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President's Column

What a great experience I have had presiding as the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter president for this year! I enjoyed the challenges of planning our annual meeting in San Antonio and working with my fellow chapter members. Because I am not from San Antonio, I relied heavily on the advice of locals who were extremely hospitable and helpful, including our host of local presenters during our meeting. Some of the presenters also contributed articles to this issue of *The Medium*, which contains articles written by our members about some of the art collections, archives, and venues that we visited during our meeting in San Antonio.

Our chapter’s accomplishments for this year are numerous. Using a survey created by our ARLIS/NA 2011-2015 Action Plan Goals Implementation Committee, we identified ARLIS/NA 2011-2015 Strategic Plan Goals & Action Items that we can execute as a chapter to further the mission of ARLIS/NA. One of the goals is to “develop innovative outreach efforts to increase membership recruitment, retention, prospects, and sponsorship from both familiar sources and emerging frontiers.” The next goal we identified to help implement is “scheduling appearances at college job fairs to promote art librarianship as a potential career path for students and to promote student membership in ARLIS/NA.” In our 2013 Annual Business Meeting Minutes, you can see details on how we will accomplish these action items.

Several of our members are serving on the Art Libraries Society of North America Executive Board. Our chapter has also established conference committee chairs for planning the ARLIS/NA 2015 Conference in Ft. Worth and has chosen the conference hotel. More exciting details are in the 2013 Annual Business Meeting Minutes.
I encourage all chapter members or anyone interested in joining our chapter to volunteer to serve as one of our officers or in other roles as needed. Serving as an officer or in another role in our chapter or in ARLIS/NA is a great professional development experience; it is also an excellent way to increase your planning, organizational, and leadership abilities.

I am looking forward to the ARLIS/NA 2014 Conference in Washington D.C. and to our chapter’s annual meeting in Orange, Texas in October 2014. Please let me know if you have any questions for me. Thank you all for a wonderful year!

Tara Spies Smith
2013 President, Art Libraries Society of North America, Texas-Mexico Chapter
ARLIS/NA Texas/Mexico Annual Chapter Business Meeting 2013: Minutes

ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
San Antonio, Texas
November 3, 2013, Fairmount Hotel, San Antonio

Minutes:

I. Call to Order (President Tara Spies Smith)

The Art Libraries Society of North America, Texas-Mexico Chapter’s Annual business Meeting was held at the Fairmount Hotel, San Antonio, Texas, on Sunday, November 3, 2013. The meeting was called to order by President Spies Smith.

Executive Committee for the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
Tara Spies Smith, President
Edward Lukasek, Vice-President/President Elect
Rebecca Barham, Secretary
Laura Schwartz, Treasurer

II. Introductions (President Tara Spies Smith)

Craig Bunch (McNay), Beverly Carver (UT Arlington), Beth Dodd (UT Austin), Sam Duncan (Amon Carter Museum), Carla Ellard (Texas State), Catherine Essinger (UH), Heather Ferguson (McNay), Martha Gonzalez Palacios (UT Austin), Gloria Selene Hinojosa (Texas State), Ann Jones (McNay), Alison Larson (Baylor), Edward Lukasek (MFAH), Beverly Mitchell (SMU), Joel Pelanne (MFAH), Elizabeth Schaub (UT Austin), Laura Schwartz (UT Austin), Karen Sigler (Texas State), Tara Smith (Texas State), Lynn Wexler (MFAH), Eric Wolf (Menil), and Rebecca Barham (UNT).

III. Secretary’s Report and Approval of 2012 Business Meeting Minutes (Secretary Barham)

Minutes from the 2012 meeting had been previously submitted by email to the Chapter members for comments and copies were distributed before the meeting. Secretary Barham moved that the 2012 Business Meeting Minutes be approved by the membership. Eric Wolf seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer’s Report (Treasurer Laura Schwartz)

Membership Funds:

Treasurer Schwartz reported that the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter currently has 34 members (2013 membership). In 2012 the Chapter had 33 members. Attendance at the 2013 Annual Chapter Meeting totaled
22 members. Prior to chapter meeting registration and membership renewal, there was a balance of $2,189.42. After the collection of chapter meeting registration fees and member renewals, there is a current balance of $3,754.42 (numbers were altered to reflect funds collected after the meeting), in the account. At this time, 23 members have renewed their membership for 2014. As more members renew, this number will rise. Treasurer Schwartz will work with President Spies Smith to contact members to encourage them to renew their membership for 2014.

**Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Fund:**

The Chapter raised $588 in donations for the Lois Swan Jones Award in 2013. So far fundraising for 2014 is down. The current balance of the Lois Swan Jones Award fund is $305 (numbers were altered to reflect funds collected after the meeting). Schwartz reminded the members that if they have not yet contributed to the Lois Swan Jones Award, to please consider doing so as the award that is given to the recipient usually totals $500.

**Chapter Debit Card:**

The Chapter debit card was compromised in September 2013. All funds were recovered. Schwartz reminded the membership of the importance of doing business with trustworthy vendors and limiting the number of transactions on the debit card.

**Chapter PayPal Account:**

Schwartz reported that one of our Chapter members asked about the ability of the chapter to take credit/debit cards for payment. She mentioned that the Chapter could set up a PayPal account but 2% of each transaction would be withheld. Schwartz asked if there were thoughts about moving forward on the option of setting up a PayPal account. A discussion ensued concerning asking members to pay the additional 2% if paying by credit card through PayPal and if the account would complicate the duties of the Treasurer. The membership agreed that a PayPal account would complicate the Treasurer’s duties and should not be pursued at this time.

V. Editor’s Report for The Medium (Vice President/President-elect Edward Lukasek)

Vice President Lukasek thanked all members who had contributed session reports to the Chapter’s publication *The Medium* over the last year. He solicited the membership for new reports on this conference. He stated that Alison Larson has volunteered to write about the McNay Museum, but that it was a lot to write about and perhaps others could write about the McNay’s exhibitions, collections, and the library, etc. Lukasek will send ideas for session reports for The Medium to the membership soon.

VI. Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Committee Report (Sam Duncan)

Duncan thanked the members for entrusting him with the committee and stated that is was really an honor. He said that he considers the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award “a main instrument for supporting professional development and one of the ways we immortalize Dr. Lois Swan Jones.” Duncan thanked the committee members Gloria Selene Hinojosa and Mark Pompelia for their work on the committee.
Duncan announced that Annie Sollinger of the University of Texas at Austin is the recipient of the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award. In addition, he stated that Annie has fulfilled the requirement to attend the conference in Pasadena, has written a report for *The Medium*, and has already written a thank you letter.

Duncan also stated that the committee updated the timeline, committee member requirements, etc., on the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award guidelines. The guidelines can be found on the Chapter website.

VII. Call for new Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Committee Volunteers (President Tara Spies Smith)

President Spies Smith asked if Duncan wanted to continue as the Chair of the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Committee. Duncan stated that he would like to offer the opportunity to someone else if they are interested in serving. President Spies Smith presented the duties and timeline of the committee to the membership and said that the Chapter encourages the recipient of the award to also serve on the committee. Lyn Wexler volunteered to serve as the Chair of the committee. Duncan agreed to continue to serve as a member of the committee. In addition, Beth Dodd volunteered to serve on the committee. The committee will also ask the new award recipient Annie Sollinger if she would like to serve on the committee too.

VIII. ARLIS/NA Executive Board Report (Past President Martha Gonzalez Palacios)

Gonzalez Palacios stated that the Executive Board’s Mid-year meeting was held on September 26-27, 2013 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C..

**Strategic Planning Committee**

The Strategic Planning Committee has been working with the Diversity Committee to address the Executive Board’s request to incorporate stronger language on increasing diversity into the mission and goals of the Society. This will be accomplished with “Goal I: Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession.”

In addition, the Strategic Planning Committee is working on the progress report. They are reviewing annual reports, dropping in on various chapter and committee meetings, gauging where the progress is happening, and where more work and energy is needed.

During the Executive Board meeting, the committee also discussed the need to for all committees and chapters to address and link to the strategic plan. The committee will develop ideas on how to better implement this task.

**Slate of Candidates for 2014 Executive Board**

The candidates for the ARLIS/NA 2014 Executive Board include: Vice-President/President Elect: Kristen Regina; Treasurer: Mark Pompelia; Canadian Member-at-Large: Sylvia Roberts; and Communications & Publications Liaison: Holly Hatheway.

**Joint Conference Task Force**

Gregg Most is working with the Anne Whiteside, Jolene de Verge and the Joint Conference Task Force.
2016 ARLIS/NA Conference

The 2016 ARLIS/NA Conference will be hosted by the Northwest Chapter and will take place in Seattle, Washington.

New Graphic Identity of the ARLIS/NA Website

Nedda Hassan Ahmed is working with Technical Enterprises, Inc. (TEI), to migrate content on the ARLIS/NA website. This will facilitate better aggregation of news, social media, etc. from SIGs, committees, sections and divisions.

The website’s new color scheme is periwinkle and persimmon.

The logo will be created by the same graphic designer who designed the Washington, D.C. conference logo. The Executive Board reviewed the logo and is expecting new samples to review during the November conference call later this week.

The Membership Committee is also working on redesigning a trifold, trilingual brochure and a bookmark.

2014 ARLIS/NA Washington Conference Report

Gregg Most is working with conference chairs. The Development Committee reported raising $19,500 for the conference at the Executive Board mid-year meeting. In addition, they are working on grants to support international attendees. So far there are six confirmed exhibitors, who are paying a total of $5,172.50.

Program Highlights:

There are 28 sessions in seven session blocks. Tours will include the Library of Congress’ Packard Center, Mt. Vernon, the Hillwood Museum, the Smithsonian offsite collections facility, and a reception at Dumbarton Oaks.

The convocation will take place at the Library of Congress and Susan Stamberg will be the speaker. The luncheon speaker will be D.C. architectural historian James Goode. He will speak on historic domestic architecture in Washington, D.C.

Sections and Divisions

Activity, membership and leadership varies in the different sections and divisions. Some divisions and sections once sponsored sessions but stopped doing so a few years ago. Sponsoring sessions might be an idea worth revisiting. Carole Ann Fabian and Martha Gonzales Palacios will develop a “success sheet” for divisions and sections.

Latin American Librarians at the 2013 ARLIS/NA Conference in Pasadena
The Latin American Librarians had a busy agenda during and after the conference. The Executive Board is still in touch with the Latin American Librarians. They want to continue their relationship with ARLIS/NA and become ARLIS/LA (Latin America). They have created an informal Facebook page.

**Diversity Committee**

The Diversity Committee is working on an IMLS grant to promote diversity. Their initial proposal to the Executive Board will be revised as a collaborative planning grant subject to bringing in an experienced grant writer in this area.

**Public Policy Committee**

The Florence Declaration which outlines recommendations for the preservation of analog photo archives was signed.

The Statement on Museum libraries has not yet been updated.

**International Relations Committee**

The 2013 Russia Study Tour and the Berlin Study Tour and Colloquium, worked with international attendees.

The 2014 trip to Budapest is being organized by Christina Peter. The British librarians may attend the ARLIS/NA Washington Conference, and IFLA in Lyon France in 2014. There is a chance of a study tour. The International Relations Committee is proposing a $100 fee for study tours to organize trips. This $100 would be applied to the cost of the study tour, and would be returned if the participant is waitlisted and turned down.

**Communications and Publications**

Subscriptions and online use of ARLIS/NA’s publication *Art Documentation* has increased. Judy Dyki continues to recruit new peer reviewers, and wants staggered terms for members of the Education Board. She would like to include a member from Mexico.

The ARLIS-L list-serv has 2500 subscribers. This is 65 more subscribers than last year. There are currently no members from Mexico on the list-serv.

The Museum Division is considering publishing a new edition of the book: Museum Librarianship.

The Media Relations Coordinator position will manage public awareness of ARLIS/NA initiatives, events, and other programs.

**Development Committee**

Fund raising for the 2014 Washington D.C. Conference is being headed by Kathryn Wayne. By the end of September the Development Committee had raised $19,500. The committee also applied for applied for a
Kress grant with the International Relations Committee to bring Russian librarians to the Washington D.C. conference but were not successful. They are now looking for other opportunities.

In addition, the Development Committee is working with TEI on a prospect database.

**Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee is working on a brochure and bookmark. The committee is also seeking members from Mexican libraries and extending outreach efforts to Library and Information students via LinkedIn.

ARLIS/NA headquarters reported a membership totaling 1092 members. Sixteen new members joined in August and September.

**Education and Professional Development**

The Summer Educational Institute (SEI), is doing very well. SEI made a profit of $8,000 for each organization, or a total of $16,000. The Education and Professional Development Committee is also examining and updating core competencies and creating a list of library schools and internships.

**Mentoring**

The Executive Board is considering updating their charge beyond new professionals to a mid-career mentoring program and a leadership mentoring program with a particular emphasis on developing leaders for the Society.

**Virtual Conference**

The Executive Board is also exploring the possibility of beginning to co-sponsor sessions in other virtual conferences such as ALA and ACRL. There is a great potential to increase the participation of geographically disperse individuals, including Latin American librarians who expressed an interest in these sessions.

**Budget**

The budget reflects that regular and student memberships have increased. The Executive Board is working on a final budget.

**Technical Enterprises, Inc. (TEI)**

ARLIS/NA renewed a two year contract with TEI. This year the Executive Board will review whether or not they would like to consider preparing a Research Quality Framework (RQF), for other companies or if they want to continue business with TEI.

The Executive Board is working with TEI on several forms to streamline donations, payments and access to data. In addition, they are working on several projects for the Washington D.C. and Fort Worth Conferences,
such as: creating a basecamp for project management that is available for committees and exploring the possibility of hosting a Wordpress blog that would be made available to chapters, sections and divisions.

IX. ARLIS/NA Annual Conference 2015 Co-Chairs Report on Conference Planning (Beverly Mitchell, Beverly Carver, Catherine Essinger and Lynn Wexler)

Beverly Mitchell announced that the Conference Planning Chairs and Co-Chairs had a meeting with the rest of the Chapter membership yesterday to discuss the committees for the ARLIS/NA Annual 2015 Conference in Fort Worth. Below is the roster of 2015 conference committee Chairs:

- Budget Coordinator - Laura Schwartz
- Publicity – Eric Wolf
- Local Development Coordinator --Sam Duncan
- Website – Joel Pelanne
- Tour/Transportation Coordinator—Stephen Gassett
- Tours/Transportation (no Chair) – Rebecca Barham (member)
- Exhibits Coordinator—Alison Larson
- Registration/Hospitality Coordinator—Selene Hinojosa
- Local Guide Editor—Laura Steinbach
- Silent Auction/Raffle/Fundraiser Coordinator—Edward Lukasek
- Programming – Craig Bunch (member)

Carver and Mitchell said that they performed a site visit for the 2015 conference in Fort Worth in August. They looked at four hotels. The Omni Hotel was chosen as the conference hotel because it is a newer hotel with plenty of meeting space. President Spies Smith suggested that the Planning Committee Co-Chairs post to the list-serv more often to ask for volunteers and Chairs of the committees post requests for help along with way. In addition, this is a good way to get programming and proposal ideas too.

**2015 ARLIS/NA Conference Logo and Theme**

Catherine Essinger stated that a graphic design student will design the logo. The theme is “New frontiers in the old frontier.” The theme is not set in stone at this point and discussions about it will be posted on the list-serv in the future. The membership was supportive of the theme saying that it is “provocative,” “upbeat” and “open ended”.
A base camp site and list-serv has been set up for the 2015 conference. Committee members will be added to the list-serv soon.

X. ARLIS/NA 2011-2015 Action Plan Goals Implementation Committee (President Tara Spies Smith)

The ARLIS/NA 2011-2015 Action Plan Goals Implementation Committee members are President Tara Spies Smith, Beth Dodd and Mary Ann Bidgood. The Chapter chose two goals that our chapter needs to meet. The two goals were 1B1 and 3A1.

President Spies Smith sent out a survey to the Chapter membership asking for examples of how members are currently meeting or could meet action plan goals 1B1 and 3A1 from the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2011 – 2015. The responses are listed below.

1. Goal 1B1: Develop innovative outreach efforts to increase membership recruitment, retention, prospects, and sponsorship from both familiar sources and emerging frontiers.

   • Contact non-profit job fairs and career services and man a table at the job fair at the university. Interact with students or new professions to pitch the value of national and chapter offerings and the value of membership for entry into the profession
   • Use the Chapter’s website, it is a dynamic resource.
   • Have the Chapter create a marketing plan that includes: target audiences, ID modes of communication and uses images and provides testimonials of chapter work and programs.
   • Utilize leadership roles as a conduit for making contacts.
   • Convince employers to fund membership and travel as well as accommodate service closures so that members can attend meetings.

2. Goal 3A1: Schedule appearances at college job fairs to promote art librarianship as a potential career path for students and to promote student membership in ARLIS/NA.

   • Interact with a local student history group and annually speak to the students about alternative career paths.
   • Schedule appearances at job fairs to promote art librarianship.
   • Promote ARLIS/NA news such as travel awards on the Inforama blog.
   • Promote through posts on the ARLIS/NA Graphic Novels SIG blog and list-serv.
   • Present information on ARLIS/NA at “All Student Days” at the university.
   • Target the audience with a marketing plan.

President Spies Smith will report these responses in the annual report.

In addition, Allison Larson volunteered to post news about our Chapter that addresses the 2011-2015 Action Plan Goals on the ARLISNAP (ARLIS New Art Professionals), site.
Student Scholarship to attend the ARLIS/NA Texas/Mexico Chapter meeting:

The membership discussed the creation of a scholarship for a student to attend the Chapter meeting. President Spies Smith reminded the membership that the student would have to pay ARLIS/NA membership too. The student membership cost for ARLIS/NA is $50. The student fee to attend the Chapter meeting is only $10. Gonzales Palacios suggested that the Chapter ask if ARLIS/NA could waive the cost of the membership for the student.

President Spies Smith stated that it would be a good idea to wait and look at models used by other Chapters while under the guidance of President Elect Lukasek and then get approval for the model, the amount and the committee members who will serve on this committee via the listserv.

Wolf moved that the Chapter form a committee for a one year test scholarship to bring a student to the ARLIS/NA Texas/Mexico Chapter meeting and include the ARLIS/NA and ARLIS/NA Texas/Mexico Chapter membership. Wolf also volunteered to donate a $50 test donation for the student scholarship this year. Treasurer Schwartz said it would be a good idea to set the monetary parameters for the student scholarship between $150 - $250. The motion was voted on and unanimously carried.

XI. Nominations and Elections for Vice President/President-elect (Past Presidents Gonzalez Palacios and Mitchell)

There is no need to elect a Secretary this year since the position is a two year term and Barham has served one year. There is also no need to elect a Treasurer since the position is a three year term and Schwartz has served two years.

Gonzales Palacios and Mitchell announced that the Executive Committee had nominated Sha Towers for Vice President. Towers is the art liaison and Director of Liaison Services at Baylor University and was formerly the music librarian. Mitchell stated that Towers has a lot of experience in the Music Library Association (MLA), and the Texas Library Association (TLA), so he brings this service history with him.

Mitchell asked if there were other nominations for Vice President from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. The nomination was approved.

A discussion was called. Vice President/President Elect Lukasek indicated that he had been informed yesterday of the new candidate who would serve as his Vice President during this upcoming year. Lukasek stated that while he is sure that Mr. Towers will serve well in the position, he thinks that the Nominating Committee should confer with the current Vice President/President Elect about the nomination of a Vice President.

Lukasek and Gonzales Palacios agreed that the current bylaws were followed which state that the two past presidents are responsible for the nomination of the new Vice President. Gonzales Palacios stated that she would like to write more recommendations for next year so there would be a call put out earlier for nominations before the Chapter meeting.
Wolf stated that there are two issues at play that deal with the bylaws: 1) No qualifications of past standing exist in the bylaws for a candidate for Vice President. Wolf indicated that this may be okay for the secretary and treasurer. 2) There is no mention of consultation of the Nominating Committee with the President Elect for the Vice Presidential candidate in the bylaws. Wolf stated that if any changes in the bylaws are desired then a committee should be formed to discuss changing the bylaws to include consulting the President Elect on the nomination beforehand and setting a requirement of past standing.

Mitchell stated that she understood the President Elect’s concerns and she thinks that Sha Towers has a lot of good experience and brings a new vision to the Chapter.

Wolf stated that since both he and Gonzales Palacios are members of the Executive Board, this leaves less members to step into leadership positions and so the pool of possible candidates is smaller. Treasurer Schwartz added that she would like to add an historical perspective on the issue. Schwartz said that this shows that the Chapter is growing in a good way, instead of going back and reoffering the position of Vice President to those who have served in this position in the past, and that it is good to look toward new membership.

Gonzales Palacios moved that the Chapter form a committee to review the nomination process that might include revisiting the bylaws and or just editing the roles of the officers. The motion was approved. The following people will serve as members on this committee: President Elect Edward Lukasek, Martha Gonzales Palacios and Beverly Mitchell.

A motion was called for a vote by voice for Sha Towers as the Chapter’s new Vice President. The motion passed unanimously. Sha Towers was elected to the position of Vice President of the ARLIS/NA Texas/Mexico Chapter.

XII. Chapter Welcome Party Donation (Treasurer Laura Schwartz)

Treasurer Schwartz stated that the chapter contributed $150.00 last year to the Welcome Party for the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference. She suggested that the Chapter contribute $150.00 again this year. The motion was put to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Planning for the 2014 Annual Meeting (Vice President/President-Elect Edward Lukasek)

Vice President/President Elect Lukasek went to Orange, TX to perform a site visit for a possible conference location for the Chapter’s 2014 Annual Meeting. He was very impressed with the cultural venues in Orange including the Stark Museum of Art, the Stark House, the Shangri La Botanical Gardens, the Lutcher Theater, and an education building. In addition, Librarian Jennifer Hudson Connors is the Stark Museum librarian and has agreed to become a member of our Chapter. Former University of Houston colleague Dick Dickerson is the Stark Foundation Archivist and has agreed to give us a tour. The Stark Foundation has a large archive documenting the complete story of Stark family and a lot of materials relating to the University of Texas. Lukasek also talked to two authors who are writing a book about the Stark Family and they have agreed to give a talk to our Chapter next year.
The membership deferred to the Conference Planning Team on the subject of the 2014 Chapter meeting. The co-chairs did not think there would be a need to meet again in Fort Worth to plan for the 2015 meeting of ARLIS/NA. Also, there will be a conference planning meeting in Fort Worth in June or July of this coming year. The President, Incoming President, Treasurer and Development Chair of ARLIS/NA and the Conference Planning Co-Chairs will attend this meeting.

Lukasek indicated that the date for the 2014 Chapter Meeting would probably be early to mid-October when the Orchid festival is taking place. If approved, Lukasek will send a survey to the membership to decide on the best date.

A move was made to vote that the 2014 Chapter Meeting be held in Orange, TX. The motion was put to a vote. The motion passed unanimously. Orange, TX will be location of the 2014 ARLIS/NA Texas/Mexico Chapter Meeting under the new President Lukasek.

XIV. New Business (President Tara Spies Smith)

**Chapters**

ARLIS/NA should be included in the name of all Chapters. The ARLIS/NA Texas/Mexico Chapter is already in compliance.

The word “affiliate” cannot be used to denote non ARLIS/NA Members. The term “associate” is preferred by the Society. The ARLIS/NA Texas/Mexico chapter is already in compliance.

XV. Adjournment (President Tara Spies Smith)

President Spies Smith thanked Vice President Lukasek, Secretary Barham and Treasurer Schwartz for their service. President Spies Smith adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:
Rebecca Barham
Archives Tours

Heather Ferguson, Library and Archives Public Services Coordinator, conducted the Saturday morning tour of the McNay Art Museum's archives. With the 2008 Stieren Center for Exhibitions expansion, the archives gained a 1,054-square-foot archives storage area, complete with environmentally-sound compact shelving as well as a separate cold storage vault for their photographic material. It comes with all the bells and whistles— including a monitor to alert staff of changes outside of their settings. The new compact storage rises nearly 12 feet high and even provides much needed overflow space for their special collections, and institutional publications, which include those published by the McNay Art Museum and catalogs of visiting exhibitions.

The archives consist primarily of administrative records of the McNay Art Museum, as well as images and papers related to Marion Koogler McNay and other records of affiliated persons and organizations. Early photographs and documents that relate to Marion Koogler McNay’s life date back to the late 1800s; however, the bulk of archival holdings fall between the 1930s and the present day. The institutional archives are primarily used by museum staff; however, scholars, students, and general researchers are welcome by appointment.

Current challenges the archives face include budget constraints, limited staff (one full-time position), management of digital images, and the preservation of born-digital content. Meeting the ongoing challenge and goals of long-term digital preservation requires updating policies and developing strategies and workflows necessary to manage digital materials over time and to provide continued access to them for as long as necessary.

In the afternoon, Tom Shelton introduced the special collections at the Institute of Texan Cultures and Amy Rushing the digital assets of UT San Antonio. San Antonio history, urban development, and Mexican cookery were just a few areas featured. Tom introduced us to their vast photographic collections, highlighting history through samples of glass plate negatives, nitrates and safety film all the way up to 35mm film. Collections include those of newspapers (San Antonio Express-News and the San Antonio Light) as well as former photographic studios of Ray Howell. These incredible resources are accessed via a long bank of card catalogue drawers and are supplemented by loose-leaf subject files.

Amy, just 6 weeks into her new position as Digital Archivist, described the many wonderful digital offerings of the archive including reformatted photographic material managed through their CONTENTdm digital asset management system. These include La Cocina Historica, a Mexican cookery blog and other social media for outreach. UT San Antonio’s approach to digital archives has been through vendor services (not developed inhouse) for managing digital assets and social media. This has enabled them to focus limited resources on the content and its affiliated metadata. As a result, in a fairly short amount of time, the public now has thousands of incredible unique items at their fingertips. Amy aspires to build on this resource by including thesis and dissertations to their digital offerings.

Here is a list of what UTSA has to offer:

**Blogs –**
Top Shelf

Highlights new acquisitions, special events, and content from collections.

http://utsalibrariestopshelf.wordpress.com/

La Cocina Historica

Promotes the Mexican Cookbook Collection. Posts include bilingual recipes (Spanish and English) from the collection, cooking events such as the "Culinary Tour of Mexico, and info about food-related manuscript collections.

http://lacocinahistorica.wordpress.com/

Twitter –

Redford Diaries

Diary of the Redford Family. James Redford, Sr. moved from Canada to Texas in 1877 at the age of 54 and homesteaded 160 acres in Sandy, Tx.

@RedfordDiaries

UTSA Yesterday

This Week in UTSA History: Press releases, News clips, and Photos of UT San Antonio from the University Archives. Starts in 1973, when UTSA opened to students.

@UTSAYesterday

Digitized Collections –

UTSA Digital Collections

Digitized content from UTSA Special Collections: rare books, photographs, personal papers, and University Archives. Over 26,000 digital objects

http://digital.utsa.edu/cdm/
Pinterest

Contains pins of many of Special Collections’ unique digitized collections

http://www.pinterest.com/utsalibraries/

HistoryPin

Contains small collection of historic images of San Antonio.

http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/id/34720/#photos/list/

YouTube

Handling Archival Material video series

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RWAOajffZg
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFybeMQ65Q0
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHVjQb4izSw

Beth Dodd
University of Texas at Austin.
Artpace Visit

First stop on this Fall's chapter meeting in San Antonio was a visit to Artpace (445 North Main Ave.) An unexpected prelude to the official tour was Artpace's weekly "Food Truck Fridays" celebration complete with a lovely courtyard setting and amazing street tacos. The highlight of the visit though was the conversation and tour with Digital Archivist Kait Dorsky, who gave us a nice introduction to Artpace's work and mission. In 1995, Artpace opened its doors as a space for the creation and promotion of contemporary art, following the vision of artist and collector Linda Pace (1945-2007). Originally a 1920s Hudson automobile dealership, the 18,000 square foot facility renovated by San Antonio architectural firm Lake/Flato is now home to a vibrant laboratory for contemporary art. Here Artpace hosts artist residencies, exhibitions, and educational programs.

Educational programming includes ArtElements, a hands-on, arts curriculum that reaches thousands of K-12 students and their families each year. Other offerings for the community include Art Talks lectures and Artpace After Hours events with live music and food on the new rooftop patio. Artpace also offers continuing education opportunities for artists and educators.

What constitutes the core of Artpace's mission and makes it unique is the way it functions as a "makerspace" gallery. Three times each year, guest curators invite three artists (one from Texas, one from elsewhere in the United States, and one from abroad) to live and work in the Artpace studios. Here artists have access to administrative and technical support, supplies, and fully equipped workshops (in wood, metal, and digital editing). Each residency consists of two months devoted to the conception and creation of art followed by a two-month exhibition. To learn about current exhibitions, visit <http://artpace.org/exhibitions/current/>.

While gallery space dedicated to the works of its artists-in-residence was in "studio mode" (and not available for viewing) during our visit, Arpace does have two other galleries with year round programming. These include the Hudson (Show)Room and Window Works. The Hudson currently features Localized Histories, comprised of selected assemblage and found-objects works including Linda Pace's Orange Crush. The clever concept behind Window Works leverages sidewalk windows once used to sport the latest automobiles into a "take it to the streets" approach, extending art's reach beyond the traditional gallery walls. Window Works even reaches beyond Artpace's windows, including other storefronts across San Antonio.

Curatorial staff create documentation with essays and images for each exhibition. Initially these were print copy catalogs, though now these are moving to digital, and here's where Kait's work comes in. In addition to managing Artpace's in-house archive, consisting of about 1500 monographs and serials, print archival materials, and analog images (primarily slides), Kait oversees a collection of approximately 100,000 digital images. She is also managing the institution's web presence and the development of a new database for managing the digital archive. Artpace's archive serves as a valuable resource for curators, art historians, and area students. The archive is open to the public and available by appointment. Many thanks to Kait for introducing us to Artpace and it's resources. For more information on happenings at Artpace, see their blog.
ARTPACE SAN ANTONIO

Sha Towers
Art Liaison Librarian and Director of Liaison Services Baylor University Libraries

First Friday in San Antonio
As a life-long San Antonio native and first year member of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter, I was delighted to learn my hometown had been selected as the destination for the chapter’s fall 2013 meeting! Unless you are a regular Fiesta fanatic who makes their annual pilgrimage to town to partake in the April festivities, I’d say there’s absolutely no better time of the year to visit San Antonio than October/November. To my recollection, it seems fall arrives in South Texas somewhere around Halloween and this is usually the time of the year when the unrelenting summer heat finally levels off. With the heat in remission you can truly appreciate the simple pleasures San Antonio life has to offer such as taking in a leisurely art stroll or enjoying an outdoor dining experience. Increasingly San Antonio has so much more to offer its residents and visitors that it can be difficult to hone in on where to begin (unless you get the inside scoop).

For those who find themselves in downtown San Antonio on a First Friday, just as the ARLIS/NA Tex-Mex chapter members did on November 1st, you’re guaranteed to find exciting art and culinary experiences abound if you stroll on down to Southtown. The First Friday vibe has definitely changed over the years, but don’t let that keep you away. The event has grown over time to garner lots of attention, one might argue too much attention for those who live in the surrounding neighborhoods and have to deal with the event crowds. The Southtown neighborhood has been revitalized over the past several decades, and has become an increasingly hip and desirable area of downtown. As a result of recent progress, many of the smaller artist-run spaces that dominated the scene have become dispersed. Trendy restaurants now line South Alamo where once upon a time an abundance of artists and vendors were displaying and selling their goods. One could easily wander in and out of various hole-in-the-wall galleries, all jam-packed with art and glowing audiences. Ironically, several established and emerging artists-run spaces have migrated due south to a neighborhood recognized as the South Flores Arts District. Still, the Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum and surrounding complex remains a hub for activity in the Southtown neighborhood.

To kick the night off, gallery director Kimberley Aubuchon welcomed chapter members with a private reception at the Unit B (Gallery), one of my favorite artist-run exhibition spaces in Southtown. Situated just a few short blocks off the main “art walk” path, Unit B is well worth the detour for art enthusiasts who care to seek out those local haunts where artists and creative types rub shoulders and crack open cold ones all the while plotting their next art happening. Kimberly founded Unit B in her then apartment turned gallery during the time she was studying at the Art Institute of Chicago. Originally located in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood, Kimberly organized exhibits at Unit B between 2002-2004 before returning to San Antonio and re-opening the gallery in 2006. Kimberly, an artist herself also worked as the archivist at ArtPace for a number of years up until 2011 when she made a career change to follow her running shoes to become a physical trainer. I understand she’s graduated to the 26-mile club! Go Kimberly!

No private reception would be complete without a meet-and-greet with the featured artist, and this night there would be no exception. Artist Katie Pell, whose exhibition was currently on view at Unit B made a special appearance to join Kimberly in welcoming our chapter members. Katie presented a lively discussion about her exhibition titled Charming Are Your Unformed Wishes, which she explained “addressed the unformed wishes that trail her everywhere”. The main gallery space featured a larger-than-life sculptural charm bracelet that Katie constructed out of reclaimed wood. Katie’s husband Peter Zubiate is an artist who designs furniture that is both functional and sculptural; this provides her access to ample materials for repurposing. Accompanying
the over-sized sculpture in the main gallery were related charcoal drawings that echoed the chain-link bracelet.

Taking a side step into the second room of the gallery offered viewers examples of Katie’s ongoing comparison collages where she’d paired up two clipped images with handwritten text. She explained how the collage series has been an ongoing source of inspiration for some time and with that she’s clipped and assembled a large collection of images to work with. The two images become a story when paired together along with handwritten text scrawling reflections, sentiments, and honest wit in storyboard fashion across the page. Katie has a long and impressive exhibition history, which includes San Antonio highlights such as her 2006 ArtPace residency and recent installations at the Blue Star Contemporary Arts Center (2010) and Sala Diaz (2010). Currently Katie serves as a part-time faculty member at the UTSA Department of Art and Art History where she teaches courses in drawing and sculpture.

Following the Unit B reception, chapter members made their way down the block to Sala Diaz, another artist-directed exhibition space, which was founded in 1995 by Alejandro Diaz. Now established as a 501 (C)(3) non-profit space supporting the San Antonio community, Sala Diaz is sponsored by a long list of area foundations and numerous private individuals. Sala Diaz is nestled into one half of a duplex at the edge of a cluster of similar small-framed duplex structures. The dwellings share an open communal backyard space that is affectionately known as the (Mike) Casey Compound, or simply “The Compound” to those familiar. Mike Casey is not only a property owner who graciously keeps rents affordable for his tenants in a neighborhood with a skyrocketing cost of living, but he’s also known as an all around supporter of the local art scene—both as a collector and board member serving various arts organizations. Occupied by an evolving cast of artists, architects, and creative types, former compound residents have included numerous noteworthy San Antonio artists over the years; most notably the late, famed Chuck Ramirez (1962-2010). Being that it was Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead and we had converged on Sala Diaz, I undoubtedly felt the void of Chuck’s magnanimous presence because he was notorious for constructing elaborate, yet intimate Día de los Muertos altars in the backyard dedicated to his loved ones including his grandmother and beloved pet cats.

The artwork on view at Sala Diaz was that of Meghan Fest, an emerging artist on the San Antonio scene. Meghan’s solo exhibition “TΔTEM” presented two distinct bodies of work, which explored “a delicate world threaded together via mystic reverence, occultish animism, shamanistic superstition, psychedelia and kitsch.” The two main rooms of the gallery space were filled with large-scale colored pencil drawings. The drawings were executed on over-sized paper that she cleverly wrapped over frames giving the drawings the appearance of stretched canvas. Much to my delight Meghan displayed a series of hand-embroidered 1960s postcards in the hallway beyond the main gallery space. Each vintage postcard had been adorned with a delicate geometric embroidered design that reminded me of an abstract personal monogram. The postcards were perpectively framed in glass, which allowed the postcards’ original hand-written messages to be exposed from the backside.

Following the planned gallery visits the remainder of the evening was self-guided and so chapter members set out in various directions to explore a range of First Friday offerings. A small, yet adventurous group that included Tara Spies Smith, Crag Bunch, Sha Towers, Alison Larson, and myself decided to venture down to the Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum to view the Texas Biennial exhibition. What was significant about the 2013 installment of the Texas Biennial (founded in 2005) was that for the first time the curated group survey
exhibition was installed in a single venue. Lucky for us the exhibition was hosted here in San Antonio by the Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum. I have to give credit to this group who courageously traversed the normally pleasant path down to Blue Star, which has lately been consumed by seemingly never-ending road construction and precarious sidewalk detours. Surprisingly, there were some areas where the sidewalk dropped off 3’ into muddy trenches without so much as a caution sign or proper barricade. Honestly, it’s a wonder we made it there and back without any casualties.

On our return trek, the group stopped off to enjoy some festive German fare at the Beethoven Maennerchor. The Beethoven Halle und Garten is located a few blocks north of Blue Star at the intersection of South Alamo and Pereida Street. This is a popular First Friday stop for those who want to enjoy some authentic German food & beer while listening to live musical performances or strutting their stuff to the crowd-pleasing Chicken Dance. Before calling it a night, I was accompanied by Tara Spies Smith as we said goodnight to the others and ventured onward for a late stroll through La Villita Historic Arts Village. The two of us wanted to catch a glimpse of the living altar displays, which were on view in the Día de los Muertos Community Altar Exhibition. We made our way through La Villita, past the elaborate altar installations, and down to the river level guided by the sounds of music rising up from the Arneson River Theatre. Wrapping up the full night of fun Tara and I sat riverside at a hotel lounge adjacent to the Arneson River Theatre and enjoyed overhearing the Texas Tornados play live to a packed theatre crowd. With plenty to reflect back on, what I enjoyed most about this First Friday experience was getting acquainted with the ARLIS/NA Tex-Mex chapter members and sharing some favorite sights and sounds of my hometown with this wonderful group.

Heather Ferguson
Library and Archives Public Services Coordinator
McNay Art Museum
MFAH Libraries in Collaboration with Rice University

Many art librarians are familiar with the troubles caused by a lack of space coupled with an ever growing collection. Over the past few months, the Hirsch Library at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston has embarked in collaboration with Rice University’s Library Service Center to house selected materials from the Hirsch’s collection in the University’s off-site storage location and free up room in our nearly overflowing stacks.

The first phase of the project involved selection of materials for transfer. Library staff volunteered their time to select and peruse shelf ranges in the Hirsch stacks and pull older or potentially lower use material. Once removed from the shelves, the titles were searched for historic charges and usage within the library. Things that had been touched fewer than two times while enjoying their stay in the Hirsch were set aside, while titles that had seen more use were re-shelved with paper strips (a fetching hot pink was selected for ease of identification) inserted to prevent their being pulled again in the future.

Once the lower use items were set aside in a labeled holding area, Museum curatorial staff members were notified via email that they would have one week to review the materials selected for transfer and make the case for specific things they would prefer to keep on-site. After the week was up, the books were packed in crates provided by the Rice Library Service Center, the MARC data and bibliographic information of the titles were transferred (allowing for the books to be requested via the Rice OPAC) and staff from the Rice LSC picked up the books and delivered them to their new home.

The goal of the collaboration will be to eventually transfer 6,000 titles to Rice’s Library Service Center over the course of 5 years, making for a total transfer of roughly 30,000 books. This will help to alleviate some of the Hirsch’s immediate space needs within our stacks greatly, and for our part we are currently working on allowing for circulation of Hirsch materials to Rice faculty and students. Ultimately, it is our goal to make sure the collaboration will benefit both partners.

The Library Service Center at Rice University was created to provide off-site, preservation housing for low-use library materials. Opened in March of 2004, the facility spans 13,000 gross square feet and has a capacity of 1.75 million “book equivalent” objects (archival boxes, videos, maps and other material may also be stored in the facility). Visits to the Library Service Center may be scheduled by appointment, Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm.

http://library.rice.edu/about/departments/library-service-center

Joel Pelanne
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Personal Reflections of the McNay Art Museum

Having been a college undergrad the last time I visited the McNay (circa 1991?), I was eager to return Saturday morning, November 2, of the ARLIS/NA – TXMX meeting. I couldn’t recall much from my first sojourn to the museum, so arriving for our tour of the Archives and Library seemed almost like a brand-new adventure. The McNay didn’t disappoint. While some things looked familiar, I didn’t remember the beautiful landscape of Sunset Hills. I didn’t remember Caulder and O’Keeffe, or Picasso and Rodin. I didn’t remember the courtyard as a soothing and contemplative, almost surreal retreat from hectic life beyond its walls. I didn’t even remember the double staircase entrance. I must be daft. How could I have forgotten so much?

At any rate, I quickly found myself daydreaming about what it must have been like to actually live there in the 1930s. Did Marion Koogler McNay wake up every morning totally absorbed the Spanish colonial beauty that surrounded her? I know I would have. Consequently, I appreciated her magnanimity and foresight. Surely, she knew that her home was special. During her lifetime, she generously supported the arts and art education, and followed through by stipulating that her home should become a museum. More than sixty years since her death, she allows me the pleasure of a morning’s cerebral diversions and admiration of the treasures of her collection. As art librarians and students, I think we have a communal respect for those individuals for whom preservation resonates. Thank you, Marion.

I even liked the "hokey" video we watched as a group. I enjoyed the time allotted to explore the house, courtyard, grounds, and gift shop, and personally, I would have been content to stay the rest of the day. Prior to departure, I filled out a visitor survey and was rewarded for my trouble with a handy copy of *McNay Art Museum: An Introduction*. I now have no excuse for erasing the McNay from my memory banks. Resolution: Do not let another twenty years, or even half that, go by without another McNay experience!

Alison Larson, MA Art History
Crouch Fine Arts Library, Baylor University, Waco, Texas
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December 1, 2013
The Color Inside: A New Oasis at UT Austin

"I’m interested in invisible light, light that can only be perceived by the mind. I want to address the light that we see in dreams. I’m interested in doing works that seem to come from these places, in order to create an experience of wordless thoughts."

James Turrell

On the rooftop garden of the Student Activity Center at the University of Texas at Austin, sits a small elliptical building that serves as stage for The Color Inside. This is the latest addition to Landmarks (UT’s public art program) and is the eighty-fourth Skyspace created by James Turrell (1943- ).

According to the artist, the work is only visible during sunrise and sunset, when LED lights respond to the changing skylight in a sequence that dramatically alters visitor’s color and space perception. Access to the Skyspace is not limited to these events since admission depends on the hours of operation of the Student Activity Center so while visitors cannot enjoy the sunrise sequence because the building is closed, they can enjoy the Skyspace throughout the day and some evenings. Every visit to The Color Inside offers a new experience as weather and natural light become ever changing protagonists.

What Turrell achieves with such an intangible medium as light is something ineffable. He creates spaces, or better said, environments that allow for perceptual experiences in what can easily be described as transcendental or spiritual. His work investigates the phenomenology of perception through a careful manipulation of color and light. Turrell’s meticulous planning for the construction of this Skyspace is calculated to enhance the visitor’s awareness of the space she/he is visiting. The oculus in The Color Inside becomes the viewer’s eye looking not only outside onto the sky but also inward, in to a calm place of quiet reflection.

For more information, visit the Landmarks webpage on James Turrell.