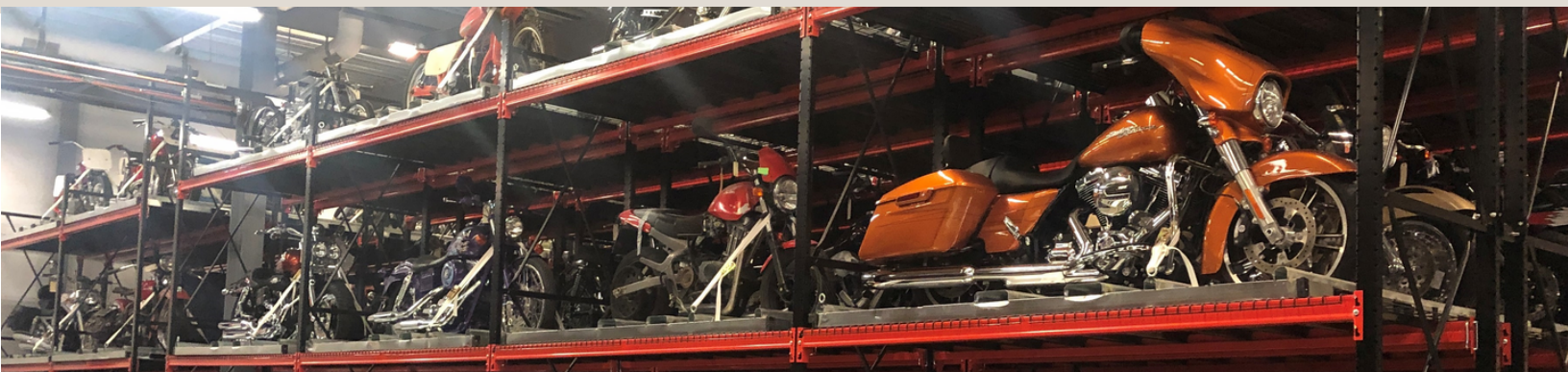


A STANDING PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MIDWEST MUSEUMS (AMM)



From the Chair - Sarah Humes Midwest Museums Conference Wrap Up

What a way to start our first in-person conference in over two years! Milwaukee was amazing! The AMM-WFM 2022 Joint Conference started with a day of virtual programming on July 19th. In-person events kicked off on July 20th with an enlightening lecture by FBI Special Agent David Bass about provenance and its role in combating art crime, sponsored and hosted by Guardian Fine Art Services and The Warehouse. I was able to attend the Harley-Davidson Museum "Beyond the Gate" Tour and it did not disappoint! We were able to engage with exhibits and even got a behind the scenes tour of their storage and processing areas. Melanie Adams and Dr. Robert "Bert" Davis were both inspirational and the flash talks gave me lots of ideas to take back to my museum! AMM once again organized a great conference with engaging, motivational content, and fun tours and events. I think one of the highlights for me was getting to drink a PBR in the Pabst Mansion. (It did take some convincing for us museum folks to be ok with bringing open beverages into the historic house:)

We had a successful annual MRC Board Meeting held at the Oak Barrel Public House. Thank you to Huntington T. Block for sponsoring this year's lunch. We are able to unanimously pass the updated bylaws that former MRC, Andie Near spearheaded. I would also like to thank A2 Fine Art Storage, Dietle International, Guardian Fine Arts Services, and Masterpiece International for their sponsorships of travel stipends.

This year was an election year, and we have new members joining the board. Christy Kincaid, Registrar at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum was elected treasurer, and Brittany Williams, Membership Assistant for Mackinac State Historic Parks joined as secretary. Brittany also manages our Facebook page and keeps our website up to date. Leslie Ory Lewellen, Registrar for Collections at the Minneapolis Institute of Art has entered into her second term as Vice-Chair and I transitioned from the role of Treasurer to Chair. A huge thank you to Julie Burgess Walser and Linda Endersby who finished their terms as Chair and Secretary. Their leadership and guidance over the past years have been invaluable.

With it being an election year, Rachel Vargas passed the torch for Nominations Chair to Sebastián E. Encina of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. Julie Bunke of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum has stepped in as the new editor of the Courier as Margaret Helms has graciously served as editor for the past few years.

A huge thank you to all of our past and present board and chair members. We couldn't do this without you!



Photos - Top to bottom, Harley Davidson Collections Storage. Harley Davidson Collections Storage, Pabst Mansion, Behind the Gate tour at the Harley Davidson Museum

Scholarship Awardees Submissions

Intercultural and Interpersonal Perspectives: Moving the DEIA Needle in Workplace Culture

Presenter: Dr. De'Andrea Matthews, Detroit Zoological Society

Submitted by Carrie Westra, Registrar, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

I would like to thank the MRC and sponsors for choosing me as a recipient of the travel stipend to attend the AMM conference this year! It was so refreshing to be able to attend a conference again in person, and the overall energy felt welcoming and positive. Milwaukee is a beautiful and very friendly city, full of history and cultural treasures, a perfect setting for the conference. A special treat was attending the MRC business lunch and being able to finally put faces to the folks that I have only met via email!

What struck me as well, was the focus on Diversity and Inclusion at the conference. The introduction of the keynote Melanie Adams on Thursday by Mark Mennin was especially eloquent and moving. I had never heard a land acknowledgement statement such as that, and it gave me goosebumps! Especially when he incorporated the theme of the conference "Forward Together", and we all chanted together, "Forward Together and no steps back!" I felt like it really solidified the importance of working together and why we were joined there.

The session that I was particularly interested in, "Cultivating Conversations: Re-activating the Permanent Collection through Community", and therefore was going to write about, was rescheduled for earlier in the day at the last minute and I missed it! Working for a sculpture park, where the permanent collection on display does not rotate very often, I was looking forward to seeing how it could be utilized as a fresh resource to the community. Not to be deterred, I knew there were plenty of other worthwhile sessions that I could write about.

One such session was called "Intercultural and Interpersonal Perspectives: Moving the DEIA Needle" by Dr. De'Andrea Matthews, VP of Diversity and Community Engagement at the Detroit Zoological Society. This session addressed workplace culture and the importance of deconstructing assumptions and contradictions to promote a more diverse, welcoming, and inclusive atmosphere. This session was particularly interesting to me because I am a part of a recently formed Diversity Action Committee at work. The purpose of this committee is to tackle a variety of goals to form a Diversity Action Plan for the institution which encompasses everything from increasing the diversity of the work force and volunteers, to broadening our visitorship to better reflect the diversity of the community. The challenges can be daunting at times, and I found this session particularly productive in that she touched on many of the questions and issues that arise.

De'Andrea began the session with a visual description of herself. She says she does this to benefit anyone in the room who might be visually impaired. She then began to talk about the importance of a person's name. As someone who's name is mispronounced often, she emphasized the importance of learning someone's name and pronouncing it correctly. It is sign of respect. If you are not sure, it is okay to have them repeat it. It may seem like a small thing, but to the person, it means a great deal.

When talking about the workplace culture, De'Andrea broke it down into three categories. Atmosphere is the overall physical environment. This appeals to the five senses. What are the colors? How does it smell? Is the chair you sit in comfortable? Next, is the Climate. What thrives and grows and what does not? Are employees encouraged to be creative and voice their opinions? Do they feel valued and safe? The overall climate then evolves into the Culture. Does the climate contribute to a positive culture, or is it toxic? Many factors can lead to a toxic workplace culture. If issues and conflicts are not addressed, they will fester and grow. This is what De'Andrea referred to as the "elephant" in the room. Does this "elephant" have roots in lack of trust, lack of organization, ineffective delegation by management, or lack of resources or information? Unresolved conflict can be fixed with immediate feedback and communication. Maintaining a positive workplace culture takes work and a little TLC.

She ended with simple suggestions of ways that one can broaden cultural perspective. If you are not able to travel to different countries to experience cultures firsthand, try exploring local ethnic restaurants or grocery stores. You may attend cultural events or celebrations, check out documentaries, or even lectures online. She encouraged questions from session attendees and other suggestions to broaden one's perspective.

De'Andrea Matthews was a very engaging speaker who spoke on this topic with clarity and positive energy. I feel like everyone at the session would have liked her to speak for another hour if possible. I made sure to introduce myself and exchange contact information afterward. I feel she will be a very valuable resource in the future. It was a session that I left feeling inspired and with a fresh perspective. I encourage those reading this to check out the Detroit Zoo's website and the Zoological Society tab.

The Diversity statement and initiatives are clearly spelled out, and they also have a very beautiful Green Initiative in place. Overall, the conference was a very positive experience, and I look forward to the next one!



Photos taken by Carrie Westra of the Lynden Sculpture Garden, Milwaukee Wisconsin

Beyond Compliance: Inclusion of the Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Community for Exhibits Presented by Chris Evans, Drumminhands Design, LLC; Melissa Mittelstaedt, UAccess

Submitted by Alexandra Baver, Senior Art Major, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

This past summer, I was granted the opportunity to attend the Association of Midwest Museums Conference in Milwaukee, WI. As I am in my final semester of college, my situation was unique. It was an amazing experience and opportunity to network and connect with individuals that work professionally in the field that I want to work in, and I am so incredibly thankful for the ability to attend. I attended every session I could in order to obtain as much knowledge during my time there.

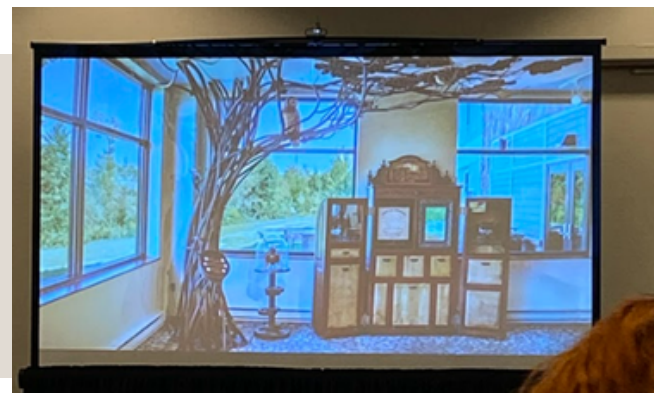
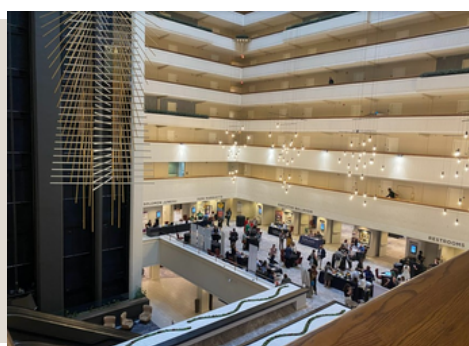
One session in particular really stuck with me as it applies to not just museums, but in everything you encounter in life. Chris Evans, founder and principal of Drumminhands Design, and Melissa Mittelstaedt, UAccess, co-presented a session about inclusivity of the d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing community throughout museums and exhibits.

This session covered a few incredibly important points that many people may not think about at first when creating anything from signs, videos, to interactive displays. The mission for anything should always be accessibility; but not just any form of accessibility, equitable access. Something may have accessibility, but it may not be equal to those who have a disability. People think of museums as visual but really a lot of museums choose to include music or dialogue to create an atmosphere for experience. When they do this, the d/deaf and hard-of-community often gets left out. During the session, Chris and Melissa walked us through the different options for creating equitable access throughout an exhibit.

One thing that they had referenced throughout the session was the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). While this guide is made for online content, it is still very useful for any type of visual and audio content. Also, while it isn't impossible to upgrade spaces and designs, it can be very costly trying to rebuild. Chris and Melissa emphasized that accessibility should be built into everyone's budget from the beginning.

During the session, they had us each do an activity where we had to create an inclusive exhibit design based on a scenario. What was fun about this was that they were based on real designs and we got to see examples of these after the activity. Overall, this session gave valuable insight into something that even I, as a designer and artist, often overlook when creating content. I wanted to include a quote that they left us with during the session:

"Accessibility isn't extra steps, it's the steps you've missed." – Nick Tillem



The Past Connects Us All: Canoe Conservation Collaboration

Three museums, First Nations citizens, and conservators come together to preserve four dugout canoes that are over 300 years old. Museum staff shares their experiences on communication, canoes, conservation, and COVID.

Presenters: Kay Dragan, Curator and Exhibits Manager Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse Preservation Society; Brennan Christianson, Collections Coordinator & Gills Rock Site Manager Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Submitted by Julie Bunke, Manager of Exhibits and Interactive Experiences at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

First of all, thank you to MRC for granting me a stipend to attend the Midwest Museums Association Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I found it to be a fantastic experience filled with informative sessions by knowledgeable presenters. When asked to pick a session to write about for the Courier it was a difficult decision as there were so many great sessions begin offered but the description for this particular session piqued my interest. Having lived in Northern Wisconsin and visited Door County annually for many years I was familiar with both of the organizations involved in this presentation.

The Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. was awarded \$2,000 for Northeast Wisconsin Coasts Indigenous Dugout Canoe Preservation by the Wisconsin Humanities Council. This project is a collaboration with the Wisconsin Maritime Museum and Manitowoc County Historical Society. The funds will help the museums build connections to specific Tribal nations from the region and bring in expertise to learn about and properly preserve four canoes within their collections.

The session covered the history of several dugout canoes found in the Manitowoc/Door County area. One of the dugout canoes discussed was found in 1979 in Glomski Lake in the Town of Newton, about five miles southwest of Manitowoc, by Bernard Novy. The dugout canoe was donated to Manitowoc County Historical Society and was the feature of their "Archeology" exhibit from 2001 to 2015. This canoe measures 12 feet in length and was made by chipping out, and possibly burning, the insides of a large Eastern White Pine log. Years ago, Native Americans, including the Ojibwa or Chippewa, stored their canoes for the winter by filling them with rocks to sink them. This prevented drying out and also protected them from wind and ice damage. It is estimated the canoe is about 250 years old.

Another one of the canoes discussed had been found decades before and was repurposed as a garden planter in the front yard of a local resident until they no longer wanted it and proceeded to donate it to the Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse Preservation Society.

The two Native American dug-out canoes in the collection of the Manitowoc County Historical Society are in the process of being 3D mapped and 3D photographed.



Photo left: A dugout canoe featured in the Indigenous Waters exhibit at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, WI.

Photo right: Dugout canoe on display at The Door County Maritime Museum & Lighthouse Preservation Society.



Job Postings

The Obama Presidential Center (OPC) Museum is seeking to hire a Senior Registrar to develop and manage the OPC Museum's registration program. Charged with developing and managing the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) Museum's registration program, the Senior Registrar will bear primary, direct responsibility for the physical, legal, and administrative control of Museum collections during the acquisitions process, while in transit, or while on loan or exhibit, as well as for all incoming loans and materials in temporary custody. The person hired to fill this position will report to the Director of Collections, supervise Registration staff, and work collaboratively with our growing Collections and Curatorial teams to steward the OPC Museum's collection. The opportunity to help build the Obama Presidential Center Museum — its stewardship infrastructure, artifact collections, and inaugural exhibitions — will be as challenging as it is exciting and rewarding; we're excited to welcome an enthusiastic and skilled colleague to the team as we continue this work. You can find a link to the full job description in the Obama Foundation application portal with more information at https://www.obama.org/careers/listing/?gh_jid=6110998002

The Logan Museum of Anthropology at Beloit College is hiring a Curator of Exhibits and Programs to begin no later than June 2023. We were sad to see our former curator Manuel Ferreira leave but are excited for him and his new opportunity at the Denver Art Museum. Please visit the [Beloit College Human Resources webpage](#) for a detailed job description and application instructions.

What is MRC?

Voting membership in the Midwest Registrars Committee is open to those museum professionals who support the objectives of the MRC, who reside in the Midwest region (including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin), and who hold positions such as registrar, collections manager, curator, volunteer, administrator, conservator, corporate registrar, or student. A non-voting membership is available for individuals who are associated with for-profit organizations such as shipping companies, customs brokers, insurance firms, and other suppliers of materials and services, and individuals who reside outside of the Midwest region. The membership period covers the calendar year (from January 1 through December 31). Annual dues are \$10.00 per year. For more information on the Midwest Registrars Committee or to join MRC, visit <http://midwestregistrars.org/>

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you have exhibitions, events, acquisitions, or other news to share? We would love to hear about it!! Make life for your State Rep a little easier by submitting a news story, interesting tidbit, or update for the next issue of the MRC Courier. Listings for each state and contact information can be found at the end of the Courier.



Meet the Board Introductions

Sarah Humes, Board Chair

Greetings Museum Friends! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Sarah Humes (she/her/hers) and I am thrilled to serve as the chair for the MRC. Prior to serving as MRC chair, I spent four years as the MRC treasurer. I am the associate registrar at the Grand Rapids Public Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As part of my role, I act as the liaison between the museum and the Grand Rapids Public Museum School. I coordinate loans of artifacts and specimens to teachers and students within the school for various programs and projects. Life has been pretty exciting here lately as the museum was able to excavate a Mastodon skeleton that was discovered north of Grand Rapids back in August. Being able to be part of the dig and the cleaning process was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to step out of my normal collections management role.

I have a degree in history and museums studies from Central Michigan University and from 2010-2018 I was the registrar at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. I am excited to help the MRC grow and become an engaged community of museum and collections-loving folks! When I'm not working I enjoy spending time with my husband and my dog. I enjoy camping, traveling, playing softball, reading true crime books, and have been known to aimlessly scroll through tik tok.:)



The newsletter of the Midwest Registrars Committee is published two times a year. Members and Vendors, please submit news, articles, announcements, photos and ideas to Julie Bunke, jbunke@kvcc.edu, 269-373-7955.

Leslie Ory Lewellen, Vice-Chair

I have worked at the Minneapolis Institute of Art for over 20 years. I have been the Registrar for Collections for three years and have processed accessions and deaccessions for most of my career. I have brought over 40,000 art objects into Mia's collection! I enjoy working with donors on their gifts; I love hearing the stories of their treasures. I also love working with an encyclopedic collection. I think I've handled pretty much every kind of art and design object during my long tenure at Mia. Away from work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and middle-school-aged son. We have one fur baby cat named Maisey. I play clarinet in a wind band (Grand Symphonic Winds) and also play a little saxophone when gigs come my way that work with my schedule. I am a University of Nebraska alumni and Husker football fan (this is a painful year for the Huskers!). I also like to read and work in my garden.



Marisa Szpytman, Development Chair

Marisa Szpytman is the Associate Registrar at the Detroit Institute of Arts. A life-long museum professional, she has worked in Historical Museums, Natural History Museums, and Archaeology Museums before joining the DIA in 2013. As the Associate Registrar, her main duties include processing acquisitions and deaccessions, managing the permanent object collection files, and addressing various cataloging and storage projects. Currently, her focus is on cataloging the DIA's Time Based Media collection, making the Registrar archival documents more accessible to staff, and furthering her education on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). She has also worked as a Database Consultant for the National Museum of the American Latino, Smithsonian, assisting with the migration of digital experience metadata into a new collections management system.



She is passionate about Egyptology and is a member of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE). The ARCE Detroit Chapter, of which Marisa is a founding member, engages with local lay and scholarly communities to promote ancient and modern Egyptological interests throughout Southeastern Michigan. For the Michigan Registrar Committee, she is the current Development Chair. This position works with corporate partners to secure funding for the MRC travel stipend awards, which subsidize the travel costs of museum professionals to attend the Association of Midwest Museums Annual Conference. Marisa received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Michigan, with a BA in Near Eastern Studies, and a MS in Archives and Records Management, with a certificate in Museum Studies.

Christy Kincaid, Treasurer

Christy Kincaid is the Collections Registrar at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum (KVM). She has almost 15 years of museum experience and 8 years of collections-specific work. She recently left her job as the Air Zoo's Collections and Library Manager, moving to the KVM. Christy came to museum work after deciding that formal education in the classroom was not what she wanted for her career, but still wanted to educate. She had already been working at the Air Zoo when she realized that museums offer a way to educate and teach in an informal setting and it was exactly where she belonged. Christy earned her bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in 2014 in Public History and continued to grow at the Air Zoo holding many positions throughout the museum until landing in the Collections department. She earned her MBA in 2021 from Bellevue University, Bellevue, Nebraska, with a focus in Human Resource Management and Project Management. Not only does she work full-time at the Air Zoo, but she is also a birth and postpartum doula, which she greatly enjoys. She is also a city councilwoman for the City of Springfield, located outside of Battle Creek, MI.



Christy is married to her husband for over 10 years with three kiddos. She enjoys crafting, sewing, watching pointless TV, and spending time outside. Her family recently bought a fixer-upper camper as a family project. Her long-term goal for the camper is to drag her family more easily to museums across the country.

Lauren Hancock, Archives Chair

Lauren Hancock is the Head Registrar for the Anthropology Collections at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois. She directs and implements all aspects of registration for the Anthropology Collections, overseeing new acquisitions, outgoing loans, rights and reproductions, collections documentation, and policies and procedures. Lauren graduated from the University of Michigan in 2003 with a BA in Anthropology and History of Art and from George Washington University in 2007 with an MA in Museum Studies.



Sebastián E. Encina, Nominations Chair

Sebastián has been the Collections Manager at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan since 2003. Previously, he worked at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in the Anthropology Department. As an archaeologist and museum professional, he enjoys focusing on making museum collections accessible to researchers and students, and then making research available to the public. Sebastián is also the chair of the Collections Stewardship Professional Network of AAM where he strives to provide the tools collections specialists across the country and beyond need to fulfill their roles.



Brittany Williams, Secretary and Membership Chair

Hello! My name is Brittany Williams, I grew up in Southeast Michigan and moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan to attend Western Michigan University's undergraduate Public History program in 2009. After graduation, I stayed in the Kalamazoo area and secured my first full time museum job working at the Gilmore Car Museum where I held a variety of positions including social media coordinator, office assistant, registrar, and collections and exhibits manager. I furthered my love of museum work at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum as their registrar for three and a half years. In February of 2022, I relocated to Northern Michigan to accept the Membership Assistant position with Mackinac Associates, the non-profit group responsible for supporting funding for programs and projects for Mackinac State Historic Parks. Here, I'm enjoying the outreach and communication aspect of working with a membership organization and its supporters. I have served on the MRC board since 2019 as Webmaster and accepted the role of Secretary and Membership Chair earlier this year. Outside of work life, I love visiting other museums and historic locations, gardening and working outside, spending time with friends and family including my fiancé, Rob, and our two dogs, Riley and Scout.



Julie Bunke, Newsletter

Julie Bunke grew up in Fruitport, Michigan and graduated from Fruitport High School. She then went to Central Michigan and graduated with a degree in Interior Design with a concentration on Architectural History. From there she went to Eastern Michigan University and completed a master's degree in Historic Preservation. She has over 25 years of museum experience working at several Midwest Museums including the St. Charles Heritage Center in St. Charles, IL starting out as the Registrar and eventually becoming the Director. Currently she is the Manager of Exhibits and Interactive Experiences at Kalamazoo Valley Museum in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Julie lives in Grand Haven, Michigan with her husband, Kirk, who is also a museum employee and works as a Site Manager at the Muskegon Heritage Museum. She has two teenage sons who keep her extremely busy as well as a cute, but naughty, golden retriever named Bryk.

Julie and her husband enjoy renovating homes and are currently working on a fixer upper lake house in Baldwin, Michigan where they hope to spend their retirement.



2022 MRC Vice-Chair Annual Report - Leslie Ory Lewellen, Registrar for Collections, Minneapolis Institute of Art

The Midwest Registrars Committee, with the generous support of Dietl International, Guardian Fine Art Services, Masterpiece International, and A2 Fine Art Storage + Services, awarded three 2022 AMM/Wisconsin Federation of Museums conference travel stipend awards. Our recipients this year are:

Alexandra Bayer, Senior in Art, Graphic, Design, and Media Art at Saint Mary-of-the Woods College, Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, IN

Julie Bunke, Manager of Exhibits & Interpretive Experiences, Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalamazoo, MI

Carrie Westra, Registrar, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, MI

You can read articles reviewing different conference sessions in this issue of "The Courier." Many thanks to our travel stipend sponsors for their generosity. All MRC members are encouraged to apply for conference stipend awards next year.

Thanks also to Sarah Humes in her capacity as the MRC Treasurer for running this year's business meeting as both Julie Burgess, MRC Chair, and I are not attending the conference. Thanks also to Linda Endersby, Secretary, for taking meeting minutes. It has been my pleasure to serve on the MRC Board with Julie, Linda, and Sarah these past two years. I am looking forward to serving a second term as your MRC Vice-Chair.

MRC 2022 Elections Report - Sebastián E. Encina, Collections Manager Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan

In 2022, Julie Burgess Walser, Chair of Midwest Registrars Committee, asked me to take over the MRC elections from Rachel Vargas, previous elections coordinator. In March, I put out a call for self-selected candidates for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. I also reached out to colleagues personally for these positions. In the end, we had several qualified candidates. For chair, Tiffany Charles and Sarah Humes. For Vice-chair, Leslie Ory Lewellen. For Treasurer, Christy Kincaid. For Secretary, Adam Johnson and Brittany Williams.

Results:

Chair: Sarah Humes: 70.4%, Tiffany Charles: 25.9%, Abstain: 3.7%

Vice-chair: Leslie Ory Lewellen: 96.3%, Abstain: 3.7%

Treasurer: Christy Kincaid: 92.6%, Abstain: 7.4%

Secretary: Brittany Williams: 74.1%, Adam Johnson: 25.9%, Abstain: 0%

All candidates were informed of the results, and the successful candidates all accepted their roles.

2022 Membership Report - Linda Endersby, Registrar & Curator of Collections, University of Missouri, Museum of Art and Archaeology

As of 6-30-2022: 51 members

2021: 67 members

2019: 134 members

2020: 88 members

STATE	2022 Members as of 6-30-2022	2021 MEMBERS
IOWA	4	7
ILLINOIS	7	8
INDIANA	9	11
MICHIGAN	17	18
MINNESOTA	5	12
MISSOURI	2	2
OHIO	2	2
WISCONSIN	5	7
TOTALS	51	67

Membership year by year by state

STATE	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
IOWA	7	7	8	11	9	7
ILLINOIS	8	10	20	18	16	16
INDIANA	11	10	13	14	10	11
MICHIGAN	18	25	39	29	21	17
MINNESOTA	12	15	25	18	21	6
MISSOURI	2	2	4	5	7	9
OHIO	2	5	8	12	11	12
WISCONSIN	7	14	17	20	19	18
TOTALS	67	88	134	127	114	96

2022 Treasurer Report - Sarah Humes, Assistant Registrar, Grand Rapids Public Museum

Balance Beginning January 2022: \$8,343.24

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$471.21
Donations w/ Membership	
Sponsorship - Travel Stipend	\$2,625.00
Sponsorship - Other	
Other	\$0.00
Total INCOME	\$3,096.21

EXPENSES

Annual Conference Travel Stipends	
Annual Conference Expenses	\$2,250.00
MRC Chair Expenses	\$0.00
State Event Support	\$0.00
Administrative Costs	\$66.00
Total Expenses	\$2,316.00

Ending Balance as of 07/07/2022 \$9,123.45 Funds held at Lake Michigan Credit Union, Grand Rapids, Michigan

As of 7/7/2022 we have earned \$471.21 in income from annual dues which is approximately 50% less than what we were bringing in pre-pandemic. We also received travel stipend sponsorships from Masterpiece International, Guardian Fine Art Services, A2 Art Storage and Dietl International. Administrative costs include fees for our website. We have not paid out any state event support but do have funds in the budget allocated for state event support for 2022. It has been a privilege to serve as the MRC treasurer for the past four years and I look forward to passing the torch to our new treasurer Christy Kincaid.

MRC LOGO CONTEST

Do you love design work? Are you creative? Then WE WANT YOU!

It's
Time...
for a
NEW
LOOK!

The Midwest Registrars Committee is looking for a new logo that can be used in future editions of The Courier, on the MRC website and social media, and on letterhead and invoices to help identify and brand our amazing organization.

We have so many amazing members that are creative, so we want to see what you can do! Submit a logo that includes our name - Midwest Registrars Committee - or our acronym - MRC - for a chance for it to be our new featured look! All submissions will be published in the Spring/Summer 2023 edition of The Courier with an opportunity for all membership to VOTE for their favorite.

The winning logo will make its debut in the Fall/Winter 2023 edition of The Courier!

CONTEST DETAILS

- Send your design as a high resolution JPEG/PNG and PDF file to Brittany Williams, MRC Secretary (williamsb44@michigan.gov)
- Submit NO LATER THAN March 30, 2023
- The winning submission will win a complimentary MRC membership for the 2024 calendar year!

WISCONSIN

Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Submitted by - Andrea Selbig

Sifting and Reckoning: UW–Madison's History of Exclusion and Resistance

From September 12 to December 23, 2022, the Chazen Museum of Art will present Sifting & Reckoning: UW–Madison's History of Exclusion and Resistance through a collaborative partnership with UW–Madison's Public History Project. The exhibition surveys over 150 years of history, using archival materials, objects, and oral histories to bring to light the multifaceted ways that racism and exclusion permeated campus life, and how the community responded, organized, and resisted. The exhibition also includes interactive opportunities and a gathering space to encourage visitors to process complex topics involving race, class, and gender.

Sifting & Reckoning is groundbreaking in its expansive coverage of the history of discrimination and resistance at UW–Madison. This process of sifting and reckoning provides a unique opportunity for the UW-Madison campus to reflect on its past and work towards creating a more equitable future. Visit the exhibition [website](#) for more history and images.



re:mancipation

re:mancipation is a collaborative project that has undertaken a two-year study of the Thomas Ball sculpture Emancipation Group and its complex history, while cultivating a more nuanced understanding of our nation and ourselves. In the spring semester of 2023, the Chazen Museum of Art, artist Sanford Biggers, and MASK Consortium will debut the results of this intense examination as an exhibition, documentary, and [website](#) that will provide audiences with an intimate look at the project's directive to address social justice and equity through artistic interpretation. re:mancipation encompasses the reimagining of the Chazen's problematic Emancipation Group sculpture, the repositioning of additional objects in the museum's collection, creation of a new artwork by Biggers, as well as new research, archival, and educational material. More information can be found on the Chazen's [website](#).

Eiteljorg Museum's Native American Galleries: Reconstruction and Reinstallation Completed Reprinted from Eiteljorg Museum Storyteller Magazine

INDIANAPOLIS -- The Eiteljorg Museum's reimagined Native American Galleries, featuring the exhibition *Expressions of Life: Native Art in North America*, opened to public acclaim on June 25, 2022, coinciding with the 30th annual Eiteljorg Indian Market and Festival. The stunning new galleries contain a space for Native peoples to be the authority of their own stories. Beadwork, textiles, pottery, jewelry, weavings, carvings, paintings, sculpture, glass and contemporary art from the U.S. and Canada are interpreted through Native perspectives.

Beginning at its entrance with a land acknowledgment to those Native groups who call or called Indiana home, the exhibition is organized around the themes of Relation, Continuation and Innovation, concepts that many Native cultures have in common, noted Dorene Red Cloud (Oglala Lakota), curator of Native American art.

"Relation is about Native peoples' relation to spirit, animal, plant, and to one another as a community, as a family and nation. These distinct philosophies and spiritual beliefs are important to relay to our visitors as they are fundamental in understanding how Native peoples relate to the world," Red Cloud said.

"Continuation acknowledges that despite the U.S. and Canadian governments' efforts to assimilate and acculturate them, Native peoples still uphold their artistic practices, spiritual beliefs or religious practices and Native languages. Some of these observances may have been interrupted or are on pause, but many of them still persist and will continue to do so in the future," she said.

"Innovation is a celebration of Native art and its nuances, its inventions and inventiveness and its unending possibilities. Native artists always have refreshed tradition by pushing artistic mediums beyond ordinary limits. Native art from hundreds of years ago was contemporary at that time, and art hundreds of years from now will still contain traditional elements," Red Cloud added.

As the new galleries were planned and developed, the museum's Native American Advisory Council was involved throughout the exhibit-planning process, working with curators and exhibition designers over several years. To design, construct and equip the new galleries, the museum engaged Origin Studios of Ottawa, Canada, Kubik Maltbie, Inc. of Toronto, Richard Lewis Media Group, Inc., of Watertown, Mass., and F.A. Wilhelm Construction Co., Inc. of Indianapolis. The state-of-the-art casework was built by ClickNetherfield Ltd. in Scotland.

One of the galleries is focused on the subject of "Connected by Water," highlighting Native artists of the Great Lakes and surrounding areas and includes art the museum acquired through a \$2.83 million Lilly Endowment Inc. grant. Throughout the galleries, all-glass cases, digital touchscreen displays, touchable activities and educational carts for gallery-guide presentations make the new space accessible for different ages and learning styles.

Part of the Eiteljorg's Project 2021 capital campaign, the Native American Galleries reconstruction and reinstallation have occurred thanks to the generosity of many people and organizations who funded the effort with donations, grants, bequests and other gifts, large and small. Learn more at [Eiteljorg.org/Project2021](https://www.eiteljorg.org/Project2021). Read a deep dive about the galleries at: <https://bit.ly/3q2z6tJ>



Photo Captions:

Glass art, pottery, jewelry, weavings, textiles, carvings and paintings are among the beautiful artworks in the Eiteljorg Museum's new Native American Galleries, featuring the exhibition *Expressions of Life: Native Art in North America*, which is now open for visitors to enjoy.

Image courtesy of Hadley Fruits Photography and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

MICHIGAN

Grand Rapids Public Museum Pharmaceutical Project - Submitted by Sarah Humes

The Grand Rapids Public Museum recently embarked on a project to inventory and rehouse its pharmaceutical collection that was in storage and not currently on exhibit. Donning respirators, gloves, and aprons, collection management staff inventoried nearly 30 boxes of over-the-counter medicines, botanical drugs, apothecary jars, and various tonics. Throughout the project, many bottles and containers were found to have degraded over time and were in poor condition.

Through a process of curatorial review, recommendation by the museum's collection committee, and approval by the board, nearly 300 damaged, deteriorated, and hazardous pharmaceuticals were deaccessioned. The process of proper disposal was a bit more tricky as many typical avenues like partnering with local colleges and universities and various community waste disposal programs were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The museum was able to contract with U.S. Ecology, a hazardous waste disposal company in order to properly pack, transport, and dispose of the deaccessioned material. The collection has now been rehoused and is stored within a mixture of archival boxes, polypropylene bins, and empty bottles on open shelving.

Photos l-r:
Pharmaceutical
Collection during
inventory,
Pharmaceuticals
ready for
transport,
Rehoused
Pharmaceutical
Collection



Detroit Institute of Arts - Submitted by Terry Segal

“Van Gogh in America” exhibition

On view: October 2, 2022-January 22, 2023

A big sigh of relief was heard in the DIA registrars' office when our long-awaited exhibition, “Van Gogh in America,” finally opened on October 2. The show celebrates the DIA's status as the first public museum in the United States to purchase a painting by Van Gogh, *Self Portrait* (1887), acquired in 1922. The exhibition also explores the early effort by the promoters of modernism to introduce Van Gogh's work to the American public and the circumstances that ultimately led to the widespread acclaim and popularity of his work in the United States. The exhibition features 80 works, including 74 works by Van Gogh and six works by other artists.

The exhibition was originally scheduled to open in the fall of 2020 but was delayed by two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. The October 2022 opening was the successful culmination of five years of loan negotiations and re-negotiations, submission of two separate US Federal Indemnity applications (one for the 2020 dates, then again for 2022), and two Immunity from Seizure applications. Fortunately, our indemnity and immunity from seizure applications were successful both times.

There were a few additional hiccups due to the pandemic. For example, we had loan agreements in place for approximately 74 artworks for the original opening date when the pandemic shutdown occurred in March 2020. Unfortunately, eight of the original Van Gogh works were pulled from the show by their lenders due to pre-existing conflicts with the new dates for the exhibition. On a positive note, sixteen new Van Gogh loans were secured. Of course, this meant more work for the exhibition registrar.

Organizing the packing and shipping for this exhibition was a massive feat of logistics by exhibition registrar Kim Dziurman. The loans originated from 50 lenders, in 11 countries, on three continents (North America, South America, and Europe). Due to the high insurance value for each work, as well as US government indemnity and commercial insurance requirements, only 1-2 works could be included in most of the conveyances, and each shipment had to be accompanied by an experienced, on-board courier. The exhibition required 44 individual shipments and 48 couriers. Several shipments arrived every day over the course of the four-week installation. Each shipment was met by a cheerful DIA registrar, at all hours of day and night, crates safely secured, and courier/s taken to a nearby hotel.

There were several stressful, last-minute adjustments due to unexpected events. This ranged from complications with the last two shipments from London's Heathrow airport, which coincided with the Queen's funeral, to issues with flights from Schiphol in Amsterdam that necessitated diverting shipments to Frankfurt. In addition, there was stiff competition for the massive number of fine art trucks needed in the US, as well as a shortage of hotel rooms in Detroit, as our installation overlapped with the Detroit auto show. In the end, all works arrived safely and were installed on time. I highly recommend a visit. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to see this many works by Van Gogh, some of which are rarely if ever seen in public. But don't wait until Christmas week, or the last week of the show, when the crowds will be at their highest. And now, on to the task of planning the deinstallation and the return of the works at the close of the show in January. What goes up, must come down.

Photos l-r:

Vincent van Gogh, *Self-Portrait*, 1887, oil on artist board, mounted to wood panel.
Detroit Institute of Arts, City of Detroit Purchase, 22.13.

Late night truck shipment.
Deliveries were received as late as 1-2 AM.



Mackinac State Historic Parks - Submitted by Brian Jaeschke

This spring, the Mackinac State Historic Parks updated two exhibits on Mackinac Island. The Beaumont Museum display inside the American Fur Company Store was replaced with new panels and objects to commemorate the 200th anniversary of fur trader Alexis St. Martin's accidental wounding in 1822. St. Martin's stomach wound was treated by Fort Mackinac Post Surgeon Dr. William Beaumont. The opening never fully healed and allowed Beaumont to conduct experiments that led to breakthroughs in understanding how stomach digestion works. Beaumont published his findings in 1838 as *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice, and the Physiology of Digestion*.

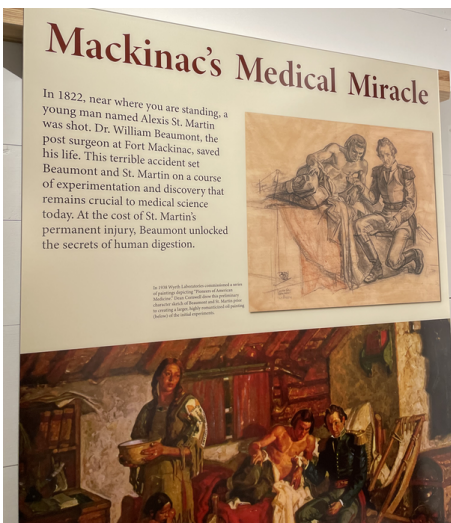
The second new exhibit was installed in the Post Schoolhouse built inside Fort Mackinac in 1879. Research completed by state park staff revised the use of the building as a reading room for fort soldiers and their children. New panels, furniture and interactive touch screens allow visitors to see what types of reading materials were available and how children and soldiers were educated in the late 1800s.

This summer, Kendra Ellis, a graduate student in the Maritime Studies program at East Carolina University, was hired as a collections intern to assist with the yearly inventory. The fourteen original buildings in Fort Mackinac and the Special Storage Room inside the Heritage Center were completed. Kendra also processed new accessions, an archival collection from the Little Stone Church on Mackinac Island and helped reorganize collection storage areas.

Mackinac State Historic Parks has received an IMLS grant to inventory archaeological collections from Fort Michilimackinac, Fort Mackinac and Mill Creek. The grant will allow the park to continue a previous inventory started in 2010. Two inventory assistants have been hired for three years to work on the project.

Curator of Collections Brian Jaeschke was a co-presenter with Sarah Humes, Angela Riedel and Christy Kincaid at the 2022 Michigan Museums Association Conference held on Mackinac Island (see photo below). Their presentation was entitled *Don't Lick Your Collections: How to Handle Hazardous Materials in Collections*. Brian, who is also an officer with the Mackinaw City Volunteer Fire Department, spoke about storing and marking hazardous materials in collections along with working with local first responders.

Currently, the park is accepting applications for collections assistants who will fill two paid summer internships. The internships can start any time after May 1, 2023, have flexible end dates and can be used for college credit. The interns will be based on Mackinac Island at the Heritage Center with free housing provided. Applications and a position description can be found on the parks' website www.mackinacparks.com under the Employment tab.



It's MRC Renewal Time!

We're about to enter our 45th year as a supportive organization for the museum collections community, how exciting is that! The MRC was formed as a membership-based community in 1978 to provide a forum for the exchange of information and methods among museum professionals in the Midwest region. Annual membership spans the calendar year (January 1 - December 31) and dues are \$10 per person.

Membership is open to all museum professionals and independent museum consultants who support the objectives of the MRC and work in the Midwest region, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The best part is - it's open to everyone! Registrars, collections managers, curators, volunteers, administrators, conservators, corporate registrars, students, interns or other collections care professionals are encouraged to join and participate in MRC.

Benefits of holding an MRC membership include:

- Funding assistance to host local workshops, networking events, and related activities
- Travel stipends to attend Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) annual conference
- Professional networking opportunities
- Annual membership directory, provided via email each June
- Subscription to The Courier, MRC's e-newsletter published twice each year

Renewing your MRC membership, and encouraging other museum colleagues to join, supports a great organization built around supporting the great work you all do every day! To renew, visit the Join/Renew page on the MRC website and complete the Online Registration Form. Request an invoice in the registration form, use the Buy Now button to submit your \$10 dues via PayPal, or make a check payable to Midwest Registrars Committee and mail it to: Christy Kincaid - MRC Treasurer, 286 22nd St N, Springfield, MI 49037. There is also a printable version of the renewal form at the end of this edition of The Courier.



Please note that you'll need to renew your membership no later than April 30, 2023 to be included in the 2023 Membership Directory!

A non-voting membership is available for individuals who are associated with for-profit organizations such as shipping companies, customs brokers, insurance firms, and other suppliers of materials and services, and individuals who reside outside of the Midwest region.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact MRC Secretary and Membership Chair, Brittany Williams at williamsb44@michigan.gov.

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to a successful 2023!

Midwest Registrars Committee 2023 Membership Form – Join or Renew!

The Midwest Registrars Committee formed in 1978 to provide a forum for the exchange of information and methods among museum collections professionals and registrars in the Midwest region. The MRC fulfills this objective by promoting an atmosphere of mutual aid and cooperation and by promoting professional practices to benefit colleagues, the museum community, and members. The MRC is affiliated with the Collections Stewardship Professional Network of the American Alliance of Museums (CS-AAM) and the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM).

Who can join? Voting membership in the Midwest Registrars Committee is open to those museum personnel who support the objectives of the MRC and who reside in the Midwest region, including:

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

You don't have to be a registrar! Collection managers, registrars, curators, volunteers, administrators, conservators, corporate registrars, students, or other collections care professionals are encouraged to join.

A **non-voting membership** is available for individuals who are associated with for-profit organizations such as shipping companies, customs brokers, insurance firms, and other suppliers of materials and services, and individuals who reside outside of the Midwest region.

Benefits of membership

- Subscription to The Courier, MRC's e-newsletter published twice each year
- Access to funding assistance to host state workshops, meet and greets, etc.
- Professional networking opportunities
- Travel stipends to attend annual AMM Conference
- Access to annual membership directory

Help Make a Difference!

Your active participation ensures the ongoing success of the MRC programs and activities.

Please check the areas in which you would like to get involved:

State representative
Newsletter
Programs/annual meeting
Fundraising
Membership

Membership Information

Date: _____

Name: _____

Pronouns: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please mark one:

- ☐ New (voting \$10)
- ☐ Renewal (voting \$10)
- ☐ New (non-voting \$10)
- ☐ Renewal (non-voting \$10)

Membership Fees

Annual dues are \$10.00 per year. The membership period covers the calendar year (January 1 - December 31). There are multiple ways to join or renew.

1. BY MAIL

- Complete and mail this form along with your dues to the MRC Treasurer
- Make checks payable to: Midwest Registrars Committee
- Mail to: Christy Kincaid, MRC Treasurer
286 22nd St N
Springfield, MI 49037

2. ONLINE

STEP ONE – Complete Your Information

- Visit www.midwestregistrars.org
- Click the Membership Join/Renew tab
- Fill out the Registration Form – don't forget to click SUBMIT!
- If you need an invoice for your dues payment, make a note of this in the form
- Your registration is not complete until we receive your membership dues!

STEP TWO – Submit Payment

- Click the Buy Now button to pay online via PayPal
- OR – mail a check to the MRC Treasurer (contact info above)

You MUST complete both parts for your membership to be active (information AND payment).

Questions? Please contact MRC Secretary and Membership Chair, Brittany Williams
Williamsb44@michigan.gov

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