

Rebecca I. Kennedy
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With almost twenty years of experience, Rebecca Kennedy has worked with a variety of collections and cultural institutions to improve the preservation and management of collections. After receiving a MA in Museum Studies from The George Washington University, Rebecca worked in preservation and collections management at the Smithsonian Institution for eleven years before starting Curae in 2018.

Rebecca received a certification in First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis from ICCROM in 2016 giving her the tools to train other cultural institutions on collections emergencies. Rebecca is the former chair of the ARCS and AIC Emergency Committees and the DC Alliance for Response Steering Committee and was an inaugural member of the Smithsonian's Preparedness and Response in Collections Emergency (PRICE) group. In the last several years, she has responded to dozens of institutional and national emergencies for cultural heritage support.

Rebecca serves on committees for the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialist (ARCS) to support the museum field as well is an editor for the Collections Journal. She is an instructor on Collections Management for the George Washington University and is an active mentor in the Collections Stewardship Mentorship Program. Rebecca is a peer-reviewed Professional Associate (PA) of AIC for her contributions as an allied professional to the conservation community.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT, REGISTRATION, AND PRESERVATION EXPERIENCE

- Accessioning, cataloging and registration of historical, natural science, fine art, and historic site collections.
- Deaccessioning and disposal of collections.
- Developing policies and procedures for collections management and registration for fine art, natural science, and historical collections.
- Managing Collections Management Systems (CMS), primarily TMS which included customization and utilization of Crystal Reports and SQL.
- Performing Preservation Assessments with workflow, degrees of improvement, and timeframe.
- Couriering collections via hand-carry, bookend, and escort, depending on needs of collection. Courier experience has been for both domestic and international transport.
- Developing environmental and integrated pest management systems based on specific needs of the institution.
- Designing and implementing collection storage organization.
- Rehousing collections using off-the-shelf materials and building custom enclosures.

- Packing objects for shipment and developing shipment lists and outgoing receipts.
- Completing spot or full inventories and update Collection Management Systems as needed.
- Developing forms, such as loan agreements, deed of gifts, artist agreements, guest curator agreements, temporary custody receipts, and outgoing receipts.

EXHIBITION EXPERIENCE

- Reviewing design drawings to ensure safe/low risk exhibition of collections.
- Consulting on Mountmaking to reduce risk to collections.
- Processing incoming and outgoing loans.
- Installing objects for the exhibition.
- Preparing objects for exhibition
- Performing light and environmental studies and setting up monitoring systems.
- Cleaning and maintaining displays and galleries.

COLLECTIONS EMERGENCY EXPERIENCE

- Creating customized hands-on trainings and workshops for collections emergency response.
- Lecturing on important collections emergency topics for better collections preparedness and response.
- Performing Risk Assessments with mitigation and preparation strategies to reduce risk.
- Writing Emergency Plans for implementation into cultural institutions.
- Building emergency kits based on the needs and budget of the institution.
- Assisting during active emergencies at cultural institutions (large and small).
- Consulting on emergency policies, plans, and procedures to mediate any issues or provide clarity on issues.

SELECT PRESENTATION AND LECTURES

International

- *Cultural Institutions as Essential Services During Covid-19*, Baekje Historic Forum, South Korea, 2020
- *Culture Cannot Wait: Integrating Cultural Heritage First Aid with Humanitarian Assistance in Crises*, International Institute for Conservation, Annual Congress, August 2018

National

- *Don't Throw Out the Emergency Kit with the Flood Waters*, Association of Registrars and Collections Specialist Annual Conference, November 2022
- *Collections Management in Conservation*, American Institute of Conservation Annual Conference, 2022.
- *Better Networking for Disasters*, American Library Association, Annual Conference, June 2019
- *Cultural Heritage and Emergencies*, Virginia Association of Museums, March 2019

University

- *Risk Management*, Towson University, April 2021
- *Contracting as a Museum Professional*, Georgetown University, May 2020
- *Managing Mental Health in Cultural Heritage Emergency Response*, Winterthur/UD Program in Art Conservation, April 2020
- *Emergency Preparedness and Response*, The George Washington University, 2020 – 2023

Webinars

- Multiple webinars were given to over 15 institutions all over the world that ranged from one hour to two. Most of these webinars were recorded and are now available online and can be found at <http://curaecollections.com/resources>.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Smithsonian's National Postal Museum

Museum Specialist, Preservation Department , August 2007 – October 2018

National Law Enforcement Museum

Intern, Collections Department, September 2006 – December 2006

Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

Volunteer, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, July 2006 – September 2006

The British Museum

Intern, Coins and Medals Department, May 2006 – July 2006

Alachua County Historic Trust, Matheson Museum

Registrar, Collections Department, August 2004 – July 2005

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The George Washington University

Master of Arts in Museum Studies, Collections Management concentration, May 2007

21st Century Museum Leadership, with the Smithsonian Institution, June 2015

The University of Florida

Bachelor of Arts in History and Classical Studies, May 2004

International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis, June 2016

Designing for Change: International Workshop on First Aid for Cultural Heritage,
October 2017

Prince Claus Fund

Leadership Course on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis, August 2018

Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC

Fellowship, Conservation Department, November 2018 – February 2019

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (CMS) EXPERIENCE

The Museum System, TMS Collection Management

SAP Crystal Reports

Structured Query Language (SQL)

PastPerfect, Museum Software

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Institute for Conservation (AIC), Professional Associate

Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS)

International Committee of Museums (ICOM)

American Alliance for Museums (AAM)