

# Collections Communique

TAM Collection Managers Committee Newsletter

Fall 2019

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Hello CMC Members!

I hope the fall season is off to a great start for all of our collections managers across the state! As students make their way back into the classroom, this is a great time of year to think about some of the new and different ways that the field of museum collections can be used to educate school groups.

Many schools make traditional museum field trips throughout the year without realizing that there is another world to learn from hidden behind the scenes – the realm of collections care. As educators continue to seek out STEM-oriented programs, museums can attract school groups by incorporating the science of collections care into a variety of learning opportunities. The Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site has been working toward this goal by pairing the concepts of STEM learning with the science behind everyday equipment like HVAC systems and their relationship to the long-term care of artifacts. While touring Varner-Hogg's collections facility, students examine the design of the building's heating and cooling system while discussing the effects of temperature and humidity on the artifacts inside. Each class



also gets the chance to see an electrolysis station in action and observe the removal of rust from a variety of cast iron objects, gaining hands-on learning about the chemistry behind the process as well. Additionally, students are given the tools and training to practice safely setting up their own electrolysis circuit (without electricity). Visiting classes can watch the site's 3-D printer replicate an item from the museum's collection too, as site staff explain the process and benefits of 3-D scanning and printing.

Allowing students to explore the seldom-seen realm of curatorial work spaces not only provides them with the opportunity to make new STEM connections, but also paves the way for institutions to reach the next generation of collections personnel.

What kind of collections-related programs does your museum offer to students? We would love to know! Feel free to share your tips, tricks, and ideas with us in the next newsletter or on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/tamcollectionmanagers/>

Sincerely,

*Angela Pfeiffer*

## UPCOMING WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS...

Online Course: Basics of Archives

\$85-\$160

September 30 - November 3

AASLH

Webinar Course: *Cleaning the Museum without Damage* \$149

October 10, 17, 24, and 31 1-2:30CT

AIC

Online Course: *Practical Strategies for Emergency Response* \$400

October 14

Museum Study

Webinar: *Collections Management Policies 101* FREE

October 16, 10AM CT

THC Museum Services

Online Course: *Integrated Pest Management: The Plan and Implementation* \$400

November 4  
Museum Study

Webinar: *Introduction to Audio, Visual & Film Media and Their Care*  
\$40-\$65

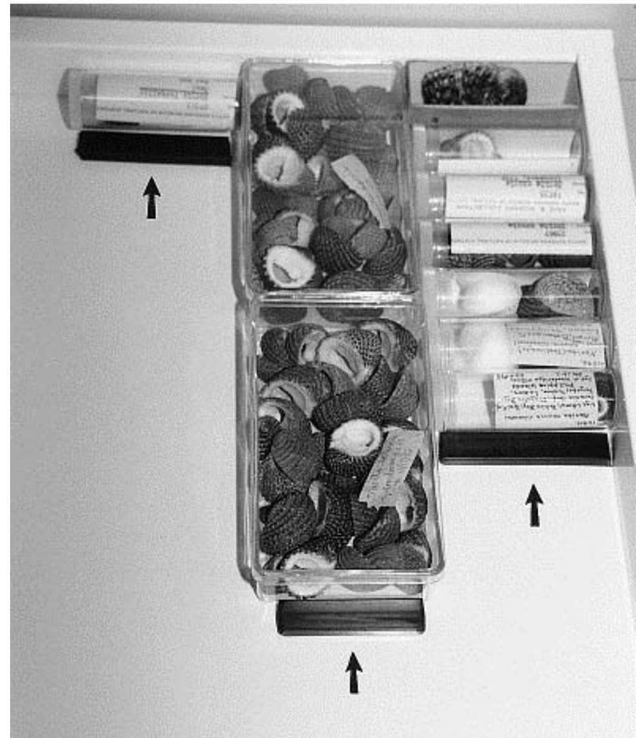
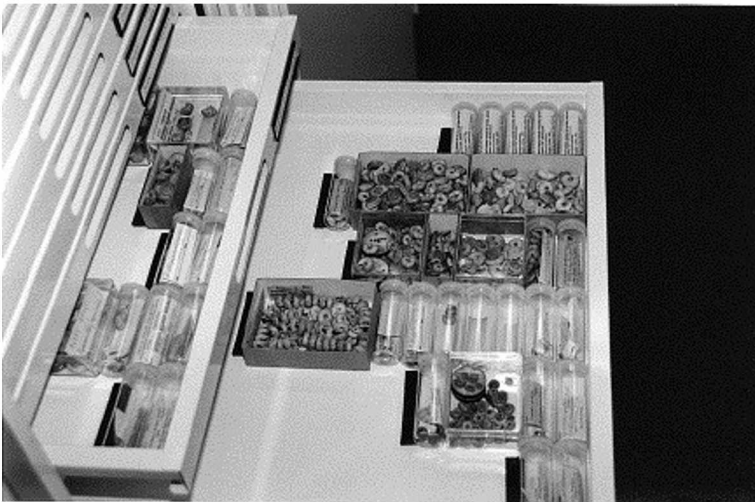
December 5  
AASLH

# CONSERVATION CORNER

## Magnetic Stops or Barriers to Organize Metal Drawers

To prevent specimen lots from moving around in storage systems with metal drawers, magnetic barriers or stops can be used to secure the specimen containers in place. This will help stop the containers from moving when the drawers are opened or closed, protecting the specimens from shifting and being damaged within their container.

Flexible magnetic strips can be ordered in a variety of lengths. Some strips can be ordered from the factory precut into fixed lengths or one can order the strips uncut and use heavy duty scissors to cut the strips to a desired length.



**Source:** Chaney, H.W., F.G. Hochberg. 1992. Magnetic Stops or Barriers to Organize Metal Drawers. STASHc (Storage Techniques for Art, Science & History Collections). Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation. Accessed September 16, 2019.

<http://stashc.com/the-publication/containers-2/subdividers/magnetic-stops-or-barriers-to-organize-metal-drawers/>



**PROCLAMATION**  
**COLLECTIONS MANAGERS COMMITTEE**

**WANTED**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING KITS**  
**(EMKs)**



**BY SHERIFF STEPHANIE ALLEN-GIVENS**  
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# UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**October 2-5, 2019**, Association of Midwest Museums and Michigan Museums Association joint conference, Grand Rapids, MI

**October 4-7, 2019**, Western Museums Association, Boise, ID

**October 16-18, 2019**, Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, Hudson Valley, NY

**October 21-23, 2019**, Southeastern Museum Conference, Charleston, SC

**November 6-8, 2019**, New England Museum Association, Burlington, VT

**November 7-8, 2019**, MuseumNext: The Future of Museum Storytelling, New York, NY

**November 20-22, 2019**, Conference of the Americas, Oaxaca, Mexico



The Bullock Texas State History Museum, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Department of Transportation, and TAM are offering a series of fall workshops. *The Road to Great Exhibits* will explore effective and affordable uses of technology within exhibits. Visit [texasmuseums.org/meetinginfo.php](http://texasmuseums.org/meetinginfo.php) for more information and to register!

## SAVE THE DATE!



## CMC Committees

### Membership Committee

Are you interested in expanding the membership of CMC and helping members stay in touch and up-to-date? Contact Kathleen Wilson at [Kathleen.Wilson@ttu.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Wilson@ttu.edu)

### Technology Committee

Are you interested in helping to develop the CMC website and exploring ways for CMC to use social media? Contact Leslie Ochoa at [leslieochoa@wittemuseum.org](mailto:leslieochoa@wittemuseum.org).



# Available Grants and Funding



## Institute of Museum and Library Services

**Inspire! Grants for Small Museums:** Inspire! Grants for Small Museums is a special initiative of the Museums for America program. It is designed to help small museums implement projects that address priorities identified in their strategic plans. Inspire! has three project categories: Lifelong Learning, Community Anchors and Catalysis, and Collections Stewardship and Public Access

**Deadline: November 15, 2019** with grant amounts between \$5,000 - \$50,000

**Museum Assessment Program (MAP):** The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) is supported through a cooperative agreement between the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the American Alliance of Museums. It is designed to help museums assess their strengths and weaknesses, and plan for the future. A MAP assessment requires members of the museum staff and governing authority to complete a self-study. After completion of the self-study, a site visit is conducted by one or more museum professionals, who tour the museum and meet with staff, governing officials, and volunteers. The reviewers work with the museum and MAP staff to produce a report evaluating the museum's operations, making recommendations, and suggesting resources.

**Deadline: December 1, 2019**

**Museum Grants for African American History and Culture:** The goals of the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program (AAHC program) are to build the capacity of African American museums and support the growth and development of museum professionals at African American museums. The AAHC program supports projects that nurture museum professionals, build institutional capacity, and increase access to museum and archival collections at African American museums and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

**Deadline: November 15, 2019** with grant amounts between \$5,000 - \$250,000 with a cost share requirement.

**Museums for America:** The Museums for America program supports projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public. Museums for America has three project categories: Lifelong Learning, Community Anchors and Catalysts, and Collections Stewardship and Public Access.

**Deadline: November 15, 2019** with grant amounts between \$5,000 - \$250,000 with a cost share requirement.

**National Leadership Grants for Museum:** National Leadership Grants for Museums support projects that address critical needs of the museum field and that have the potential to advance practice in the profession so that museums can improve services for the American public. This program has five project categories: Collections Care and Public Access; Data, Analysis, and Assessment; Digital Platforms and Applications; Diversity and Inclusion; and Professional Development.

**Deadline: November 15, 2019** with grant amounts between \$5,000 - \$1,000,000 with a cost share requirement.