Annual Report 2015
ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter

Submitted by:
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Leadership Update
President: Jon Evans, Hirsch Library, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Vice President/President-Elect: Joel Pelanne, Hirsch Library, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Treasurer: Alison Larson, Libraries, Baylor University
Secretary: Jenniffer Hudson Connors, Library & Archives, Stark Foundation

Brief Narrative (activities, membership, plans, etc.)

The chapter roster included 41 members during 2015.

As of December 1, 2015, the chapter has positive cash balance of $3,200 and remains in a healthy financial position.

The chapter hosted the ARLIS/NA annual conference in Fort Worth from Mar. 19-23, 2015. Texas-Mexico members Beverly Carver, Beverly Mitchell, Catherine Essinger, Lynn Wexler served as conference co-chairs. Highlights of the conference included 27 sessions, 65 meetings, myriad poster sessions, and 5 workshops, as well as special events at the Kimbell Art Museum, the Sid Richardson Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art, Fort Worth. Speakers Dr. Mari Carmen Ramirez and Ronnie Self spoke at the Convocation and Membership Luncheon, respectively. More than 500 individuals attended the conference, which was widely hailed as an excellent conference.

The Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award committee, headed by Lynn Wexler, selected Alison Larson, UNT MLS Candidate, as the recipient of the 2015 award. The award in the amount of $500 supported her attendance at the annual conference.

Two issues of our newsletter, The Medium, were published during the year under the editorship of VP/President-Elect Evans. The spring issue featured a column from President Towers, a report from Chapters Liaison Friedman, four annual conference reports, and two news items. The fall issue featured a column from President Towers, a report from Chapters Liaison Friedman, nine chapter conference reports, two news items, and business meeting minutes drafted by Secretary Connors.

The chapter’s annual conference was held in Waco from Nov. 5-7, where 15 members were hosted by President Towers and Treasurer Larson. This was our first chapter meeting in Waco and proved to be quite enlightening. We learned much about Waco arts and culture, specifically about the libraries and art institutions. Baylor University served as a focal point for the meeting with visits to the Crouch Fine Arts Library, Harding Black Collection and
Archives, Armstrong Browning Library, and the Baylor Libraries Digital Collections. Other highlights included a presentation and discussion with Craig Bunch, McNay Art Museum, about the development of his forthcoming book *Interviews with Texas Artists*, as well as a presentation by Sha Towers on the Baylor Book Arts Collection, a visit to the Cooper House and a letterpress workshop at BlackHare Studios.

The chapter voted to move its website to the ARLIS/NA platform to align with the Society’s domain name and URL, as well as save monies on hosting fees. This project will be undertaken by Alison Larson in the coming months.

A post-chapter conference survey was conducted by incoming VP Pelanne to assess the quality and value of the Waco conference experience. The results were very positive and will inform planning for the 2016 chapter conference experience.

The chapter is considering three venues for its 2016 annual conference, including Mexico City, El Paso, and Houston. An assessment of financial costs for each venue was undertaken by VP/President-Elect Evans followed by a period for questions and discussion via the chapter listserv. This was followed up by a survey to determine chapter member preferences, including location, date range, conference length, and initial day of the conference.

Chapter members Martha Patricia González Palacios, Mark Pompelia and Eric Wolf served on the Society’s Executive Board during 2015. González Palacios and Wolf ended their terms in March, while Pompelia continues his tenure as Treasurer.

**ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan**

**Goal II: Expand Mentoring, Management, and Transition Skills**

- Introduce additional mentoring opportunities that increase the possibilities for informal and less structured support and learning experiences for new professionals;

The chapter will discuss the potential for establishing a chapter mentoring programing at the upcoming ARLIS/NA conference in Seattle. [pending]

**Goal III: Create Stronger Leadership through Promotion, Cooperation and Advocacy**

- Expand the Society’s programs to attract those new to the art information profession and those from a diverse range of institutions;
- Build stronger partnerships and programming with our North American, European and international organizations;

The chapter overwhelmingly selected Mexico City as the destination for its next chapter conference. We believe that this is an opportunity to strengthen relations with existing chapter members in Mexico, cultivate relations with other art information professionals in the region, and encourage individuals to participate in ARLIS/NA and ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico activities. [progress]

**Issues for the Executive Board** (concerns, suggestions for additions to Strategic Plan, etc.)

Concerning our forthcoming conference in Mexico City, we would welcome any advice from the Executive Board about coordinating a successful conference in this region, as well as any guidance that the Board might have in advancing the broader interests of the Society. We have already been advised to consult with the International Relations Committee and
will also reach out to the coordinators of the prior IFLA convergence in this city to benefit from their expertise.