

Arts Newsletter

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Arts Venues at ALA

At our Arts meetings in New Orleans we followed up on an idea that came out of one of our Midwinter meetings earlier this year when we met in San Antonio. The idea was (is) for our group to develop lists of arts venues, activities, events for the ALA conference site cities. To a degree, this is already done such as found in the pre-conference issues of *Library Journal* and *American Libraries*, but these lists are limited in scope. What we have as our goal is to compile lists that will not only identify the "blockbuster" exhibits in major museums, but would identify a wide range of venues, activities and events that encompasses as many of the arts sub-disciplines as possible (e.g. visual arts, film, architecture and design, dance, music, and other performing arts), from the well-known to the smaller venues that might only be known by locals (that interesting little gallery around the corner). Venue descriptions will include the usual vital statistics (location, hours, etc.) as well as website address (if applicable), where possible transportation information, and recommendations on the time one should expect to dedicate to adequately experience the venue.

Our first and second lists will be for Seattle (Midwinter 2007) and Washington, D.C. (Annual 2007). If there were ever two cities ripe for this type of project these are surely two.

After putting out a call for volunteers on the section discussion list, we have our group for Midwinter, three of whom live in Seattle. Much thanks to Ed Teague, Angela Weaver, Nicole Gustine (who is acting as list coordinator), and Karen Preuss.

The completed list for Midwinter will be made available on the Arts web page and Tom Caswell will be helping us once we reach this stage, and we will share the list through identified discussion lists. Claudia Covert, chair of the Membership & Outreach Committee, is exploring other distribution options with ALA and ACRL. Ultimately, we would like to see these conference arts lists published in pre-conference issues of *American Libraries* and/or *College & Research Libraries News*, and distributed as a printed guide available in the registration packets attendees pick-up on site.

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DRAFT Minutes of the Executive Board and General Membership Meeting: Sunday, June 25, 2006, 10:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Attendees

Laurel Bliss, Jeanne Brown, Adam Burling, Claudia Covert, Rebecca Friedman, Lori Goetsch, Roland Hansen, Sara Harrington (recorder), William Hemmig, Alex Karass, Beth Kerr, Eric Kidwell, Sandy Mooney, Jane Sloan, Shannon Van Kirk. Attendees were welcomed by Chair Jane Sloan and subsequently introduced themselves. Guests Adam Burling, ACRL, and Lori Goetsch (ACRL Board Liaison substituting for Rita Jones) were welcomed.

Chair's Report, Jane Sloan

The Chair reported that the Section holds \$750 in funds, which may be applied to upcoming programming. In the past, such funds were used to distribute mailings and brochures. The Section may explore using a portion of these funds to partially fund a student attendee to the annual conference who is interested in the work of the Arts Section. The ARCL Board Liaison noted that the action plan due in July from Section Chairs is an opportunity to ask for increased funding.

The Arts Discussion Group and All Committees Meetings, held on Saturday, June 24, 2006, were well attended. The Section will attempt to reverse the scheduling of the discussion group and the all committees meetings, so that new members to ALA might be able to attend the new members orientation and the Arts Section discussion group.

Beth Kerr has graciously volunteered to assist Tom Caswell with the Arts Section website.

The Planning Committee has been working on the Arts Section response to the ACRL 5-10 Year Planning Horizon document.

The chair distributed handouts concerning the Arts Section's online community and the types of information exchanges that can take place therein. Members can use their ALA member ID and password to log in to the online community. There was some discussion that the online community might replace the listserv, and the Webmaster may explore this issue.

Jane Sloan shared the May 2006 Arts Section Report. She noted that the idea for a collaborative annotated webliography is still being pursued. Although ACRL cannot support such a venture at this time, it remains a valid long-term project.

The chair announced the Section's program, "Preserving New Orleans: The Fate of Media Collections in the Wake of Katrina," would be held on Sunday, July 25, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

The Arts Section minutes from ALA Midwinter 2006 conference in San Antonio, Texas were approved. Many thanks to Liza Vick for her outstanding service as Secretary.

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Executive Board Minutes, cont. from page 2

Committee Reports

Membership, Claudia Covert, Chair

The section has 880 members, an increase over last year. We have 131 student members. The Membership Committee plans to send out an email to library schools with an FAQ for newcomers. The Committee is discussing the possibility of virtual meetings for the Midwinter 2007 conference. Membership is also involved in the arts-related brochure for conference venues (see Publications and Research Committee Report, below).

Nominating, Sandy Mooney, Chair

The Nominating Committee met virtually. A candidate is needed for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect.

Planning, Roland Hansen, Chair

The Committee reexamined statements of import to Arts Section members on the ACRL 5-10 year Planning Horizon document. A call for Planning Committee members will be posted to Arts section listserv.

Dance Librarians Discussion Group, Beth Kerr

The group may try to organize a field trip during the 2007 Midwinter conference in Seattle. At the discussion group meeting, Mary Edsall gave an update on the 2nd edition of the Dance bibliography, *A Core Collection in Dance*, which will appear in paper and online formats, perhaps in January 2007. It was noted that Hugh Thompson, ACRL's Publications Liaison, is retiring.

Program Planning 2007, Alex Karass, Chair

The Art Section program at the 2007 Annual conference, on the subject of Visual Literacy and Information Literacy, will be jointly sponsored by the Instruction Section. In outline, the program will consist of 3 speakers, one of whom is a museum educator. Recommendations for speakers are currently being sought. There will be an interactive component to all presentations. The program may also include a supplemental website with additional information on subjects such as assessment and teaching faculty/librarian collaboration.

Publications and Research, Eric Kidwell, Chair

Eric will develop a message for the listserv on the ARLIS/NA efforts in the area of information literacy standards, (see Jeanne Brown's report below). The Committee plans to develop an arts informational website or brochure for future conference host cities. The idea is to include smaller and perhaps lesser-known arts venues in the allied arts broadly conceived. At a minimum we will place such information on our website, which perhaps could be linked to from the conference main page, or perhaps a print version could be included in the registration packet. The arts venues will be categorized by type of venue and/or geographic location, and may include the recommended amount of time needed to visit. It is believed that this will be a significant service to our membership, ALA, and the arts community as a whole, and may very well entice new members. Sharon Wasserman has offered to be the D.C. coordinator for this project. It was noted that such a project might evolve into a *College & Research Libraries News* component. Membership Chair Claudia Covert and Eric Kidwell will collaborate on this project, and Eric will also discuss the matter with webmaster Tom Caswell.

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From the Chair

This looks like another exciting and productive year for Arts, thanks to our earnest and hard-working volunteers. I am proud to be able to work with all of you.

We have two major goals this year. The first is to make our collaboration with the Instruction Section mutually beneficial as we work to produce another great program for ALA Annual. The program for D.C. is promising to be one of the best and most popular we have ever done.

The second goal is one that everyone at both '06 meetings endorsed: Encouraging greater active involvement in Arts by more of the uninvolved members. Some of the nearly 900 members who are currently uninvolved will see increased communications from our Membership and Outreach Committee. Our Chair-elect, Eric Kidwell, is piloting a project that provides opportunities for Arts members to participate in a meaningful way as we prepare a publication to be distributed to all ALA conference attendees. So far, the work has been well distributed so that no single person has a disproportionate amount of work.

How exciting it will be for all conference attendees to find a comprehensive list of Arts activities and organizations in each conference city! More contributors will make this an even richer document. Contact Eric to participate in the creation of this publication.

Do you have goals for Arts? Do you envision an activity, project, or research activity that we could do? Please let me know: svankirk@bluecc.edu

We have an exciting year ahead of us—let's get together in Seattle to plan. And to celebrate, of course!

--Shannon Van Kirk

Arts Venues at ALA, cont. from page 1

We are waiting to see how feasible these ideas are. We think this project can serve our section membership and the general membership of the profession. But knowing how important attendance statistics can be to the survival of many arts organizations, museums, galleries, etc.; particularly the small, less well-known, we think this project has the potential to serve the greater arts community.

--Eric A. Kidwell



As announced in the previous issue of the newsletter, the Arts Section is getting involved with ALA Online Communities. 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 you're registered, you'll be able to access events calendars, discussion forums, and chat. Be sure to take a look at the Section's important planning documents that have been uploaded. These include environmental scans from August 2005 and June 2006 that directly reflect the opinions of Arts Section members.

Highlights from the Membership Committee

Committee Members: Claudia Covert (chair), Beth Kerr, Lisa Blankenship

We would like to email all current members to inform them of our website (including our online brochure), listserv, encourage them to become involved, and inform them of upcoming programs. We would like to know how many members are on the listserv and if we can auto subscribe people to the listserv when they join ACRL-Arts.

We had questions about our affiliations. Who are they? And how do all of us recognize and reciprocate our affiliations? What kinds of outreach can we do to these groups?

We would like to attend a New Members Roundtable meeting at each ALA conference to talk a few minutes about ACRL-Arts and invite people to our open discussion and program.

At ALA and ACRL conferences as well as our affiliations conferences should we have brochures available?

We discussed the use of online communities to do work prior to ALA conferences and also if we could not attend a conference.

Beth Kerr is going to redo our wordings for our emails to new, dropped, and reinstated members. Lisa Blankenship is going to work on a tip sheet for newcomers to ACRL-Arts. This FAQ would include: who are we and a comparison of us with ARLIS & others arts related groups. She will consult with Publications & Research about this project. Claudia Covert is going to write letters to library schools about ACRL-Arts and include our brochure.

Stay tuned for updates on this committee's exciting activities! If you're interested in joining the committee, please contact Shannon Van Kirk at svankirk@bluecc.edu.

Executive Board Minutes, cont. from page 3

Webmaster Report (Tom Caswell, via email)

The website is going along quite well--although this coming year, ALA will once again be moving all of its web content (ACRL included) to a new content management system (CMS). The timeline is not known yet, but all ALA web editors have been assured that the transition will be seamless and it will only be a matter of checking links and content to make sure the migration happened without any problems. Users of the website should not notice anything different from the public side. Keep sending me updates as you have them and always let me know of any needed corrections.

Technology in the Arts, Kathleen Haefliger, Chair

Bill Hemmig reported for the Chair. The Committee continues to examine the issue of webcasting for future programs. The Committee also discussed areas for future examination, such as technology literacy as it applies to arts students, multimedia technology, and librarians who offer tech support services.

Film and Broadcast Studies Discussion Group, Jane Sloan

The Film and Broadcast studies discussion group was well attended. The group is interested in instruction and outreach in the area of film studies, and ILL policies for media materials. The group also discussed new resources in the field, such as the International Index to Film Literature.

Old Business

Ed Teague has applied to be representative to IFLA from the Art Section for a four-year term. Information on the length of the term will be added to the Arts Section manual

New Business

Status of Technology and the Arts

Kathleen Haefliger needs to be reappointed to the Committee as Chair. This Committee has traditionally been difficult to sustain, as its work is both broad and demanding.

Architecture Interest Group

There is interest among the members for an Architecture Discussion Group. Shannon Van Kirk will send a message to the listserv to see if such a group might be profitably formed.

Other New Business I

It has been suggested that it might prove useful to produce a FAQ on the question, "Why become a member of the Arts Section?" This might prove particularly helpful in distinguishing the efforts of the Art Section from the work of other organizations such as the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) or the Music Library Association. It was further suggested that perhaps an Arts Section officer might attend the ALA new members orientation meeting. Lisa Blankenship has volunteered to examine the issue and will speak to Eric Kidwell.

The Committee engaged in a discussion of how many Arts Section members are also members of other library organizations and may therefore elect to come only to ALA annual, and are less likely to attend ALA midwinter and the ACRL conference. This is in fact reflected in our membership survey. Respondents also indicated that they felt the benefits of membership in the Arts Section include our newsletter and networking opportunities. This should encourage us to work virtually, in the online community, and through our content-rich newsletter.

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Member Profile: Tom Caswell

The name Tom Caswell should be familiar to most Arts Section members: he's been the Arts webmaster since 2001, he was the Arts Program Chair in 2004 ("Drawing on Fantasy: Services and Collections for Animation"), and he has been an ALA conference attendee since 1997. He also designed the current Arts Section logo found on our website and recruitment brochure. ARLIS-goers might know him as the current president of the Southeast Chapter of ARLIS/NA. He is one of the co-chairs (along with fellow member and past Arts Chair Ann Lindell) for the upcoming 2007 Atlanta conference. Tom says the ARLIS conference in Atlanta will be very exciting - the conference hotel is right across the street from the High Museum (designed by Richard Meier and Renzo Piano) which will not only be the site of the conference's convocation but the Louvre's Royal Collections will be on display there as well. Tom graduated from the University of Florida in 1989 with a B.A. in art history and then received his Master's in Library Science in 1997 from the University of South Florida. He is currently the librarian and selector for art, art history, and museum studies at the University of Florida Libraries in Gainesville, Florida. His studio passions are drawing and ceramics. He has run 15 different marathons and for vacations he likes to go on cruises and seek out historic sites and museums across Europe and Asia. Tom enjoys meeting colleagues new and old at ALA and looks forward to seeing what the future holds for ACRL's Arts Section.

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