

# Collections Communique

TAM Collections Managers Committee Newsletter

Summer 2018

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Hello Collection Managers Committee members and thank you for welcoming me into your group! For those of you who don't know me, I have been the curator of the Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site in West Columbia since 2008 and have had the good fortune over the last two years to help with the development of the site's new Collections Resource Center. I love organizing, so having the opportunity to move the plantation's

collections from multiple storage buildings into the blank slate of a new collections storage facility has been every curator's dream. Other than organizing, I enjoy reading, watching movies, and spending time with my husband Ben and our soon-to-be two children (we have a seven year old son and another on the way this summer), as well as our four sassy rescue cats.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS...

**Webinar:** *Caring for Your Historic Globe Collection* **FREE**  
May 17, 2-3:30 EDT AIC

**Webinar:** *Is Your Museum Grant Ready?* **\$40-\$65**  
June 4, 3-4:30pm EST American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

**Webinar:** *Making Your Case with Parent Organizations* **FREE**  
June 7, 2pm Texas Historical Commission

I am also looking forward to learning more about all the great members that make up the CMC and any new ideas that the group may have. After meeting and talking with a few members at the TAM affinity group meeting, there seems to be an interest in establishing a plan for our group's future activities. Based on this information, I would like to work with the CMC to develop a long-range plan made up of three to five goals that would guide our group's growth over the next two to five years. These objectives will help direct where the group wants to go with issues like membership recruitment, workshops (i.e. making them more accessible to both members and non-members), or outreach through new programs, while evaluating the future viability of old services like the committee's environmental monitoring kits. Setting a small list of concrete goals will help our group continue to work toward new activities that are focused on achieving our mission of learning and promoting excellence in the field of collections while reaching out to our current and future peers in collections management throughout the state. I look forward to working with and learning from each and every one of our group members, and would love to hear any ideas that you may have to make our group the best it can be. Thank you again for letting me be your committee chair, and feel free to contact me if you would like to share any comments or ideas.

Sincerely,

Angela Pfeiffer

## UPCOMING WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS...

**Webinar:** *Dissecting Digitization*  
\$20

June 7, 2-3:30pm  
Indiana Historical Society

**Workshop:** *Collections Camp:  
Military Collections* \$260-\$300  
June 20-22, Newport News, VA  
AASLH

## CONSERVATION CORNER



### Removing Dust From Ceramic and Glass Objects

Dust is abrasive and can scratch glass and ceramics and if left over time can even degrade their surfaces. If dusting is needed avoid wet cleaning. Keeping objects in dust-proof storage and exhibit cases is a must in order to decrease the need for dusting and handling of the object. Archaeological objects, incomplete (or unstable) objects, and objects that have surface deposits should not be routinely dusted. The two major ways of removing dust are vacuuming and dust wiping.

**Vacuuming:** Hold vacuum nozzle 1in. from object surface and use a soft artist's brush to remove the dust by brushing towards the nozzle. Multi-speed HEPA filter vacuum is preferable. Recommended for textured surfaces.

**Dust wiping:** One of the most effective dust cloths is the Dust Bunny Magnetic Wiping Fabric. It will not scratch the object and is lint-free. It is non-conducting and creates a static charge as it moves over the object, which attracts and hold onto dust with minimum pressure. Recommended for regularly-shaped, smooth-textured objects.

**Information taken from July 1993 National Park Service  
Conserve O Gram.**

## Who's Who

George Avery, PhD, RPA is the director of the Archaeology Lab at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. The lab is hoping to become a Certified Curatorial Facility through the THC in September 2019. The lab has been excavating at Shankleville (a Freedman's Community in Newton County) for the past three years. Artifacts found from the site show the daily life and agricultural work of this community and will be eventually be part of an African-American exhibit at the Institute of Texas Cultures in San Antonio.



Are you a new member to CMC? Do you have an interesting hobby or want to tell CMC members about yourself? E-mail Elizabeth at [elizabeth.neucere@victoriacollege.edu](mailto:elizabeth.neucere@victoriacollege.edu) and you may be featured in our next newsletter!

Like us on  and visit our website [www.cmc-tam.org](http://www.cmc-tam.org) for the latest CMC information!

# UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**May 6-9, 2018**, American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo, Phoenix, AZ

**May 29-June 2, 2018**, American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works Annual Meeting, Houston, TX

**June 1-5, 2018**, The Association for Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums, Tahlequah, OK

**June 21-24, 2018**, Association of Academic Museums and Galleries, Miami, FL

**July 18-21, 2018**, Association of Midwest Museums, Chicago, IL

**August 27, 2018**, 2018 Presidential Sites and Libraries Conference through AASLH, Washington, DC

**September 11-15, 2018**, Mountain-Plains Museums Association Conference, Billings, MT

**September 26-29, 2018**, American Association for State and Local History, Kansas City, MO

If you know of any other conferences, please let Elizabeth know at [elizabeth.neucere@victoriacollege.edu](mailto:elizabeth.neucere@victoriacollege.edu)!

## CMC COMMITTEES

### **Membership Committee**

Are you interested in expanding the membership of CMC and helping members stay in touch and up-to-date? Contact Kendall Milton at [kmilton@spellmanmuseum.com](mailto:kmilton@spellmanmuseum.com)

### **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



## Hurricane Harvey Recovery Grants

**Humanities Texas:** Texas cultural and historical institutions that suffered damage and losses as a result of Hurricane Harvey to apply immediately for fast-track grants to support recovery efforts. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis. Visit the Museum Services page of the Texas Historical Commission's website for application form.

## National Endowment for the Humanities

**Humanities Collections and Reference Resources:** Past applicants used this grant to arrange and describe archival and manuscript collections; catalogue artwork and material culture; conservation treatment for collections, digitizing collections, oral history interviews about war and military service in conjunction with NEH's Common Good initiative, and develop digital resources. **Deadline is July 19, 2018** for projects starting in May 2019. Updated guidelines for grant will be posted at least two months in advance of deadline.

**Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections:** The Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (SCHC) program helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting sustainable conservation measures that mitigate deterioration, prolong the useful life of collections, and support institutional resilience: the ability to anticipate and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Deadline is **December 12, 2018** for projects beginning October 2019. Updated guidelines for grant will be posted at least two months in advance of deadline.

## Costume Society of America

**Small Museum Collection Care Grant:** A CSA Small Museum Collection Care Grant of \$1500 is intended to assist the costume and textiles collection of a small museum (including historical societies, historic houses or sites, and other similar institutions) that has a very limited budget and staff. Funding may be used to support the care, conservation, and/or exhibition of costume and textiles that have historic, regional, or other significance and are intended for preservation. **Applications due October 2018.**

## Humanities Texas

**Mini-grants:** Mini-grants fund up to \$1,500 of the costs associated with public humanities programs. These small grants, which are easy to apply for and administer, are particularly appropriate for funding a speaker and/or the rental of a traveling exhibition, including those provided by Humanities Texas. Mini-grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but applications must be received at least six weeks before project promotion begins. Decisions are made within ten business days of an application's arrival in the Humanities Texas office.

## Texas Historical Commission

**Texas Preservation Trust Fund:** The Texas Historical Commission (THC) awards grants for preservation projects from the Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) on a yearly basis. The purpose of the Fiscal Year 2018 Texas Preservation Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program is to provide grant funding to historic properties and archeological resources in the state-declared disaster area that sustained damage from Hurricane Harvey. The **THC will accept applications on a rolling basis until the final deadline of 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 15, 2018.**