

## URBAN MUSEUM COLLABORATIVE IN ST. LOUIS

Three museums in St. Louis are taking a different tack and joining forces to tell the story of urban life in St. Louis. [The Urban Museum Collaborative](#) is more than just a list of museums and sites listed in a tourism brochure, it is a true collaborative effort involving programming, educational resources, a website, tours, and community events.

In 2009 Barbara Decker, a museum consultant, was approached by Missouri Humanities Council to work with three small museums in St. Louis that were struggling. These museums, located within a mile or two of each other had very small staffs and limited resources.

By joining forces, however, these museums—the Campbell House Museum, The Eugene Field House Museum, and The Griot Museum of Black History—are making the story of St. Louis come alive in dramatic new ways. Visitors of all ages become engaged in a “museum without walls,” exploring, discovering, and learning in a dynamic and changing city.

Decker explains that the goal of the collaborative is to tell a more inclusive history of St. Louis by interweaving the life stories of several families and individuals—both humble and mighty—that unfolded in a single urban community. Stories that touch on immigration, entrepreneurship, slavery, and human rights.

She says: “The power of a specific building on a street when seen as a container of memory and the container of the life stories of those who lived there gave new meaning to the importance of place and in so doing transform the landscape in which they reside. For me, this is all a part of the importance of understanding the past so that we may build a more just and equitable society.”



[Griot Museum of Black History](#)  
[Campbell House Museum](#)  
[Eugene Field House Museum](#)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE URBAN MUSEUM COLLABORATIVE IN ST. LOUIS