



COLLECTION MANAGERS COMMITTEE
Texas Association of Museums

Collections Communiqué

Summer 2011

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Looking for a job?

TAM Job Bank

AAM Job Center

Have something for the next newsletter?
Email submissions by June 1, 2011, to
Lisa Worley at worley.lisae@gmail.com.

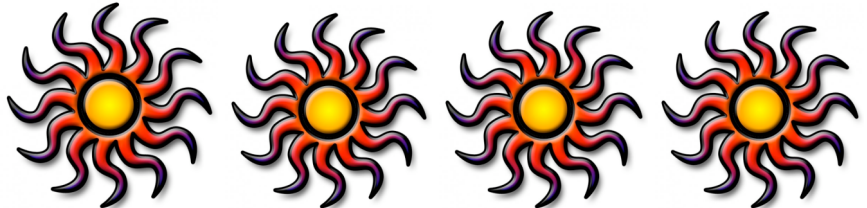
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CMC Scholarship: TAM Annual Meeting

Lindsey Richardson
Collection Manager
The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

For the 2011 TAM annual conference in Irving, the Collection Managers Committee (CMC) is offering two scholarships to help defray the cost of registration. You must be a member of CMC to apply. To obtain the application guidelines and form, please contact Lindsey Richardson at [214-747-6660 x5507](tel:214-747-6660) or lindseyr@jfk.org. Also, the application form was attached to the same email that delivered the summer issue of Collections Communiqué.

Deadline for submission is July 1, 2011.

NTAAC Group in North Texas

Brad Smith
Professional Associate of AIC
Studio Six Art Conservation

North Texas Association for Art Conservation focuses on art conservation, but the group is open to all people involved with handling artifacts. We hope that through our casual social activities we can build a strong network to help the North Texas community in times of need or disaster. We are listed as a regional group with AIC, and are on Linked in and Face Book. We also send out an email/notice/news letter about our monthly lunch meeting.

To join our email newsletter contact NTAAC at NTAAC@yahoo.com.

Thank you,
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Upcoming CMC Workshop: Museum Archives

Lisa Worley
Registrar
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CMC will be presenting its next all-day workshop in October: Museum Archives. Baylor University in Waco has graciously offered to host us. Keep your eyes open for an announcement regarding date, time and speakers. We hope you can join us!

TAM Annual Meeting: Collections-related Sessions

August 4-6, 2011
Irving, Texas

Note: The times on two sessions on Friday, August 5, are incorrect. Please see the final program for correct scheduling information.

Thursday, August 4

9:30 to 10:45 am

Large-Scale Deaccessioning: Letting Go of Your Collection Without Losing Your Mind. It is not uncommon for museums to adopt a revised mission or scope as they grow and evolve. When that happens, it can mean a large part of the collection is no longer relevant to the museum's mission. To remain the best possible steward of your resources, deaccessioning is often the most responsible decision. Such deaccessioning may seem daunting but it is certainly possible. This session will outline large-scale deaccessioning projects undertaken by museums, discussing challenges, successes, and things they would do differently next time.

11:00 am to 12:15 pm

Digitizing in a Universal Language: Discovering Metadata. As part of the IMLS grant-funded "Train to Share" digitization program, museum and library professionals attended a series of workshops designed to teach metadata basics—what is it, why it is important, and how to implement standards. Panelists will discuss projects that they have completed, including development of interoperability metadata created for the newly digitized collections. The participants will discuss their digitization projects, what they learned in the series of metadata training workshops, how the new knowledge is being used at their institutions, and the challenges and obstacles to planning and completing digitization projects.

2:15 to 3:30 pm

A Dilemma by Any Other Name: Museum Ethics in Donor Relations and Collections. Museum professionals regularly confront complex situations that

demand an ethical response. Ethical problem solving is more than asserting the obvious, such as the relevant legal standards, or seeking a few facts to support what we already think. This session will examine the ethics relevant to donor relations and collection management. In mock case studies, the audience will be called upon to help craft thoughtful responses that reassure colleagues as well as the public of the museum's commitment to the highest ethical standards.

Friday, August 5

8:45 am to 4:30 pm (check final program for correct time)

More than You Paid For: Working with Volunteers and Interns. Experienced museum staff discuss their experiences working with interns and volunteers in collections, education, and special events. What are effective methods of recruitment and training? What standards and policies support these efforts and how do they differ from volunteers and interns? Specific examples include case study discussions of collections volunteers/interns and the types of work assigned to them; volunteers used for a specific large event; a recent collaborative internship from the Sixth Floor Museum between collections and education, and working with volunteer docents vs. paid educators and how those roles were determined.

8:45 am to 4:30 pm (check final program for correct time)

The Doctor Is In: Collections Conundrums. Bring your collections conundrums to this session and ask for wise advice from a panel of experienced museum professionals. Collections managers and registrars know that any collection of any type of material will include oddities and perplexing circumstances that just don't fit into the usual routines of collections management or registration. Sometimes it's hard to figure out what happened in the past, or how to proceed. Bring your head-scratching problems to this session and ask a panel of seasoned professionals how they would respond—and ask your peers. Based on similar popular “Collections Conundrums” sessions held annually at AAM, this session is designed for anyone who manages collections and has ever wondered, “What on earth am I going to do with that?” or “Now what/how/why exactly...?”

10:30 to 11:45 am

Discovering the Value of Your Collections: A Guide for History Museums. From accordions to photographs and quilts to zithers, history museums collect a myriad of objects. The difficulty most museums encounter is evaluating and assigning a value to their artifacts. This session will address the appraisal process for acquisition and insurance purposes for new or existing collections, tell how to prepare an evaluation for an appraiser to use in valuing items and how to select an appraiser, and provide resource and reference guides that are useful for the assessment of monetary values. This session does not address art or natural science collections.

1:45 to 3:00 pm

The Participatory House Museum? Designing for Participation in “Hands-Off” Spaces. Nina Simon’s ideas in “The Participatory Museum” are reinvigorating museums with new ways to involve and educate visitors. But how can you use these ideas in a non-gallery setting, such as a historic house, site, or small art museum? Representatives from Texas museums that are implementing such practices will share insights into what works and what doesn’t, and invite the audience to contribute ideas and questions, so that we may all learn about this new phenomenon together.

3:30 to 4:30 pm

Collection Manager’s Committee (CMC) Affinity Group Meeting

Saturday, August 6

9:30 to 11:15 am

Discover Your Inner Designer: Creating Great Exhibit Labels (Half-day Workshop). Sponsored by CMC. The first portion of the workshop teaches people to have a critical eye—to look with the eyes of a visitor and not an insider at the way we write and present exhibit information. We will cover both language (writing skills) and layout (graphic look and feel) and production (how professional is the material outcome).

In the second portion, we will address how museums can create great looking exhibit labels with resources that they likely have in-house or can find locally for a small price. We’ll talk about easy tricks for designing and printing your own labels in-house. We’ll also discuss foam core, Velcro, spray adhesive, sharp knife blades, etc. and the pros and cons of each.

Pre-registration is required. Participation is limited.

Cost for the workshop is \$25. Fee includes all materials.