A group of international museum professionals recently toured the Haggerty and met with staff members as part of the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Launched in 1940, the IVLP helps strengthen U.S. engagement with countries around the world and cultivate lasting relationships by connecting current and emerging foreign leaders with their American counterparts through short-term visits to the United States.

The Haggerty tour was initiated by Caitlin L. O’Brien (Marquette, Anthropology 12’ and former Haggerty Museum student guard), who currently serves as the International Visitor Leadership Program Coordinator at the International Institute of Wisconsin. From immigration assistance,
translation/interpretation services, and refugee resettlement, to the annual *Holiday Folk Fair International*, the Institute works to promote international cooperation, understanding, and a multicultural perspective.

According to O’Brien, “Having worked at the Haggerty, I knew about their fantastic collection, exhibitions, and programs. Our visitors were particularly anxious to learn about the day-to-day technical details of maintaining a museum’s collection, so the Haggerty was a perfect fit. The tour and conversation were highlights of their United States trip, as it provided an opportunity to discuss best practices in museum management. The visitors plan to utilize what they learned during their visit to the Haggerty for improving their museums in their respective countries.”

Participants in the Haggerty visit represented: South Africa, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Turkey, and China.

IVLP participants behind the scenes at the Haggerty.

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