Annual Report 2017-2018
Executive Board - President

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Introduction
This report covers my term as President of ARLIS/NA from February 7th, 2017 at annual membership meeting in New Orleans through February 27th, 2018 at the annual membership meeting in New York City.

In my role as President, I continued to build upon the initiatives and direction set by the previous Presidents, their Executive Boards, and the Society members. ARLIS/NA, as the leading art information organization, supports the core values of the Society. These core values and our strategic directions - Leadership and Advocacy, Organizational Advancement, Art Information Professionals, Diversity and Inclusion, Innovation and Technology, and Collections and Access - inform the work of the Executive Board and its groups.

As of February 1, 2018, ARLIS/NA’s membership is 1189 strong. The Society took concrete steps to help foster a more inclusive ARLIS/NA and strengthen infrastructures that support the professional development of Society members. I would like to thank everyone who contributed this past year to make ARLIS/NA a responsive and thriving organization.

Meetings and communications
The Executive Board met monthly by conference call 10 times and also in person at the post-conference board meeting in New Orleans on February 9th, 2017 and the mid-year board meeting in Santa Fe on August 10th and 11th, 2017. In keeping with previous practice, Board reports were submitted in advance of each monthly Executive Board meeting and approved via consent agenda each month. In her role as Secretary, Samantha Deutch revised the template for board reports. This past year, the Executive Board’s documents needed to be migrated from Wiggio to another system. I would like to commend Robert Kopchinski, Kim Collins, and Samantha Deutch for their work in evaluating the different tools available, and in particular, Samantha Deutch for migrating and organizing all of the board’s files and documents from Wiggio into Box. Thanks to a hard-working and diligent board, 102 motions were voted upon and 127 action items were completed over the course of the year.

I conversed with Robert Kopchinski, ARLIS/NA Executive Director, during a weekly President’s call and participated in twice-monthly conference calls with the New York conference planning co-chairs. In addition, I chaired the Conference Planning Advisory Committee meeting in New York City on June 10th and 11th, 2017.
I posted four President’s Messages to the Society in the spring, summer, winter, and early 2018 over ARLIS-L.

Conference
The annual conference was held in New York City from February 24th through March 1st, 2018. A record-breaking 908 participants from 16 countries including Canada and the United States attended the conference. There were 104 first-time attendees and 71 new members as well as 82 exhibitors. Conference Development chair Milan Hughston raised $158,575 for the conference with sponsorship dollars accounting for $56,000 and exhibits and advertisement accounting for $102,575. There were 42 sessions (including the poster sessions), 9 workshops, 90 meetings, and 19 tours. The following events were held:
- first-time attendees and new members reception at Herb N Kitchen Restaurant at the Hilton,
- welcome reception at the Trianon Ballroom at the Hilton, the Society Circle and international guests reception at Matherial ConneXion, and the convocation and convocation reception at St. John the Divine. My gratitude and thanks to conference co-chairs – Dan Lipcan, Lindsay King, Lori Salmon, and Suz Massen – as well as conference development coordinator, Milan Hughston, and the rest of the conference planning team and all of the members of the New York chapter, as well as Robert Kopchinski, ARLIS/NA Executive Director, and his team at the Association Executives Group (AEG).

Along with Milan Hughston, I secured funding from donors and also worked this past year to secure a conference development coordinator for the Salt Lake City annual conference. I corresponded with donors of the 2018 conference and would like to thank all of the donors and sponsors of the conference in New York City.

Many thanks also to the exhibitors and participants of the sessions, workshops, and tours.

Delmas Foundation generously provided us with the funds to allow 20 students to attend the 2018 conference at first-time attendees. In addition, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation generously funded the award for international travel. 7 recipients were given funds to attend the conference in NYC. 4 ARLIS/NA members were recipients to participate in the 2018 ARLIS UK and Ireland conference in Europe.

Association Management Services
ARLIS/NA was operating under a 2016 amended agreement with the Association Executives Group (AEG). This agreement was negotiated in 2016 after the management company TEI merged with AEG. Under the amended agreement, Executive Director Robert Kopchinski’s time was split between two separate organizations, one of which was ARLIS/NA. The contract between ARLIS/NA and AEG was up for renewal at the end of 2017. A review process was developed, and I sent a letter of intent regarding the AEG review process to Denise Harris, President/CEO of AEG. A management survey was distributed to the membership, and the comments were summarized and reviewed by the officers of the Executive Board. Negotiating calls were conducted between AEG President/CEO Denise Harris, treasurer Matthew Gengler, and me. The contract was renewed and signed between ARLIS/NA and AEG on December 2017. Under the new contract, Robert Kopchinski will continue to serve as the Society’s Executive Director. Changes in the agreement included changing the renewal term of the contract so that it occurs after the conference date, not at the end of the calendar year, and increasing Robert Kopchinski’s time devoted to ARLIS/NA from 50% to 60%.

Correction of Board Leadership Imbalance
At the 2017 annual conference in New Orleans, it was evident that there was an imbalance on the Executive Board resulting in 4:6 board member rotation on and off the board. After speaking with board members and discussion of the Society’s strategic goals, an individual
was identified with recommendations to serve on the board for an extra year. At the mid-year Executive Board meeting, a one-time extension of the current Education Liaison’s term for one extra year was approved in order to correct this turnover imbalance. I would like to thank Lauren MacDonald for her enthusiasm in agreeing to serve this extra year.

**Funding and Finance**
The Board voted and approved to make the Finance Committee meetings open to the membership to increase transparency and encourage inclusiveness.

Funding for the following projects and initiatives that were approved included:
- funding to defray the costs for the workshop: “Advocating for Ourselves: Negotiating Skills and Closing the Gender Pay Gap”
- the development of an International Study Tour travel award for a new professional
- NDSR Art funding
- funding for the Diversity Forum

The board also decided to create line items for those projects that were identified as annual expenditures, such as the ARLIS/NA oral histories project.

In order to address the funding needs for projects and initiatives across the Society, the Executive Board approved several motions to improve processes, including guidelines for pulling funds from the reserve fund. Thanks to treasurer Matthew Gengler and Robert Kopchinski, policy and guidelines were researched and developed for pulling funds from the reserve fund in order to create a special project fund.

Childcare services were offered at the annual conference in New York City as part of the second year of a 2-year funded pilot project. Many thanks to Anna Simon for spearheading this important initiative.

This past year, I drafted a letter of support for the IMLS Leadership Grant for Curating Collections Proposal *Advancing Art Libraries and Curated Web Archives: A National Forum* submitted jointly by the Internet Archive and NYARC. On behalf of ARLIS/NA, I also submitted a grant application from the Knight Foundation for the Digital Art History Directory (DAHD) project.

Also this past year, the Development Committee and ArLiSNAP established a crowd-funded travel award for new professionals.

**Leadership Institute**
The Leadership Institute was developed to target specialized training for members who currently serve in leadership roles across the Society. The Institute has been historically limited to 45 attendees partly to encourage dynamic group interaction but also because of logistical and budgetary purposes. Participants historically attend the Institute at no cost since workshop facilitator fees and refreshments are covered by the Society.

Several members who attended the 2017 Institute commented that they felt every ARLIS/NA member should be given the opportunity to attend the Leadership Institute. As a result, we offered the content from the 2017 Institute which dealt with Implicit Bias at the 2018 conference as a Diversity Forum session. In addition, two facilitators for the 2018 President’s Choice session were brought in to complement the work conducted at the 2018 Institute.

The 2018 Leadership Institute was a different model from past years. Instead of having the Institute developed solely by the President, I had initial conversations with Robert Kopchinski and Institute facilitator Frank Martinelli and decided to form a Leadership
Institute Planning Team. The planning team consisted of the three Presidents on the current board, the Chairs of the Strategic Directions and Diversity Committees, and Robert Kopchinski. We surveyed the Society’s leadership to identify issues important to ARLIS/NA and the profession in order to develop a plan to move the Society towards action. One of the goals was to develop action strategies for generative analysis and decision-making skills. Resilient strategies, or common themes, were identified as a result from discourse around mental models and scenarios developed by the planning team. The Leadership Institute planning team will meet one more time in early 2018, and next steps will be given to the Strategic Directions and Diversity Committees. We are grateful to Peter Bernett and an anonymous donor for funding the 2018 Institute.

**Affiliated Associations**

Kathleen Solomon answered the call for applications for the position of ARLIS/NA liaison to CAA and was appointed to that role.

One of the activities for affiliate liaison Karen Stafford was to staff the ALA affiliates booth for ARLIS/NA.

Olivia Miller, in her role as ALA – ACRL Arts Section liaison, is implementing initiatives dealing with expanding the scope of the membership and outreach committee to include diversifying the membership.

**Distinguished Service Award**

The Distinguished Service Award Committee selected Kathryn Wayne as the 2017 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

**Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives**

As part of a two-year pilot project, ARLIS/NA offered childcare services at our annual conference for the second year in row. I wish to thank the Art Librarian Parents & Caregivers SIG for proposing this initiative, and Anna Simon in particular for her fine work implementing the services.

The Diversity Committee’s 2018 Diversity Forum at the conference featured the workshop offered at the 2017 Leadership Institute on Implicit Bias. At the forum, participants were led through exercises that informed them about their own implicit biases as well as methods to consciously overcome these types of deep-rooted biases.

Based on input from last year’s Leadership Institute, Heather Gendron, Kim Collins, and I developed some mechanisms to make the nomination and committee appointment processes more open and transparent in appointing members to ARLIS/NA groups. Our wish is to continue to improve communication regarding volunteer opportunities within the Society. To this end, the board voted to approve a volunteer application form and a call for interest was posted in ARLIS-L.

**Editorial Initiatives**

On behalf of ARLIS/NA, I signed an agreement in regards to *Art Documentation* with the University of Chicago Press which guarantees the minimum royalty from 2017 onwards.

Nick Curotto was appointed the IT Architect replacing Tessa Brawley-Barker, and ARLIS/NA Reviews Co-Editor Amy Trendler was appointed, replacing Douglas Litts who will be serving on the board as Treasurer beginning in 2018. I want to thank Tessa and Doug for their work on the editorial team and welcome Nick and Amy.
Roger Lawson - the Editorial Director - and his team revised the style and communications guidelines and developed an IT request form for submitting requests for changes to the AWS.

**Humanities Commons**
Samantha Deutch and Heather Gendron attended a meeting on Humanities Commons at MLA Headquarters to determine and make recommendations whether ARLIS/NA could join the project. This initiative will be further developed in 2018.

**International Relations**
The IRC continues its excellent work in developing ties with our international colleagues at our conferences, study tours, and through other initiatives. The 2017 Study Tour to Paris, France was a great success thanks to the efforts of Deborah Kempe, Beverly Miller, and Christine Ferret. The next 2018 Study Tour to Havana, Cuba will be held in June 2018.

I invited ARLIS/NA affiliate members, including international affiliate members, to the 2018 annual conference. In addition, I drafted an official letter of invitation for the international recipients of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation Travel Award. Many thanks to Max Marmor and Kress Foundation for funding this award.

**Learning Portal**
Ian McDermott, the Learning Portal Coordinator, and PDC have been building relationships with affiliated ARLIS/NA groups and individuals to increase content for the Learning Portal. Videos, presentations, documents, and audio recordings are currently available for the membership to access webinars, lunchtime chats, and presentations.

**Members and Chapters**
The Membership Committee, Advancement Liaison, Association Manager, Treasurer, and Chapters Liaison met to explore the logistics of bundling chapter membership with ARLIS/NA membership. Chapters will collectively need to agree how to handle chapter dues in order to pursue a bundled membership nationally. The groups will work together with the Chapters Liaison to continue to dialogue about this issue.

The Diversity Committee provided feedback to the Membership Committee on the following documents written by the Membership Committee:
- 10 Ways to Engage with ARLIS/NA
- A demographics question that will be part of the membership form

The Chapter Liaison, Catherine Essinger, updated Basecamp in order to have it serve as a resource center for all aspects of chapter management. In addition, the guidelines to have chapters submit a proposal to host an annual conference were updated and approved by the board. Catherine also worked with the chapters about chapter archiving practices.

**Museum Libraries**
Members of the Museum Libraries Division drafted a 2016 white paper on The State of Art Museum Libraries which could be leveraged in critical advocacy work for museum libraries that are facing real challenges. The white paper was posted on the ARLIS/NA Web Site (AWS). In addition, I distributed the white paper to the leadership of AAM, AAMD, and AAMC. The Museum Libraries Division followed up with a session at the conference. In addition, next steps will involve follow up conversations between the Museum Division leadership and AAM, AAMD, and AAMC.
NDSR/Art
NDSR Art is accepting applications for 2018-2019 host institutions. I’d like to thank the NDSR Art Curriculum Development Task Force for their fine work. In addition, Anne Trenholm served as the PDC liaison to the NDSR Art program. This is a new position which will assist in ensuring that aspects of NDSR Art are incorporated into future ARLIS/NA professional development activities.

Public Policy Statements
The Public Policy Committee helped the Board by crafting statements and press releases to uphold and affirm ARLIS/NA’s values, including statements on immigration (motion 8), racism and violence in Charlottesville, VA (motion 64), advocacy (motion 73), and in support of the staff of the Bibliotheque et Archives Nationale du Quebec (BAnQ) (motion 36). PPC News Alerts on the AWS kept the ARLIS/NA members up-to-date on issues of importance to our profession and community.

SEI:
Lauren MacDonald - Education Liaison - and I were involved in discussions with the VRA Foundation about the 2017 SEI Workshop in regards a possible venue change. It was determined that a change of venue was not possible. The ARLIS/NA Executive Board determined that cancellation policies, criteria, and guidelines should be developed for future use. In addition, a statement of inclusivity regarding the SEI workshop was developed and posted for the 2016 and 2017 workshop.

The SEI Task Force Report was completed by Amy Trendler and Johanna Bauman, and accepted by the board in October of 2017. This report gathered information about past SEI implementations and made recommendations for both ARLIS/NA and VRA. The Education Liaison worked with the VRAF Liaison to implement SEI 2018.

Strategic Directions Committee
The Committee submitted a recommendations report to the Board for the mid-year meeting. The committee also recommended modifications to the wording of the existing strategic directions to provide further clarity to help the Society in its work.

Task Force Groups
Census Data Analysis Task Force:
The task force began analysis on data collected in the Census for Art Information Professionals.

Core Competencies Task Force:
ARLIS/NA Core Competencies for Art Information Professionals was revised and approved by the board. It is now available on the AWS.

Data and Analytics Task Force:
Charged with making recommendations for regular data collection and assessment activities for the Society, the task force prepared two reports: an initial report of current practices with an environmental scan of peer organizations and a final report which included recommendations to improve, enhance, and establish practices that will better support the Society’s strategic directions.

Open Access Task Force II:
The report by the Open Access Task Force was approved by the board and posted on the AWS.
Conclusion and Goals in my role as Past-President in 2018-2019

For further details about each of the highlights discussed in this report, please consult the annual reports of individual Executive Board members, committees, divisions, and sections.

As Past President, I serve as liaison to the Strategic Directions Committee and supporting the action steps identified during the 2018 Leadership Institute and during the 2018 President’s session. I look forward to working with the committee as its liaison and presenting their 2018 report for the mid-year board meeting.

I will also be sitting on the Finance Committee and working with the Development Committee and Advancement Liaison to further refine the workflows and strategies for the committee to fundraise for the Society’s initiatives and prospects. One of our goals is to develop a prospectus for fundraising for the Society’s work to present to potential donors.

I also look forward to working with my colleagues on the MLA/Humanities Commons project.

I will also be working on grants for the Society and conducting a call for applicants for the Samuel H. Kress Award. This will be the last year of the six-year award, and I will be preparing grant proposal for the 2019 travel award.

It has been an honor to serve the Society as the President. I would like to thank the 2017-2018 Executive Board – Stacy Brinkman, Kim Collins, Samantha Deutch, Catherine Essinger, Jennifer Garland, Heather Gendron, Matthew Gengler, Roger Lawson, Lauren MacDonald – and Robert Kopchinski, the Executive Director from Associations Executive Group (AEG), as well as all of the Society members who serve in leadership roles for their outstanding work. It is a privilege to have served with such a talented, dedicated, and hardworking community of individuals over the past year. I am encouraged by the collaborative work that is being conducted across the Society and the energy and collaborations that are occurring across the Society.

Respectfully,

Eumie Imm Stroukoff
President, ARLIS/NA, 2017-2018