



Schedule as of October 15, 2025

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Time	Description	Hosts
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: Academic Museums Sponsored by Museum Exchange Academic museums face a unique set of challenges: collections spread across campus, limited storage and staffing, shifting priorities, ever-changing policies from above, and the constant balance between accessibility and care. This meet-up is a chance to talk openly about what's working, what's difficult, and how others are navigating similar terrain. Bring your questions, frustrations, and ideas—and connect with peers who understand the realities of managing collections within academic settings.	Sierra Polisar
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: Science Museums Come join fellow science museum colleagues for breakfast and a chat. This is a casual meetup over breakfast at the ARCS 2025 conference in St. Louis, to socialize, share experiences, and make connections with other science museum collections professionals	Chris Helms
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: History Museums Calling collections professionals from history-focused institutions and organizations to meet up with their peers at this breakfast roundtable. All are invited to come expand their network, find new friends, and connect with familiar colleagues.	Courtney Becraft
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: Inventorying a Collection Share your challenges, learn from colleagues with diverse experiences, and gain practical solutions for inventorying and cataloging collections. We'll tackle subjects like organizing an inventory project both in storage and on display, objects with no provenance or record, objects catalogued in groups under the same number, and more. The session goal is to share with other professionals both implementable solutions and advice to deal with the unexpected. Our experienced facilitators will guide open dialogue, encourage the sharing of protocols and procedures, to foster a supportive network and empower you to navigate the future with confidence.	Dana Lewis
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: Delaware Valley Registrar Network Meet up with colleagues attending the conference that are also part of the Delaware Valley Registrar Network (Philadelphia area).	Sara Hesdon Buehler
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: How Do I Volunteer for ARCS? This roundtable is focused on interacting with the specific members looking to get involved with ARCS on a volunteer basis. Members from Nominations will host the table and provide information and guidance on the processes and parameters of volunteering. Nomination's hope is to gather direct insight from general membership that can help us strengthen the volunteer experience.	Shiori Oki
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Roundtable: Private Collections and Museums Affinity Group Lunch Sponsored by Private Client Select Join fellow professionals who work in, aspire to work in, or simply want to learn more about private collections, museums, and foundations for an informal lunch. Network with colleagues, share information and experiences, and explore the unique possibilities, benefits, and challenges of working on the "private side." Connect with others who share your passion for preserving and protecting our cultural, historical, and scientific heritage in private hands.	Barbara Chamberlain
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: "ARCS.org It's Your Website" Join us to explore the strategic process of website revitalization! This session will detail the work of a taskforce charged with researching content management platforms and recommending website functions for the ARCS website. This is a crucial opportunity for ARCS members to offer suggestions on the website's structural development, as we are currently in the gathering stage. Our finalized findings will be submitted to the ARCS Board at a later date and, upon approval, will form the basis of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for website development vendors. Your insights will directly shape the future of the ARCS website and drive its successful digital transformation.	Alicia B. Thomas

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: Art in Transit 2.0/Towards Art in Transit 2.0 Art in Transit (ed. Mecklenburg, 1991), is a foundational reference for the packing and transit of fine art. Now more than 30 years old, it requires updates on general advances in knowledge and practices, expansion of its original focus beyond paintings to include other artworks and cultural heritage objects, and urgent consideration sustainability and climate change. The organizers of Art in Transit 2.0 (AiT2.0), a cross-disciplinary working group of conservators, registrars, conservation scientists, collection managers, and packing/shipping agents, want to bring the discussion to ARCS. AiT2.0 panelists would summarise findings from an introductory symposium at AIC's Annual Meeting (Salt Lake City, 2024), and other recent international conferences, and engage with ARCS attendees on current efforts and related issues from the registrar's point of view.	Mark Ryan, Lauren Fly
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: Keynote Breakout Lunch Meet and Greet with keynote presenter Linda Norris Founder of Creative Futures, LLC	Lydelle Abbot
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: International Common Carrier Shipments (Fedex, DHL, etc) - Risks and Strategies In the right circumstances, international common carrier shipments (Fedex, DHL, etc.) can be advantageous for their expediency and low costs. In other circumstances, they carry risks of delays, fees, and incorrect documentation. This break out session will highlight where the risks lie in common carrier shipments and steps that can be taken to mitigate this risk; including a step by step walk through of setting up a "broker select" shipment via common carrier.	Martha Hart
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: Ethics of AI in Cultural Heritage This Breakout Session will explore the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI) used for cultural heritage work. Current discussions about the ethics of AI for cultural heritage tend to focus narrowly on bias, privacy, and surveillance; this breakout session will expand beyond those issues into broader human and environmental impacts, and how they affect decolonization efforts. The ultimate goals of this breakout session are to 1) explore holistic, interdisciplinary approaches to heritage AI, 2) to foster exploration of how and when to use AI for heritage work, and 3) to discuss the role of cultural heritage institutions in driving change.	Lindsay Squires
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: Emerging Museum Professionals & 1st-Time Conference Attendees Hosted by ARCS 2023 Conference Co-Chairs Dara Lohnes-Davies and Reagan Duplisea, this opportunity will allow emerging professionals to network, ask questions about current collections conundrums, and seek advice on growing their museum careers. From Da Vinci to dinosaurs, Dior to dodos, Dara and Reagan are happy to discuss their own experiences with a vast variety of objects from coast-to-coast museums. They also look forward to facilitating discussion with those newest to the profession and what concerns they bring to the (conference!) table.	Reagan Duplisea & Dara Lohnes-Davies
Thursday, November 20, 2025		
Time	Description	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: Starting from Scratch: Creating Collections Storage Whether your collection has rapidly grown, been moved from an offsite location, or has new storage needs, how can collections staff create secure and appropriate storage in less-than-ideal circumstances? How can office or gallery space be repurposed as suitable collections storage? This roundtable discussion would focus on steps collections professionals can take to prioritize collections care when you need to make use of unconventional spaces.	Laura Hicken
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: "Artist Foundations: Figuring Out the Legacy, the Logistics, and All the Stuff in Between" Sponsored by UNA Logistics Artist-Endowed Foundations (AEFs) are a unique niche in the collections world—blending elements of museum work, private estate management, and long-term preservation planning. For registrars and collections specialists working in this space, the challenges are real: managing large, diverse, and sometimes unfinished bodies of work; navigating questions of artist intent; juggling cataloging, conservation, and rights management—often all at once. This roundtable will be a casual space to swap resources, share wins, and connect with peers doing similar work—because while AEFs may be niche, the questions they raise are deeply relevant across the collections field.	Amy Via
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: Tools of the Trade: Filling the Gaps in Collections Management Sponsored by Museum Exchange Join colleagues for a focused discussion on the digital tools that support collections management — from cataloguing and image management to conservation tracking and collaboration. Share experiences with different platforms, explore strategies for adapting them to institutional needs, and discuss creative solutions for gaps in functionality. Gallery Systems invites museums of all sizes to contribute success stories, challenges, and wish lists for the future. This roundtable offers an opportunity to exchange practical tips, discover new tools, and build valuable connections with peers facing similar challenges.	Qinglian Zhang

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: Is Your Head in the Cloud: Opportunities, Challenges, and Practical Approaches Cloud-based collections management offers flexibility and access like never before, but how do we utilize those capabilities into more effective stewardship? This roundtable discussion explores the opportunities and challenges of working in the cloud. From real-time updates and remote collaboration to questions of security and sustainability, attendees will discuss the benefits and concerns of working beyond the walls of institutions. Participants will share experiences, discuss hurdles, and explore practical approaches for aligning cloud tools with the daily realities of collections management.	Ashley Campone
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Roundtable: Museum Data Real Talk: What's Working, What's Not This roundtable invites collections professionals to talk candidly about their experiences managing data and working with databases. What tools do you love—or loathe? What's slowing you down, and where do you wish things worked better? This is a judgment-free zone for venting, swapping tips, and sharing real-world friction points. Whether you're a database wizard or database weary, your voice is valuable.	Samantha Hunt-Duran
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Roundtable: Private Collections and Museums Affinity Group Lunch Sponsored by Private Client Select In case you missed yesterday's lunch or would like to meet again, join fellow professionals for an informal gathering focused on private collections, museums, and foundations. Network with colleagues, share information and experiences, and explore the unique possibilities, benefits, and challenges of working on the "private side." Connect with others who share your passion for preserving and protecting our cultural, historical, and scientific heritage in private hands.	Barbara Chamberlain
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: More than just Social Media; exploring collaboration and programing in Institutions. Archives can be somewhat insular; however our collections are a reflection of our communities and shared histories. Housing and maintaining these collections give us hands on access to forgotten institutional memory and the ability to showcase and share these memories/objects with those outside of our walls. My intention for this Breakout Session is to workshop collections with other museum professionals and to think of nontraditional ways of making objects/information accessible to our communities while still safeguarding our collections.	Cynthia Evans
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: From Data to Action: Transforming Environmental Monitoring into Actionable Collections Care Environmental sensors generate vast data, but how do we transform information into meaningful preservation actions? This interactive session explores the critical gap between environmental monitoring and collections management workflows. Through collaborative discussion and a demonstration of integrated environmental and collections data, we'll examine strategies for bridging the divide between "knowing" and "doing" in preventive conservation. Attendees will share challenges, explore solutions, and discuss practical frameworks for turning environmental and collections data into preservation actions.	Allie Bryan
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: Historic Sites: the good, the bad, and the well... ugly This breakout session will focus on the unique realities of managing collections at historic sites. We'll discuss the challenges that come with stewarding collections in historic structures, and often spread across multiple buildings or sites. Topics will include environmental conditions, integrated pest management, preventive care, documenting collections, and effective communication with guides and site managers. What challenges keep you up at night? What strategies have been successful for you? Participants are encouraged to share their experiences, resources, and other tips and tricks with the group. This will be an opportunity to exchange practical advice and connect with colleagues who are doing similar work.	Shelley Cathcart, Julia Foster, Anna Thompson, Kate Kearns
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: Contract Collections Specialists This discussion will be specifically designed for independent contractors, registrars, and collections specialists who are either members of ARCS or are considering using its resources. We'll talk about the ARCS Service Agreement - the contract developed in 2021 with legal expertise; the OnContract feature of the website - how it is used, how can we increase its effectiveness, and a Q&A -- allowing attendees to ask questions, share their experiences and engage in a dialogue about challenges and opportunities facing Contract Collections Specialists today. This interactive portion will foster a collaborative environment and provide a platform for networking and peer-to-peer learning.	Alicia Thomas
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: Security How secure is your cultural institution? What measures have you taken to protect your collections? In this breakout, we will exchange ideas on museum security and discuss methods on creating a more successful security team.	Paula Bisson
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Breakout: Volunteering for ARCS This breakout is a focused opportunity to encourage members to learn more about the volunteer experience with ARCS. At this breakout various committee members can share what volunteering means and looks like for them, offer insight into the workings of various committees, and engage with general membership on what they're looking for in their volunteer experience with the association.	Shiori Oki