

Society of American Archivists Council Meeting Chicago, IL

Museum Archives Section: Annual Report (Prepared by: Laura Uglean Jackson)

Year: 2024-2025

Current Rosters (Include full name, position title, and term end date for each):

Laura Uglean-Jackson, Chair, August 27, 2025
Celia Emmelhainz, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, August 2026
Kim Bradshaw, Recording Secretary, August 2026
Kelly Schulz, Newsletter Editor, August 27, 2025
Lena Hansen, Web Liaison, August 2026

Council Liaison:
Eira Tansey

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

(Please indicate all projects and activities that your component group has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the following fiscal year.)

Completed:

Hosted two Pop-Up Presentations:

October 23, 2024: Malia Van Heukelem presented about disaster response
March 11, 2025: Al Stanton-Hagan presented about processing exhibition files

Piloted a section conversation hour in December 2024. Approximately ten people attended.

Publication of two section newsletters, winter and summer editions. Notably, the summer 2025 edition received six submissions, one of the highest numbers of entries to date.

Elections: successfully recruited a Newsletter Editor to serve until 2027.

Held our annual meeting in collaboration with the Science, Technology, and Healthcare Section in July 2025. Each section had one speaker present on the topic of using archival materials for exhibitions.

Chair, Laura Uglean Jackson, was invited to speak virtually at the 10th Conference on Museums, Document Management, and Archives hosted by the Museu Maritim de Barcelona on March 27, 2025. She shared information about the Museum Archives Section and issues affecting museum archivists in the United States.

Ongoing:

Elections: could not identify anyone to run for vice-chair/chair elect before SAA's election deadline in late May. We have since identified one member who is interested and hope to run a special election with support from SAA staff.

New:

SAA STRATEGIC PLAN

(Please review the current [Strategic Plan](#) and indicate below how the component group has or plans to contribute to one or more of the four main goals.)

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists**Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth**

- The Museum Archives Section provided educational and informational content for archivists' continued professional growth by hosting Pop-Up presentations on topics relevant to museum archivists
- The MAS Newsletter, *Museum Archivist*, contains current articles reflecting the latest thinking and recent projects in museum archives across the United States
- Pop-up presentations, the newsletter, and the MAS listserv all support the delivery of information and education via methods that are accessible and affordable (free).
- MAS fostered professional interaction through the listserv and the informal conversation hour
- Partnered with the STHC Section to support cross-interactions between sections

Goal 3: Advancing the Field

- The MAS listserv is a mechanism for fostering and disseminating research in the profession

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

SAA ANNUAL MEETING

Number of attendees: 54

Link to meeting minutes:

<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/museum-archives-section/2025-museum-archives-section-annual-business-meeting-minutes>

Summary of meeting activities and highlights:

Held in conjunction with the Science, Technology, and Health Care (STHC) Section. Eira Tansey provided Council updates and the STHC held its business meeting. During the MAS business meeting, Laura Uglean Jackson reflected on the past year, announced election results, and thanked steering committee members for their hard work; and Kelly Schulz announced a call for newsletter content. This was followed by two presentations from STHC and MAS members: Laura Weis gave a talk titled, *From Concept to Content: Exhibit Curation using Science, Technology, and Medicine Collections*; and Abigail Guay presented *Exhibiting the Archives at Crystal Bridges*.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

How would you describe the health or energy of the group, and how engaged are the members?

I think the health of the Museum Archives Section is good. Members regularly post to the listserv and attend virtual section presentations and meet-ups. I'm encouraged by the record number of newsletter submissions received this summer and the number of volunteers we had to present at our business meeting. Also, at SAA in Anaheim there was an informal museum archivist meet-up that was very well attended. While this was not a section-sanctioned event, it shows that museum archivists are eager to connect and collaborate.

Did the component group's leadership encounter any challenges in achieving its goals for the year?

Yes. Our biggest challenge was identifying a candidate for vice-chair/chair-elect. No one came forward before the election deadline, though a member volunteered after a plea at the annual business meeting. Limited member availability also affected planned activities: only two volunteers expressed interest in leading pop-up presentations, so we did not meet the original goal of offering them quarterly. In addition, my own limited bandwidth delayed progress on updating the Section's Standards and Best Practices Resource Guide. Overall, momentum picked up again as we neared summer and the SAA annual meeting.

What suggestions do you have for the SAA Council and staff that might help address these challenges in the coming term?

I think offering some type of incentive to serve as chair of a section could help recruit volunteers. This is not the first time I've had trouble finding volunteers to run for a section steering committee position, and the vice-chair/chair elect is the most difficult because it's the most work. I'm not sure what this could look like – 20% off membership? A discount to attend the annual meeting?

I'd also recommend taking a look at the annual meeting schedule to see if there is a time for sections to plan a more formal gathering if they so choose. This year, there was a break between sessions on Tuesday between 3-4. This is when the informal museum archivists met at the lobby bar and it was delightful – a great networking and connecting opportunity. Maybe this is good enough (the Whova app can facilitate), but it also would have been nice to have a designated room to meet in.

What questions or concerns do you have for the SAA Council and staff?

None. Keep up the great work!