Leadership Update

Beth Hylen, Reference Librarian at The Rakow Research Library, The Corning Museum of glass, and Jessica Shaykett, former Librarian and Archivist at the American Craft Council, and Beth Goodrich, current Librarian for the American Craft Council, served as co-coordinators for the Decorative (Dec) Arts SIG in 2016.

Membership Update

As of January 25, 2018, 195 ARLIS/NA members have expressed interest in the Dec Arts SIG and are part of the SIG Google Group.

Activities

The Dec Arts SIG held its 2017 annual meeting during the ARLIS/NA Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on Tuesday, February 7th from 5-6 pm with five members in attendance. It was an informal meeting at Meril, 424 Girod Street, New Orleans, LA. Topics covered included:

- Session proposals for the ARLIS/NA Conference in New York
- Possible creation of a collaborative Google spreadsheet where Dec Arts members can list what they are working on and what resources they have available.
- Possible project updating lists of decorative arts museums decorative arts and design libraries on Wikipedia
- Prospects for collaboration, including an opportunity to work with the Smithsonian Institution Libraries on a makers’ mark digitization project, and the creation of a resource list page on the Dec Arts website.
- Call for ideas for the Dec Arts blog
- Decision to encourage members’ use of our Google Docs site by putting instructions into our introductory letter
- Round the table discussion of activities at each member’s library

The Dec Arts SIG proposed a panel, “Motivating makers: Art Libraries in the Creative Process.” While the it was not accepted for the NYC conference, the process of refining the topic with fellow SIG members and soliciting potential speakers gave us the opportunity engage the group.

We published a blog about the discoveries made and lessons learned by prominent art librarian and scholar Sally Sims Stokes as she traced the mystery behind the White House fireplace tiles and their importance to presidential history.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions

**Strategic Direction**: Leadership and Advocacy – the Society shall speak and act on behalf of its members to advance, validate, sustain, and advocate for the profession and the value of art libraries.
SIG Activity: Facilitate an ongoing dialogue concerning new advances in the decorative arts through establishment and continuous update of a website and blog for the SIG
Status: In progress. The call for blog proposals resulted in publication of an article about Sally Stokes’ research, noted earlier.

**Strategic Direction**: 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.
SIG Activity: Provide resources and opportunities for ARLIS/NA members working in the decorative arts to present at conferences and contribute to dialogue on issues in this specialized area of the arts. In addition, raise awareness of organizations and collections devoted to decorative arts research and preservation.
Status: In progress. Dec Arts proposed a session for the 2018 conference. We intend to propose a session for the 2019 conference in Salt Lake City.

**Strategic Direction**: Collections and Access – The Society shall seek opportunities for collaboration across institutions and cultural organizations to promote the informed management, preservation, discovery, and access to collections amid their evolving publishing manifestations.
SIG Activity: Conversations continue among SIG members about ways to collaborate on identifying marks books and the possible digitization of shared makers’ marks resources.
Status: Stephen Van Dyk, Library Director at the Cooper Hewitt Museum, will join us at our Dec Arts meeting in New York to share his bibliography on this project. We will also continue to consider the Wikipedia and Google Docs projects proposed at our 2017 meeting.

**Issues/Requests for the Executive Board**
The Dec Arts SIG has no issues for the Executive Board at this time.

*Please convert this word doc to a PDF and submit electronically to the ARLIS/NA Vice President/President Elect (cc’ing your Board Liaison) by Jan 25, 2018*