Annual Report 2015
Solo Art Information Professionals Special Interest Group

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Leadership Update

Incoming Group Coordinators: Lucy Campbell, Cathryn Copper, Lisa Schattman

History

A "Solo Art Librarians Group" was convened at the 2001 ARLIS/NA conference by Eumie Imm-Stroukoff. It was not a formal SIG at that time. Matthew Wiggins took over as moderator in 2005, followed by Natalia Lonchyna. Alison Dickey was the last moderator in 2008, after which it was dissolved. Joan Benedetti, who had attended the Solo Art Librarians Group meetings in the past, circulated a survey on ARLIS-L in April 2015, primarily to assess the ability of solo librarians to attend the annual ARLIS/NA conference. The final question on the survey asked about interest in re-establishing the group. Of the 20 Solo Information Professionals who responded, 17 were in favor of reinstating the Solo SIG, and 8 volunteered to help organize the group. Following the survey, Joan submitted a proposal to the ARLIS/NA Executive Board to establish a formal SIG with the title "Solo Art Information Professionals Special Interest Group." The SIG was approved at the 2015 mid-year Executive meeting.

Lucy Campbell, Cathryn Copper, and Lisa Schattman are three solo professionals based in San Diego who volunteered to organize and coordinate the group. As of January 2016 the SIG contact list includes 64 members of ARLIS/NA and continues to grow. The new SIG will meet at the 2016 Seattle ARLIS/NA conference on Thursday, March 10 at 1 pm.

Statement of Purpose

The Solo Art Information Professionals Special Interest Group acts as a platform for discussion for ARLIS/NA members who are solo professionals. Solo art information professionals are librarians or visual resource curators who have no professional peers within their immediate department. They often serve as the head of the library or visual collection and may have support staff such as assistants, interns, or volunteers. They are found in all types of organizations including special libraries, art
and architecture school libraries, museum libraries, branch libraries, and independent art agencies. For solo professionals, ARLIS/NA provides a crucial means to connect with the wider community. This special interest group enables solo professionals to discuss the issues, challenges, and opportunities unique to their positions.

**Strategic Plan**

- **Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession**
  
  Provide opportunities for Solo Art Information Professionals to participate in scholarship and shaping the future of the profession.

- **Expand Mentoring, Management, and Transition Skills**
  
  Provide opportunities for solo professionals to interact and network with other Solo Art Information Professionals. The Special Interest Group aims to foster both formal and informal meetings for solo professionals by creating a network that allows for solo’s in close proximity to connect and support each other. Goals and initiatives will be set following the SIG’s initial meeting at ARLIS/NA Seattle 2016.

- **Strengthen the Society’s Communication and Operational Infrastructure**
  
  Explore ways to connect Solo Art Information Professionals and improve communication.

- **Create Stronger Leadership through Promotion, Cooperation and Advocacy**
  
  Increase opportunities for Solo Art Information Professionals to take on leadership roles both within ARLIS and at their respective institutions.

**Issues for Executive Board**

- **Funding a Travel Award for Solo Professionals.**
  
  Of the 20 Solo Art Information Professionals who responded to Joan’s initial survey, just 7 reported they were able to attend the 2015 Annual Conference in Fort Worth. Many Solo Art Information Professionals report they are unable to attend conferences due to lack of funds and support staff. As solo professionals, networking opportunities are crucial for professional growth and development. The Solo SIG recommends the Executive Board consider instigating an award specifically for solo professionals.

- **Increasing Conference Content for Solo Professionals.**
  
  Sessions at the annual conference often focus on major and hugely successful projects. However for Solo Professionals working with marginal budgets and minimal staff these projects are oftentimes not applicable. The Solo SIG recommends the Executive Board consider increasing content relevant to individuals working alone.