

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
<p>Act Like a Startup: Adapting Time-based Media Standards for a Smaller Institution</p>	<p>The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Foundation has a Digital & Media Art collection of 308 time-based media (TBM) artworks, averaging 30 TBM artwork acquisitions a year. Of our current collection, 149 works integrate software or video.</p> <p>Drawing from the extensive resources provided by larger institutions with existing registration and preservation strategies, we've adapted many best practices to better suit our smaller staff, with quicker timelines for acquisitions, exhibitions, and loans, that embraces our entrepreneurial spirit towards collecting and preservation. Over the last four years, we've overhauled our documentation policies and procedures, staffing, databases, servers, and inspection spaces. From top to bottom, we've completely reimagined our acquisition, loan, exhibition, storage and shipping procedures to better document, preserve, and care for these artworks. We've also adapted our loan procedures to translate our learned best practices for our borrowers that don't 'speak' TBM.</p> <p>This presentation provides practical guidance, case study examples, and insight into our implementation of internal standards and systems for our fast-growing collection, including plans we've discarded or have had to rethink as our expected procedures didn't meet real-world needs.</p>
<p>Albeit it Does Move: Art market, galleries and new strategies around collections</p>	<p>kurimanzutto is a Mexican gallery, based in two of the cities with more covid-19 active cases worldwide: Mexico City and New York. The lockdowns, instead of discouraging the owners, the artists and the staff, gave us the opportunity to rethink our practices and to reinvent ourselves.</p> <p>This session seeks to show how the galleries, specially kurimanzutto, evolved during the pandemic with practices that are here to stay. How we maintain the artworks in constant movement, making them accesible to collectors through virtual and exclusive one-on-one viewing rooms, but also to the general public with an open-air format exhibition. How galleries and museums are supporting each other in Mexico, by sharing spaces or donating a percent of their sales; by having a real sense of community at a moment where social distancing is the norm.</p> <p>We were forced to reduce shipments and travels, but instead of it being a problem we found it to be the perfect opportunity to embark upon the pursuit of reducing the carbon footprint in the art market sector. An effort that is being taken by other galleries and artists around the globe.</p> <p>And yet, the world moves; we must keep doing it as well.</p>
<p>ARCS Through the Ages</p>	<p>ARCS as an organization embodies this year's conference theme perfectly. ARCS has not been a static institution; it is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community and the membership. Leading into ARCS' tenth anniversary, now is a moment to reflect upon where the organization has been, and how the organization can continue to grow.</p>

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
	<p>In this session, Founding, Former, and Current Board Members will discuss how ARCS has evolved over time, since its inception in 2012, through a strategic planning effort, to the ways it is responding to the major cultural shifts happening worldwide today. As a membership organization that is run by volunteers, this session will encourage commentary from attendees who have seen ARCS grow and welcomes discussion about how ARCS can continue to expand and evolve moving into its second decade.</p>
<p>At the Intersection of Vision and Function: Lessons Learned from LACMA's Collection Move</p>	<p>In 2014, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) began a capital campaign to replace four buildings with failing infrastructure with a new single-level permanent collection space that removes hierarchical exhibition structures equitably representing an encyclopedic collection and promotes an inclusive and accessible visitor experience. LACMA's 2016-2020 collection inventory and relocation project was the first concrete step towards achieving this vision. Led by the collections management department, the priority was to inventory, safely pack, and move 130,000+ objects within the allowances of budget, time, and space. This presentation will share successes and lessons learned. This 30-minute panel will bring together 3 participants involved in LACMA's project to address: 1) how inventory builds a more robust and accessible database, piece-level knowledge, and greater use of the permanent collection by museum staff, 2) a shift in physical access to the collection as a result of transforming from one campus to a multi-site entity, and 3) the evolution of the role of collections management within the institution. The presentation will tie to a central theme of making a more equitable museum with greater connection to the community we serve and the makers of the artwork we care for.</p>
<p>Ch-ch-ch-changes! Reflecting on Work since March 2020</p>	<p>From a collection move to a global pandemic, both highly planned and unforeseen challenges can offer dynamic opportunities for lasting change in our field. COVID-19 set new standards for what is essential, institutional priorities, and health and safety protocols that will impact the way we work for the foreseeable future. Join us for a round table discussion featuring speakers from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, the New York Public Library, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, that aims to offer insight, positive takeaways, and solidarity as we reflect on the rapid evolution of registration and collection management work since March 2020.</p>
<p>Color Photography and Collections Care: The Evolution of Practice</p>	<p>The challenges around preserving and exhibiting color photography are bringing a paradigm shift to the way museums manage their collections. Various approaches are emerging for situations when, for example, the color of a photograph has faded, shifted, or deteriorated to a point where stakeholders feel the print no longer holds the value of the original. These methods differ by institution and involve collaboration with museum and non-museum professionals. Solutions may involve retiring the original print, producing a replacement print, creating exhibition copies, or displaying facsimiles.</p>

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
	<p>This session will examine three museum approaches to color photographs. The Metropolitan Museum of Art has established policies and practices for a large, collecting institution. The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art has a policy statement on reproducing color photography and is aligning collection management procedures. M+ is a new museum in the process of opening its doors, reflecting on how color photography will be managed for the inaugural exhibition.</p> <p>The goal of this session is to share divergent approaches to color photography in museum collections, and to define terminology used in considering these materials. We hope this session generates discussion that will lead to better care for color photography in museums.</p>
<p>Data Integration: Utilizing Digital Models as a Collections Management System</p>	<p>A case study highlighting Fallingwater’s use of 3D-laser scans to create a fully-detailed digital model of the of Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage List. With this model, staff are creating a file management system for all building and collections data; linking archival images, correspondence, and reports to objects and architectural elements within the historic structure. This integrated platform will pull from multiple sources to consolidate related records and also includes a public-facing interface on our website with curated collections tours.</p> <p>With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, cultural institutions have been pushed to quickly embrace new technology and produce virtual content for an international audience. By utilizing 3D-laser scans made in 2016 and 2017, Fallingwater worked with an animation studio to produce a digital model with an accompanying database; ultimately removing the need for a traditional collections management system by unifying preservation, collections, and archival records into an adaptable digital “file cabinet.”</p>
<p>Database Design where Museums, Libraries, and Archives Meet: New York Public Library's Model</p>	<p>Designing a new database module for the New York Public Library’s Registrar’s Office presented a unique challenge in marrying registrar functions with an existing database rooted in managing archival collections. The new module integrates registrar-specific functional requirements and data with an existing object data model specific to managing mostly container-level records.</p> <p>Merging these functions brought forth challenges that will be familiar to those working between museum, library, and archive practice. In resolving challenges like making an object data model flexible enough to support multiple relationship hierarchies between objects and containers, the resulting module allows users to manage loans and shipping as well as having a built-in capacity for object-level project management.</p> <p>Discussing our new database, we will examine some of the challenges inherent to creating a museum collections management tool integrating</p>

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
	<p>library and archival material, including aligning object data with other data in the Library’s existing collection management system, which is often at a different scale. We’ll discuss the advantages of cross-disciplinary working, telling the story of how registrars working with an archives practitioner yielded what many dream of: a project management tool within their database.</p>
Deaccessioning	TBA
<p>Ever Evolving Exposures: How Art Insurers are Responding to Climate, Risk, and Transit Changes</p>	<p>Evolving climate change and pandemic related changes have had a significant impact on the insurance industry over the past several years. From increasing wildfires, flooding, hurricanes, and convective storms to changes in transit protocol and increased cyber risk, insurers are being challenged with rising risk exposures. In this session, fine art insurance underwriters will discuss how these changes have impacted museums and their fine art insurance coverage and pricing. Speakers will explain the “Insurance Cycle” and how re-insurance, aggregations, and capacity play a role in fine art insurance. Underwriters will weigh in on hot topics such as virtual couriering, sustainable shipping, cyber risks, and much more! Join us for this lively discussion and learn more about how you can help your museum navigate new and ever-evolving exposures.</p>
<p>Evolution of Fine Art Shipping & Courier Transit: An Object-Centered Approach</p>	<p>As the Covid-19 pandemic has progressed from a temporary emergency to an ongoing shift in the museum and registration field, one of the starkest changes has been the impact on courier travel. The rapid evolution of the possibilities and expectations for overseeing collections objects in transit has allowed for increased oversight in many instances, but the benefits of using a virtual courier (especially in a post-pandemic world) must be weighed in terms of object safety during transit and while on loan. Our presentation will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiences with virtual couriering for fine art collections, use of remote tracking technologies, collaborative solutions for consolidated or bookended oversight, and instances of in-person courier transit under pandemic conditions through a number of case studies, both domestic and international, highlighting challenges and lessons learned as our experiences have evolved -The role of ongoing dialogue and collaboration with Fine Art Shipping and Transit colleagues in developing transit plans and responding to shifting policies for commercial and cargo airfreight. -Determining risk and identifying liability concerns in a shifting transit landscape. -Institutional policy response to virtual couriering, specifically in light of recent AAMD and AIC statements on the topic, and our own experiences establishing and refining best practices for object and staff safety in transit. -What is the purpose of the courier, and where does physical oversight continue to be integral to successful object transit. What do we lose when

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
	we replace physical couriers with virtual oversight? Where is compromise appropriate?
Green from the Roots: Growing and Maintaining Sustainability Efforts in Everyday Museum Work	The activities required for the preservation of material culture are often at odds with the goals of sustainability. The liberal use of plastics, foams and other environmentally unfriendly materials, not to mention the resources needed to maintain climate control in storage areas and galleries leave many of us feeling as though we are part of the problem with little recourse to immediate solutions. However, there are ways to start working on grassroots sustainability efforts in the course of daily work activities.
I Can Do That: Transferring the Registrar's Skills	While the past 2 years in particular has seen the need for museum staff across the whole range of operations to adapt and cover tasks that would not normally fall to them, it has always been the case that the skills developed and honed as a busy registrar have applications beyond pure collections management. Sometimes this can be an unexpected development, discovering aptitudes in a situation born of the demands of a particular project, strategy, or global crisis; or perhaps the result of a longer-held and carefully planned path. Either way, it can be a feature of mid-career development, and we aim to illustrate how opportunities can arise when the skills we might associate traditionally with registrars' work can lead to another path, and how that application might be more surprising and equally fulfilling. In addition, we would like to explore how registrar mindsets of solution-finding and lateral thinking, and the rapid assimilation of information, can be applied from the point of seeing a job advertised through to your first days in post and beyond. Ultimately we would like to see more former registrars in the very top posts in our institutions, and we hope that this session might stimulate some of the audience to such efforts.
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Collections Stewardship	Issues relating to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) have been a fixture in social discussions for decades, but they have strongly come to the forefront the past several years with the Black Lives Matter movement and social unrest in the headlines. Museums have geared up their response, and have increased attention to this important issue. But this is a matter that is for all museum professionals to address, not just administration. What can collections professionals do to assist with representation and give voices to those not historically represented in museums? The Collections Stewardship Professional Network formed a committee to work on matters relating to IDEA issues. In this session, the panelists will present results from a survey showing the current state of the collections stewardship field, highlight existing tools and resources relating to inclusion and diversity, and create a roadmap for our work moving forward.
Increasing Access to 3D	TBA

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
Independent Contractor - Be One/Hire One	<p>With over half of US museums laying off staff in 2019 due to the pandemic, work in our industry will never look the same. Contract collections work is expected to increase in the coming decades. Learning to work in this new, gig-oriented economy is an essential skill for contractors and hiring managers alike. This session will present new resources developed by ARCS and AAM's Independent Museum Professionals Network to support freelance workers and provide guidelines to museums for hiring and working with contractors.</p> <p>For museum staff the session will cover best practices in hiring and working with contractors including practical ways to improve the contracting process to promote equity, fairness, and transparency. For freelancers, the session will address the challenges of being an independent contractor including business essentials, such as, what rate to charge, setting up a company, insurance coverage and available resources. Additionally, Alexandra Darraby of The Art Law Firm, will present the newly released Contract Template sponsored by the ARCS' Professional Development Resources Sub-Committee in collaboration with six ARCS' "On Contract" members.</p>
Managing Real Collections in a Virtual/Hybrid World	<p>The global pandemic in 2020 forced us all to reconsider how we do nearly every aspect of our work. From staggered staff in exhibition installations to collections research visits via Zoom, transitioning to socially distanced museum interactions required a lot of creativity. Panelists will present various ways they addressed problems encountered while managing collections and museum interactions in a virtual environment. In addition, they will share some successes and pitfalls and highlight ways that they are moving forward in a hybrid world. Attendees will leave with ideas for implementing or improving their operations.</p>
NFTs	TBA
No More "Behind-the-Scenes"	TBA
Obstacles as Opportunities: Leveraging Virtual Collections Assessments	<p>Funding for collections stewardship projects, whether from an internal or external source, is often tied to findings from planning and assessment documents. These documents, frequently completed by outside assessors, often reaffirm the needs expressed by staff and can also highlight new needs. But how can we undertake assessments in a pandemic and post-pandemic world where travel is difficult and space occupancies have dropped significantly?</p> <p>In this session, we intend to facilitate discussion around how virtual assessments are a new and useful opportunity for shaping collections care and preservation work in a post-pandemic world. How virtual assessments are delivered, how they might be leveraged for forward momentum, and when they might be substituted for in-person assessments in the future will be discussed. Topics examined in this session will include how virtual</p>

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
	<p>assessments can bring more museum staff into the process, potential for re-prioritization of collections tasks for remote work, and the ability of rural/remote organizations to maximize staff and assessor time. Ample time will be left for guided conversation, resource sharing, and questions.</p>
<p>Pivoting in a Pandemic: The World Ethnology Collections Move at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science</p>	<p>In June 2020, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science received a \$150,000 National Endowment for the Humanities CARES grant to partially support salaries for 10 staff to document, move, and rehouse 3200 objects from the African and Central and South American collections. This collection had particular needs in that it was the least researched and understood subcollection in the Anthropology department, so we knew we would encounter unknowns and surprises. The project scope also included data cleanup and improving intellectual control of the collection. This grant created a unique opportunity for the humanities staff at DMNS to focus on a shared, single goal. How do you decide what to focus on and prioritize in six months? What did we learn? This presentation will cover: adapting the rehousing process with limited staff on-site in a pandemic; a detailed breakdown of each 5-day move cycle; conservation assessments, photography, and data cleanup; collections research by curators; before and after photos; and takeaways, lessons, and future directions.</p>
<p>Political Risks for Museums: Insurance Considerations</p>	<p>Recent events in 2020 included protests in Richmond where statues were vandalized by organized groups and outdoor sculpture was damaged by the National Guard. In Baltimore, a civic statue was removed during a protest. These events are of interest to collection managers because all Fine Art policies contain a “War Exclusion” which broadly excludes: Insurrection, Governmental Authority, civil war, confiscation. Some policies cover Terrorism.</p> <p>Our session will shed light on this topic by inviting a registrars, national fine art brokers and a claims expert to weigh in with their perspective on how to manage this emerging risk.</p> <p>Questions we will explore include: What is the difference between vandalism and insurrection? Review how Terrorism coverage works. If the protesters are designated as “domestic terrorist” would this impact a claim? While every claims is nuanced, we will provide concrete examples.</p>
<p>Promoting Diversity in the Art Industry through Art Preparator Apprenticeships</p>	<p>While the art industry continues to grow rapidly, so does the professionalization of pursuing a career as a preparator. However, a recent nationwide survey of museums conducted by the Mellon Foundation shows that 85% of preparators identify as white and more than 75% as male. It is increasingly apparent that promoting diversity in the art handling workforce is now more important than ever.</p>

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
	<p>Please join The Broad and Crozier Fine Arts in conversation about their apprenticeship programs, specifically designed to address this need for a shift in demographics in the field of art preparation. We will share free resources for any institution that is interested in incorporating these programs in an effort to promote a diverse workforce. Our goal is to provide a toolkit that can be adapted to suit the needs of a variety of organizations, ultimately driving long-lasting, industry-wide change.</p> <p>We will present first person accounts from the apprentices to share their experiences and challenges in navigating a career as an art handler.</p>
<p>Pursuing Positive Outcomes of a Pandemic: Sustainable Resource Responses in Art Handling and Shipping</p>	<p>At the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States, the art shipping and logistics world ground to a halt. No couriers could travel, no one knew what was safe, and the uncertainty of what was to come was as ever present as the virus traveling through the air. With our new reality some difficult conversations as to our position in the global economy has become necessary. As time went on the art logistics industry began to focus on innovations that would help sustain our business, save money to help preserve budgets, and would have positive environmental impacts. Many of these changes were envisioned as short-term responses, but as the months ticked by are now seen as having permanent impacts. In this panel we will discuss a few innovations and solutions that came through the pandemic and which have contributed towards sustainable practice in museums. We will discuss some of the tough decisions that needed to be made to allow for a loans show to go on with indemnity coverage. The increased speed at which sustainable storage could be developed and grown was a major focus for an international art shipping company. And, with the need for safety protocols in place, how a group like the Art Workers Safety Coalition can lead to more advanced planning for shipments, and in turn save time, resources and hassle.</p>
<p>Rapid Response Collecting for a Small Museum: A Case Study</p>	<p>Unfortunately, many museums have faced or will face rapid response collecting in response to local tragedy. While each occurrence is different, based on the event, the museum, and the community affected, this session will seek to share lessons learned by one museum that faced such an occurrence. After the mass shooting in Las Vegas in 2017, the Clark County Museum was tasked with preserving thousands of items left at impromptu memorials in the area. This session will show how a small museum used volunteers and flexibility to process over 20,000 memorial items in less than two years, making photos of the items available to the public, and collecting stories from those who left items at the memorials. In addition to showing the cataloging process, this session will touch on how museum policies and procedures had to evolve rapidly in order to accomplish this project, as well as how the memorial collection affected the long term goals of the museum in regards to collecting and preserving items for the community.</p>

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
Ready for my Close-Up!: Digitizing Museum Collections	New digital technologies have transformed traditional views of collections stewardship across the museum field. High quality images are essential to museum work. They are the medium through which we make our collections fully accessible to our audiences and allow us to push past the walls of our institutions to share our objects with audiences around the globe. By showcasing the digitization work of two institutions of differing size, we seek to explore the challenges and the successes of this evolving form of collections stewardship.
Replication and Evolving	TBA
Responsive Stewardship: Navigating Repatriation and Restitution an within an Art Museum	Repatriation and restitution has become a prevalent topic of discussion among museums looking for ways to decolonize or indigenize their collections. In our changing field, this activity has become a common course of action in some institutions, yet poses challenges in others. Each repatriation or restitution is unique and often requires a careful balance between ethics and law. Navigating this balance is challenging, as it implicates not only the outward-facing view of an institution, but also its relationship with indigenous communities and international partnerships. Registrars and collection specialists work cross-departmentally with curatorial, general counsel, development, communications, and many others within the museum to determine if and when a work should be returned. Some questions this session would address: What is the difference between repatriation and restitution? How can claims be made? What does one do to process a repatriation or restitution at your institution? What can we learn from national legislation such as NAGPRA or international frameworks (non-binding) such as the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi Confiscated Art for navigating the return of other objects? During this session, the speakers will share case studies from their institutions to provide some groundwork for others in the field.
Standing Out in the Crowd: Job Applications & Resume Edit-a-thon	Whether you are an emerging or experienced professional, join this hands-on workshop where you will learn how to adapt in the evolving job market and walk away with a refreshed resume. In this informative and action-centered session, hiring managers and HR representatives will discuss current trends in hiring practices and answer your burning questions, such as how to stand out in the hiring process. Following the discussion, participants will split into breakout groups to peer edit each other's resumes. The moderators will cycle through during the breakout portion to answer any questions and offer advice. In this session, you will expand your understanding of what happens behind-the-scenes in the hiring process, connect with colleagues, and leave with a stronger resume in-hand.
Sustainability from the Registrar Point of View: an Italian case-study about "Fondazione	In 2019, through its corporate art collection, the Italian bank foundation Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Pescia created the project Pistoia Musei (aka PM) as a city-wide museum system, based on four venues inside the city centre. As a private, young and small-scale institution, PM identifies sustainability as an asset in terms of production of

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
Pistoia Musei” project	cultural activities and management of both financial and human resources. Exhibitions have a strong connection with the local community: as well as private collectors and religious institutions, public museums in the city have also been major lenders. Partners and co-workers such as framers, photographers, restorers and a fine art shipping company have been locally-sourced. PM’s goals are to enhance the Pistoian artistic heritage, to support the local crafts by importing new professionals with different skillsets whenever necessary, and to create value in a territory thanks to its own art. A future challenge will be to adopt an even greener approach improving the reusing of materials (pedestals, frames, crates) conserved at our warehouse. This approach has a relevant impact on the museum registration because working close to a community means a local and sustainable rethinking of the international best practices.
The Adaptive Courier	TBA
The New Code of Ethics for Collections Professionals	The Code of Ethics for Collections Professionals is an empowering guide for all collections care professionals. This new code replaces the 1984 Code of Ethics for Registrars. In 2020 the Code of Ethics Revision Task Force formed as a joint venture between members of the AAM’s Collections Stewardship Professional Network (CSAAM) and the Association of Registrars and Collections Specialist (ARCS) to create a broad and inclusive document. The new code addresses issues collections professionals face in their day to day work including: provenance and collecting; access to collections and records; acquisition, accession, deaccession, and disposal; confidentiality; and conflicts of interest. Changes in the field over the past 35 years led to many additions to the ethical guidance including: cultural patrimony; restitution and repatriation; diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion; human remains in collections; the role of traditional knowledge; professional service; and outreach. This session will be insightful for anyone who works with collections, including archivists, collections managers, collections volunteers, conservators, curators, librarians, preparators, and registrars.
Unprecedented Times: A Case Study in Rapid Response Collections and Exhibits	If museums are going to evolve into spaces that are valuable to their community and able to compete in an age of the internet, rapid response collecting and exhibits that use these collections are crucial—but these projects don’t come without their obstacles. Using a time-sensitive exhibit from the Museum of Boulder as a case study, this presentation will explore the benefits of a rapid response philosophy and why it’s crucial to the survival of museums, as well as the challenges it can present. Ultimately, it is a strategy available to nearly every museum, regardless of size or type, and this presentation will share how museums can create systems to develop a rapid response procedure according to their capacity.
Want a new database? C-M-Yes Please:	Choosing a new collections management system is a big decision that impacts both staff and visitors. Technology and capabilities are evolving quickly, and numerous factors must be considered that effect work flow,

2021 ARCS Virtual Conference

Session Descriptions

*Subject to Change

Session Title	Description
Practical help in Selecting a new CMS	accessibility, interpretation, and budget. This panel consists of representatives from three institutions that recently selected and implemented a new CMS and want to share experience, advice, and lessons learned. The institutions vary in size and scope, including history, libraries, archives, and modern art, giving a wide range of relevance in our case studies. The presentation will cover three main areas: getting your institution prepared to make a decision, system selection and stand up, and daily work with a new system. For preparation, we will discuss early steps in the process: identifying your institution's needs, getting institutional buy-in, and comparing vendors. For selection, we will talk about narrowing the vendor field, selecting a vendor, and what the process is like to stand up the new system. Finally, we'll share our experiences and growing pains once the system is live and what you can expect from staff and the public.