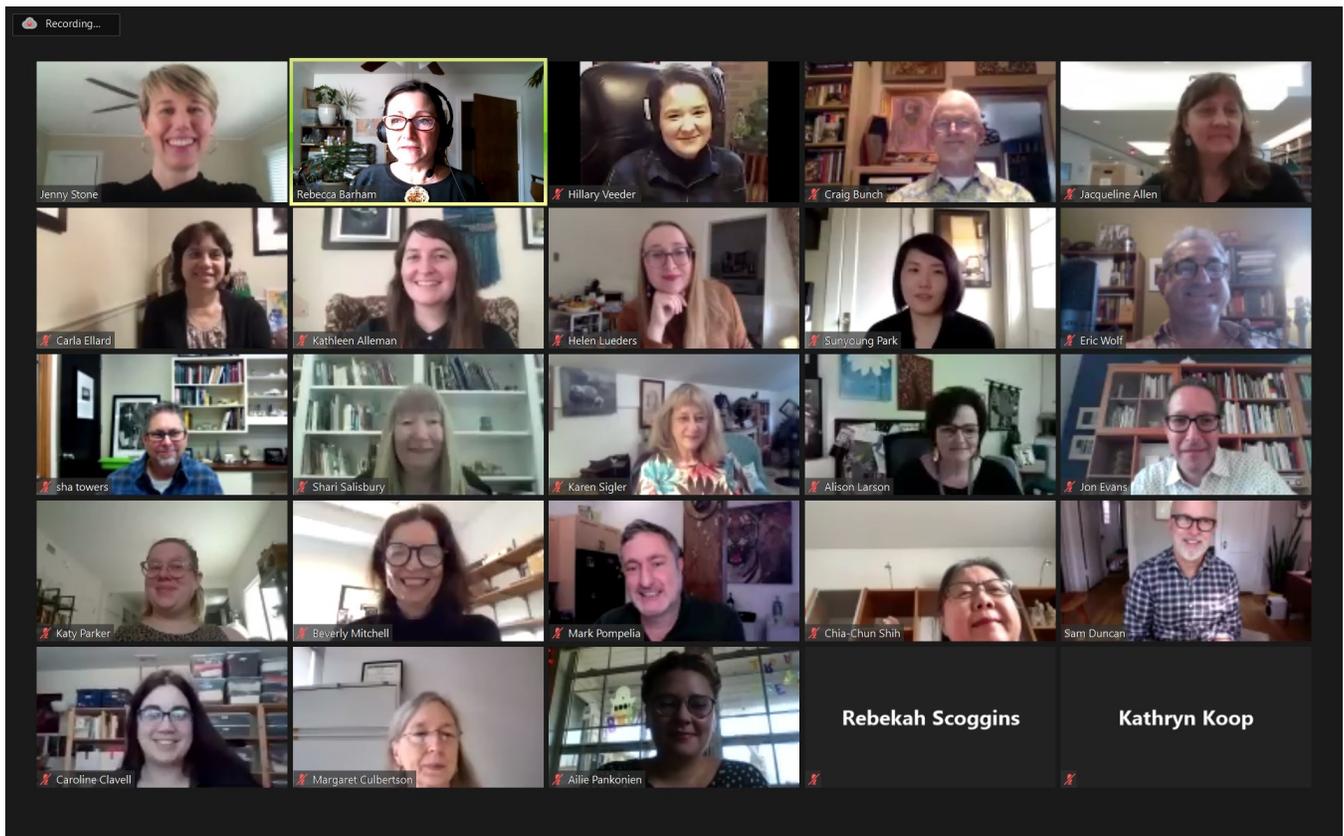


TheMedium

The Newsletter of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter



Fall Zoom business meeting, photo by Rebecca Barham.

Welcome to *The Medium*, the semi-annual newsletter of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter. The Fall 2020 issue (v. 46, no. 2) contains reports from the Annual Chapter Meeting that was to take place in Dallas, Texas (but took place virtually because of COVID-19), and articles about professional activities from our chapter members.

CONTENTS

Jenny Stone  **President's Column**

Helen Lueders  **Spring 2020 ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico
Chapter Meeting Minutes**

Jenny Stone and
Jacqueline Allen  **Bright spots in 2020: a variety of gifts to
the Mayer Library at the Dallas Museum of
Art**

 **Contributors**

President's Column

By Jenny Stone



A big “thank you” to everyone who participated in the first all-virtual Texas-Mexico Chapter Annual Meeting. The combination of the online platform and waived registration fees made for a more inclusive and well attended program. There were around 40 attendees (out of 60 registrants) and I was pleased to see many new faces, especially students, in the various sessions. Though the virtual experience came out of necessity, I hope the Chapter can continue this practice in some form as way to encourage involvement. My sincere thanks to the planning committee members Rebecca Barham, Kate Alleman, and Jacqui Allen for their enthusiasm and contributions in pulling off a successful meeting.

This has been an active time for the Chapter. We kicked off the year with the acceptance of the Chapter’s proposal to host the 2023 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Mexico City. Monthly meetings with the planning committee have commenced, but it’s never too late to get involved! Watch the listserv for meeting announcements. Katy Parker jumped into the new Archivist position and is completing the transfer of the physical archives to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This significant role was created by my predecessor, Sunyoung Park, to ensure the retention and management of important Chapter documentation. And speaking of documentation, the tax-exemption reinstatement process with the IRS continues, but I look forward to a determination soon.

As my term as President winds to a close, I’d like to express my gratitude to my fellow executive committee officers for their gracious and collaborative efforts through this challenging year. I commend Hillary Veeder and Helen Lueders for their service as they wrap up their terms as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Hillary leaves the Chapter’s finances well-documented and in good order and Helen is jumping back on board to serve as Vice President/President-Elect. The Chapter will be well served under the leadership of the incoming Executive Committee: Rebecca Barham (President), Helen Lueders (Vice President/President-Elect), Quentin Pace (Treasurer), and Kate Alleman (Secretary).

Looking forward to a bright 2021!

Most Sincerely,

Jenny Stone

President, ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
Librarian, Mayer Library, Dallas Museum of Art

ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 11 am - 12 pm

Venue: Zoom (virtual)

Minutes taken by Secretary Helen Lueders.

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order (Jenny Stone)

President Jenny Stone calls the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

II. Welcome and Introductions (Jenny Stone)

Jenny begins by welcoming everyone and thanking attendees for patience in adjusting to the virtual format of the meeting. Jenny explains some of the features of Zoom we will be using. Motions will be put forward in the video chat, and members will use "yes" and "no" buttons in the participant section of the app to vote on said motions.

Hillary Veeder and Rebecca Barham will monitor the chat feature of Zoom in case any questions come up there. Rebecca has added a link to the meeting agenda in the chat.

Jenny has the executive board introduce itself. In lieu of a sign-in sheet and introductions as usual, attendees are asked to add their name and institution in the chat field.

Complete list of TX-MX members in attendance (from Zoom chat):

Jenny Stone (Dallas Museum of Art)

Helen Lueders (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)

Hillary Veeder (Texas Tech University)

Rebecca Barham (University of North Texas)

Jacqueline Allen (Dallas Museum of Art)

Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Menil Collection)

Rebekah Scoggins (Hirsch Library, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)

Katy Parker (University of Texas, Austin)

Shari Salisbury (The University of Texas at San Antonio)

Alison Larson (Crouch Fine Arts Library, Baylor University)

Kate Alleman (Dallas Museum of Art)
Lindsey Jackson (University of Texas Fine Arts Library)
Sherman Clarke (formerly Amon Carter Museum, now Alfred, NY)
Sunyoung Park (Hirsch Library, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
Stefanie Hilles (Chapters Liaison, Miami University (Ohio))
Jon Evans (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
Caroline Clavell (Amon Carter Museum)
Sha Towers (Baylor University)
Robin Key (Menil Collection)
Tad Suzuki (University of Victoria, Canada)
Mark Pompelia (Rhode Island School of Design)
Margaret Culbertson (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
Gabrielle Reed (Massachusetts College of Art and Design)

III. Approval of Minutes from October 2019 Houston Meeting (Jenny Stone)

Jenny Stone moved for approval of minutes.

Shari Salisbury seconded the approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Chapter Officer Reports

A. President's Report (Jenny Stone)

Jenny thanks the chapter for the opportunity to serve as president, and notes that while the year has not turned out as planned, she is grateful for the support of the executive committee with a special thank you to Rebecca Barham for her assistance setting up the Zoom meeting.

Tax Exemption Reinstatement:

Jenny states that one of the bigger things she's worked on is the tax exemption reinstatement application. The chapter's tax-exempt status was revoked last summer due to three years of non-filing the 990 documents (2013-2105). Past President Sunyoung Park and Treasurer Hillary Veeder had been working hard on compiling the necessary documentation for the application. Jenny picked up where Sunyoung left off at the start of 2020. They have been working with a pro bono lawyer who has advised them as needed. The application itself is 20 pages and requires extensive documentation, and when completed the application ended up being about 100 pages.

Jenny was able to send it in via mail last week. The chapter is applying for a postmark reinstatement, which means that if the exemption is approved, the exemption will begin the day it was sent off at the post office. Hopefully there will be news in the next month or two regarding our chapter's status. Jenny notes that if you have made a contribution to the chapter, it is not currently deductible as a charitable contribution so if you have run into any issues related to contributions, please contact her. There is the possibility of a secondary process for retrospective reinstatement if needed.

Bilingual Chapter Documentation:

The chapter has been interested in having bilingual (Spanish and English) documentation for a while. Past president Sunyoung started planning for this, then Jenny took it up at the start of her term. She has been in touch with the Southeast chapter's president as they include Puerto Rico in their jurisdiction and might have similar needs and an interest in working together.

The issue was also discussed at the chapter leaders meeting this year to see if any other chapters had experience with providing bilingual documentation. Canada has French and English documentation, which makes sense as French and English are the official languages of Canada.

Jenny says that making the website available in Spanish and English is a good starting point. However, we also want to consider the commitment we are making and how to make this initiative sustainable across all forms of communication, including the listserv and the newsletter. This was also a question posed during the chapter leaders meeting, especially in light of the planned conference in Mexico City in 2023. Jenny is hopeful the conference will be useful in leading to a unified effort to make documentation accessible in Spanish for both larger organizational and individual chapter materials. Jenny suggests that getting input from members in Mexico would be useful as well.

Chapter Archivist:

The position of chapter archivist was approved and now we are looking for someone interested in serving in this role. The archivist will create retention policies and schedules and work to ensure appropriate documentation of chapter records. The need for this position became clear during the tax exemption reinstatement process. Jenny calls for

anyone interested in serving as archivist to volunteer themselves in the Zoom chat or, if they need to think about it, can contact her later. This is an appointed position, so there is no need to vote on it.

Near the end of the meeting via chat, Katy Parker volunteered to serve as Chapter Archivist. Jenny Stone will be in touch with her after the meeting with more information.

B. Vice President's Report (Rebecca Barham)

Rebecca puts a call out for submissions to the next issue of chapter newsletter, *The Medium*. She notes that the world and our lives have been very different recently because of the pandemic, and she thinks it appropriate for entries to *The Medium* to reflect this. Some ideas for entries include reports on virtual tour sites in and around St. Louis; reports on how your institution has been impacted by pandemic projections about the future of libraries and museums; philosophical musings on how art research and reference may change in the future. Other topics are of course welcome as well. Jenny Stone had suggested members send in pictures of their work from home space to be included in the issue as well.

The deadline for topic submission is May 13, 2020 and the deadline for finished submission is June 15th, 2020. Please email Rebecca any submissions.

C. Secretary's Report (Helen Lueders)

Helen will compile minutes from this meeting and send to the executive committee for correction, then to the listserv for final corrections shortly before the Fall 2020 meeting.

D. Treasurer's Report (Hillary Veeder)

Hillary says that as of the beginning of April we have \$2,258.50 in Wells Fargo account and \$58.24 in Paypal.

For the chapter tax exemption application, we included a \$600 check, which will be deducted from the chapter account. If they cash that, it is a good sign they have accepted the application.

Hillary is waiting on a check for bundled membership payments from ARLIS/NA.

The Lois Swan Jones Award recipient received a check for \$500 to attend this year's cancelled conference but has not cashed the check so the deduction is not reflected in current chapter balances.

We did make the \$75 donation to the VRA conference and \$100 donation to ARLIS/NA's St. Louis conference, as approved of at the fall business meeting.

Current tally for is 22, which does not include those who have bundled membership. Hillary will get a more accurate count soon.

Hillary participated in a survey related to how to transition banking between treasurers. C. Secretary's Report (Helen Lueders)

Helen will compile minutes from this meeting and send to the executive committee for correction, then to the listserv for final corrections shortly before the Fall 2020 meeting.

V. Lois Swan Jones Committee Report (Lauren Gottlieb-Miller)

Lauren is pleased to report that this year, the award attracted five excellent applicants, which is more than the committee has received in a long time. The award's recipient for 2020 is Lauren Haberstock. Lauren recently graduated from the University of Arizona with an MLIS and would have been a first-time conference attendee.

She was sent the check but has been told not to cash it until the chapter decides how to proceed with the award given the cancellation of the conference, which will be discussed further during new business.

Lauren wanted to thank everyone who served on the committee with her. Quentin Pace, the 2019 recipient, will cycle off the committee. Lauren is hesitant to put the 2020 recipient on the committee before she has actually received the award so will keep the committee at three people (Lauren, Shari Salisbury and Sam Duncan).

VI. Donations to Cancelled Conferences: SEI and ARLIS/NA (Jenny Stone)

Jenny discusses how to move forward with our donations to cancelled conferences. First, ARLIS/NA has given three options for how to proceed with these donations: let them keep the donation as part of their relief fund, ask for a reimbursement, or apply it to Montreal.

Jenny opens up the floor to discussion, and Jon Evans states that he would like to see it applied to the relief fund. Jenny and Shari Salisbury share their approval as well.

Jenny motions to let ARLIS/NA keep the donation for their relief fund. Jacqui Allen seconds the motion, and the motion carries unanimously.

Second, the SEI donation allows for a few options: we can ask for reimbursement or put the money toward the 2021 conference to be held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Jacqui Allen motions to letting SEI keep the money for the future conference, and Lauren Gottlieb-Miller seconds it. The motion carries unanimously.

VII. 2023 Mexico City Conference Updates (Jon Evans & Mark Pompelia)

Mark begins by saying that the proposal was accepted with very positive reception. The only issue raised was that Mark Pompelia at the time will have been a past ARLIS president and automatically on the conference planning advisory committee so does not need to take on another role outside of that.

Mark states that, while things have changed in the world in the last few months, there is no hesitation about planning for 2023. The society is of course more focused on Montreal at present but continues to be very excited about Mexico.

Jon put out a call for volunteers to work on planning committee for Mexico and is very pleased at the level of interest, stating that about 85% of roles have been assigned. Jacqui Allen, Shari Salisbury, Lindsay Jackson, Gabrielle Reed, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller and Rebekah are all going to be involved in planning in various capacities. He is currently still looking for people to fill these positions: local development coordinator, exhibits coordinator, local guide editor and, if we decide to have one, a silent auction/Etsy site coordinator.

Jon encourages newer members or people who haven't taken an active role before to consider volunteering as it does not require previous experience. He says that there will be lots of support, and he and Mark are happy to discuss positions and their duties with anyone interested in learning more.

To that end, Jon proposes a meeting for those on the planning committee some time in late May. He will send out a Doodle poll to ascertain dates that work for everyone. He suggests that, if possible, program leaders Lauren Gottlieb-Miller and Gabrielle Reed brainstorm ideas for the conference's theme to discuss at the meeting, and Lauren agrees. Gabrielle invites ideas from the chapter as well.

Jon also notes that they may start wanting to work with management on hotel availability as that will likely dictate a lot conference programming; currently the society is undergoing some management review so they may need to discuss with ARLIS/NA executive board whether this is the time to start that kind of planning or if we need to hold off a little longer.

Mark suggests that everyone familiarize themselves with the proposal for further ideas. He suggests looking to past chapter trips to Mexico (like TXMX) or other affiliate societies past or future conferences/symposiums that we could use as models for how to proceed with hotels, tours, etc.

Beverly Mitchell asks if they have made contact with any other library professionals working in Mexico, other than Fernando Corona, who has been helping Jon and Mark with planning. Jon answers that currently Fernando is our only Mexico-based planning participant, but that they are very open to and hopeful we can find more boots on the ground. Fernando has been extremely helpful, especially in planning the chapter meeting in Mexico a few years back, but it would be great to get more participants. Beverly concludes by saying she would love to assist in one of the vacant roles.

Gabrielle Reed asks if Fernando or anyone else has been in contact with UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) and/or if it would be convenient to split the conference between a hotel and the university. Jon isn't sure but asks that they bring up the topic to discuss it further at the planning meeting in May.

VIII. Fall Chapter Meeting (Jenny Stone)

Jenny states that while the fall chapter meeting is slated to be in Dallas in the fall, there are still so many unknowns related to the pandemic. She would tentatively like to start planning for the conference in the summer and welcomes anyone who would like to participate in planning to join her.

Given the continued uncertainty about the fall, she will send out a survey of both possible dates as well as asking for members' opinions on in-person and virtual meeting options.

IX. New Business (All)

Lois Swan Jones Award Money:

Lauren Gottlieb-Miller asks for ideas on how to proceed with the 2020 award, given that the conference was cancelled. Katy Parker, recent transplant to Austin from the Georgia chapter, states that her chapter said their travel award winner could put the money to attending the regional conference. Jenny Stone suggested letting the recipient apply it to the 2021 conference, since we aren't sure if there will be a Dallas conference or not yet.

Lauren states that she also supports allowing the recipient to void her current check and be issued a new one later to go toward the 2021 conference, citing that she was both an excellent candidate who will likely continue to be involved in ARLIS in future years.

Sunyoung Park agrees and states that, depending on our finances, it may be possible to give another award next year as well. Lauren acknowledges that that would be especially useful since travel budgets will likely be tighter for many institutions in the coming year.

Shari Salisbury motions to allow the 2020 Lois Swan Jones Award recipient to put the award money towards the 2021 conference. Katy Parker seconds this, and the motion passes unanimously. There is an acknowledgement that if her institution is able to fully fund her attendance at the conference in 2021, she can refuse the award at that time.

Thank you to Sunyoung Park:

Jon Evans wants to formally recognize and thank Sunyoung Park for her work as chapter president. He says she did a tremendous job, and he would like to see it recorded in the chapter minutes.

Jenny Stone motions to formally acknowledge Sunyoung Park for her service to the chapter. Shari Salisbury seconds the motion, and the motion passes unanimously with sincere thanks.

Group Photo:

Lauren Gottlieb-Miller takes a screenshot of the Zoom meeting to serve as our group photo.

X. Adjournment

Jenny Stone moves to adjourn the meeting. Kate Alleman seconds the motion, and the meeting is adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Bright spots in 2020: a variety of gifts to the Mayer Library at the Dallas Museum of Art

By Jenny Stone and Jacqueline Allen

Donations from collectors and scholars have made marked enhancements to the Mayer Library's collection over the last year. (And kept library staff busy, despite the pandemic!) Late in 2019 we received a gift from the library of Richard and Adeela de Unger. Richard de Unger is the son of Edmund de Unger, a noted art collector whose Kier Collection of Islamic art is on long-term loan to the Dallas Museum of Art. The [donation](#) totaled over 200 volumes with a focus on Persian textiles, rugs and carpets. The Keir Collection is named after the 18th-century British mansion where it was once housed and includes textiles, carpets, ceramics, rock crystal, metalwork and works on paper. Read more about the Keir Collection in this 2014 press release: <https://dma.org/press-release/dallas-museum-art-receives-one-world-s-leading-private-collections-islamic-art>

Not long after we finished processing the de Unger books in February 2020, Robert Edsel, a local author here in Dallas, offered us a donation. Edsel has researched and written books about the Monuments Men and their efforts in recovering art looted by the Nazis. You may be familiar with his work *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History* (also made into a movie by George Clooney). Edsel's gift included over 130 European exhibition and sale catalogs used in his research. [Processing is in progress](#). This gift added depth to the library's auction and dealer catalogs, which are mainly used for provenance research. Fun fact: former DMA director Richard Foster Howard was a Monuments Man. You can read about him on this blog post from 2014: <https://blog.dma.org/tag/the-monuments-men/>

This next COVID-period gift took many twists and turns before arriving at the DMA. For a little context, you may recall that in November 2018, the Dallas Museum of Art presented the [exhibition Ida O'Keeffe: Escaping Georgia's Shadow](#) which traveled to the Clark Art Institute in July 2019. Like most museum exhibitions, Sue Canterbury, The Pauline Gill Sullivan Curator of American Art and Interim Allen and Kelli Questrom Curator of Works on Paper, began her research for it many years earlier and library staff followed her path with great interest as

requests for materials were made starting in earnest by the summer of 2014. Ida had taught fine art at several universities across the country throughout her career. As a result, many archival collections contained information about Ida and her work, but as we discovered, no one knew her life story as we do now until the exhibition and [publication](#) were released. We also learned that institutions where she taught were not the only sources of research material. As a direct result of publicizing and mounting the exhibition, private collectors of Ida's art and collections of papers emerged from the shadows of time.

Ida was also an author. One book, [Forest Indians](#), which was loaned by a former employee of the J. Paul Getty Trust, Ken Hamma, to the exhibition and was gifted to the Mayer Library after the close of the show. Our curator was also aware of another publication, referenced during her research, which remained a mystery until it emerged after the Clark presentation. The unique illuminated book, *Sun Prairie: a folk story of the great lake country* had been in the possession of Jack and Linda Cross of California. They came forward with news that they were the custodians of a veritable treasure trove of items including the lost book and they offered the archive to the DMA as a gift!

In December 2019, our administration approved the gift and designated the Mayer Library and DMA Archives Special Collections as recipients. Rather than send staff to California, we contracted with an art mover to pack and ship the fragile and unique items. Originally scheduled for an easy shipment on March 30, 2020, COVID stepped in and caused a stay-at-home order in California on March 20th! Through many starts and stops, packing was finally completed in early July and the welcome gift arrived at the DMA on July 20th, very shortly after our building was open for essential operations. And then the box sat unopened and waiting for a time when both library and archives staff could be in the room.

Scheduling the unveiling was difficult at best. Restrictions on gathering in the building were just one obstacle. DMA Archivist Hillary Bober and Jacqueline Allen added two more essential staff to the meeting, Fran Baas, Interim Chief Conservator and Sue Canterbury. We needed a location with a large table and space to social distance that was neither an office nor an alternative break room for essential staff. Staff who were cleared to work in the building could only do so on staggered schedule and others needed special approval. Add the fact that rules and guidelines were changing almost daily and it's a minor miracle that the September 25th meeting to open the box happened at all! Our intrepid Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Jill Bernstein, heard about the gift and saw a story. She quickly mobilized and arranged for filming during the opening and we're so glad she did! You can see the gift and hear more about it on the

resulting video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p92hF1iCwG8&feature=youtu.be> In museums, nothing comes about from the work of a single person. Some pieces of a process may be solitary, but it takes the talents of everyone to make the magic happen.

Contributors

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**Art Libraries Society of North America
Texas-Mexico Chapter**