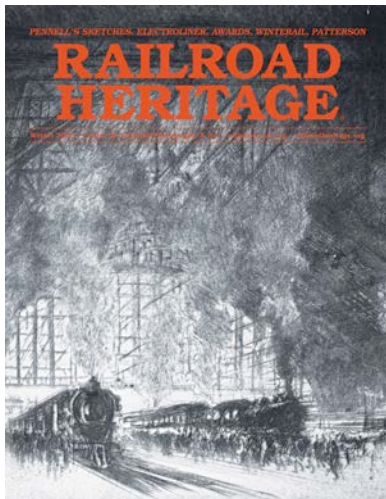
# Awards Program

- John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program
- Noted photographer, author, editor, preservationist of railroads, and the Center founder, was honored in 2012 by the Center's board of directors by having the Center's awards program named for him.



# Publications

- Quarterly journal, Railroad Heritage (45<sup>th</sup> issue coming this summer)
- Several books including:
  - *Significant Images of Railroading*
  - *Railroaders*





# Partnership with Lake Forest College

- Mutual agreement in 2000 between John Gruber and Art Miller
- Initially Lake Forest College acted as the Center's archives, caring for collections via deposit
- Began co-hosting Conversations conference in 2003
- Deposited at Lake Forest:
  - Wallace W. Abbey
  - Ted Rose
  - Fred M. Springer
  - David Plowden
  - Hal Lewis



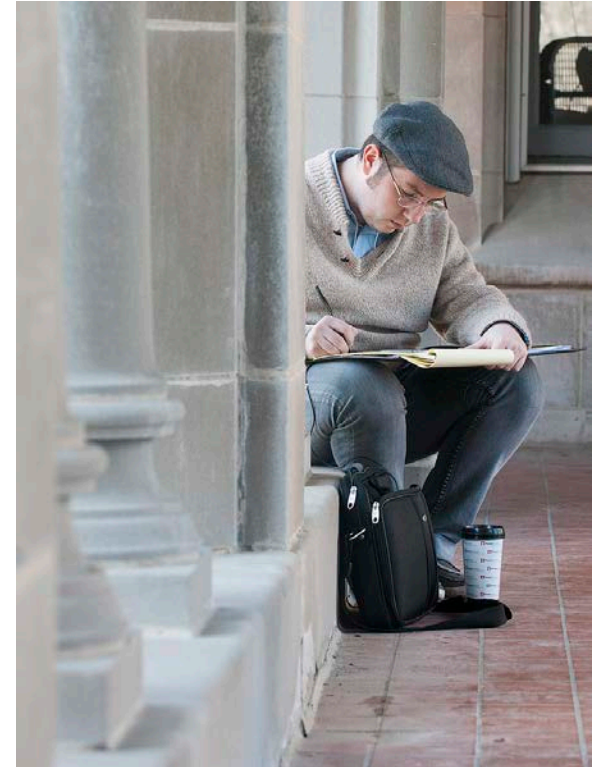
# Benefits

- Lake Forest College provides an archival-safe environment for deposited collections
- Professionally supervised graduate student work
- Co-host the Center's annual conference and provides a safe space for exhibitions



# Challenges

- Distance (Madison, WI to Lake Forest, IL is ~125 miles)
- Lack of face-to-face communication



- Cleaning up past collection work

# Takeaways



- Institutional growth and recognition for both repositories
- Student work done at a consistent rate



- Safe and friendly environment for not just collections but also exhibitions and conferences

