Amanda Gustin
Vermont Historical Society | Director of Collections and Access

Amanda Gustin is the kind of leader who ensures Vermont's history isn't just preserved—it's shared, accessible, and reflective of all the people who have shaped our state. As **Director of Collections and Access at the Vermont Historical Society**, Amanda is driven by a deep commitment to safeguarding Vermont's treasures while expanding public access to the stories they hold.

Amanda's professional leadership is marked by creativity, initiative, and a clear focus on inclusion. She led the Vermont Historical Society's ambitious **"50 for 250"** book and exhibit—an extensive project inviting Vermonters to explore **50 objects that illuminate Vermont history**. Under her leadership, the project was intentionally designed to be **welcoming, inclusive, and accessible**, helping more people see themselves in the historical record.

She also created the **Research and Exhibition Gallery** at the History Center in Barre, opening up "behind-the-scenes" access through public-facing open storage that allows visitors to browse **approximately 1,500 items** from the Society's collection. Amanda continues to champion digitization efforts in the **Leahy Library**, expanding access to materials that help Vermonters research their communities and family histories.

Amanda's leadership extends well beyond her role at the Historical Society. She serves her community through **City Council and the library board**, and she has been a steady presence in times of need—working tirelessly after flooding to support neighbors and dedicating her time to the wellbeing of the community. She also volunteers at the **warming shelter**, consistently showing up for the most vulnerable among us.

A committed mentor, Amanda actively supports women stepping into leadership—encouraging and advising women running for office and taking a genuine interest in the growth of young professionals in her workplace. She is known for creating collaborative environments where others can develop their skills, and she supports ongoing professional development through classes and conferences. She also brings an equity lens to hiring and contractor selection, with a clear commitment to gender equity.

In a field where history can too often center on famous men, Amanda has demonstrated a continual dedication to **telling the stories of Vermont women**—ensuring our shared history is fuller, more accurate, and more inclusive for generations to come.

Please join us in celebrating **ATHENA Nominee Amanda Gustin**—a leader defined by public service, thoughtful stewardship, and a powerful commitment to access, equity, and community.