Balancing Act: Providing Access
While Preserving Historic Spaces and Traditions
Case Studies

**Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum:** Project to document unrestored spaces of a World War II aircraft carrier to provide virtual access to those areas

**Tenement Museum:** Developing proactive approaches to documentation and preservation in a historic building where visitors pose the most risk to the environment

**South Street Seaport Museum:** Define a type of collection to assist in preservation of 19th century shipwright and job printing skills and traditions
Intrepid Sea Air & Space Museum

Ann Stegina
Collections Manager

Becky Bacheller
Collections Technician
Intrepid Sea Air & Space Museum

- **Intrepid**: World War II era aircraft carrier, also served in Cold War, Vietnam War, Mercury & Gemini Programs, 29 aircraft total
- **Growler**: Cold War era nuclear armed diesel powered submarine
- **Enterprise**: Prototype NASA orbiter
- **Concorde**: British Airways supersonic jet
Ship Documentation Project
Documentation for Documentation

Ship Space Documentation Form

Deck Name: ____________ Date: ____________ Cataloger: ____________ Accession Number: ____________

General Compartment Name: __________________________________________________________

Location Identification Info: _________________________________________________________

Items in Room: ____________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Dimensions: ______________________________________________________________________

Notes: __________________________________________________________________________

Location ID Photo Number: 1. ____________ S P A F

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo Number</th>
<th>Directional Description</th>
<th>Extra Notes</th>
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<td>21.</td>
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</table>
Departmental Cooperation
Spelunking
Database Entry: The Museum System (TMS)
Sailor Art
Found on Board: Archives
Found on Board: Objects

The Museum's Collections Department, in addition to caring for artifacts, documents Navy's historic spaces. This process made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Includes photographing rooms and searching for items left afloat after the ship's decommissioning in 1974. Recently, the Collections team located the archive of LT. O.J. Brockman, an anti-submarine warfare officer VS-24 in the desk of his stateroom.

Found on the ship. Some crew members

Note: The Crane Room contained a 标定 space that contained candy bars and an 半 consumed bottle of sacramental wine.
Future Projects

- Three dimensional scanning of ship
- Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality
- Hard Hat Tours
- Google Arts and Culture/Google Cultural Institute
3-D Scanning of Historic Spaces
Google Arts and Culture/Google Cultural Institute
The Tenement Museum tells the stories of Immigrants who came and lived in New York City’s Lower East Side neighborhood. 97 Orchard Street, the Museum’s iconic historic structure and main interpretive sight, was built in 1863 and housed an estimated 7,000 immigrants until it closed as a residence in 1935. Today, the building is used as a framework to understand the challenges faced by new arrivals as they made a new life, raised their families, and strove for a better future.
Restored Apartments
Preserved “Ruin” Apartments
• Tours begin at 10AM, typically run every 15 min
• Open seven days a week, 362 days a year
• Earned income makes up 70% of operating budget
• FY 17 Total Visitors – 244,067
2006: Conservation Management Plan
Gathered important information but difficult to follow through…
2015: Preservation Action Plan

Vibration

Structural

Climate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate Task (2019-2020)</th>
<th>Description of Work and Results</th>
<th>Category of Work</th>
<th>Building Assessment</th>
<th>Related Work</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Repair and or replace Stormwater and Downpipe Valves, Pumps and Valves</td>
<td>Replace will take place on both floor and roof areas</td>
<td>Domes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Repair and or Replace Roof Vents</td>
<td>Repair will take place on both floor and roof areas</td>
<td>Domes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>8. Water Tank Replacement</td>
<td>Water tank will be installed on the roof of the building</td>
<td>Domes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Replacement of Roofing</td>
<td>Replacement of the existing roofing with new materials</td>
<td>Domes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Replacement of Exterior Windows</td>
<td>Replacement of exterior windows with new materials</td>
<td>Domes</td>
<td></td>
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*Note: The table continues with more tasks and details.*
Monthly Conservation Monitoring
Stabilization Treatments
Lots of Documentation!

**Apartment**

**Architectural Monitoring**

**Systems**

**Wood Floors, Hearthstones, and Linoleum**

**Interior Glass, Doors, and Windows**

**Plaster, Wallpaper, Paint**

- **Bedroom**
- **Kitchen**
- **Parlor**
- **Fireplaces**
- **Brick Wall**
- **Housekeeping Concerns**

**Action Items**

- During the next monitoring period, Jason Esser should install a cleat to the floor behind the Apartment 3 entry door to prevent it from warping and damage to the south wall behind it.
- The Curatorial Department should pin the wallpaper to the east of the chimney breast in the parlor of Apartment 3 during the next monitoring period.
- The Curatorial Department should monitor the parlor ceiling in Apartment 3 for further displacement.
- Monitor the north wall of the bedroom, and east and west walls of the kitchen of Apartment 4 for further deterioration of the paint and plaster, possibly consult with Zablotowicz Building Conservation about future stabilization treatments.
- Objects and equipment that is currently stored in the Bedroom of Apartment 4 should be organized or moved elsewhere as soon as possible in order to improve appearance and protect fragile plaster in that room. The Curatorial Department will coordinate with Facilities to remove non-object related equipment.
- The repair/replacement of the floorboards in the kitchen of the Baldwin apartment should be continued by Jason Esser during the next monitoring period.
- The hanging lamp in the kitchen of the Baldwin apartment should be secured to the ceiling by Bob Yacka during the next monitoring period.
- Monitor kitchen ceiling of the Baldwin apartment for increased movement displacement.
- Repairs to the floorboards in the kitchen of the Guarnetti by Jason Esser should continue during the next monitoring period.
- The Curatorial Department should investigate the shelves on the north wall of the Guarnetti kitchen are placing undue weight on the wall and contributing to the crack in the paint.
- The Curatorial Department should consult with Kevin Groves about how to repair the chair rail in the Guarnetti kitchen during the next monitoring period.
- The Curatorial Department should monitor the cracks in the ceiling of the kitchen and parlor in the Guarnetti apartment.
- Facilities (or other department) should purchase a long vacuum hose attachment for the Housekeeping staff so they may be able to reach under the bed to clear the Guarnetti Apartment.
- The Curatorial department should look for a replacement object such as a mid late 19th century toy in order to interpret the Guarnetti children in the parlor space.
Do the best with the time and space you have

Document more than you think necessary

Difficult to catch everything: prioritize!

Build relationships with staff and experts

Don’t be daunted by the task
South Street Seaport Museum is a non-profit cultural institution located in the heart of the historic seaport district in New York City. Founded in 1967, the Seaport Museum engages visitors and students in the history of the Port of New York. Using historic ships, artifacts, and the buildings of the district themselves, the Seaport Museum's programs illuminate historical New York while engaging the present.
South Street Seaport Museum Collections

The Seaport Museum's collections reflect the mission of the Museum as they consist of over 26,400 objects documenting the rise of New York as a port city, and its role in the development of the economy and business of the United States.
Seaport Museum’s Working Collection

A “working collection” is a collection of artifacts, operated or handled by staff, volunteers, and museum visitors during public and school programs, and during specific daily operations.

These artifacts are touchable, and used to assist in preservation and operations. They help and assist the understanding or historical skills, techniques, and traditions.
Collection Management Policy

2010 Policy

• Permanent Collection → Permanent Collection
• Teaching Collection → Teaching Collection
• Waterfront Collection → Working Collection
• Archives → Archival Collection
• Library → Library
• Found in Collection → Found in Collection

2017 Review
What kind of policies and rules exist and what should be implemented?

How should the collections team work with this specific types of artifacts?

How do you acquire, care for, or deaccession these artifacts?

When should a Collections Manager say no?

Who else on staff could be part of a special collections task to advise and take care of them?
Waterfront Collection

Ship Parts and Gears, Shipwright Tools and Instruments

• Preserves tall ships working traditions

• Assists in educate young generations by experience objects and their historical contexts

• Approximately 70% of this collection is labeled “Working” and most of it is located aboard our ships and barge

Printing History Collection

Printing Presses, Printing Equipment, Printing Types

• Preserves the tradition of small batch job printing in the 19th century

• Keeps open and active dialogue with the contemporary practices of the Printmaking and Graphic Design communities

• Approximately 80% of this collection is labeled as “Working Collection” and used at the historic print shops
Waterfront Collection

City of Beaumont’s Capstan
2016.001
Waterfront Collection

New York Central No. 31 Pilot House
1980.007
Waterfront Collection

Lettie G. Howard’s Clock and Barometer
1991.072.0273 and 1991.072.0268
Documentation of Waterfront Collection

1 - Historical Research
2 - Photograph Report
3 - Notes TLC
4 - Handout with rules to follow
Printing History Collection

Bowne & Co. historic print shops
Printing History Collection

Printing in public spaces
Documentation of Printing History Collection

Golding Jobber
1974.065.0001

Golding Improved Pearl No.11
2017.001
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<td>Teamwork</td>
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<td>Policy &amp; Procedure Updates</td>
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<td>Preservation and Conservation Instructions</td>
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