

## 2023 MUSEUM ARCHIVES SECTION ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Museum Archives Section, July 10, 2023

### Virtual Business Meeting

Attendance: 55

- I. Welcome (Jenna Stout)
- II. Old Business (Jenna Stout):
  - a. Pop-up talks: With the Working Group disbanding, the section symposium has been suspended. Monthly pop-up presentations have been presented in lieu of one annual symposium. Titles of presentations were reviewed.
  - b. Newsletters: Published twice per year, the last year featured 10 articles. Thanks given to outgoing editor Janine Schiff and participants. Deadlines for upcoming newsletter and contact information given.
- III. New Business (Tara Laver):
  - a. Elections: Votes will be tabulated later in the month, with results going out at that time. Review of current slate of candidates. Call for possible candidates for next year. Reviews names of continuing section officers.
  - b. Section Health: SAA-wide review of section health. Discussion at end of meeting, with questions provided in advance. A MAS survey on section health and direction of section to follow.
- IV. Presentation, followed by Q & A:
  - a. Heather McClain & Amy Valentine, Anchorage Museum: *Moving Forward: Shifts in the Anchorage Museum Archives to Redefine Relationships*: Reviews the overall direction of the archives at the Anchorage Museum; community outreach; decolonizing through virtual reparations; a new vision of collections access; and a Q&A.
- V. Presentation, followed by Q & A:
  - a. Tara Laver, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art: *Art and Diplomacy at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art during World War II*. Provides an overview of the museum and its activities during WWII. Discusses the various exhibitions hosted by the museum during the war for diplomatic and other purposes from countries around the world. Discusses how art/museums can foster collaboration and dialogues. Q&A.
- VI. Section Health Discussion (Tara Laver & Jenna Stout)
  - a. Gain improvement; what is its function?
    - i. Review of SAA section health activities:
      1. Three options after the review: to continue as a section; to continue as a discussion board or listserv without candidate slate or business meetings; or merge with another section.
    - ii. Questions:
      1. *What is the function/role of the section?*
      2. *How can we be helpful for our members?*
      3. *Any ideas for collaborating with other sections on a project?*
      4. *What kind of activities would you like to see the section continue to undertake?*

5. *Are you satisfied with what the section offers?*
6. *What impediments prevent you from volunteering?*

iii. Discussion:

1. Trouble with people participating/getting a slate of candidates. True across other sections. Talk of what section health review could mean for the section. Discussion of usefulness of pop-ups. Discussion of symposium/half day meetings. Possibility of in-person meetings. Discussion of information on time commitment to encourage participation. Topics that might be of interest: donor relations, working with curators, incorporating archives into exhibits, born-digital/digital preservation, making a case for creating a digital preservation repository in Museums under the archives. Other sections we might partner with: usefulness of Business Archives, Visual Resources, Women's Archivists section is looking to partner with others, Archives History Section because museum archivists often are defacto museum historians. Best practices. Donor relations. Working with curators.

VII. Closing