Texas-Mexico Chapter

Submitted by: Joel Pelanne
jpelanne@mfah.org
713 353-1511

Leadership Update:

President: Eric Wolf, Sotheby’s Institute of Art, New York
Vice President/President-Elect: Sunyoung Park, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Treasurer: Hillary Veeder, Texas Tech University
Secretary: Elizabeth Schaub, University of Texas at Austin
Image Archivist: Lisa Cruces, University of Houston

Date submitted:
1/25/2018

Report:

The chapter roster included 29 members through 2017. Alison Larson, the chapter treasurer, reported at the New Orleans business meeting that the chapter's account balance was $1788.26, which reflected travel awards and donations to the New Orleans Conference.

The Lois Swan Jones award committee, headed by Helen Lueders, selected Mark Pompelia as the recipient of a $500 amount for travel to the ARLIS/NA annual conference in New Orleans.

Texas-Mexico Chapter members also met at the 2017 ARLIS/NA annual conference in New Orleans. At the chapter meeting it was decided that the chapter listserv, previously hosted by the University of Texas, would be migrated to new hosting by ALIS/NA (the archives, however, would remain at the University of Texas). The language of the requirements for the chapter’s Lois Swan Jones travel award was also discussed: members of the award committee felt that eligibility as currently outlined was vague and discouraging applications. It was decided that the language would be updated and subsequently approved by the Texas-Mexico executive board. The creation of a chapter Image Archivist position was also discussed, and it was decided that a call would be put out once a position description was drafted and approved. The chapter had already decided to have its annual fall 2017 meeting in Galveston, but Eric Wolf proposed Austin as the location for 2018, which was approved.

Two issues of the Texas-Mexico chapter newsletter, The Medium, were published during the year under the editorship of Vice President / President-Elect Eric Wolf. The Spring issue featured a column by President Joel Pelanne, as well as four member written columns and a
photo essay. The Fall issue featured a column by President Joel Pelanne, three member written columns, and a photo essay.

The chapter’s annual conference was held in Galveston, Texas, from November 10-12th. It was the chapter’s second visit to Galveston, the first being in 1990. The chapter was able to visit several local art and library-related institutions, including the Moody Mansion house museum, The Galveston Arts Center and Artist Residency, The Rosenberg Library, and Bryan Museum. Additionally, a research roundtable series of presentation was held after the chapter business meeting, featuring talks by chapter members Becca Pad, Catherine Essinger, Elizabeth Schaub, Eric Wolf, and Fernando Corona Torres.

At the chapter business meeting, it was decided that the chapter bylaws should be updated to allow for special appointments for certain positions (specifically, Webmaster and Image Archivist). These special appointments would serve 2 year terms with an option for replacement at the end of each term. The language for the bylaws would be sent out before the ARLIS/NA annual meeting in New York in preparation for a vote at the chapter meeting to be held at that time.

**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 Texas-Mexico chapter continues to maintain connections with its colleagues and members in Mexico, and plans to hold another annual meeting in Mexico within the next five years (and at least once every five years indefinitely). Preliminary discussion continues regarding the possibility of hosting an ARLIS/NA annual meeting in Mexico City as well. [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.

This year, the chapter hosted a “research roundtable” series of presentations, focused on disaster planning and recovery. The chapter intends to continue this series annually, allowing our membership to showcase current work and interact with and learn from their colleagues. [Completed / continued progress]

**Issues for the Executive Board:**

In 2017 the chapter officers received several suspicious / spam emails, some even made to resemble communication from the chapter president to the chapter treasurer requesting the transfer of chapter funds. It was also made clear via the ARLIS/NA chapter leaders Basecamp site that this was an issue for many of the chapters across the board. Some looking into and investigation on this matter would be much appreciated.