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Sun Rays over the Gulf of Mexico, Galveston, Texas
Photo: Alison Larson
Salutations ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico members,

My thanks to everyone who was able to attend our chapter’s annual meeting in Galveston, Texas. It had been a fair span of time since the chapter had last visited (27 years, to be exact) and it was a delight and privilege to have the opportunity to show how the city’s art and library institutions have grown and changed in the time between. I’d also like to extend special thanks to the presenters who spoke at our research roundtable, and to Lauren Gottlieb-Miller for arranging it.

As I approach the end of my two year run as Vice-President / President Elect and then President of the Texas-Mexico chapter, I can’t help but feel lucky to have served at a time when we as a group began a concerted effort to further engage with colleagues in Mexico. The time spent planning and then embarking on the Mexico City meeting was an incredible experience, and one that I hope will serve as a foundation for continued engagement with our colleagues in Mexico (allowing us to truly earn our hyphen).

I’d like to thank all of my fellow officers that served with me at various points over the last two years: Jon Evans, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Jenniffer Hudson Connors, Alison Larson, and Eric Wolf. Jon in particular was an indispensable (and very local, for me) resource as Past President. And I have to thank Alison for fielding all of my budget related questions, both actual and spoofed.

I look forward to returning to my alma mater next year at our annual meeting in Austin (a great choice by incoming President Wolf), and welcome our new officers Sunyoung Park (Vice President / President Elect) and Hillary Veeder (Treasurer). Having worked with both of them in the past I know we’ll be in good hands.

Best,

Joel Pelanne

ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter President

Assistant Technical Services Librarian

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter 2017 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

[Formally approved unanimously at the Galveston Business Meeting, Sunday, November 12, 2017]

ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
Wednesday, February 8, 2017
Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Royal Room, New Orleans, LA

Executive Committee Present:

Joel Pelanne, President (MFAH); Eric Wolf, Vice President/President-elect (Menil); Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Secretary (Menil); Jon Evans, Past-President (MFAH).

Members in Attendance:

Rebecca Barham (UNT), Craig Bunch (McNay Art Museum), Beth Dodd (UT Austin), Samuel Duncan (Amon Carter), Susan Frost (unaffiliated), Michelle Johnson (MFAH), Robert Kopchinski (ARLIS/NA), Helen Lueders (MFAH), Katie Pierce Meyer (UT Austin), Beverly Mitchell (SMU), Erin O’Toole (UNT), Becca Pad (UT-Austin), Mark Pompelia (RISD), Gabrielle Reed (MassArt), Conrad Remington (UIUC), Elizabeth Schaub (UT Austin), Chia-Chun Shih (Kimbell), Jenny Stone (DMA), Sha Towers (Baylor), Jolene de Verges (SMU)

Meeting called to order at 10:49 am.

Call to Order

Joel Pelanne, Chapter President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Mexico City Business Meeting Minutes

Eric Wolf called for a motion to approve the Mexico City Business Meeting Minutes. Jon Evans seconded. All in favor, 0 oppose. Motion carries.

Chapter Officer Reports

President’s Report – Joel Pelanne

Joel Pelanne sent the chapter’s Annual Report to the Society’s Executive Board, including the Mexico City meeting minutes. It focused on the chapter’s efforts to Increasing visibility and engagement within our international networks, particularly our priority to include more members from Mexico and to meet in Mexico
every five years. Sunyoung Park is our new web master, and the chapter created an image archivist position to preserve the visual assets of the chapter. Special funding requests for chapter meetings will now be received by the Society’s Executive Board on a rolling basis.

Treasurer’s Report – Joel Pelanne on behalf of Alison Larson

The chapter’s account balance is $1788.26 which reflects $850 of expenses since October 2016. The chapter issued a $500 check to Lois Swan Jones Travel Award recipient Mark Pompelia and made a $350 donation to the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in New Orleans. There are 23 current members in the chapter.

Vice President’s Report – Eric Wolf

Call for submissions to The Medium, needed by the end of February.

Secretary’s Report – Lauren Gottlieb-Miller

Nothing to report at this time.

Listserv Migration Update

Elizabeth Schaub reports that the chapter’s listserv is currently hosted by the University of Texas at Austin and is co-managed by Beth Dodd and Elizabeth Schaub. There are 73 subscribers. It is open and anyone can participate and receive messages without being a paid member. The chapter would like to move from an institutional host to having ARLIS/NA provide hosting. Since the meeting in October 2016 we’ve worked on having our archives migrated to the new listserv moving forward. ARLIS/NA does pay for chapters to have listservs hosted by AEG, but it costs an additional fee to migrate the existing archives. Elizabeth Schaub wants to know if the Society wants to fund what is required to migrate the archives to the newly hosted list.

Robert Kopchinski provided background on the listserv platform: 2 years ago the ARLIS/NA Executive Board purchased a perpetual subscription for L-SOFT. This came with the ability to have 20 lists with an unlimited number of subscriptions which they’ve extended to chapters first. Our chapter can be set up on L-SOFT immediately. The only problem exists with migrating the current archive to L-SOFT. Because these are emails they’re stored differently than regular .docs or .pdfs. We will need to have old archives and new archives in different formats. There is not a clear export/import option.

Elizabeth Schaub asks if there needs to be an action item to start moving this forward via the ARLIS/NA Executive Board. Robert Kopchinski confirms, says that AEG will provide an estimate and a quote regarding this project.

Elizabeth Schaub says she isn’t comfortable moving to an L-SOFT environment before resolving the archives. Jon Evans wants to know whether we can migrate to L-SOFT and maintain the other list through UT Austin. Elizabeth Schaub isn’t sure how we’d then access the archived content. Beth Dodd suggests having
someone at the iSchool at UT Austin have a look. Could be a research project for someone. Not sure that this is a solution. Archiving e-mail is complicated. There is no single solution.

Elizabeth Schaub will get in contact with people at UT IT to find out how we access that content and what’s happening on the back end. Should we wait and see before migrating the list before we know what’s going on?

Beth Dodd thinks that this is a larger project and would like there to be a cut and dry move to another system. Beth doesn’t think that there’s a solution to migrating this data. Save it in multiple places, treat them as true archival files.

Eric Wolf asks whether Texas-Mexico is the only chapter with this issue. Robert Kopchinski reports that the other chapters that migrated have not considered archiving.

Eric Wolf and Beth Dodd both think that having access to the institutional archives is very important to our chapter.

Lauren Gottlieb-Miller motions to migrate the listserv L-SOFT and archive the past listserv separately. Elizabeth Schaub seconds. All in favor, 0 oppose. Motion carries.

Break for introductions

Lois Swan Jones Award Parameters

Eric Wolf thinks that the parameters for the award are misunderstood and that we should adjust them. Some people think this is only for young professionals, only if you have no support, and that the current wording “full institutional support” is misleading. One of the problems in the past few years is that we’ve gotten very few submissions. Very worthy applicants, but very few applicants. Eric Wolf is worried that the award isn’t enough money. $500 might cover your airfare, but not hotel stay, registration, etc. New York chapter had upped the level. Gabrielle Reed says that the New England Chapter has upped the award. One year they split it between two very worthy applicants.

Helen Lueders gives the report for the Lois Swan Jones Award: this year’s recipient was Mark Pompelia. In the past two years we’ve only have one candidate each time. $750 was awarded last year and $500 was awarded this year. Helen Lueders thinks that this may be an issue giving the rising costs of travelling. Helen Lueders said that we need to work on the wording, particularly “full institutional funding”. Beth Dodd thinks perhaps we could include membership in the chapter for the year. Eric Wolf thinks that $750 is better than $500 and that we’d need to look at our balance sheet and do some analysis to see if we can up things to $1000. Beth Dodd is on another awards committee that takes into consideration a decision matrix, which she will share with Helen Lueders.
Jon Evans said that members should be able to commit to $10 or $20 at the least to the chapter and reiterated that Alison Larson’s recommendation for this year was for $500. If we want to override that, we need to have a discussion with her to decide what a comfortable cash balance is to suddenly go higher.

Eric Wolf makes a motion that the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Committee be empowered to draft new language to clarify and alter the requirements for the award. This language will be submitted to the Texas-Mexico chapter’s executive board to work with the committee to adopt adjusted language.

Helen Lueders seconds. Discussion: Elizabeth Schaub says that currently we have a contradiction between eligibility between requirements and procedure. Elizabeth Schaub suggests that we should ask the applicants to provide a budget. Katie Pierce Meyer thinks it can be useful, but that it might be intrusive. Beth Dodd notes that the ARLIS/NA website has links to its own awards but isn’t sure if the Society wants to post local awards. She will reach out to them. Lauren Gottlieb-Miller will work with Helen Lueders to reach out to iSchools. Joel Pelanne calls for vote: All in favor, 0 oppose. Motion carries.

Image Archivist Position

The Texas-Mexico chapter’s Bylaws permit the Executive Board to create new positions, and the executive committee established an Image Archivist Position for the chapter. The new position in the chapter will maintain images from chapter events, conferences, and materials related to the website. Lauren Gottlieb-Miller spoke with Elizabeth Schaub, Mark Pompelia, and Jon Evans and was appointed to the position. Lauren Gottlieb-Miller thinks that with other responsibilities she should not take on position at this time. Lauren Gottlieb-Miller and Joel Pelanne discussed creating a new board position with a 2-year term rotating utilizing the standards that the society is currently establishing.

Lauren Gottlieb-Miller moves that we put a call out on listserv to find image archivist. Eric Wolf seconds. All in favor, 0 oppose. Motion carries.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

The upcoming fall 2017 meeting will be held in Galveston. Joel Pelanne will be sending out more information in the coming weeks.

Eric Wolf would like to host conference in Austin in 2018. Eric Wolf moves that the 2018 meeting be held in Austin. Sha Towers seconds. All in favor, 0 oppose. Motion carries.

New Business

Mark Pompelia would like to present ARLIS/NA with the opportunity to host the annual conference in Mexico City in 2021. Robert Kopchinski says that there are a lot of financial advantages, one of which is that if there’s an educational component that affects taxes. You can have a chapter behind it, but we might be able to pull in some other chapters’ members across the Society to supplement conference planning outside of the
country. Disadvantages: vendors crossing borders but can’t do sales which may affect exhibit revenue though perhaps there will be replacement revenue. The Society is not currently considering 2021 locations but that will start in summer 2017. Minimum planning is three years out. This aligns with our five-year aspiration of going back to Mexico as a chapter.

Beverley Mitchell says that she, Joel Pelanne, Jon Evans, and Heather Slania have been in conversation with the development chair for ARLIS/NA. The Texas-Mexico chapter is trying to encourage Society membership with the new dues structure. They proposed that the ARLIS/NA Development Committee try to find more funds for international travel funds.

Jolene de Verges moves to adjourn. Helen Lueders seconds. All in favor, 0 oppose. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Secretary.
Texas-Mexico Annual Meeting: The Bryan Museum

By Carla Ellard

Our second tour of the day was at the Bryan Museum. Our tour guide, Jack Evins, gave a brief history of the building, which was originally an orphanage from 1895-1984. The building was damaged in the 1900 Hurricane and was eventually recorded as a Texas Historic landmark in 1979. In 2013, J.P. Bryan bought the building and repurposed it as The Bryan Museum, and it opened in June 2015. The museum focuses on the American West and houses many treasures including original historic documents, objects and artwork. The first floor explains the history of the early settlements of Texas. The second floor showcases Texas art, firearms and houses the library and archives research room. The basement level is the children’s area and also has a small exhibit on the history of the building as the orphanage.

Our tour began on the first floor in the Spanish Colonial Era room, which held many historic treasures including Álvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca’s diary published in 1555. There was a digital display of the diary that allowed visitors to view and zoom in on pages in the diary. The tour continued into the Texas Frontier room which contained the original empresario grant that authorized Stephen F. Austin to bring 300 families to settle a colony in Texas. Also, on display was a stunning diorama of the Battle of San Jacinto.

The third gallery, Statehood and Beyond, had objects from the Civil War, including a Confederate violin shotgun and tintypes from the era. Additional cases highlighted the origins of the cowboy, the Texas Cattle Trail; the American cowgirl; Galveston’s history; and the importance of the sombrero in Mexico and various types of saddles. Our tour guide highlighted several objects including Texas outlaw John Wesley Hardin’s playing card shot through and signed by Hardin; honorary Texas Ranger Allie Townsend’s .22 Ladysmith handgun; and the Republica Mexicana flag from the Brigado Fieles de Oaxaca. Nearby was another room, La Sirena, the coffee and bar.

Artwork filled the walls leading upstairs to the second level, including three screen prints from the Cowboy & Indian series by Andy Warhol. On the second floor, a 10,000-year-old fossilized bison skull is the oldest item on display in the museum. Surrounding it are a variety of paintings, including nostalgic/romantic view of disappearing west and action shots of outlaws and cowboys such as the ink drawing War Party Comanches by Frederic Remington.

We toured the Texas Masters gallery that showcased many artists’ work including Charles Franklin “Frank” Reaugh, José Arpa y Perea, Elizabet Ney, Robert Jenkins Onderdonk and Robert Julian Onderdonk, and Tom Lea.

Carol Wood, archivist for the Bryan Museum, gave us the tour of the library and archives room. She explained that an appointment is required to view the library and that the books in the library are organized in alphabetical order, by author. She led half the group into the storage area for the archives, which allowed us a behind-the-scenes look at this impressive collection. The Bryan collection contains over 70,000 items which include art works, historic maps and documents about the American West, with over 4,500 about Galveston.
The Bryan Museum grounds which serve as an event venue for private parties and events was set-up for a wedding that evening. The landscaping was beautiful and near the garden area, beside the gift shop there was a sculpture Madonna and Child by Charles Umlauf.
Texas-Mexico Annual Meeting: The Galveston Artist Residency

By Elizabeth Schaub

Meeting participants capped off a richly programmed day of tours at the Galveston Artist Residency (GAR) where we were met by GAR co-founder Eric Schnell. The tour began in the front lot adjacent the buildings with Eric introducing the program and making mention of GAR’s edible garden, the fruits of which contribute to the communal lunches the residents share on a regular basis. The genesis for GAR was a desire on the part of co-founding artists Bert Geary and Eric Schnell, along with Los Angeles-based architect Robert Whalley, to cultivate Galveston’s artistic community in the wake of Hurricane Ike in 2008. Beginning in 2011, GAR has grown to include three residents per annum who receive a monthly stipend, a studio on premises, an apartment off premises, and a bicycle for use during the duration of their residency. The residency culminates in a group exhibition.

The tour continued with Eric leading us through the facility beginning in the large gallery space—doubling as a performance space—which the author and her colleague, Becca Pad, experienced as such later that evening when Houston-based adventurous music collective Loop38 performed a program that included Salvatore Sciarrino’s *Infinite Nero* (1998) and Simon Holt’s *The Coronor’s Report* (2004).

The building housing GAR started its life as a facility for mechanically re-bailing cotton bails that had burst open in transit. Before its radical transformation, the building also housed a series of bars and dance club venues; its current incarnation serves as a great example of adaptive reuse. Eric led us through the enclosed interior courtyard to the section of the complex housing artists’ studios. The group toured two studios used by resident artists Justin Raphael Roykovitch and Kristina Estell, respectively. The artists were not present as they were attending Zine Fest Houston. Of note: Kristina Estell’s studio included the beginnings of an art reference library conceived to serve as a shared resource for artists who want to refer to material that might not be easily accessible.

The tour ended back in the foyer adjacent the gallery where participants were encouraged to avail themselves of various publications produced by GAR. Of note were copies of the second issue of GAR’s zine, *Binder* (volume 2). Eric was happy to hear that participants would be taking copies of the zine back to their home institutions for inclusion in their respective collections.

Information about GAR can be found on their website: [http://galvestonartistresidency.org](http://galvestonartistresidency.org)
Texas-Mexico Annual Meeting: Research Roundtable

The Annual Business Meeting was followed by a Research Roundtable where Chapter members presented current projects and research. Members heard the following presentations:

Embedded Librarianship in the Freshman Art and Art History Core Program
   Becca Pad – Humanities Librarian for Fine Arts, UT Austin

Managing Disaster
   Catherine Essinger – Architecture and Art Library Coordinator, University of Houston

Contributing Texas-centric Content to the Digital Public Library of America: A Case Study
   Elizabeth Schaub – Director, School of Architecture Visual Resources Collection, UT Austin

Ellsworth Kelly and the Long Road to Austin
   Eric Wolf – Lecturer, Department of Art and Art History, UT Austin

What can we do facing disasters inside libraries and archives in Mexico City?
   Fernando Corona Torres – Coordinator of Historic Archives, Citibanamex (National Bank of Mexico)

Construction photo of Ellsworth Kelly’s Austin; photo: Eric Wolf
Photos from the 2017 Texas-Mexico Annual Meeting in Galveston

Chapter Group Photo

Photo: D’Anne Larson
From the Bryan Museum

Photo: Helen Lueders

Photo: Alison Larson

Photos: Alison Larson
From the Galveston Art Center

Photo: Alison Larson
From the Galveston Artist Residency (with all the cool cats)

Photos: Helen Lueders