Texas-Mexico Chapter

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Leadership Update:

2018 Officers  
President:  Eric Wolf, Sotheby’s Institute of Art  
Vice President/President-Elect:  Sunyoung Park, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Treasurer:  Hillary Veeder, Texas Tech University  
Secretary:  Elizabeth Schaub, The University of Texas at Austin

2019 Officers  
President:  Sunyoung Park, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Vice President/President-Elect:  Jenny Stone, Dallas Museum of Art  
Treasurer:  Hillary Veeder, Texas Tech University  
Secretary:  Helen Lueders, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Activities:

The chapter convened twice to meet as a group in 2018, once at the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in New York City in February, and once at the Chapter Meeting in Austin, TX in October.
The Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award Committee, chaired by Helen Lueders, selected Elizabeth Schaub as the 2018 award recipient. Elizabeth was awarded $750 to attend the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in New York City.

Two issues of The Medium were published in 2018. The spring issue featured member reports about NYC conference activities, and the fall issue featured reports about Austin meeting events and members’ professional activity highlights.

- Chapter Meeting, ARLIS/NA Annual Conference, New York City, February 26, 2018
  - Chapters Liaison and Texas-Mexico Chapter member Catherine Essinger noted proposals to host the 2022 ARLIS/NA annual conference would be due in May 2018. Following the success of the fall 2016 chapter meeting in Mexico City and the Society's interest in strengthening international relations, members expressed enthusiasm for this possibility. Chapter President Eric Wolf sought volunteers to write the Mexico City proposal, and a few members were identified who could form a committee for this purpose.
  - The chapter also discussed and voted to raise member dues from $20 to $25, with the higher dues taking effect in 2019. This was intended to keep the chapter balance at a strong level, so the LSJ award may continue to be awarded at the amount of $750.
  - Elizabeth Schaub gave an update on the chapter listserv archives. She and Beth Dodd directed a group of graduate students at The University of Texas at Austin's School of Information as they worked on a project to make the chapter listserv messages (formerly hosted by UT Austin) accessible for the future. As the chapter listserv moved to the ARLIS/NA platform, much work was needed to ensure these messages would be properly preserved from their former home.

- Annual Chapter Meeting, Austin, Texas, October 26-28, 2018
  - Chapter members partook in several events on The University of Texas at Austin campus for the fall meeting. Eric Wolf, Becca Pad, Elizabeth Schaub, and Beth Dodd organized a great meeting which included a tour of the Fine Arts Library and Makerspace, a talk at the Harry Ransom Center, a tour of the Blanton Museum, a Research Roundtable session, and a business meeting.
  - At the business meeting, Elizabeth Schaub denoted that the listserv archive project had been completed and the files transferred to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) by Sunyoung Park.
  - Catherine Essinger provided an update on ARLIS/NA’s work to provide joint national and chapter membership renewal and payment on the ARLIS/NA website. As the chapter membership dues would need to be the same across chapters, a few chapters still needed to vote on an increase or decrease before this endeavor can move forward.
Additionally, Sunyoung Park proposed moving the physical chapter archives to the UIUC. As ARLIS/NA has had a good relationship with UIUC holding the Society’s archives and chapter listserv archives had already been deposited at UIUC, it seemed best to have the entire chapter archives held by one institution. Historically, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, have long retained the physical archives of Texas-Mexico chapter, but there was no formal agreement with the MFAH requiring they stay deposited there. The chapter voted to move the physical archives to UIUC, and Sunyoung Park agreed to facilitate the transfer.

The chapter further discussed the Mexico City conference proposal. Eric Wolf relayed the report from Mark Pompeia and Jon Evans, who are working on the proposal, stating it would be better to propose for the 2023 conference. They noted they would reach out to the Southern California chapter to gauge interest in co-hosting a future conference.

The chapter discussed the Image Archivist position as Lisa Cruces resigned from the position earlier in the year. Sunyoung Park suggested this position could be restructured to assume greater responsibilities, and a new role of Chapter Archivist would be proposed and voted upon at the Salt Lake City meeting.

**Membership/Finances:**

At the end of 2018, the chapter had a total of 35 members. As of February 15, 2019, the chapter has 22 members, but we are anticipating an increase as members renew.

At the end of the fall chapter meeting in October 2018, the chapter account balance stood at a $2306.67. This strong balance encouraged members to vote to keep the Lois Swan Jones award level at $750 and give a donation of $400 to the 2019 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Salt Lake City. Hillary Veeder, the Chapter Treasurer, reported that as of February 15, 2019, the chapter’s balance was $1815.67, reflecting the 2019 LSJ award, but still pending the withdrawal of the chapter donation.

**Action Items:**

- Complete Mexico City conference proposal (progress)
- Transfer the physical Texas-Mexico Chapter Archives to UIUC (progress)
- Establish a PayPal online payment option for member dues and donations (progress)
- Plan fall Annual Chapter Meeting in Houston, Texas (pending)
- Establish new Chapter Archivist position and dissolve Image Archivist position (pending)
- Survey members to see what professional development opportunities they would like to see in the chapter. Set goals for future programs based on responses. (pending)
ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions:

- Leadership and Advocacy
  - Contact UNT, UT Austin, and TWU (Texas library schools) to reach MLS and MLIS students, promoting art librarianship and encouraging students to join ARLIS/NA and the Texas-Mexico Chapter to spark formal or informal connections and mentorships

- Organizational Advancement
  - Encourage members to share updates from academic, library, archives, museum, and other professional associations in which they are active

- Art Information Professionals
  - Continue Research Roundtable session at the annual chapter meeting
  - Introduce professional development session at the annual chapter meeting to provide an opportunity for chapter members, particularly students and early career professionals, to engage and learn about career trajectories in art and visual resources librarianship

- Diversity and Inclusion
  - Introduce session at the annual chapter meeting about inclusive instructional design
  - Include tours outside of traditional museum and academic library contexts for the annual chapter meeting. Invite speakers who can present on the rich and culturally diverse library and archival collections in Houston.

- Innovation and Technology
  - Enhance the chapter website, redesigning elements to adhere to principles of universal access
  - Seek out and implement tools providing better Spanish language translation of the website
  - Provide Spanish language versions of PDF membership form and other documents on the website

Issues for the Executive Board:

None at this time.