Submitted by: Abby Bridge
abridge@sfmoma.org
415.618.3296

2016 Officers

Abby Bridge, Chair
Christina Moretta, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect
Teri Dowling, Secretary/Treasurer

Leadership Update

2017 incoming officers:
Christina Moretta, Chair
Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, 2017-2018 - Vacant as of 1/20/2017
Teri Dowling, Secretary/Treasurer
Abby Bridge, Past-Chair

Meetings

Joint NorCal and SoCal Chapters Meeting at ARLIS/NA & VRA Conference 2016
The Westin Seattle Hotel
Seattle, Washington
March 9, 2016

Abby Bridge represented the Northern California Chapter of ARLIS/NC. The Southern California Chapter of ARLIS/NC was represented by Simone Fujita, ViceChair and Benjamin Handler, Chair. The Southern California Chapter of VRA was represented by Maureen Burns. Lynn Cunningham, the current Chair of the Northern California Chapter of VRA was unable to connect remotely.
All chapters present reviewed their activities from the past year, announced upcoming events and discussed ideas for future meetings and events. Group discussion centered on the possibility of holding a joint meeting (Northern and Southern California chapters of both ARLIS/NA and VRA) in Northern California, possibly in conjunction with CaVRACon in Summer 2017 (will likely be held at UC Berkeley in June) or in San Luis Obispo (halfway point between LA and San Francisco). Membership building and outreach strategies were also discussed.

Spring Meeting
Joint meeting with VRA, Northern California Chapter
Visual Resources Center, UC Berkeley
Berkeley, California
May 18, 2016

Prior to the business meeting, members enjoyed a docent led tour of the newly opened Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.

The business meeting included the Treasurer’s report, discussion of concerns about dwindling membership in our chapter and strategies for recruitment, the status of the mentoring program, upcoming and potential events with an update from our Events Committee, and the chapter's social media presence (how best to utilize our Facebook page and blog). Also, a voluntary collection was taken for a donation to the Book Club of California in memory of the BCC Librarian, Henry Snyder who passed away February 29, 2016 (Henry Snyder and the BCC hosted our Fall 2015 meeting). Following the business meeting, we joined VRA NoCal for Seattle conference reports and a coffee break.

In the afternoon, members attended a workshop by Cultural Heritage Imaging on 3D Photogrammetry and RTI imaging methods.

Fall Meeting
North Baker Research Library, California Historical Society
San Francisco, California
November 1, 2016

Archivists Jaime Henderson and Marie Silva shared treasures from the Kemble Collection on Western Printing and Publishing followed by the business meeting.

The business meeting included the Treasurer’s report, an update on the mentoring program, a review of upcoming and potential events with an update from our Events Committee, a recognition of longtime member Kathryn Wayne on the occasion of her retirement from UC Berkeley, discussion and a vote regarding the Chapter donation to the 45th annual conference in New Orleans, discussion and a vote relating to the chapter’s annual travel award, discussion of the possibility of the Northern California hosting a future ARLIS/NA conference, solicitations for new committee members and membership renewals and member announcements.
Following lunch, members visited the American Bookbinders Museum at 355 Clementina St. in San Francisco. Librarian/Archivist Elspeth Olson shared some favorite items from the library’s collection and the group explored the new exhibition, “Books and Mud: The Drowned Libraries of Florence.”

Chapter Activities

Mentoring Program

Our Chapter decided to continue participation in the Chapter Mentoring Program sponsored by ARLIS/NA. Due to challenges with recruiting appropriate mentees in our 1st cohort (all of the applicants that signed up were recruited through BayNet and none were existing chapter members or particularly interested in art librarianship) and challenges with recruiting mentors in our 2nd cohort, it was decided that we would continue the program only if we were able to identify enough interested mentors in advance of putting out the call for mentees. We also decided that participating mentees must have an active membership with the Northern California ARLIS Chapter. Mary Wegmann, our previous Secretary/Treasurer continues her role as Northern California Chapter Mentoring Liaison and is currently in the process of matching mentor/mentee pairs for the new cohort.

The mentorship program runs from September 2016 to February 2017 and began with a happy hour kickoff party with all mentoring pairs in early September. ARLIS/NA and the Chapter Mentoring Liaison provide electronic support materials to guide the mentorship process and each mentor/mentee pairing is responsible for communicating with each other at least once a month (inperson or remotely). The estimated time commitment is an hour or two each month over the course of six months.

Events

Events were organized by members of the Events Committee in conjunction with chapter officers. The Events Committee was formed in 2015 as an opportunity for increasing participation in the chapter and providing planning and logistical support to chapter officers, allowing for increased chapter activities. It has been very successful. Members of the Events Committee in 2016 were: Dayna Holz, Mary Marsh and Mary Wegmann.

Tour of the Quixote Winery
Napa, California
January 10, 2016

Members toured the Quixote Winery in Napa, housed in a building designed by artist/architect/designer Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

Summer Social: Queerest. Library. Ever
Curator talk with Jim Van Buskirk at San Francisco Public Library
June 28, 2016

Chapter member, Jim Van Buskirk, curator of the exhibition Queerest. Library. Ever at San Francisco Public Library lead a gallery talk for chapter members and
unaffiliated guests. We met in the James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center to mingle with refreshments and view the Hormel focused portion of the exhibition: Hormel at 20 and then proceeded to the Jewett Gallery to view Celebrating The Past/Creating The Future. Jim was a wonderful guide, sharing his exhibition behindthe scenes anecdotes and deep knowledge about queer history in San Francisco.

San Francisco Art Book Fair (www.sfartbookfair.com)
Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, California
July 23, 2016

Chapter members gathered informally on Saturday, July 23 at the inaugural San Francisco Art Book Fair to shop for themselves and/or their libraries. Chapter member Erin Dunigan (who hosted our meeting at Chronicle Books several years ago) is now with the Minnesota Street Project and was active in organizing this incredibly well attended and successful event. We are hoping that the ARLIS/NA Northern California Chapter can have a table or some other sort of presence at the event next year.

Tour of 500 Capp Street, The David Ireland House (http://500cappstreet.org/)
San Francisco, California
Saturday, August 20

Following a tour of the house and art work of David Ireland, we were given an introduction to the program activities at 500 Capp Street by director, followed by a lively and interactive presentations from our own members, Jeff Gunderson (“From Funk to Punk and the rise of S.F. Conceptualism”) and Darlene Tong author of Performance Anthology, to put David Ireland’s life and work into context. Attendees enjoyed dinner in the neighborhood after.

Happy Hour Book Club
San Francisco, California
November 17, 2016

The first meeting of the Chapter’s art-themed book club, with a lively discussion of "Hold Still" by Sally Mann.

“Root Connection: 20 Years of The Patti Smith Collection”
Mills College Art Museum
Oakland, California
November 30, 2016

Attendees toured the exhibition and enjoyed a gallery talk with Mills College Library Director and Special Collections Curator, Janice Braun.

Holiday Party at the Minnesota Street Project
San Francisco, California
December 16, 2016
Tour and gallery talk at the Minnesota Street Project with Erin Dunigan and bitforms gallery, and holiday party hosted by the RAM Publications Pop-Up Bookshop.

**Membership**

Total ARLIS/NA-NC members for 2016 (as of Jan. 20, 2017): 30

**Treasurer’s Report**

Balance on hand as of December 31, 2016: $1,477.49

Expenditures:
The Chapter’s Anne Gilbert travel award of $250 was paid to Abby Bridge who attended the 2016 ARLIS/NA conference in Seattle.

The Chapter contributed $150 toward the 2017 ARLIS/NA in New Orleans in December 2016.

**Strategic Directions**

The Northern California Chapter has pursued the strategic direction of Organizational Advancement through joint meetings with our regional colleagues in VRA. We have supported the strategic directions of Cultivating Art Information Professionals and Innovation and Technology through our participation in the Mentoring Program and offering a free workshop by Cultural Heritage Imaging on 3D Photogrammetry and RTI imaging methods at our spring meeting. We are actively looking for ways to increase our membership and further the strategic direction of Diversity and Inclusion in our chapter. Our meetings and events have provided many opportunities for knowledge sharing and coordinating with fellow art information professionals as well as coordinating with colleagues in allied professions and cultural organizations, serving the goals outlined in Collections and Access. Through the efforts of our Events Committee and 2016 officers we’ve been able to provide a variety of opportunities for chapter members and interested community members to gather outside of the context of our bi-annual meetings, increasing our chapter’s visibility and member engagement. We expect this to continue in 2017. Despite member interest in becoming more involved in the chapter as demonstrated by our active Events Committee, we have found it very difficult to recruit new officers. The biggest challenges are the size of our chapter (most of our long term committed members have already served as officers at least once) and lack of institutional support (most of our members do not work in art libraries and/or do not have management support for engaging in leadership roles within the Society).