

***“The mission of the Ford Conservation Center is to conserve the historical, cultural, and educational collections of the state of Nebraska and surrounding areas through preservation activities, and conservation treatment of objects, paper and archive materials, and textiles.”***



The Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center is a regional conservation center for the care of cultural materials. It was founded in 1995, as the newest division of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Preservation of the physical remnants of collected objects is crucial to the appreciation, study, and understanding of the history and cultures of the peoples who have lived in Nebraska and the region for more than 10,000 years. The Ford Conservation Center encourages and supports all efforts to safeguard these physical resources for future generations.

The Ford Center provides conservation services for historical, cultural, educational, private, and corporate clients in the region. These services include consultation, assessment of collection management needs, assessment of conservation treatment needs, education and training, and conservation treatment of collection materials.

All conservation practices endorsed by the center meet the highest professional standards, including the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.

## Conservation Services

The Ford Conservation Center offers examination, analysis, conservation treatment, consultation, collection management, training, and other educational services.

- **Examination:** Objects requiring varying levels of technical study and evaluation will be accepted for examination. Examination may be requested as a prelude to conservation treatment or as an effort to better understand the client's object. The staff conservators can assist in recommending and facilitating scientific testing and can interpret technical data generated during analysis.
- **Treatment:** Treatment services are available for a wide range of object types including works of art on paper, archival collections, photographs, ceramics, glass, metals, leather, organic materials, textiles, and other composite objects. Contractual work for the treatment of other types of objects can be arranged through the center as needed. Treatment services vary from simple preventive stabilization to complete treatment and cosmetic reintegration.
- **Consultation:** Conservators at the Ford Center are available to consult on a wide variety of issues related to collection care and conservation. Advice is available on topics such as storage techniques, exhibition materials, and object housings.



- **Collection Management Consultations:** Assistance is available for those faced with making decisions about all aspects of collection management including crate construction, mount design, material selection, storage techniques, housing materials, framing, matting, and many other issues relating to collection use and care. The Ford Center conservators can provide up-to-date technical information for collectors and museum professionals.
- **Assessments:** Conservation assessments of institutional and private collections are available. Conservators will provide a written overview of the institution, or collection, and its efforts in collection preservation that includes an evaluation of storage areas, exhibition techniques, pest control methods, housekeeping, and many other factors affecting the long-term survival of objects.

- **Surveys:** Surveys to document the condition and treatment needs of individual objects in a collection can be conducted by Ford Center staff. A specific report detailing the condition, treatment priority, and conservation needs for each object can be prepared with an overall review provided as a planning tool for the long-term conservation of a collection.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** The Ford Center staff can assist organizations and institutions with the preparation of emergency preparedness plans, training, and drills. The staff is available in the event of an emergency, and can provide on-site response, as well as long-term collection treatment.
- **Educational Activities and Training:** The Ford Center provides lectures and workshops on a variety of topics for many audiences. Lectures and clinics are available to the public, workshops and programs are offered for the museum and collecting community, and specialized sessions are available for conservation professionals. We welcome prearranged visits by school groups of all ages.
- **Conservators on Staff:** The staff of the Ford Conservation Center represents years of varied professional training, specialized study, and intensive experience in the art and science of conservation. Ford Center conservators have trained and worked at major cultural institutions in the United States and abroad and keep abreast of the latest research and innovations in conservation practice.



- **Information about the Center:** Located in Omaha, Nebraska, the Ford Conservation Center houses state-of-the-art technical laboratories for the examination, evaluation, and specialized conservation treatment of ceramics, glass, metals, ethnographic materials, archeological materials, wooden artifacts, works of art on paper, photographs, documents, archival materials, books, and textiles.

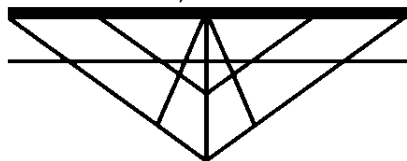
A library of reference works on conservation and collections care, a microscopy laboratory, secured storage and receiving areas, an x-radiography area, an air abrasive room, and a workroom support the conservation activities.

Public spaces include an exhibit honoring the center's namesake, President Gerald R. Ford, a temporary exhibition space, and a public reception area, all adjacent to the lovely Ford Birthsite and Gardens.

*For further information:*

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