



COLLECTION MANAGERS COMMITTEE
Texas Association of Museums

Collections Communiqué

Spring 2010

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Looking for a job?

TAM Job Bank

AAM Job Center

Have something for the next newsletter? Email submissions by May 15, 2010, to Lisa Worley at lworley@williamsonmuseum.org.

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From the Chair

The TAM Annual Meeting is just a few short weeks away and I hope to see many of you there. There are some interesting sessions on the program that I think everyone will enjoy. Be sure to mark your calendars for the following meetings:

Wednesday, March 17, at 4:10 pm – General Meeting for all Affinity Groups

Wednesday, March 17, at 4:30 pm – CMC Business Meeting

CMC will be presenting a marking workshop before the TAM meeting on March 16. While this workshop is not an official part of the TAM meeting it is being done with the support of TAM. You will need to register separately, but it will count towards your Professional Development Certificate if you are hoping to complete that program at the annual meeting.

It is also time to hold CMC elections. The following positions will be on the ballot: Chair, Treasurer, Office at Large, and Officer at Large – Technology. The Nominating Committee is Stacie Flood of the Kell House Museum, Leslie Meyer of the Petroleum Museum, Jonathan Plant of the John E. Connor Museum, and Susan Smyer of the Water Works Museum. The Nominating Committee will be selecting a slate of candidates and ballots will be mailed shortly. Please take the time to vote and return your ballots.

I hope to see you all soon.

Amy

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CMC Website Contest

Collections Managers Committee members can visit the CMC's website, www.cmc-tam.org, and participate in a scavenger hunt. Download the contest form from the website, complete it and turn the form in to CMC officers (see list of officers at left) at the TAM annual meeting or send the form to: Chris Godbold, Curator of Collections, Fort Bend County Museum Association, PO Box 460 Richmond, TX 77406-0460. The winner will be chosen at random from the completed forms and be announced during the CMC business meeting on Wednesday, March 17, at 4:30 pm. Please submit only one entry per person. You do not need to be present at the business meeting to win.

Leaving Your Mark on History: Marking Historical Artifacts and Documents March 16, 2010, from 9:00am to 4:00pm

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum
1000 George Bush Drive West, College Station, Texas 77845

Back by popular demand! CMC is hosting a hands-on workshop covering labeling and marking techniques and materials to mark historic artifacts, works on paper, ethnographic collections, scientific collections and more. Ever wonder which pen or barrier coat works best on what materials or how to mark on plastic? Are there items that just shouldn't be marked? Learn about these techniques and how to identify different materials, take home some samples, and learn various numbering systems, as well as learn about newer techniques including RFIDs and barcoding.

Featured Speakers:

Lindsey Richardson, Collections Manager, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

Sally Baulch-Rhoden, Curator, Austin Curatorial Services, Interpretive Services Branch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Donna Meadows, Associate Registrar, Acquisitions, Houston Museum of Natural Science

Terri L. Carnes, M.A., Collections Manager, Anthropology Division, Museum of Texas Tech University

Cyndi Lopez, M.A., Conservator, Museum of Texas Tech University

Heath Garner, M.A., Curator of Mammals, Natural Science Research
Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University

When: March 16, 2010, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Cost: \$50 for CMC members, \$65 for non-members—an additional charge for lunch \$10

(The registration form for this workshop was included in the CMC newsletter email.)

CMC Scholarships for 2010 TAM Annual Meeting

CMC awarded two scholarships this year to cover registration costs for the TAM annual meeting in Bryan/College Station. Congratulations to Allison Bouwman, Assistant Registrar, Witte Museum, and Dana Oglesby, Business & Museum Coordinator, Republic of Texas Museum and DRT Headquarters.

News from The Heritage Society (Houston)

Ginger Berni
Registrar
The Heritage Society

The Heritage Society, a non-profit house museum complex in Houston, which was established in 1954, is undergoing a restructuring of its collections to better represent the organization's mission. As a result, a portion of our collections no longer fit within our scope of collecting. In addition, we are simply beyond our storage capacity and do not want the collections to suffer as a result. Therefore, we are looking to deaccession a significant amount of textiles- including quilts, coverlets, hooked rugs, clothing and accessories- a collection of dolls, some cameras and typewriters.

We would like to transfer these collections to organizations that will care for and utilize them to education the public. Please feel free to contact me or our Curator, Wallace Saage, for further details.

The Heritage Society

713-655-1912

[www.gberni@heritagesociety.org](mailto:gberni@heritagesociety.org)

[www.wsaage@heritagesociety.org](mailto:wsaage@heritagesociety.org)

Update: CMC Booth at TAM Annual Meeting

CMC will not have a booth at the TAM annual meeting this year. The annual business meeting will be on Wednesday, March 17, at the TAM meeting. All members (or those interested in joining!) are welcome to attend. If you are planning to renew your membership at the annual meeting please find one of the officers (see list of CMC officers at the top of this newsletter). Dues are \$15 a year; the membership year coincides with the calendar year so if you haven't paid dues in 2010, your membership is not current.

You can always mail a membership check to the following address:

Attn Kim Cupit
Denton County Museums
110 W. Hickory
Denton, TX 76201

Remember! If you are not a current, up-to-date member of CMC you will no longer receive a copy of *Collections Communiqué*.

Collections-related Sessions at TAM Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 16

9:00 am to 4:00 pm ***CMC Numbering Workshop***—Off-site

(C) Back by popular demand! CMC is hosting a hands-on workshop covering labeling and marking techniques and materials to mark historic artifacts, works on paper, ethnographic collections, scientific collections and more. Ever wonder which pen or barrier coat works best on what materials or how to mark on plastic? Are there items that just shouldn't be marked? Learn about these techniques and how to identify different materials, take home some samples, and learn various numbering systems, as well as learn about newer techniques including RFIDs and barcoding.

3:00 to 4:15 pm ***Identification and Care of 19th-Century Photographs***

(C) Caring for historic photographs can be challenging! There are so many processes, each with unique chemical instabilities and best practices for storage. Daguerreotypes, tintypes, albumen prints and collodion prints are all commonly found and easily identified—with a little practice. After this session, you will be able to identify these different photograph types, common in 19th-century collections, and gain an understanding of their preservation needs.

3:00 to 4:15 pm ***Picture This: Working with Film and Video Crews***

(A/E/C) How do museums work with film and video crews within their institutions? What policies and procedures do museums need to have in place? Panelists who have worked with national and international film and video crews and projects will share their experiences, including policies, procedures, and issues to be aware of before and after filming.

Wednesday, March 17

8:45 to 10:00 am ***History Beneath the Waves: Nautical Archeology***

(E/C/ED) The discovery and excavation of The Belle shipwreck along the Texas coast brought a wave of state and national attention to historical archaeology, and to the subsequent exhibition and interpretation of the thousands of artifacts connected with the ship. Through exploring case studies, participants will discover new opportunities in nautical archaeology, and how to bring these resources into exhibits and educational programs. (Encore presentation from Texas State Historical Association conference, 2009.)

8:45 to 10:00 am ***Don't Be Derailed! Collections Issues During Building Projects***

(A/E/C/T) How does one protect a museum's collections when that institution is undergoing a renovation or building project? What collection management issues might arise during the planning phases and the actual construction, or even after the spaces are finished and open to the public? From construction dust and pest infestations to basic human error and ignorance, all are potential threats to museum objects during and after construction. During this session, panelists will discuss both the theoretical ideas behind and their first-hand experiences during their individual institution's renovation or building project. Anyone working at a museum planning a major construction project should attend this session!

8:45 to 10:00 am ***Getting on Board: The MELT Roundtable***

(A/R/E/ED/C/T) Whether you've been in the field for 2 months or 20 years, we all need to brush up on the basics of looking for the perfect job and landing that first interview. This roundtable session is a great opportunity to ask questions and swap ideas with folks who know what they're doing. Topics will include resume writing for both entry-level and mid-career professionals, how to write an effective cover letter, where to look for job postings, personal branding, and building an impressive portfolio.

8:45 to 10:00 am ***Inspired Speech: Staying on Track with Polished Communication***

(A/R/E/ED/C/T) Have you been, um, flustered in, um, a presentation because you had, um, an equipment glitch or hadn't, um, practiced what you wanted to convey?

'Ums,' 'ahs,' and 'sort ofs' distract your listeners and prevent your message from being communicated effectively. Don't let your brilliance be derailed by bad speaking habits! Groups like Toastmasters can help. Toastmaster Tom Ortiz will share tips for developing and delivering effective speeches, and curator Judy Linsley will explore ways to use these tips to communicate with a variety of museum audiences. Learn about key speech elements that will inspire your speaking to help you reach your goals.

10:30 to 11:45 am ***No Curator? No Problem!***

(E/C/ED) Don't let your staffing constraints derail your plans for an amazing new exhibit! This panel session explores how one institution adopted a team-based approach to get the job done. Integrating a variety of talents and disciplines leads to idea-driven exhibits, rather than artifact-driven ones. The approach also fosters a culture of creativity, injects new ideas and approaches to exhibit design, and divides the workload among team members. Panelists will share their experience with this team-based approach to exhibit design, comparing it to their other museum experiences and discussing the method's pros and cons. They'll also be on hand to answer the audience's questions about this collaborative method.

10:30 to 11:45 am ***What Everyone Should Know About Early Texas Art***

(A/E/C/ED/T) Almost all Texas art museums have demonstrated an interest in early Texas art and many Texas historical museums and libraries are discovering archives, records and works by early Texas artists. Why is the emphasis shifting? What should museums know about trends in this area? Panelists include a scholar, a person from the academic field, and a major collector of early Texas art. All have been deeply involved in the creation of the Center for the Advancement of Early Texas Art (CASETA), a non-profit organization which has sponsored original research, publications, symposiums and museum exhibitions throughout the state. This session provides an opportunity both to learn and to share information about this vital subject.

10:30 to 11:45 am ***Quality Leadership vs. Leadership Qualities***

(A/E/C/ED) As museum professionals, we are trained, formally or informally, how to do our jobs, but very few of us are trained how to be leaders. It is a fallacy that leaders are born. There are opportunities to demonstrate leadership at all levels of an organization, within any age group, and at any experience level. This session begins with an overview of leadership qualities and styles, next guides participants in identifying a personal leadership style, and finally how to develop that style to its fullest potential.

1:45 to 3:00 pm ***“Connecting to Collections” Initiative: Outcomes and Findings***

(C) Three years ago a team of stellar Texas organizations embarked on an ambitious project to determine the variety and extent of collections care needs in our state. "Connecting to Collections" was funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The multi-year effort was a pilot program to test the feasibility of conducting a statewide survey about collections care in hundreds of institutions--museums, libraries, and archives. Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) took the lead with partners the Texas Historical Commission (THC), Texas Association of Museums (TAM), Texas Library Association (TLA), Amigos Library Services, and the Kilgarlin Center for Preservation of the Cultural Record at UT Austin's School of Information. This session offers a review of the project's outcomes and findings.

1:45 to 3:00 pm ***Out of the Closet: A Community History Comes to Light***

(A/C/ED) The mission of the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History is to collect the unique history of this community. The mission, by its very nature, has shifted the paradigm from collecting "old families and great white men," to a broader documentation of community and ideas in which gender and sexuality is the relational construct to the collections. This session will discuss the beginnings of the archive and museum, the challenges of running a Gay museum, methods for cultivating sponsorship, and provide an overview of the GLBT community in Texas in order to spark a dialogue about this underserved community.

3:15 to 4:00 pm ***What About the Future of Museums? A Conversation with the Founding Director, Center for the Future of Museums***

(A/T/C/ED/E/R) TAM looks to its national counterpart, American Association of Museums, to learn about issues facing the field, innovations in implementation of our craft, and opportunities to improve our cultural institutions. Recently AAM launched the Center for the Future of Museums to help museum professionals better anticipate the societal changes barreling towards us. This conversation with Elizabeth Merritt, Founding Director of the Center for the Future of Museums, will outline current thought and recent developments in futures trends.

Thursday, March 18

9:00 to 10:15 am ***Meeting in the Middle: Working Relations among Generations***

(A/E/C/ED/T) What are the characteristics, qualities, and unique viewpoints of the many generations in the workplace? Using engaging exercises, participants will

discuss options to employ, using a working understanding of generational differences. Participants will learn to capitalize on the strengths of each generation, and understand the different perspectives of each generation to resolve conflict, with the objective of unifying staffs to meet their institution's goals and mission.

9:00 to 10:15 am ***Have Exhibit will Travel***

(E/C) This session is intended as a primer for those interested in initiating a traveling exhibit program, or who are about to build an exhibit for travel. We will address various topics related to the production of traveling exhibitions: how to curate an exhibit with sufficiently broad appeal to provide numerous hosts; how to design and build an exhibit for travel; how to ship the exhibit; concerns regarding cost effectiveness.

9:00 to 10:15 am ***Thinking Outside of the Acid-Free Box: Museum Archival Collections***

(A/C) Archival and museum collections share many of the same challenges of care and management. Yet they are also quite distinct. Cataloging an archival collection like a museum collection can result in the loss of valuable information. Moreover, archivists and museum registrars/curators come from different professional traditions and use distinct approaches to preserve and provide access to collections in their care. Archivists who work in museum settings will share practical strategies for balancing the care 2-D in a 3-D world.

1:30 to 3:30 pm ***La Salle Shipwreck Project: Tour of the Belle Conservation Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University—Off-site***

(C) Visit the Conservation Research Lab at Texas A&M University, one of the largest contract artifact conservation facilities in the U.S. Experts will show session participants artifacts recovered from both underwater and land sites and describe the processes to clean and stabilize them for future museum display and/or storage. The highlight of the presentation will focus on the La Salle Shipwreck Project.

1:30 to 2:45 pm ***Don't Get Left in the Station ... Public Policy, Legal & Regulatory Issues Facing Non-Profits***

(A/E/C/ED/R/T) Nonprofit organizations, large and small, play an important role in public life and are a growing sector in the economy. With the growth of the nonprofit sector, government officials, regulators and elected officials increasingly thrust the activities of nonprofits into the public arena. Leaders and stakeholders in the nonprofit sector must identify issues that affect their welfare and sustainability and be prepared to take stands as opportunities or challenges are presented. The discussion will include federal issues, State of Texas issues and developments,

and issues trickling in from the other states.

1:30 to 2:45 pm ***Laying the Tracks for Success***

(A/E/C/ED/R/T) In order to determine whether goals have been met and the desired impact of programming on target populations has occurred, organizations are asked to define measurement metrics. These are seldom easy. This is a strategic planning session where participants are guided through this process. It will include how to determine if what we are measuring is what we are really envisioning for our community. Sometimes we measure for A while hoping that it will somehow translate into goal B. Organizational vision is purposefully created in measurable steps. Be sure you are measuring the right things.

Internship Opportunities

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza is accepting applications for an undergraduate summer intern to work with Collections & Education staff. Position funded by the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program. Details and application materials here: <http://www.jfk.org/go/about/jobs>.

The Williamson Museum in Georgetown is accepting applications for a full-time, three month, paid internship position. The intern will work with the Curator on collections and exhibition projects. This internship program is named for and is established to honor two Williamson County pioneering families: the Judge T.P. Hughes and the Nelson families. Intern description can be obtained by contacting Lisa Worley, Curator, at lworley@williamsonmuseum.org.