Museum Division

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Date submitted

Report Text

Leadership Update: Incoming Moderator Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Menil Collection) Vice-Moderator Alison Huftalen (Toledo Museum of Art)

1. The Museum Division (MLD) successfully released the “State of Art Museum Libraries 2016” white paper, published open access on the ARLIS/NA website in March 2017. [Status: Complete; Strategic Directions: Leadership and Advocacy]

2. The Division continues to promote the white paper, including through a session at the ARLIS/NA 2018 annual conference, creating an online toolkit for librarians (planned for 2018), and working to further reach out to leaders in arts communities. [Status: In Progress; Strategic Directions: Leadership and Advocacy, Art Information Professionals]

3. A MLD working group is continuing progress on the publication of a follow-up to the book “Art Museum Libraries and Librarianship” (ed. Joan Benedetti, 2007). Among other activities, a draft book outline has been formed, publisher-preview articles have been solicited from ARLIS members, and a list of potential publishers has been drawn up. [Status: In Progress; Strategic Directions: All]

4. Museum Division members had at least 12 sessions or papers related to work in the art museum libraries accepted for presentation at the 2018 annual conference in New York City. [Status: Complete; Strategic Directions: Art Information Professionals, Diversity and Inclusion, Innovation and Technology, Collections and Access]
Museum Library Division Minutes
February 8, 2017
8am Camp Meeting Room / Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans

Moderator: Catherine Robertson (Peabody Essex Museum); Vice Moderator: Anne Evenhaugen (Smithsonian Institution); Recorder: Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Menil Collection)

Attendees: Amanda McKnight (Barnes Foundation); Amelia Nelson (Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art); Anna Elam (Seattle Art Museum); Beth Hylen (Corning Museum of Glass); Caroline Dechert (Museum of International Folk Art); Christine Edmonson (Cleveland Museum of Art); Doug Litts (Art Institute of Chicago); Eumie Imm Stroukoff (Georgia O’Keeffe Museum); Giana Ricci (New York Art & Resources Consortium); Ivy Blackman (Whitney Museum of American Art); Jillian Suarez (Guggenheim Museum); Joan Benedetti (LACMA/CAFAM); Jon Evans (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston); Lee Viverette (Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); Lindy Narver (Laguna Art Museum); Louis Adrean (Cleveland Museum of Art); Marianne Cavanaugh (St. Louis Art Museum); Mary Wasserman (Philadelphia Museum of Art); Matthew Gengler (Cleveland Museum of Art); Miki Bulos (Lucas Research Library); Nicole Lovenjak (Dayton Art Institute); Roger Lawson (National Gallery of Art); Tom Young (Philbrook Museum of Art); Traci Timmons (Seattle Art Museum); Jenny Stone (Dallas Museum of Art).

Catherine Robertson brings meeting to order at 8:02am. Anne Evenhaugen will be here shortly. Lauren Gottlieb-Miller is the recorder.

1. Listserv -Catherine Robertson

At the Seattle 2016 conference the Museum Library Division members wanted somewhere to have conversations about museum library matters. A survey was distributed following the conference and results indicated that most people wanted an archivable listserv.

The existing listserv has been transferred to an archivable listserv: ARLISNA-MUSEUM-DIVISION@LSV.ARLISNA.ORG and http://lsv.arlisna.org/scripts/wa.exe?A0=ARLISNA-MID-ATLANTIC


Team introduces itself: Editors Traci Timmons, Amelia Nelson, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Doug Litts, and Caroline Dechert.

Since the Seattle 2016 conference, the project was handed over to Lauren Gottlieb-Miller who assembled the team. The group completed the ARLIS/NA service charter and preliminary chapter list. The team also narrowed down a short list of potential publishers and plans to publish a print publication with a digital component.

Next steps are to distribute the final list of chapters and to solicit writers via ARLIS-L. Traci read the problem statement and strategic directions from the project charter aloud for the group. Traci thanks those who have already participated in the survey related to the book.

3. Museum Library Division White Paper - Anne Evenhaugen

Brief why/why now?
The 2013/14 Museum Division proposed undertaking a state of the field project. After some listserv announcements about things happening at art museums there was a mandate from the executive board to complete the white paper by the New Orleans 2017 meeting.

The mandate was to provide an overview of what an art museum library does and what an art museum librarian provides and is trained to do. The team looked at a number of different surveys to see what they said and then initiated an informal survey to get a qualitative sense of what was happening in the field. The survey garnered 34 respondents. Some colleagues have it very bad at a lot of institutions, others have it really good. The results weren't all dire. A substantial proportion of the final paper was case studies. The last phase of the paper considered how librarians could cope with some of these issues. Libraries who had a stronger relationship with their board and administrators had better leverage overall.

The paper closes with an annotated bibliography of articles that were useful and that were not necessarily in the paper.

Next steps: Eumie will draft a press release and send it to other associations.

Kim Collins introduces herself as the vice president and new liaison for the division. If there is anything the division needs we should let her know.

Jon Evans - Congratulations on the report. General comment: troubling fact that we’ve been aware of, that the AAM and the AAMD make zero reference to libraries in relation to their accreditation. What are we doing as an association to advocate for ourselves with those organization? It doesn’t give us a lot of leverage with these organizations that are now in crisis.

Anne Evenhaugen - Museums are lumped into the research requirement. In the budgets section, 22% of art museum budgets are reserved for collections/library (in the AAMD document but nowhere else). Anne proposes sending a letter to the current presidents of these organizations.

Eumie Imm Stroukoff - The white paper will go out widely. She will be writing letters to these presidents. The white paper increases awareness and helps to make us more visible so that we can be included in the accreditation process.

Discussion:

Lee Viverette proposes that members make sure the library is in the strategic plan of your own museum.

Anne Evenhaugen asks if we should we revisit this white paper on a regular basis? Timing couldn’t be better given the results of the election. Every 5 years? 10 years?

Maryanne Kavanaugh: Comparative statistical report would be useful.

Anne Evenhaugen - there are not enough statistics on our field. Numbers seem really low. Having statistical measures going forth

Jon Evans is a part of the census of art museum professionals and notes that it has been a long process. Stacy Brinkman, Lily Prigill, and Billy Kwan have done a fantastic job. It’s in fantastic shape and almost ready to be shared. All of the data has been generated and they’re just doing some final cross analysis. They would like someone else to come in and do some additional cross analysis. This census will happen every 5 years. It’s gone to Eumie
and the board so that they can give their own commentary. Raw data will be released so that it can be further manipulated.

Catherine Robertson thanks Anne and the team for their work on the team that produced the white paper. White paper will be published online.

**Time for Open Discussion:**

Anne Evenhaugen - For session proposals for next year, perhaps propose something generated from the white paper. E-mail Anne if you’re interested in assembling a panel.

**Leadership Change:**
  - Anne: Moving to Moderator
  - Lauren: Moving to Vice Moderator

None Oppose, all confirm.