

Arts Newsletter

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From the Arts Chair

Jane Sloan

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Greetings --

During our last meeting in San Antonio, the Arts Section flexed its turn-around capability when it canceled its New Orleans program midway through the year, and developed a whole new program on post-Katrina disaster planning and preservation of media materials -- a program that has the resulting advantage of being right up-to-date. [see article on page 5]

Other areas we discussed were new activity planning, strategic planning, and virtual organizing via the new "Online Community" software offered by ALA [see below]. Activities that members have suggested include an outreach program for local arts community groups, webcasts, a regular posting/brochure on art events in ALA conference cities, an "Arts Collaborative Website" based on a model developed in the Film & Broadcast Studies Discussion Group, <http://www.library.unt.edu/mmdl/projects/fabs/>, and formalizing a process for individual presentations for our All Arts Discussion group meetings.

Our planning is being supported by an ACRL budget process that offers the benefit of new resources for new activities, but requires the Sections to take a longer view than in the past. We expect the long range viability of all our ideas to emerge from a process of strategic planning that is currently being documented through "environmental scans" of our group. Last year, we submitted a scan to ACRL [posted on the Arts Executive Committee online community] that reflected conference attendees' thinking, and new scans will be taken and posted annually. The Planning Committee, chaired by Roland Hansen, has taken responsibility for keeping track of all these threads as they are documented through the paper process and calendar devised by ACRL.

To allow everyone to follow this process, I'd like to extend a personal invitation to all Arts members to join the Arts Executive Committee in our online community.

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Midwinter Executive Committee Minutes

Present: Lisa Blankenship, Laurel Bliss, Tom Caswell, Esther Gillie, Roland Hansen, Sara Harrington, Alan Karass, Eric Kidwell, Sandy Mooney, Stephen Patrick, Jane Sloan, Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos, Shannon Van Kirk, Liza Vick.

Introductions/Sign up: Sloan (chair) spoke with ACRL, and they are willing to work with us to establish a new program for New Orleans, but do not require that we have one.

Approve 2005 minutes: No print copies were available, but the minutes were summarized in the last newsletter. Motion was passed and minutes were approved by membership.

Report on ACRL Leadership meetings (Van Kirk, Sloan):

Sloan crafted one action plan for 2007 which asked for technical support for an "Arts Collaborative Website," based on the FABS model. She shared the plan, which was denied because ACRL does not currently have the technical infrastructure to support it.

Roland Hansen, chair of the Planning Committee, agreed that that committee would track all "Action Plan" documents, which follow a two year trajectory. Van Kirk reported that ACRL is encouraging sections to do budget requests, based on grassroots efforts fitting into our action plans, which in turn enhance ACRL action plans. The deadline for this year is 7/15 for an Action Plan for 2008. The amount can be up to several thousand dollars but needs to be a tight, well devised budget.

Committee Reports

Membership (Sloan): Claudia Covert (chair) was unable to be here; they've been getting new members, and are continuing to recruit.

Technology in the Arts (Sloan): Kathleen Haefliger also could not attend but will be reviving this committee for the June program.

Nominating (Stylianopoulos): Teague is chair of this committee. Kidwell is running for Arts section vice chair and there are other opportunities on the ballot. Harrington will run to fill Vick's 1 year remaining as secretary.

Publications and Research (Kidwell): Bliss is doing a great job on the newsletter, more from Kidwell later.

Program Planning 06 (all): Committee is starting over, as they reversed their decision not to have a program. However there is now a need for speed and a new chair (Edsall had to step down). Deadline for fleshed out plan is 9 am Monday.

Options (program topics):

YaYa New Orleans Young Aspirations, Young Artists (new): They have a book and website; they design and sell arts and crafts, and provide enrichment and education.

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Committee Minutes, cont. from p. 2

New Orleans Homeland Security grant on Disaster Planning (new): Howard Besser of NYU has a student doing a thesis project on New Orleans disaster planning (preservation of video, audio, etc). She hopes to finish by May, report by June, and have an SAA publication in July. Program idea is a presentation of film/video/audio. Besser has been talking with possible speakers: Bruce Rayburn (Hogan Jazz Arch), various other historical and media centers (Historic New Orleans, Tulane), radio stations. Mary Jane Petrowski suggested that we be sure to stress preservation as supporting ACRL strategic plan.

Cultural Studies panel (co-sponsor with ACRL LIS): Rob Melton has a literatures in English section presentation on multidisciplinary collecting, with an expert on cultural studies. We could add one more presenter.

Digital Media Access and Delivery (co-sponsor with ALA VRT): Video Roundtable is outside the ACRL structure. Their program is set; we could contribute \$300 or so for equipment and publicity.

[At this point Sloan asked again for volunteers to chair the committee and choose topic. Petrowski listed tasks involved: write program description, names of speakers, agreements, equipment requests, honoraria (only for librarians), and do evaluations afterwards. Disaster planning seems like an obvious timely choice but Van Kirk stressed that volunteers need to work hard and make firm commitments to get this done. Sloan volunteered to do the work needed today, Alan Karass can do publicity, be in New Orleans, Besser can be speaker liaison (3 local figures), do introductions. Budget is now locked in, we can offer donation or honorarium, use section funding. Sloan took vote: Disaster planning was overwhelming top choice. She will start paperwork, Stylianapoulos will co-chair with Besser (Program Committee 06), additional volunteers will be appointed to the committee.]

Program Planning 07 (Van Kirk): Van Kirk announced the current committee vacancies in Program planning, Membership and Outreach, Nominating, Planning, Publications and Research, Dance Librarians Discussion Group (DLDG), Film and Broadcast Discussion Group (FABS), Technology in the Arts, etc. Please volunteer by March. 2007 program planning deadline is May 1. Van Kirk attended the overall planning meeting; Instruction Section could be interested in cosponsoring. We should leverage co-memberships, and tie in with environmental scans and strategic plans. Could discuss top issues like recruitment, education and retention of librarians, role of library in academic enterprise, impact of information technology on library services, arts pathfinders, and much more. We could also collaborate on creating webliographies for conference programs (ACRL strongly supports this documentation). Kidwell brought up the discussion forum ideas, including inviting presenters (poster sessions) under central themes, being responsive to new members and those considering new membership. Other instruction related topic ideas: meta searching, multidisciplinary requirements for image searching, partnering with ARTstor. Karass will be program chair for 07. Bliss volunteered to be on the planning committee, but it will still need more people.

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Discussion Forum at Midwinter

The first Saturday morning Arts Discussion Forum was held at Midwinter in San Antonio following the traditional All-Committees Meeting. There was an excellent attendance, including many first-time attendees at an Arts meeting.

Suggestions/Ideas that came about from the discussion forum included:

Hold the discussion forum on Saturday morning prior to the All-Committees meeting.

Use the discussion forum for presentations by members (perhaps similar to poster sessions). Set a forum topic early (September for Midwinter?), publicize it on the listserv, and invite members to propose presentations. Possibly this topic could relate to the program topic for the upcoming Annual conference. These presentations would be more informal than the typical research-intensive presentation. This would give members, particularly those new to the professional, an opportunity to "get their feet wet" at the national level and provide a venue for building the professional vita for promotion and tenure purposes. The Publications and Research Committee could be the body that would set the topic, receive proposals, and make the decision of which would be presented at the forum.

Publicize the Friday night social more widely and further in advance of conference; use the listserv to disseminate the Arts meeting and program schedule with times and locations (again as early as possible prior to conference), and clearly communicate that Arts meetings are open so as to encourage potential new members to attend and know they are welcome. Additionally, place on the list, in the newsletter and on the website a listing of arts places of interest including tours that are local to conference site cities. It was also suggested that Arts make a more concerted effort to communicate with ARLIS and similarly related organizations and invite attendance at Arts meetings and the Friday night social. Perhaps it is also time to more aggressively address with ACRL and ALA the issue of reciprocal registration discounts with such groups as ARLIS. All of this could be taken up for consideration by the Membership & Outreach Committee.

Could Arts provide some type of stipend to a new member or graduate library student to attend Annual?

Regarding programming, it was mentioned that ALA discourages off-site programs due mainly to transportation issues. We need to make sure whenever we do joint programming that all the publicity properly acknowledges all the sponsors (for the Chicago program not all the publicity recognized Arts as a co-sponsor).

There was discussion about encouraging more participation on committees. For several years at least, it has been difficult for committees to conduct business at conference due to so few members being present.

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Subscribe to the Arts Section listserv

Want to stay informed about Arts Section activities? Simply send an email message to LISTSERV@lists.uakron.edu. Leave the subject line blank. On the text line, type SUBSCRIBE ARTS-LIB FIRSTNAME LASTNAME.

Problems/questions? Contact the Listowner: Nancy Stokes, nstokes@uakron.edu

Don't Miss the Arts Program at Annual!

Preserving New Orleans, the Fate of Media (Sound and Image) Collections in the Wake of Katrina

Sunday June 25 2006, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

This program will report on a Homeland Security grant being executed by the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Howard Besser, the Director of NYU's program, will moderate a panel including moving picture and sound professionals from the New Orleans area, and the principal investigators of the grant. Speakers will include staff from local libraries and museums such as the Hogan Jazz Archive, the Williams Research Center, the Historic New Orleans Collection, the Louisiana State Museum, and the New Orleans Video Access Center.

Please join us for this exciting and timely program. Room location to be announced.

Discussion Forum, cont. from p. 4

It was recognized that the expense of attending conference, and the increased number of conferences within ALA and outside ALA by other library/ higher ed groups, is making it more and more difficult to attend both ALA Midwinter and Annual conferences each year. It's required by ALA that if appointed to a committee a member is obligated to not miss more than a certain number of conference meetings (2?) over the course of his/her term. It was mentioned that the College Libraries Section has moved to virtual Midwinter meetings as a means of addressing traveling limitations of its members.

Out of the discussion came a suggested Arts publication project - compiling a list (such as an index or inventory) of arts collections held by institutions or other private organizations.

There was also the suggestion of asking ACRL if it can provide our section with a breakdown of our membership and to what other sections or groups within ALA our members belong. This could be useful in planning future programming.

-- Thanks to Eric Kidwell for these notes!

Committee Minutes, cont. from p. 3

Planning Committee (Hansen):

Action Plans - 2006 Arts Collaborative Annotated Webliography. Sloan said the ACRL board might support once they have a content management system but denied for this year.

Action plans - 2008? Webcasting project due this summer.

Environmental Scan, annual: ARLIS example exists; Stylianopoulos suggested looking at that to learn how to do them, post on web to be more visible, and find partners. Planning Committee will send out; deadline to ACRL is May 15.

All Arts Discussion Group (Kidwell): Vick has attendance, Mooney marked asterisks by the several new attendees. Kidwell will write up a report and send to Vick (Secretary) and newsletter editor. New potential members shared good ideas.

Dance Discussion Group (Vick): Vick will confirm new coordinator and report to Van Kirk by March. Fruitful discussion of ideas, modest program for New Orleans seems wise due to attendance concerns. Vick will investigate possibility of cosponsoring one with TLA.

Film & Broadcast Studies (King): Diana couldn't be here today but 20 people attended and had a productive meeting.

Added item: Rita Brown is stepping down as ACRL board liaison; she'll bring the new liaison to our New Orleans meeting. The Chairs thanked her for a superb job. She reported on concerns about New Orleans and reassured that there will be enough hotels, restaurants, and shared preliminary track programs. ACRL will address concerns about transportation, service opportunities available, and the convention center. She covered many other issues such as cyber meetings in the future, leadership structure, and program planning for 08. Board affirmed commitment to representative board structure, balance and diversity, the need for new members.

New Business

Relationship to community based arts groups: Van Kirk shared FABS-related Buffalo program, Arts 21 produces programs for PBS (artists working in studios). Local facilitator sent her materials, she can share flyers. Arts will explore showcasing this type of outreach. Have newsletter column broadcasting such ideas. FYI Bliss will continue as newsletter editor.

Additional discussion groups such as architecture: Formalize arts discussion group, or at least topics. More specific discussion groups could be formed around topics like art images and such. Kidwell suggested continuing the arts discussion form informally for New Orleans, then get discussion group leader later.

Announcements: Mooney had suggested we revise tip sheets arrangement on webpage (in our manual); she'll post to listserv (easier to find by topic). She'll post to Sloan, listserv, and then Caswell can revise the webpage. Thanks to Teague for a revised manual.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35.

-- Thanks to Liza Vick for these minutes!

Join us in New Orleans!



The 2006 Annual Conference will be held in New Orleans, LA from June 22-28, 2006. The exhibits will be held January 24-27, 2006 in the Morial Convention Center.

Check <http://www.ala.org/ala/ventsandconferencesb/annual/2006a/2006an.htm> often for meeting updates, travel and accommodation information, the Event Planner, FAQ, *CogNotes*, and more.

A preliminary list of programs by track is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2006a/AN06PrelimPrograms.doc>

Arts Section meetings and programs are as follows (locations TBA):

All Committees - Saturday June 24, 10:30 am - 12 pm

Film and Broadcast Studies Discussion Group - Saturday June 24, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Dance Librarians Discussion Group - Saturday June 24, 4 pm - 5 pm

Executive Board Meeting - Sunday June 25, 10:30 am - 12 pm

Preserving New Orleans, the Fate of Media Collections in the Wake of Katrina - Sunday June 25, 4 pm - 5:30 pm

2006 Elections

Eric Kidwell (candidate for Vice Chair/Chair Elect) is currently serving as Director of the Library/Professor and Program Co-ordinator for the Core Curriculum at Huntingdon College. Eric says: "I have undergraduate degrees in both finance and art and my MLS is from Vanderbilt. I was fortunate enough this past summer to attend the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute, the most worthwhile professional development activity I have experienced in my career. I'm a former section secretary for Arts and have served as a member and chair of several section committees. My wish for Arts is to expand active membership participation and continue with the strategic planning process that has been started by our most recent chairs. There is a lot of talent in our section and I hope as chair to continue to foster this enthusiasm so we can plan membership opportunities and programs that will benefit librarians and heighten our section's visibility within ALA/ACRL, as well as outside the profession in the general arts community."

Sara Harrington (candidate for Secretary) is the Art Librarian at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. She holds a M.L.S. and a Ph.D. in Art History, with a specialty in 19th century art. Sara has been active in the Art Libraries Society of North America and looks forward to working with the members of the Arts Section.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceb/electioninfo/alaelectioninfo.htm>

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From the Chair, cont. from p. 1

We are very interested in any and all ideas you have on how to make the arts more of a priority in academic libraries, and believe this new site may prove useful to that goal. We all want to learn more about how to make an impact in areas that our members have told us concern them the most: diversity, changing student expectations, managing change, and the radically different nature of the virtual landscape: already fast, becoming deep, and a place where text vies with visual information in ways never imagined before.

To observe or participate as a member in the online community, go to <http://communities.ala.org> and sign in with your regular ALA id and password. Find the ACRL "Arts Executive Committee [private]" link in the left panel, click, and fill in the application window that appears. Once in, you'll be able to access the section's documents, events calendars, discussion forums, and chat. Committee members and chairs will be able to create content for the site. It's an exciting opportunity to engage virtually in ways similar to the way we interact at conference.

See you all in New Orleans in June -

Jane Sloan

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