Welcome to The *Medium*, the semi-annual newsletter of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter. The Spring 2020 issue (v. 46, no. 1) contains the approved Fall 2019 Houston meeting minutes and a special “Work From Home” section.
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Dear ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico members and friends,

The weeks leading up to this issue of The Medium have been difficult, to say the least. The COVID-19 pandemic is causing social and economic distress across the world. Libraries have been forced to lay off or furlough employees, cut salaries and budgets, and rethink services for patrons where face-to-face interactions may be hazardous. Amidst all of this, the recent killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor by police sparked protests across the nation. That outrage has brought our attention back to the injustices and inequities faced by the Black community and the urgent need to fight against the systemic racism ingrained in American society. To echo ARLIS/NA’s Statement Against Anti-Black Racism and Violence, the art library profession is disproportionately White. We have work to do.

In January, the Texas-Mexico Chapter’s proposal to host ARLIS/NA’s first conference in Mexico was enthusiastically approved by the Executive Board. Many thanks to Jon Evans and Mark Pompelia for spearheading this successful effort. I encourage Chapter members to participate in this historic event and volunteer in the planning efforts for Mexico City 2023.

In March, institutions, businesses, and schools began closing en masse and stay-at-home orders were enacted. Events were cancelled, including the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in April. Rather than convening with colleagues in St. Louis, we joined one another in online Zoom meetings from home. The Chapter held its first virtual meeting on April 28th with higher than usual attendance. This issue of The Medium won’t feature the typical conference session and tour write-ups. Instead, it will reflect the alternate reality in which we find ourselves: ad hoc workspaces carved into living spaces where pets, roommates, children, partners and/or plants become coworkers.

I’m fortunate to be a part of a dedicated executive committee and I would like to thank them for their support and service to the chapter: Vice President/President-Elect Rebecca Barham, Treasurer Hillary Veeder, and Secretary Helen Lueders. I would also like to welcome and extend my gratitude to Katy Parker, new member and Chapter Archivist, and to Sarah Stanhope, who took on the role of Website Administrator earlier this year.

It was unfathomable in March that I’d still be working from home in June, week 13, writing this letter. But here we are. Social distancing and wearing masks in public has become de rigueur. And while there’s a strong desire to restore a sense of normalcy, there is also uncertainty about the future. This extends to the Annual Chapter Meeting in Dallas. Although I’m looking forward to welcoming the group to my hometown, there’s the possibility that “staying together, apart” will prevail. I hope you will join us wherever we find ourselves in the fall.

Stay tuned, stay well, and keep washing your hands.
Jenny Stone  
President, ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter  
Librarian, Dallas Museum of Art

ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter Meeting Minutes (Fall)

Sunday, October 20, 2019, 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
Hirsch Library, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX 77265-6826

Minutes taken by Secretary Helen Lueders

I. Call to Order (Sunyoung Park)

Sunyoung calls meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

II. Welcome and Introductions (Sunyoung Park)

Sunyoung begins by thanking all attendees for a successful weekend.

Complete list of TX-MX members in attendance (from sign-in sheet):  
Sunyoung Park, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Helen Lueders, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Jenny Stone, Dallas Museum of Art  
Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Menil Collection  
Shari Salisbury, The University of Texas at San Antonio  
Craig Bunch, McNay Art Museum (retired)  
Sarah Stanhope, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Michelle Johnson, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Hill Archive)  
Lindsay Jackson, Austin Public Library  
Krystal Smith, Houston Public Library  
Jon Evans, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Hillary Veeder, Texas Tech  
Mark Pompelia, Rhode Island School of Design  
Margaret Culbertson, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Joel Pelanne, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Kate Alleman, Dallas Museum of Art  
Tina Budzise-Weaver, Texas A&M University

III. Approval of Minutes from March 2019 Salt Lake City Meeting (Sunyoung Park)

Sunyoung moved for approval of minutes. Helen Lueders seconded the approval. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Chapter Officer Reports
A. President’s Report (Sunyoung Park)

Sunyoung thanked the chapter for their support during her term as Chapter President and said it was a great experience.

**Survey Results:**
Sunyoung went over the results from the survey sent out to the Texas-Mexico chapter in March 2019. One question, asking how chapter members prefer to hear about news showed that 100% of respondents prefer to use the listserv, so the chapter will continue to send news this way.

The survey indicated interest in more chapter events, with in-person and virtual tours receiving the most interest, which Sunyoung suggests may be a future endeavor to pursue. Sunyoung has reached out to ARLIS NA with tentative plans to arrange webinars and virtual chats on specific topics. The two most requested topics from the survey were digital collections and collection development, which the board took into consideration when drafting the research roundtable call.

Written-in statements in the survey indicated that chapter members wanted to reach out to and support library/information professional students, new professionals, and professionals from Mexico, especially to encourage attendance of the fall chapter meeting. To recruit and sustain members from Mexico, it will be important to have more materials available in Spanish; currently the website has a plug-in for translation but other options are being pursued by ARLIS-NA. The Southeast chapter has Puerto Rico under their jurisdiction so we can look to them for guidance going forward to produce Spanish-language materials and possible collaboration.

**Membership Bundling:**

Bundled memberships for national and chapter memberships for individual U.S. memberships is going forward. The chapter will still handle student, retired, and Mexico memberships due to difference in pricing structures. An announcement will be made through the listserv when bundling is available, and there will be a need for continued conversation about how this will affect budget, notifications of new members, etc.

**Tax Exemption:**

Sunyoung informed the chapter that we learned this summer the Texas-Mexico chapter lost its tax-exempt status due to three years (2013-2015) of non-filing 990-N, which is required of all small nonprofits. The chapter is working to reinstate our status and dealing with payment related to lapsed years with a local attorney working pro-bono to resolve this as soon as possible. Because of this, the chapter cannot accept donations as a 501(3)c, which will affect the budget and the Lois Swan Jones award. In addition, there is a reinstatement fee of $600 dollars that will need to be considered going forward.

Jon Evans asked about how the chapter can avoid a similar issue in the future and whether the information on filing is in the chapter’s documents. Sunyoung says that while it is in the treasurer’s job description, we will also plan to edit the document to make it clearer. ARLIS TXMX is not the only chapter who has had this issue, so national is going to work on workflows to make sure the process is clarified going forward.
B. Vice-President’s Report (Jenny Stone)

Jenny asked for submissions for the next issue of The Medium and will send call for submissions via the listserv after the meeting as well.

C. Treasurer’s Report (Hillary Veeder)

For a more detailed account of the chapter’s finances, see full Treasurer’s Report appended to the minutes.

**Chapter Accounts**

Total chapter assets as of Sunday, October 20th are: $1,781.15.

Payments and donations via PayPal have been available to members since April 2019. Since inception, one transfer from the PayPal to WF account has been completed.

October 25th is the expected date for the fall meeting pay-out from the EventBrite account, with an expected net of $762.02 (gross sales, $850.00, 21 tickets). In light of the ongoing tax-exempt status revocation, Park removed the LSJ donation options from the fall meeting registration (and removed it from the website) in a good faith effort to accurately represent the Chapter’s current revocation status. Fall meeting expenses have been approximated at $562-587; the total expenses will be determined after tour payment and reimbursements have been issued and remaining funds will be added to the Chapter Wells Fargo account.

Upcoming expenses include the Lois Swan Jones award, a donation to the annual conference in St. Louis, a donation to the SEI program, and the pending IRS fee payment to reinstate tax-exempt status.

**Membership**

October 1, 2019 marked the start of the 2020 membership year.

The bundled membership – Chapter and National dues for regular members was officially launched at the end of September. The renewal period will run from October 1 – December 31. All regular chapter membership renewals and new memberships should be completed via the ARLIS/NA member website. Retiree, student, and residents of Mexico memberships will still be collected by the Chapter treasurer via check or the PayPal payment option. Chapters are expected to receive dues payments on a quarterly basis.

**Tax Exempt Status**

Efforts are still being made to rectify and reinstate the Chapter’s tax-exempt status. This process has been ongoing since the end of July.

D. Secretary’s Report (Helen Lueders)

Helen reported that after the meeting, she would forward the minutes taken to the executive board for corrections and revisions. Once the minutes have been approved officially at the national meeting in the spring, she will submit them to The Medium.
V. Nominating Committee Report (Joel Pelanne)

Joel reports that the nominating committee nominates Rebecca Barham, Art, Dance and Theater Reference Librarian at University of North Texas for Vice-President/President Elect for 2020. Joel opened the floor for additional nominations, of which there were none. Sunyoung moved to put the nomination to a vote, Helen Lueders seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

Lauren, having just learned about the financial issues related to the loss of tax exemption status, suggests that the 2020 award amount may need to be reduced from 750 to 500 dollars. Jon Evans moved to set the 2020 Lois Swan Jones Travel Award at 500 dollars, Hillary seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Lauren noted that the conference website for the 2020 national conference in St. Louis just launched, which will give people plenty of time to look at schedules and costs as the conference is later than usual (April 20-24).

Lauren reported that she will be reaching out to library schools to encourage student applications and encouraged the library students in attendance to apply as well.

VII. Mexico City Conference Proposal and Call for Volunteers (Jon Evans & Mark Pompelia)

Jon reports that he and Mark have created a proposal to present to the ARLIS/NA executive board to hold the 51st annual ARLIS/NA conference in Mexico City (to be held in 2023). They used past proposals as models and feel they have a strong proposal that should be well received. One of the last components of the proposal would be volunteers to participate in planning for the conference. Jon states that he will put out a call for announcing interest in participation, with a deadline of 10/25. He believes that this could provide good opportunities for newer professionals to forge professional bonds and connections although is somewhat time-consuming. Jon reports that Fernando Corona (former chapter member in Mexico) is committed to assisting and supporting the chapter as needed.

Craig Bunch asked about possible partnerships with other chapters, Mark had reached out to Southern California chapter for possible partnership, but it does not seem to be a good time for them to participate at present but not ruling out possible partnership with other chapters going forward.

VIII. Archivist Position (Sunyoung Park)

Sunyoung reports on the idea of expanding the image archivist position to broader archivist position. She notes that expanding the position would require a change to bylaws.

Current:
ARTICLE IV. Officers
The President may appoint a chapter Image Archivist and chapter Website Administrator. Appointed positions shall not follow term limits, and appointed members may retire and be replaced as needed.

**ARTICLE VIII. Special committees**
Special project committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

**Proposed: ARTICLE VIII. Appointments and Special Project Committees.**

Archivist and Website Administrator positions shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Appointed positions shall not follow term limits, and appointed members may retire and be replaced as needed. Special project committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Sunyoung opens the floor for comments. Lauren Gottlieb-Miller moves to allow change to bylaws, Jon Evans seconds the motion and the motion is carried unanimously.

Because of the nature of this motion, Sunyoung will now go to the ARLIS/NA executive board and will let us know when she hears from the board as to the approval of these changes.

**IX. Future Chapter Meeting Location (Jenny Stone)**

Jenny Stone proposed Dallas as the 2020 fall chapter meeting location, hosted by the Dallas Museum of Art.

Shari Salisbury asks how the date of the next meeting will be chosen. Jenny states that she will follow Sunyoung’s model of sending out a survey for popular dates next year. Lauren Gottlieb-Miller requests that Jewish high holidays and academic calendars be considered ahead of time as well.

**X. ARLIS/NA Annual Conference and SEI Workshop Donations (Sunyoung Park)**

Sunyoung stated that our chapter usually donates to the ARLIS/NA annual conference. In light of the chapter’s IRS issues, SYP proposes 100 dollar donation to St. Louis conference.

Sunyoung also proposes a donation of at least $75 to The Summer Educational Institute for Digital Stewardship of Visual Information (SEI), an annual workshop that is a joint project of ARLIS/NA and the Visual Resources Association Foundation (VRAF). Tina Budzise-Weaver approached the chapter to donate to this last year; we weren’t able to last year but would like to do so in future. Tina says $50 is a typical chapter donation, but that since the conference has no vendors, donations are important for supporting the program.

Sunyoung suggests we donate 75 dollars to SEI and 100 dollars to the annual conference. Kate Alleman moved to approve a 175 dollar donation from the chapter, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller seconds the motion, and the motion is carried unanimously.

**XI. New Business (All)**
No new business at the meeting.

**XII. Adjournment**

Sunyoung states that if all business has been discussed, we may adjourn the business meeting. Lauren Gottlieb-Miller moves to adjourn the meeting, Kate Alleman seconds the motion and motion approved unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 12:50.

**XIII. Group Photo**

A group photo was taken in the Alice Brown Pratt garden.
Work from Home (WHF) Member Pictures

This section of the newsletter is usually dedicated to conference and tour highlights from the annual Spring ARLIS/NA conference. The conference was to be held in Saint Louis, Missouri April 20th – 24th, 2020 but was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the section in this issue is dedicated to recording a snapshot of chapter member’s lives during this time as museums, schools, churches and non-essential businesses closed and workspaces shifted from the office to telecommuting from home. President Jenny Stone suggested that members send pictures of their “work from home” spaces. The “work from home” pictures are a starting point for dialogue about this moment in time.
Sunyoung Park

My work from home space is shared with my husband and our dog. I'm a librarian at the Hirsch Library of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and I began working from home on March 17th. We divided the spare office/studio/bedroom with shelves and a makeshift "privacy screen" to make cubicle-like spaces from hacked Ikea furniture. The pillow on the desk isn't typical, but our dog (wonderfully) insisted on being up close that day. While I miss the museum, getting lots of natural light in our temporary office has been a much-welcome source of cheer in these uncertain times.
Jenny Stone
The Dallas Museum of Art started working from home on March 16. Most staff, including the library, have not been allowed back in the building since then. My work life centers on this laptop and the handful of files I brought home with me. Enough for a few weeks until this passes over, I thought. My "office" is a breakfast nook that's been converted into a closet. We call it the cloffice. This secretary desk is a hand-me-down that I’d never actually sat at until now. Every once in a while, I catch the scent of my late grandfather's cologne. I wish I could ask him what it is.
Helen Lueders

I (usually) work at the Powell Library at Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, a historic house museum that is part of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. I have been working from home since March 17th.

I had the desk, monitor and keyboard left over from my days of doing remote library school at UNT a few years ago -- it has come in very handy since it means I don't have to squint over my little laptop when working on reading digitized census materials for a digital archive project I've been helping with from home. I have the laptop perched on a bunch of cookbooks for a better angle for virtual meetings -- I learned the hard way that Zoom is not always flattering!!

I don't mind working from home now that I've gotten used to it, but I'm mostly working on digital projects that are outside of my usual activities. I am usually front and center at the reference desk, and I miss all the docents, curators, and other patrons!

Also pictured:

A chaise lounge my aunt gave me, which is great for having an afternoon chair break (my desk chair here is MUCH worse than the one I have at the library; my thriving houseplants (there are less happy ones that are not pictured); part of a "cave" art installation by a friend of a friend named Kia Neill; really old and empty piñata; assorted vitamins, pencils, hand sanitizer and doodads, and just in the corner my walking shoes (I've been taking a LOT of walks to get some air/exercise).
Kate Alleman

I work at the Dallas Museum of Art and we started working from home on March 16, 2020. Here is my
office space located in the living room. Featured on my desk are a picture of my Grandma Eunice (she
was a public and elementary school librarian), a propagated succulent, and a couple of owls. I use my
bedroom as a meeting space for various Zoom/Teams meetings and webinars to get a change of scenery
within my workday. I’ve enjoyed working next to a window - thank goodness for a mostly sunny and lush
spring this year!

At first, adapting to the lack of access to our physical collections was a challenge, but by mid-April I felt I
hit a sensible stride working on different online access projects. I have thoroughly enjoyed diving into
many online resources, museum collections, and virtual art spaces. The online ARLIS/NA membership,
division and SIG meetings were extremely helpful as we all grappled with how to move forward and adjust
to a new normal. These days, I am constantly reminded of the saying attributed to the French writer Jean-
Baptiste Alphonse Karr, "the more things change, the more they stay the same". While this disruption is
not ideal, I feel like I have increased my knowledge and skills as a librarian exponentially. I am very much
ready to return to the magic of experiencing art in a physical space. However, I am grateful to the many
museum and university administrators who are deciding to re-open in a realistic and safe manner. Who
knows what the future holds, but I do know we are getting through this moment in time together?
Sha Towers
I co-opted my art studio at home for library work. I made the desk. Those green tub pieces are actually from Ikea and they used to hold 8 tons of Lego bricks when the kids were younger, but I’ve confiscated them for art supplies! They’re on both ends of the tabletop which is an eight-foot kitchen counter.
Rebecca Barham
I work as the Art, Dance and Theatre Librarian at the University of North Texas. Most employees (me included) began working from home on March 16th. Essential personnel have kept the Willis Library open from 10 am – 4pm, M-F during the pandemic to provide semester long laptop checkout and other important services for our students. In addition, faculty and staff have donated to the UNT Cares Student Relief Fund to help students who any were laid off or had other financial needs related to the pandemic.

My work from home space already existed in this form before the pandemic but needed several technology upgrades to support video conferencing. I moved into this house two years ago and this room is the final one that needs to be organized. Many activities take place here. It is a painting and jewelry studio, a makeshift office space, and a gardening blog and video channel creation space.

While I miss my co-workers and standing desk at the library office, I love working from home. I can still meet and help students and faculty via Zoom teleconferencing software. It is nice to have a window in my work from home space. From this window I watch birds and squirrels in the large oak tree. I have also observed a lot of neighbors who now walk the streets of the neighborhood. More neighbors are now talking to each other while maintaining social distancing. Some neighbors have also begun to share extra garden produce, free plants and other items at the end of their sidewalks, and Nextdoor posts have increased with requests for local needs. My neighborhood is beginning to feel more like a village now.
Contributors

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