



COLLECTION MANAGERS COMMITTEE
Texas Association of Museums

Collections Communiqué

Spring 2011

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Looking for a job?

TAM Job Bank

AAM Job Center

Have something for the next newsletter?
Email submissions by June 1, 2011, to
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CMC Workshop Schedule

Kathleen Stiefel
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Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

Date	Topic	Location
August 2011	TAM Conference 2011	Irving
October 2011	Museum and Institutional Archives	Waco
Spring 2012	TAM Conference 2012	San Antonio
Early June 2012	Environmental Monitoring	Austin
October 2012	Collection Management Policies, Plans, and Procedures	Houston
TBA 2013	Artifact Databases	TBA
TBA 2013	Online Collections	TBA

CMC Scholarships: TAM Annual Meetings

Lindsey Richardson
Collection Manager
The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

CMC-TAM will offer two scholarships to the 2011 TAM annual meeting in Irving. One scholarship will cover registration and travel up to \$400; the second scholarship will cover the full registration fee. All CMC members are encouraged to apply; only winners from the previous year are ineligible. Applications will be available in June – watch for announcements in the next CMC newsletter.

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AAM Collections-related Sessions of Interest

May 22-25, 2011
Houston, Texas

Sunday, May 22

1:15 to 3:30

Hurricane Ike and the Efficacy of Disaster Planning and Recovery

Staff from the Galveston Historical Foundation, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and AIC-CERT will detail the efficacy of disaster planning and response for the hurricane, the resulting challenges and future modifications to their emergency planning that may help other collection stewards improve their own recovery outcomes.

2:45 to 4

Climate Change, Collective Action and Museum Futures

This session panelists will present leading-edge research critiquing the current roles of museums and science centers in climate change and propose new potential interventions emerging from research undertaken in the U.S. and Australia as part of an international project funded by the Australian Research Council.

Creative Use of Volunteers with Collections

This roundtable session will discuss ways three institutions are using volunteers with collections and their challenges in managing, training and supervising them.

NAGPRA: The CUI Rule: What It Is and How to Use It

A panel of museum and tribal officials will discuss how they have used the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) rule addressing the culturally unidentifiable inventories (CUI) of human remains held in collections, what they have learned, what works and what needs improvement.

4:15 to 5:30

Collections Databases: Welcome to the World of Tomorrow

This session will help you research a new collections management system or implement the first database for your institution.

Sustainable Preservation Strategies for Museums

This session will feature projects funded by the NEH's Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant program that balance preservation effectiveness, cost and environmental impact.

Monday, May 23

9 to 10:15

And Other Duties as Assigned: Prioritizing Collections Management in Small Museums

Speakers from an art museum, historic house and local history museum will share their strategies for prioritizing collections management in small museums.

Putting 100 Years of Collecting Online: A Case Study from Historic New England

Historic New England staff present a case study of their Collections Access Project, which focused on the implementation of a collections management database searchable online by the public.

Reassessing Environmental Standards: Balancing Collections Preservation, Visitor Comfort and Energy Efficiency

This session will demonstrate how to balance demands for the preservation and display of collections with the need to provide visitor comfort.

2 to 4

Collections Management and Conservation

Experts from museums in China and the Smithsonian Institution discuss challenges of the latest development in collection management, conservation techniques, and scientific research.

2:15 to 3:30

Digital Records and Collections: Will They Still Love You Tomorrow?

The session will address active museum systems, unstructured and legacy data, e-manuscript collections, e-mail and digital collection objects.

Gifts of Property: A Guide for Museum Professionals

This session will introduce AAM's recent publication *Gifts of Property* as the essential guide for museum staff, addressing why donors give and why museums benefit from gifts including promised gifts, partial gifts and bargain sales.

Objects That Change the World: Social Conscience and Museum Collections

This session demonstrates that all museums can utilize the topics and methods employed by social conscience museums, which discuss some of the more painful aspects of human history in innovative ways while inspiring community action.

Planning Tomorrow's Collections Today: Collections Plan for Small Museums

Panelists will present their experiences in developing, writing and implementing a collections plan as it relates to future collecting of objects with rich stories, properly caring for the objects and conservation needs.

Tuesday, May 24

9 to 10:15

Documentation as Collections: What's So Strange About That?

Speakers will describe a holistic reorganization of collections that links internal documentation to object collections, ensuring that documentation will serve as an integral part of museum collections.

3:45 to 5

Pushing the Envelope: Challenges for the First Collections Professional in a Small Museum

This session will look at the challenges and practical solutions that new collections professionals encounter, including creating written policies and procedures; upgrading physical collections facilities; cataloguing and inventory; and educating others on appropriate standards of collections management.

Registrars: Let's Get This Show on the Road!

Join us for an interactive session that follows several recent domestic exhibitions on the road through the lenses of their organizing and exhibiting registrars.

Wednesday, May 25

9 to 10:15

All Hands on Deck: Getting Visitors Involved in the Work of the Museum

Come see how NASA, the Smithsonian and two other leading museums are helping visitors get involved in real scientific research, work with collections, and collaborate with curators and scientists.

Collections Conundrums 2011: Current Issues

Have your current collections conundrums reviewed and addressed by a roomful of professionals led by a distinguished panel of experts.

Emotional Collection, Universal Connections: Lessons from the Museum of Broken Relationships

Experience the international Museum of Broken Relationships, currently on display in Houston, which taps the power of audience contribution, universal emotions, local exhibitions, Web activities and international collection.

Open Source for Museums: The Experiment Continues

Join the project leads of Pachyderm, Omeka, CollectionSpace and Open Exhibits for an introduction to "open source" and a frank discussion of the promises and potential pitfalls of open source software in the museum.

Sharing our Heritage: Smithsonian Collections and Indigenous Community Collaboration in Alaska

Presenters from the National Museum of Natural History, National Museum of the American Indian, Anchorage Museum and the Native Alaskan community will share the challenges they faced with a loan of 600 objects going to Anchorage.

2 to 3:15

DAM(S) the Torpedoes, Full Speed Ahead: Digital Asset Management Systems and the Museums of Tomorrow

This session will address evaluating when a museum needs a digital management system (DAMS), the process of selecting a system and its implementation through case studies, and the experiences of a company developing a DAMS for museums.

Emergency Management and Planning: How Events in the 21st Century Have Impacted the Way We Plan for, Respond to and Recover from Major Emergencies

This session will explore a number of crises during the first decade of the 21st century, how America has responded, and how to structure an emergency management plan and assemble an emergency management team.

2 to 5

Materials 101: Proven Principles for Storage, Display, Packing of Collection Objects

This session will provide a practical understanding of current materials for collections storage, exhibition display and packing.

3:45 to 5

Going Rogue: Displaying and Managing Collections in Non-Traditional Museum Environments

This session will explore lending and maintaining collections in non-traditional environments such as airports, retail outlets and train stations, whose conditions create challenges to traditional methodologies and practices of collection care.

The Access Experiment: Behind the Scenes in our Secret World

This panel will discuss the challenges and benefits of allowing the public into the "behind the scenes" world of storage, providing access to researchers, museum studies students and high-level donors.