Submitted by:
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Leadership Update
President: Joel Pelanne, Hirsch Library, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Vice President/President-Elect: Eric M. Wolf, The Menil Collection
Treasurer: Alison Larson, Libraries, Baylor University
Secretary: Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, The Menil Collection

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

The chapter roster included 30 members during 2016.

As of December 15, 2016, the chapter has positive cash balance of $2104.66 and remains in a healthy financial position.

Chapter members met at the 2016 ARLIS/NA annual conference in Seattle. At the chapter meeting, members voted to move the chapter website to the ARLIS/NA platform to align with the Society’s domain name and URL and to save monies on hosting fees. Sunyoung Park was chosen to migrate the chapter’s website from the previous Drupal based site to a WordPress platform. At this time, Mexico City was also officially selected as the chapter’s venue for its 2016 annual meeting. Chapter members Craig Bunch, Fernando Corona, Jon Evans, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Joel Pelanne, and Elizabeth Schaub were chosen to serve as the conference planning team.

The Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award committee, headed by Helen Lueders, selected Sarah Long as the recipient of the 2016 award. The award in the amount of $750 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 Joel Pelanne. The spring issue featured a column from President Jon Evans, a report from Chapters Liaison Friedman, five annual conference reports, and one news items. The fall issue featured a column from President Evans and four chapter conference reports.

The chapter’s annual conference was held in Mexico City from October 12-15, 2016, where 14 members were hosted by local member Fernando Corona. This was the first chapter meeting to be held in Mexico City and the first chapter meeting to be held in Mexico since 2008 (Guadalajara). The meeting was a great success, and gave the chapter an unprecedented chance to meet with Mexican colleagues and survey a variety of institutions and collections. Several library and museum collections were visited by the chapter, several
of which were represented by staff at a roundtable discussion after the chapter business meeting.

The chapter voted to hold its annual chapter meeting in Galveston for 2017. Joel Pelanne will fulfill his role as President in the planning and programming required.

Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, incoming chapter secretary, also took on a newly created role as chapter image archivist to maintain a digital collection of the chapter’s photos. Sunyoung Park was chosen to be the chapter’s official webmaster.

Chapter member Mark Pompelia served his final term as treasurer on the ARLIS/NA executive board during 2016. Additionally, Catherine Essinger was selected as incoming Chapters Liaison.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions

Organizational Advancement

• As the leading art information organization, the Society shall strengthen the profession through increased visibility, collaborative partnerships, international networks, and membership engagement.

The chapter held its annual chapter meeting in Mexico City in an attempt to strengthen relations with existing chapter members and court new membership within the region. The chapter has already received interest from potential Mexican members and is currently evaluating options for international dues and costs. Additionally, it was decided that the chapter would attempt a meeting in Mexico at least once every 5 years. [completed / continued progress]

Art Information Professionals

• The Society shall support the evolving role of art information professionals through education, mentoring, and professional development opportunities that foster excellence and innovation.

The chapter is currently in the process of creating a new timetable for entries and selection of the recipient for its Louis Swan Jones travel award. It is hoped that by getting the call for entries out earlier the chapter will be able to receive as many potential worthy candidates as possible and better serve chapter members unable to receive institutional funding to attend ARLIS/NA annual conferences. [progress]

Innovation and Technology

• The Society shall serve as a community of practice for the exploration, cultivation, and sharing of innovative approaches and emerging technologies in libraries and art librarianship.

Sunyoung Park was selected as the chapter’s new webmaster and succeeded in migrating the chapter website to the WordPress platform hosted by the Society. Additionally, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller will take on the new duties as chapter image archivist, maintaining the visual record of the chapter into the future [progress]
Issues for the Executive Board (concerns, suggestions for additions to Strategic Plan, etc.)

The chapter is still chiefly concerned with issues regarding the timeline of Special Funding opportunities from the Society. During the planning of our chapter meeting in Mexico City, it was frustrating to learn that opportunities were unavailable due to the timing of the application for these funds.

As it currently stands, chapters that conduct fall annual meetings have to anticipate potential funding needs more than 16 months in advance of these meetings. This would seem to be an undue burden for chapters that normally begin the planning phase shortly after their previous meetings, likely only affording themselves a 9-10 month window. As stated in the previous mid-year report, We request that the Society establish new parameters for Special Funding applications that: a) create a separate timeframe for fall chapter meeting needs; or b) extend the timeframe for all applications; or c) do away with the application period altogether and simply accept requests on a rolling basis.

Additionally, the chapter voted to reduce dues for Mexican members to encourage registration. A similar decision by the Society would be much appreciated to help grow Mexican membership in the future.

The Society’s consideration is appreciated.