



2023 Annual Report

Cultural Archive of Modern Paganism

Full version available on our website

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Mission Statement



The Cultural Archive of Modern Paganism exists to preserve, interpret, and promote the history and culture of the contemporary Pagan community as it exists in the United States. Through the acquisition of historical evidence and ongoing research, we will document our community and its unique cultural and spiritual nature. Our collections will be held in a digital repository, available in its entirety to researchers, with curated informative and educational materials made available to the public through our website. In these ways we seek to promote the discipline of Pagan studies and add to our community's sense of identity by providing access to the foundations of its past.

*Access to the PAST creates the foundation
for DREAMS of the FUTURE*



Executive Summary

 In 2023 the Cultural Archive of Modern Paganism (CAMP) incorporated as a non-profit entity to be able to continue the work started with the Wiccan Church of Minnesota in 2000. Within its first year CAMP formed a Board of Directors, was granted 501c(3) status, and received two Legacy Amendment grants from the Minnesota Historical Society. Through our efforts we have continued to work towards our goals to better preserve the past and serve our community.

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Board of Directors

Tim Knight – President

Mike Kirk – Treasurer

Justin Stein – Secretary

Maev LeBow – Project Manager

Additionally, you could include a bulleted list of products, services, or major benefits of working with your company. Or just summarize your finer points in a few concise paragraphs.



Current Projects

Creation of Collections Management Policies

The purpose of this project, which began October 2023, is to develop and formalize the policies required to govern archival activity in accordance with professional standards. These policies will enable CAMP to accept new additions to the collection, conduct initial processing of acquisitions, manage all archival holdings, and begin to grant access to their materials.

Collection of Oral Histories of the Wiccan Church of Minnesota

This project is set to begin early 2024 and will focus on collecting oral histories of at least 15 current or past members of WiCoM to document the story of this significant organization. Using the Methods and template developed in a previous project, this will be the first in a series of oral history projects to record the lineage of the Twin Cities contemporary pagan community.



Both projects are made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.





Future Plans

Oral Histories

CAMP will continue to explore the many facets of the Minnesota Pagan community through a series of oral history projects. We intend to pursue the history of Druidry and Heathenry in Minnesota. Examining these new areas will expand and diversify the understanding of our local community and its connections on a greater scale.

Surveys

Information on the demographics and nature of the Pagan community is sparse and often outdated. To best document and serve this community we must first begin collecting information about who, what, and where it is. To do this we will create and disseminate a series of targeted surveys through our website, social media, and in person events.

New Alexandria Library collection

During our work with the Wiccan Church of Minnesota we were able to survey the holdings of the New Alexandria Library (NAL). NAL was a subscription library with a mission to create an archive that preserved Pagan history, culture, and heritage. Its contents include a selection of books on various Pagan topics, periodicals, and ephemera from the early Twin Cities Pagan community.

Lady Aura Collection

Lady Aura is a long-standing member of the Twin Cities Pagan community, a member of one of its oldest covens, and an early member of the Minnesota Church of the Wicca. She has collected significant material of her experience in the Pagan community.



Infrastructure Development Priorities

Digital Storage

The primary responsibility of CAMP is to provide a digital repository for the materials given into our care. We hope that some of this expense may be covered by grant funds, the rest will be reliant on donations. We estimate that this project will cost \$1700.

Website Development

Our website will be the primary access point to our collections, curated online exhibits and other projects. Our needs will include design, hosting, and the back-end collections management system. We estimate that this project will cost \$1500.

Portable Digitization Lab

To actively engage with our community, we will host community digitization events where individuals can participate in the preservation process and the archive will gain access to material and donors at the same time in a social context. The benefit of a portable digitization lab is its flexibility allowing us to serve communities in a larger geographic area. Our equipment needs include overhead document scanners, laptop computers, external hard drives, and suitable storage bags for transport. We estimate that this project will cost \$2200.





Looking to the Future



CAMP has been successful in its formation and the commencement of work due to the generous donations of individuals and the support of Legacy Amendment grants from the Minnesota Historical Society. In 2024 we will continue to pursue grant funding for projects and increase our fundraising efforts to build the infrastructure needed to preserve the history of our community. Our top priorities are to acquire digital storage media, launch our website, and to build a portable digitization lab. To accomplish these objectives and continue to grow the capacity of CAMP we have set a fundraising goal of \$7000.00.

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