NAAS December Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
12:00–1:00 p.m. EST

1. SAA UPDATES


DEIA Statement Approved - follow up on our recommendations - Diana
- Saw via post to communities from Headquarters posted Nov 19, wrote follow-up, have not heard back!

SAA Diversity Committee - Eric & Selena (+ Diana – can we get another volunteer while DM is out on leave, esp to help with proposal?)
- General Committee updates - Selena
- Expanding out our scholarship model to wider SAA - Selena & Diana
  - Working as a group to propose a wider scholarship program geared at BIPOC membership (and perhaps leadership) citing our scholarships as a successful model

General Committee updates - Selena
- Proposal was discussed and NAAS template was shared and it was agreed the Diversity Committee would take ownership of it. Looking to secure 1-2 volunteers by the beginning of the new year to develop it. No hard deadline.
- Membership committee is looking for sub committee support and have drafted some descriptions for those from the Diversity Committee who may be in interested in serving in that capacity: Subcommittee Descriptions for Diversity Committee (Alison/Brittany)
- The Accessibility & Disability section has been asked to develop audit guidelines around accessibility in archival repositories. The section thought this might be a good opportunity for collaboration with the Diversity Committee and that guidelines could be developed for a broader DEIA audit. They are using Emory University’ as a template: DEIA_Audit_Example.docx

Selena updates: proposal to adapt the NAAS scholarship program, looking for 1-2 volunteers from Diversity Committee to develop it, didn’t seem like anyone was stepping up, but if anyone wants to help, SAA is doing outreach to committees/sections; no hard deadline as of now. Membership committee is looking for subcommittee support, each subcommittee created a description about what they do, how to have greater diversity in their support / voice; Accessibility and Disability Section is looking to develop audit guidelines and looking for people to help with that as well; Selena can put you in contact
Diana: any takers on proposal development?
Selena: vibe was that they wanted NAAS to work on this
Diana: if anyone is interested, let us know; also have Mellon document to work on, but would
also be good to get scholarship stuff to SAA - open call
Selena: will keep participating in conversations, but don’t want to take lead; would like Diversity
Committee to take the lead
Diana: thanks to Selena and Eric both for putting in the time at the meetings
Melissa: thank you Selena!

2. PROJECT UPDATES

Social media

a. Twitter (Brian, unable to attend today)
   i. Send Brian info on conferences, events, etc, too!

b. Facebook (Selena)
   i. Reminder to send Selena conferences, interesting events, etc. -

Selena has limited updates to share, has noticed more engagement with posts [missed this
detail]

c. Microsite (Rachel) [KS out, returning in March; DM out, returning full time in April]

Diana: Can anyone else help with the site?
Rose: offered to help
Rachel: not sure how much work is needed in any case, unsure how to use it
Diana and Rachel will stay on the call to make sure Rachel can use the microsite and edit it with
any content updates

d. Protocols Case Studies (Rose? DM has not received anything!)
   i. Liza Posas very close to done
   ii. Lotus (DM & Katherine both out)
      1. Sam, Eric peer reviewing
      2. Melissa logistics/comms!

Rose hasn’t heard many updates except from Lisa Pozas, who is almost done
Diana: can any one else serve as back up for this?
Lotus: how much time would this be?
Rose: hard to say because accept proposals on a rolling basis; pandemic has slowed down the
rate of submissions; the role is predominantly as communications coordinator to connect with
folks, conduct draft and peer reviews and share feedback with authors; when author has
completed revisions, go through final edit process; SAA has support for this work
Rachel: NMAI's case study is still on the back burner, hoping to maybe get back to it sometime next year
Melissa: do you need peer reviewers?
Rose: for each case study, yes, two reviewers; in terms of a pool, anyone who’s interested is welcomed
Diana: if any one wants to help out, Lotus is the only person right now
Eric: I can be a peer reviewer
Sam: same, can be a peer reviewer
Melissa: I’m happy to help Lotus with logistics and communications
Lotus: thanks Melissa, Eric, Sam; if I have questions, should I reach out to Rose?
Diana/Rose: yes
Lotus: Thanks all, all! Eric and Sam, I'll add y'all to the peer reviewer list!
Lotus: Thanks all, excited to work with you on these!

Protocols Webinars & Toolkit
- Going back to the Protocols originator group, waiting on Jennifer’s next update
- Heard back from Descriptive Notes/Description Section group

3. NEW GOALS FOR 2021-2022
- Creating resources/webinars/MOOCs for Tribal archivists

Guest Speaker: Look into Vina Begay and her virtual series with the [https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded/re-246364-ols-20Pueblo](https://www.imls.gov/grants/awarded/re-246364-ols-20Pueblo)

IPCC
Not just Westernized way of doing things–have to talk to Tribal Council, advisors, elders
Make tribal cult beliefs the forefront
Utilized Westernized practice as supplementary
Formats that are foreign to community (help into that capacity)
Not just prof librarians & archivists – incorporated museum prof, hist pres officers, leaders (why need to back up Tribal archives)
Open to governors/presidents, tribal librarians (doing lot of projects that are archive-related)
Not just tribal archives/libraries (comm/ed centers)
Organizations not familiar with prof archival stuff (individuals placed into those positions who don’t have that background)
Approach in training - condensing everything library school in 7 workshops
Archives terminology (these folks will deal with people in prof field, need that terminology); high level → inventory, coll management policy
(identifying Tribal stakeholders, tribal taboos/beliefs→ how to access/storage [tribes may already have protocols for storage] Bring people in doing same work (NAU) Community archives—rely on community (training can’t really be implement [provenance/respect de fonds/original order]. . . not applicable to tribal archives [givers not collectors . . each has contribution to community] organizing and arranging works differently Accessibility—seasonal (community culture and belief system) Westernized culture/practice is more supplementary

Ongoing grant? One time thing? Grant state was doing – incorporating Tribal archives (new in some ways) faced with loss; things collected have been documents; preserving but don’t know where to go Always willing to provide training 7 workshops, 1 year grant– up to $50,000 Provided travel reimbursement and lodging plus time there Communities often prefer in person Supplies to get started

Digital approach? COVID changed a lot of what we’re doing Has it changed internet providers or restricted; some groups don’t really have access (or block certain things)

Opportunity have scholarship system–paying for time Are there opportunities to offer that? Offer scholarships–day of pay (take a day and do a workshop) Offer funding for participants Libraries do hotspots–better internet provider in short term NM has grant where Tribal libraries apply grants to get internet service Bring internet to attend virtual sessions – scholarship for that library

Lotus—A lot of people prefer to meet in person Hybrid online and in person Able to have good online conversations because had met in person

Workshops involved hands-on activity Preservation physical collections—Jonathan, Ryan, Jennifer . . . sorting out looking at boxes; how much an investment and what’s involved in building archive, opened way of thinking

Folks from same region/colocated in same area; nuances to regional idea Spaces bring together people together
Virtual grant application–model where other institutions in regional locations could host smaller groups of people, funding for lodging food etc.; smaller breakout groups
Reps at those regions; broader dissemination
Live webinar presenting to everyone
Keeping regional groups to speak together

Suggestion to start small
SAA is all over
Different Tribal Nations and difficult beliefs; work from ground up

Rachel–Rappahanock Tribe in VA–developing Tribal archives; strategies for going about this
Exactly what talking about
In conversation with other VA tribes recognized in 2018 now have access to that didn’t have before

Vina – willing to come out and do training

Lotus–what are the different roles involved: coordinator or visioner, providing guidance, actual compensated piece of it
Key piece of it
Sam–consistent person who has concept of overall workings–lot of programs don’t have impact could, lack of consistent personnel

Vina–if decide to do beyond virtual–lot of turnover in Tribal govt; constantly have to redo; reconnect with all these people again Yearly or every two years

Selena – Org restructuring - new departments

Brief round of intros: Jonathan Pringle; Rachel Menyuk, processing archivist at NMAI; Eric Hung, UMD and contract curator (missed other title); Rose Buchanan, NARA archivist; Nathan Sowry, NMAI reference archivist; Vina did Tribal Digital Stewardship in February 2020; Selena Ortega-Chiolo, Sam from NAU; Lotus from WSU; Melissa Native American Studies librarian at UC Berkeley; Diana from UMD;

Sam intro: Vina Begay is from the Dine Nation. She holds a Master in Library Science with an emphasis on Archival Studies and Digital Archives. She has dedicated her time in providing professional archival training to tribal communities, in addition to providing tribal cultural competencies to Professional Archivists employed in westernized institutions, such as Universities, Museum, and Libraries.
Diana: NAAS has been working on training programs for tribal archivists, especially with Mellon Foundation support; what have you worked on, Vina, where do you think there are gaps, takeaways, etc?

Vina: so excited to be here, miss everyone; can answer this openly, more Q&A style, about my projects; most people have reached out about work with IPCC. The approach to that was understanding tribal government / being raised in traditional home, how to supplement that knowledge with western archival knowledge; tribal archives are using collections as a blessing in disguise, in terms of revitalizing language and culture using archives; job for tribal community training is not just to say this is the westernized way of doing this, it’s doing to be very different; that’s what the Protocols are; tribal communities already knew about the content of Protocols, talking to archives council, tribal elders, etc., vs. western institutions are not as well versed in that communication style / chain of communication; have to make tribal cultural beliefs, taboos, the forefront, utilizing the westernized process as supplementary to deal with specific formats that may be foreign to the community. With archival training as well as traditional upbringing, am already familiar with what folks are and are not supposed to do. In doing training, incorporated not only librarians and archivists, but also historic preservation officers, museum specialists, leaders, people who have a stake in tribal archives. The training was open to governors, Pueblo governors/presidents, tribal librarians from the community who are doing non-library projects as well as archival projects; there is a mesh in terms of tribal archives, they’re not just libraries are archives, they are hubs like cultural centers or community centers. My approach was that the difference between tribal archives is that institutions and people are not as familiar with the professional archival work. The folks working there are teachers, or janitors, may not have that western training or background. The IPCC training was condensing everything that we learned in library school into 7 workshops, very fast-paced, intro to archives terminology so that tribal archivists can deal with western institutions and professionals, often folks are starting from scratch, walked them through high-level inventorying, collection development policy, worked with different tribes and helped them identify who their stakeholders were, as well as tribal taboos or cultural beliefs, which will all be part of collection management policy based on cultural beliefs and taboos in terms of access, use, and storage, like traditional ways of storing things (especially 3-D objects), not supposed to look at certain photographs; another purpose was to bring in people who were doing similar work from personal network, introducing those people to the tribal archivists/convening them; more community based / rely heavily on community; with training, can’t really implement things like provenance, original order, etc. when it’s not applicable to tribal archives; for instance Vina was raised not to be a collector because that was greedy / showing off; more about giving/sharing. As tribal communities, each person has a contribution, so organizing and arranging materials in terms of traditional provenance isn’t feasible. Also ways of organizing materials based on seasonal or temporal content, like animal stories that can only be accessed in the winter. Western practice is supplementary to the community’s cultural belief. Approach was not to leave it to just tribal librarians and archivists but also historic preservation officers, governors, presidents. Questions?

Jonathan: I can attest to the depth and breadth of the content Vina provided in all of her presentations. It was inspiring!
Sam: ditto!

Melissa: Yess!

Rachel: was this on-going, one-time, based on a grant?

Vina: one-time thing, grant that the state of New Mexico was doing; always been something I'm passionate about, incorporating tribal archives, collecting things and not sure what they have, preserving things and not sure where to go, personal projects as well as professional, working on trainings despite her current role, 7 workshops, 1 year grant, up to $50K, got slightly less (by $500), since funding is such an issue with tribal governments, provided travel/mileage reimbursement and lodging so that people could come down; grant also provided supplies for participants to get started on projects, etc.

Melissa: Do we have a link to info about her trainings?

Sam: not sure

Melissa: I found this:

https://www.sustainableheritagenetwork.org/creator/vina-begay

Idk what the date is tho

Diana: for a digital environment, any advice? What are pitfalls? What translates well, what doesn’t?

Vina: it depends, COVID has changed a lot, not sure if ISP has been improved for tribal communities but some don’t have internet or are restricted to certain sites or can’t use certain software or programs

Lotus: One example is also Google Drive being blocked for certain Tribal employees

Selena: Thank you for bringing that up, Lotus

Lotus: question about opportunity for travel support, lodging; is there a similar opportunity to offer funding to support digital workshops? E.g. a day of pay to do a workshop, or other infrastructure? What key funding for participants?

Vina: maybe library hot spots or better internet provider; New Mexico has a grant to support tribal libraries getting internet service; could look for scholarships that bring internet to the reservation; would need flexibility in terms of some kind of service / scholarship that will allow people to attend
Jonathan: Could larger institutions host live webinars? And funding support lodging/food for folks to gather in regional institutions that have the internet capability required?

Lotus: also people prefer meeting in person, facing challenges with that right now, but for Tribal Digital Stewardship, people said in person was important and were able to have good online conversations because of meeting in person

Vina: lots of people said they enjoyed hands-on activities, every workshop included hands-on, the one that really resonated was preservation of physical collections with Jonathan Pringle, Ryan Flahive, and Jennifer; people said they learned a lot and were thankful for the workshop, didn't know how much of an investment it was to build an archive, opened a whole lot of ways of thinking/looking at archives, that it requires money and supplies, it's an investment, not something you build and leave it there and walk away

Selena: Yes! Super helpful to get Tribal leadership commitment

Jonathan: noticed from the trainings that the gathering was really important, especially having folks in the same area together; regional identity was important / bringing people together in hubs, so one idea for a virtual grant application is a model where other institutions in regional locations can host smaller groups of people and then funding could support their funding, lodging, food, do break out groups, hands-on, get local folks to support the hands-on; then can also have webinar content for someone presenting to everybody; connecting people to their peers

Lotus: I love this idea of the regional networking aspect!

Selena: Love this!

Rachel: same!

Vina: suggestion would be to start small/locally; SAA is all over the place and that might be difficult; but starting small and expanding out when dealing with different tribal nations and different beliefs; when virtual, need to understand current situation in terms of internet connection and digital realm

Lotus: That's good advice from Vina, like a pilot program

Rachel: yesterday Rachel and Nathan had a conversation with Rappahannock Tribe in Virginia about starting their own digital archives, strategies, etc.; they are working with other recently federally recognized tribes in Virginia to share resources/work together locally

Nathan: I love and share the enthusiasm, Rachel!

Vina: has no boundaries, willing to help out whoever needs, can go out and do trainings, would be happy to go to New Mexico where was born and raised, happy to come out
Diana: so generous; the Mellon grant is smaller amount, rolling deadline, plan is to submit something in early spring 2022, would love to keep Vina involved/take her up on that offer

Lotus: agree, can hear how much vision/experience Vina has with this kind of training, especially regional relationships, as working on draft, thinking about roles, could see someone being visioner / providing guidance, compensated piece of the grant

Sam: totally agree, important to have consistency in personnel

Vina: one thing to remember is the turnover in tribal government, constant turnover of employees, will constantly have to reconnect with people again, especially with governors, like in New Mexico, they change out every 1-2 years, so always dealing with new people, also important to understand government structure and how it works while doing outreach; will experience frustration with tribal government;

Selena: yes, and organizational restructuring within institutions, like my whole role/place in the department has changed, now have new supervisor

Lotus: super important to seek guidance from tribal governments, with TDS program, it was very important to go to higher level leadership to get support for participation in the program, make sure communicating clearly with tribal government

Diana: would love to keep Vina in the loop on the draft for the proposal, especially with the budget part, making sure money is being allocated well, if Vina is interested, could also put in a formal role for her, making sure we don’t have

Jonathan: Does Mellon have boundaries around funds being used for food?

Eric: Not the community archives grants, don’t know about this one

Vina: wonderful, thanks for having me, am a member of Native American Roundtable for SAA, so feel free to reach out

- IAIA Archives and Research Center for Contemporary Native Arts collaboration (Ryan Flahive)
  - Community archives/why archive?
    - What are archives? What is a community archives? Why form them?
    - Establish the rest of the series/Opening the conversation
      - including looking at other models→ (incl museums)

- Still plenty of room for recommendations for speakers
  - Who’s doing innovative work well? Ashley Minner; Little Bighorn College Crow Archives (Tim McCleary)
-Recommendations for speakers from museum/cult centers? Abbe Museum (Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko); Museum of Us

Scheduling at IAIA: February at earliest?
IAIA starts Jan 9, midterms Feb 7-11, Spring Break Mar 14-18

Funding?
Privacy and Confidentiality- template for how they got funding through SAA?
They sent SAA Council a proposal for the honorarium in January 2020. We got feedback and then resubmitted in February 2020. Here is their proposal: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PYqhVvYG8g30kRXFKwtdvtbdAZg/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112393461668579842530&rtpof=true&sd=true

Building resources for museums and archives in Alaska
- SIRI foundation–several monthlong survey results gauge Alaska Native communities on museums and archives
- Good thing for all of us to see–what one state has done
- Regional presentations and gatherings, work out really well, all working on same goal
- Greater museum and archival conversations–lower 48 doesn’t reflect true comparison what go through in state, being so remote
- Tribal structure diff from lower 48–don’t have reservations; integrated into city and landscape

March 2022 – Digital Stewardship training– Summer 2022 more realistic

Selena: no updates, need to send out a Doodle poll and try to reschedule again. However, in Alaska, there has been a big movement about Alaska Native cultural heritage; (Selena is now president for statewide museum organization), the organization has done survey work on Alaska Native engagement with museums, sent results which Selena’s tribes also participated in, can share with NAAS what one state has done; there is a feeling amongst folks in Alaska that they do not share concerns with lower 48 because of being so remote; also most folks are not living on reservation lands; thinks that regional presentations would work out really well in Alaska

Jonathan: Maybe Mellon funds can be used as a pilot to support the efforts in Alaska? Since something is already in the works?
Lotus: And an organization/people to partner with who are already interested. Very excited about these conversations, finding the people who are doing this work, partnering with them, strengthen the focus, etc. like the people we heard from today.

Diana: no guarantees, but got the sense that if things go well with Mellon, start small and come up with something that works, there’s a lot of opportunity to scale up and go back to Mellon, good way to think about work in next two months, what’s the work that makes sense to chunk out / flesh out

Jonathan: I would be super stoked to go to Alaska!

Selena: Yes! We would love to have you visit, Jonathan:

Lotus: any sense of timeline, when these trainings would occur, 2023?

Diana: Patricia Hswe said there is a three month lag between final pitch and turnout; if we sent a pitch in January, official submission would be March, could start in May/June; the application is rolling, so each month later we start the conversation, just add a month; very flexible; up to NAAS and bandwidth of members and time available to people

Lotus: current work on grant-funded project, thinking about end date for that project / when the open public digital stewardship is available, if they could be used; if it’s not appropriate, totally understand, but could anything be reused / used as a start or supplement with regional work.

Diana: when will that be available?

Lotus: currently spring 2022, likely after March, probably summer 2022

Diana: Mellon also said generally looking for a year long project, max 18 months, so however we scope it out, it’s generally a year long project. One thing to think about is when NAAS year starts in August (e.g. August 2022 to August 2023). Open invitation (link is in the doc) to start playing around with ideas. Will be out on parental leave, so hope that there will be crowdsourcing / helping Selena in the next month or two

Lotus:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1guBav-8nqfDz21CoWTbUZd3QExE1YAjhIvE8-SSijF4/edit

- **Mellon Pitch**
  - (DM Meeting with Patricia Hswe Nov 5 after sending “pitch” Nov 3)
  - “Unlearning Archival Practices” (examples exemplary work + struggles)
● See Mellon pitch & notes document here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1guBav-8nqfDz21CoWTbUZd3QExEIYaJhlvE8-SSijF4/edit?usp=sharing
● DM to follow up on Leicester and Glasgow MOOC (no response yet)

■ ATALM -- intensive workshops that lead to certificates as alternative to conference? Responded that we are interested but waiting to hear back

Other: Any updates?

● **Tribal Archivists Forum**: Space to connect and chat and talk about issues
  ○ Report on connectivity/broadband

● **Promoting community-based work** (veteran’s projects; cult heritage; reparative description in other contexts; community curation)
  ○ Updates to microsite? (Katherine, Diana, Rachel)

4. ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diana: other announcements?

Jonathan: do we need to have a meeting to work on the Mellon doc?

Diana: sounds like a great idea; Jonathan, can you send a Doodle poll / try to coordinate for January 2022?

Lotus: That sounds really good! Seems like we are at a good place for a January conversation after this discussion today.

Selena: Thanks, Jonathan - much appreciated

Diana: will try to send out January 2022 NAAS meeting doodle poll soon

Lotus: https://publicdh.org/index.html
An institute to support academic & community collaborations in the digital humanities