

**Museums Alaska Sessions & Workshops  
2011 Annual Conference  
Valdez, Alaska**

**Collections Management Mount Making Workshop(\$)**

**Darian LaTocha, Collections Manager, Anchorage Museum**

Students will present their institutions storage areas and storage issues and we will discuss problems and needs. Session will begin with a PowerPoint presentation giving examples of Collections Management practices for small museums and will attempt to cover a wide spectrum from facility maintenance to storage rooms to shelving to individual mounts for objects. Types of archival material to use when storing collections items, types of storage mounts commonly used in collections. Following the presentation and examples, students will create their own archival storage mounts learned from examples in the class.

9 am to 4 pm; Workshop limited to 10 students; Students will receive tool-kit

**DON'T PANIC! Planning for Museum Emergencies Big and Small (\$)**

**C.J. Jones; Scott Carrlee, Alaska State Museum; and Molly Conley**

How do you deal with situations in your museum that put people and collections at risk? This seminar will give you the skills to organize any emergency that may happen in your museum. You will learn how to evaluate potential risks and damage to collections. In the afternoon we will learn about fire extinguishers then put these skills to work practicing with a real life scenario.

9 am to 12 pm: Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response; 1:30 to 4:30: Practicum at Valdez Fire Department.

There is no limit to the number of students who may attend this workshop.

**Workshop: Museum Labeling of Collections (\$)**

**Ellen Carrlee, Alaska State Museum**

Presentation will begin with a description of the fundamental goals and philosophy of labeling, AAM standards, tips and tricks of the "paper" method used by many museums, selection of adhesive type

based on the pros and cons of each, and troubleshooting how to label different materials. Each participant will receive a manual and kit with all the supplies needed to label most kinds of collections. The kit will be used to practice on examples provided in order to identify and resolve any areas of confusion.

Session Limited to 24 students; Students will receive a tool kit.

### **Nuts and Bolts of Copyright for Museums and Archives**

**Rachelle V. Browne, Smithsonian Institution Associate General Counsel**

Copyright plays a central role in museums and archives and has implications for a broad range of activities from exhibitions, collection management, publications and web sites to public programs and revenue generation. This introductory session on copyright law intends to provide an understanding of this complex legal area by addressing the basics, specifically, the nature of copyright, copyright ownership, the duration of copyright, the rights of copyright owners, copyright transfers and the limitations on a copyright owner's rights.

### **Navigating the Challenges of Shipping in Alaska**

**Ryan Kenny, Anchorage Museum; Carmen Bria, Western Center for the Conservation of Fine Arts**

Shipping art and artifacts can be one of the most challenging enterprises for a museum in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Balancing safety with cost-efficiency can be difficult for any museum, and this is only compounded in Alaska, where efforts to share cultural treasures with communities large and small can easily be hampered by logistical concerns. Presenters from Alaskan museums and the private sector will share the successes and challenges they have experienced shipping artwork, loans, and exhibits large and small within Alaska and elsewhere. Topics covered will include packing techniques, acting as a courier, shipping methods, shipping culturally sensitive artifacts and regalia, and tips for arranging a successful loan.

### **Contemporary Alaska Art Collecting by Alaska Museums**

**Mike Hawfield, Kenai Peninsula College/ UAA**

The issue I want to focus on is the ethical place of art that is traditional Native in appearance and media but created by a non-Native artist (not posing as a Native artist. We actually have a number of issues like this come up every year and often bring us perilously close to the world of "knock-off" art that the Silver Hands movement fights.

### **What They Didn't Teach You in Museum School**

**Aurora Lang, Cordova Historical Museum; Cathy Sherman, Cordova Historical Museum; Wendy Goldstein, Maxine & Jesse Whitney Museum**

This session will tackle those subjects not normally covered in Museum Education classes but are just as important to know in the successful operation of a museum. We'll cover the following everyday topics with humor and common sense approaches to problems. Including: 1) Customer Service Tips; 2) A safe and healthy work environment; 3) Welcoming Kids Successfully; and last but certainly not least 4) Managing Public Restrooms. A 45 minute session of practical stuff.

### **Found Objects: Why Provenance Still Matters**

**Rachelle V. Browne, Smithsonian Institution**

When archaeological, science, natural history, literary or art objects are taken from their original sites, whether an abandoned building or collection, governmental or tribal land, or the sea, with no or unclear provenance, context may be lost and also the right of a museum or archive to keep the object in the future. This session will address what are the right questions to ask when a found object is presented for acquisition, who owns the found object, what are the legal risks in accepting the object, how those risks can be minimized, and why provenance matters from both a legal and ethical perspective.

### **Digital Preservation for Audiovisual Media**

**Bob Curtis-Johnson, SummitDay Media**

The vast majority of media preservation being performed these days is digital, but what are the risks? How do we determine appropriate file formats for our original media? Is it safe and cost-efficient to digitize in-house? What are the risks of shipping media out to preservation labs? Managing all the needs of our original audiovisual materials can be a daunting challenge. This session will overview the requirements of a/v media with a focus on digital preservation. Learn to select when analog or digital techniques are preferred, delve into the complexities of digital media file formats, find out why certain formats must be transferred in the next five years (and which formats), and discover how one simple change in storage environment can double the life of movie films.

### **New Facility Development and Community Based Capital Campaigns; Designing the Product and the Process.**

**Bob Banghart, Alaska State Museum; Cathy Sherman, Cordova Historical Museum; Diane Converse, Pratt Museum; Toby Sullivan, Kodiak Maritime Museum**

Taking on a major building project can be a daunting task and often involves a capital campaign to finance design and construction. What does an organization need to execute a capital project successfully? Is your organization and community prepared to undertake the task from concept through completion? How deep is the community commitment for moving forward with a new or renovated facility project?

When is the right time? Who are the people that can carry the work forward? Formatted as a panel discussion, this session will discuss the 3Ds of facilities planning, Desire, Design and Development.

### **Perspectives on Emerging Copyright Law and Policy**

**Moderator: Rachelle V. Browne, Associate General Counsel, Smithsonian Institution**

**Presenters: Arlene Schmuland, Head, Archives & Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage; Bob Forshaw, Project Coordinator, Alaska Digital Project, Alaska State Library; Bob Medinger, Executive Director, Sitka Historical Society and Museum; Holly Cusack-McVeigh, Pratt Museum**

This session will provide an overview of legal and policy issues pertaining to copyright including fair use, orphan works, digitization and licensing. Panelists will discuss their perspectives on these and other copyright issues and best practices that may help your museum or archive navigate ahead.

### **How to Look at a Painting for Condition**

**Carmen Bria, Director and Chief Conservator, Western Center for the Conservation of Fine Arts [WCCFA], Denver, Colorado**

As the title suggests, this session will provide information on the various ways one can look at a painting not as an aesthetic object to enjoy but as a structure or combination of layers to be deconstructed, examined, and studied in order to determine its condition. Conservators do this all the time prior to any conservation or restoration treatment because one has to know the condition of an object before an effective treatment plan can be devised. The talk will describe the multi-layered structure of a painting, where and how problems with that structure can occur, and some simple ways to best see the condition problems.

### **Detailed Conservation Surveys: What They Are, How to Make Them Successful, and How They Can Benefit Your Museum**

**Monica Shah, Anchorage Museum; Aurora Lang, Cordova Historical Museum**

The Anchorage Museum received funding from the IMLS to perform a detailed conservation assessment of over 1,300 objects in our Alaska History Gallery. A team of professional conservators conducted a detailed survey in order to assess the physical condition of this sub-collection, identify individual conservation problems, and prioritize conservation needs. The assessment encompassed treatment recommendations and estimates, which when combined with curatorial priority, determined whether an object may return to long-term exhibit, should be retired to storage, or needs treatment before additional exhibition. In addition to the survey, we took the opportunity to bring 4 museum professionals from smaller institutions in Alaska to shadow the Survey Team, to learn about assessments and their role in care of collections. During this session, I will present the work we did, give tips on making a survey successful, and explain how these types of surveys can help in long-term preservation and collections care.

### **Q&A on Museum Matters**

**Scott Carrlee, Alaska State Museum**

This perennial favorite always promises a lively session on museum topics that are of interest to a broad audience. Bring a question for an answer or your favorite topic of the moment for a peer to peer conversation. All in all, it is a great conversation amongst museum professionals. There is always room for your input or you can just sit back and enjoy the exchange

### **Retrospective on the Past 10 Years in Alaska Museums**

**Marjorie Schwarzer, University of Washington; Scott Carrlee, Alaska State Museum**