



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ARLIS/NA Presents 2025-2026 Compass Award**

WESTFORD, Massachusetts – The Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) is pleased to announce that it has awarded the 2025 ARLIS/NA Compass Award to Jennifer Payán to support her internship at Pollak Library at California State University, Fullerton. The Compass Award was presented at the ARLIS/NA 54th Annual Conference Awards Ceremony in Montreal.

Jennifer Payán is a first-generation Chicana and emerging arts information professional in the MLIS program at San Jose State University. The Compass Award supported her spring 2026 project transcribing and creating metadata for artists' records at the Alfredo H. Zúñiga Research Collection, which documents art and activism in the Chicano/a/x community in Southern California. Payán's internship was under the direction of Barbara Miller, Zúñiga Research Collection Librarian.

Payán completed her internship and graduated from her MLIS program in May. Describing her experience, she said, "During the internship, I transcribed and edited two oral history interviews with two distinct artists, and I worked on creating metadata for the poster collection in the Zúñiga collection. My biggest takeaway was how much archival work depends on flexibility, communication, and adapting to the needs of a specific collection or institution. The experience gave me a much clearer understanding of how archives, libraries, oral history, and artist-centered collections overlap, especially in the context of preserving artists' legacies. It also helped me connect what I have learned in my MLIS program with the practical, day-to-day work of caring for collections."

On the impact of the Compass Award, Payán said, "The award made a significant difference in my ability to participate in this internship, and I deeply appreciate [ARLIS/NA's] support of students and emerging professionals in the field. This experience has helped me grow professionally and has given me a stronger sense of the kind of collections work I hope to pursue after graduation."



Established in 2023, the ARLIS/NA Compass Award supports a project-based internship and provides both financial and professional resources to early-career colleagues in the arts information field. The award is open to individuals who identify as racialized and/or Black, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC). The 2025 Compass Award Committee members were Shira Eller (co-chair), Lindsay King (co-chair), Marty Miller, Fannie Ouyang, Taylor Strong, and Marsha Taichman.

### **About the Art Libraries Society of North America**

Founded in 1972, the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) is a dynamic, international organization of close to 1,000 individuals devoted to fostering excellence in art and design librarianship and image management in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The membership includes architecture and art librarians, visual resources professionals, artists, curators, educators, publishers, students, and others interested in visual arts information. To serve this diverse constituency, the Society provides a wide range of programs and services within an organizational structure that encourages participation at every level.

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