

# Registrar's Quarterly

Winter 2024



Rewinding Up With a  
New Board



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Message from the new RC-WR Chair

Message to the  
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State Updates

COVER CREDIT:

*Red Mesa* by Dorothy Fratt, 1977.  
Part of Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art's  
new exhibit *Color Mirage*, February 3–July 21, 2024.

Collection of the Scottsdale Museum of  
Contemporary Art.

*See full story in Arizona state update, page 8.*

MESSAGE  
FROM  
THE  
NEW  
CHAIR



HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

RC-WR MEMBERS,

I hope the winter and holidays have been kind to all of you and that you have all had an opportunity to at least take a few days to relax.

The board and I are starting to get settled into our new (or continuing) positions. I am looking forward to all we have in store. We've already discussed some changes that will be made. One of the changes is in regards to dues, please read on for the latest update.

I attended the ARCS conference in Montreal in November. It was a great opportunity to network with like-minded professionals and it was nice to see the clear shift to repatriation and cultural sovereignty becoming wide-spread within our field.

I look forward to the new year and my role on the new board.

With Gratitude,  
Melanie Deer

Collections Manager and  
Assistant NAGPRA Coordinator  
for Cultural Items at the  
Center for Archaeology and  
Society Repository,  
Arizona State University,  
Tempe, Arizona

RC-WR Chair  
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# The 75

## Top Art World Professionals

The **October 2023 Edition of Art News** selected 75 of the World's top Art Professionals. The list included top Gallerists, Art Consultants, Conservators, Art Attorneys, Art Photographers, and 6 Art Shippers out of more than 200 Worldwide.

**"We are honored to have been included with these prestigious Art Professionals."**

– Bryan Cooke, Cooke's Crating and Fine Art Transportation

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This Los Angeles company, offering specialized moving and storage since 1975, is the go-to for top museums that need to move artworks and its international services cover 35 countries. Cooke's offers customs expediting, import/export documentation, airport supervision, containerized ocean shipments, domestic and international couriers, armed guard escorts, a San Francisco–LA shuttle, and more than 100,000 square feet of highly secure storage."

– Art News



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# MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The RC-WR Board (Melanie Deer, Stephanie Mohr, Melanie Tran, and Lydia Heins) is writing this note to inform you of a change to the membership dues structure starting on March 1, 2024.

There have been years of discussions across several boards and we have decided that it is finally time to update the dues structure.

Starting March 1st, the rates will be:

Student: \$15/year

Volunteer: \$15/year

Professional: \$25/year

We are following the tiered example set by other organizations in the hope that a less expensive rate will encourage Students and Volunteers to continue to learn. We are increasing the Professional rate to reflect the changing economy. However, we looked at several state organizations and believe we still offer a reasonable rate for a professional organization.

We regret the fee increase, but such are the times. Please consider renewing before March 1, 2024.

Thank you for your understanding,

Your RC-WR Board





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## ALASKA

—Amanda Lancaster

Every object in a museum holds many stories and diverse perspectives. These stories are what make objects in museums important; they are the reason objects are collected by museums. *Objects Uncovered*, on exhibit through April 2024, presents and explores the different stories associated with objects in the **Kodiak History Museum** collections.



▲ Objects on display, courtesy the Kodiak History Museum

*Objects Uncovered* features 14 objects on display with multiple stories. All the stories were provided by Kodiak community members through a series of public focus groups in August 2023. Visitors to the exhibit are invited to share their thoughts and stories as part of the exhibit.

Kodiak History Museum creates temporary exhibits in partnership with Kodiak community members. Each exhibit is created to reflect what is important to the Kodiak community at the time and is meant to unpack Kodiak's complex history. The result of this process is an exhibit that is of, by, and for all of Kodiak.

This exhibit is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

See more here: <https://kodiakhistorymuseum.org/objects-uncovered-exhibit/>

From landing kickflips and "ollies" in parking garages to gliding through fresh powder on mountain ridges, Alaska snowboarders and skateboarders have brought their

own style to the streets and slopes. With archival images, street photography, films, and boards created by Alaska designers, *Northern Boarders*, on exhibit May 3, 2024 through February 16, 2025 at the **Anchorage Museum**, celebrates and elevates board culture in Alaska.

See more here: <https://www.anchagemuseum.org/exhibits/northern-boarders/>

The **Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center** in Fairbanks was awarded funding from the Museums Alaska Collections Management Fund (made possible with support from Rasmuson Foundation). The funding will be used to retain an exhibits expert to review existing displays, engage with community partners, and facilitate feedback so that an exhibit plan can be developed to update outdated exhibitions.

See more here: <https://www.morrithompsoncenter.org>







## ARIZONA

—Lindsey Vogel-Teeter

**Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art** will celebrate its 25th anniversary on February 14, 2024. The Museum is celebrating with two new exhibition openings.

▲ *Oleaje* (Groundswell), February 10–August 4, 2024, features new large-scale installation (image above) works by Bolivian-born artist Carolina Aranibar-Fernandez that map and memorialize the rippling effects of a coercive global trade industry.

*Color Mirage*, February 3–July 21, 2024, is the first major U.S. museum exhibition of the prolific yet under-recognized American painter Dorothy Fratt. Spanning more than five decades of the artist's oeuvre, the exhibition will present a selection of foundational early works and ephemera alongside numerous paintings that exemplify Fratt's vibrant and distinct style of abstraction.

See Dorothy Fratt's, *Red Mesa*, 1977, on the cover of this newsletter.

On November 6, 2023 the **S'edav Va'aki Museum** (formerly Pueblo Grande Museum), in Phoenix, hosted a celebration of its name change with a renaming ceremony and mural reveal. The celebration was attended by Tribal leaders and local government officials.

The new mural is entitled "Legacy" by O'odham artist Thomas "Breeze" Marcus. It emphasizes the ongoing connection between ancestral O'odham who lived at the village of S'edav Va'aki and modern O'odham com-

munities who continue to thrive in Arizona. The mural is located on a main building along the path to the Museum's entrance and has greatly enhanced the visual appeal and interpretation of the space.



▲ Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRP-MIC) leadership and local government officials at the unveiling of the new mural "Legacy" at S'edav Va'aki Museum.

Left to right: SRPMIC Tribal Historic Officer Shane Anton, SRPMIC President Martin Harvier, Phoenix Councilwoman Keshia Hodge Washington, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, SRPMIC Council Member Mikah Carlos, SRPMIC Council Member Jacob Butler, painter/muralist Thomas "Breeze" Marcus, SRPMIC Council Member Deanna Scabby, GRIC Council Member Jennifer Allison.



## HAWAII

Some Hawaiian members of the collections profession are still managing salvage from the fires that hit Hawaii hard in August 2023. Our hearts continue to go out to them.

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## IDAHO

—Olivia Terry

In November, the **Idaho State Museum** installed the temporary exhibit *Exhibiting Curiosity*. The exhibit dives into the Idaho State Historical Society's collections, exploring the questions of *why and what do we collect and how do artifacts become part of the collection?* Dozens of artifacts were put on display to showcase their place in Idaho's history, whether they're memory keepers, artifacts of innovation, or representative of changing communities. The exhibit will be on display until early May 2024.

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The **Latah County Historical Society** is continuing an ongoing effort to fundraise for the restoration of the windows of the famous Moscow McConnell Mansion. Built in 1886 as a private residence, the mansion has a total of forty-one windows! To meet their fundraising goal, LCHS is selling 2024 calendars that feature artwork of Latah County eateries and watering-holes by local watercolor artist Bobbi Kelly. LCHS has also received three grants; one from the Idaho Heritage Trust to assist with preservation work on the McConnell Mansion's windows, the Gem State Grant from the Idaho Humanities Council will be utilized to create a strategic plan, and their final recent grant, from Stepping Stones, Inc. will be used to purchase tablets and create more accessibility for visitors.

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At the **Wood River Museum of History and Culture**, Brigid Miller and Ellie Norman joined as new staff members in the summer and fall of 2023. Brigid takes on the role as the Museum's Community Engagement Manager, responsible for programming. Brigid brings new insight with her master's degree in public history and cultural heritage she received from Trinity College in Dublin. Ellie Norman, the new Collections Specialist, relocated from Madison, Wisconsin, and recently received her master's degree in museum studies from Syracuse University. She quickly helped to tackle moving the museum's collection of an estimated 7,000 artifacts to newly installed compact shelving into a storage facility in the same building as the exhibition galleries.

In addition, The Community Library, the Wood River Museum's parent organization, was awarded an Idaho Humanities Council Gem State Grant of \$10,000 for the Museum's Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Outreach Initiative. The grant enables a project composed of a series of programs designed to help grow the Library and Museum's relationship with the Tribes Language and Culture Preservation Department. The series will amplify the history, stories, and ongoing culture of the Shoshone-Bannock peoples in the central Idaho area of their ancestral homelands.

## NEVADA

—Cynthia Sanford

The **Neon Museum** has several new tours available for visitors. During the day, they offer *Illuminating Las Vegas. Shining A Spotlight On New Stories in the Neon Boneyard*. The evening tours include *History Brought to Light. The Stories of Las Vegas Past and Present* and, starting in February, *Viva Las Vegas Movies! Exploring Las Vegas' Presence on the Big Screen*.

Upcoming at the **John and Geraldine Lilley Museum of Art** at the University of Nevada, Reno, is Emerald Bay, a mural project by Connor Fogal that will be installed starting January 15th. Starting on February 26th, the museum will be hosting the exhibit *The Counter/Self*.

## OREGON

—Meg Glazier-Anderson

A new exhibit, *Illumination*, opened during the Second Friday Art Walk on December 8th at the **Springfield History Museum**. The exhibit features stories and photographs of eight contemporary Springfield community members exploring Black and African history and experience in the area. The museum will close in January for six months to preserve vulnerable items in its collection. During this time, the exhibit will be displayed in the museum's front windows with other pop-up exhibits at Springfield City Hall.

In early November, Museums of the Gorge networking and professional development group hosted a meeting at the **History Museum of Hood River County** with a presentation on Museum Collections Hazards featuring speaker, Averie Foster, an Occupational Health Consultant with OSHA. Averie has been managing a project consulting on hazards and hazard mitigation in museum collection objects and practices.

If you are in Oregon/Washington and would like Averie Foster to visit your museum, please contact her at [Averie.J.FOSTER@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:Averie.J.FOSTER@dcbs.oregon.gov)

Image courtesy of the Washington County Sheriff's Office



▲ *The Underwater Forests—Oregon's Kelp Ecosystems* exhibit opened in October at the University of Oregon's **Museum of Natural and Cultural History**. The exhibit gives viewers a chance to dive into Oregon's dynamic and fragile kelp ecosystems and learn about the animals that call it home. Viewers can also learn about the life cycle of kelp, invasive species that threaten underwater forests and the destabilization of crucial Oregonian ecosystems. The exhibit is on view through fall 2024 and viewable online.

▲ The **Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals** in Hillsboro was hit with devastating news after a theft occurred at the museum in the early hours of December 24th. A burglar broke in and stole thousands of dollars' worth of gold from a single display case (image above). The Washington County Sheriff's Office is still working to track down the thief.

The **Oregon Historical Society** in Portland is opening an exhibit about Ivan Collins, an accomplished model-maker who created historically accurate models of horse-drawn vehicles using painstaking research to ensure that every detail was authentic. Built at 1/8 scale, his models represented those used in the settling of the western United States, particularly Oregon. Sixty of Collins' models were donated to the museum after his death in 1971.



▲ To view the entire Ivan Collins collection of miniatures at OHS, including the wagon model above, visit [https://museumcollection.ohs.org/argus/ohs/Portal/portal.aspx?lang=en-US&p\\_AAAB=tab3&p\\_AABC=tab2&p\\_AAGO=tab9&d=d](https://museumcollection.ohs.org/argus/ohs/Portal/portal.aspx?lang=en-US&p_AAAB=tab3&p_AABC=tab2&p_AAGO=tab9&d=d)

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## UTAH

—Hannah Barrett

The Utah Historical Society is preparing for the opening of the new **Museum of Utah**, currently under construction behind the state capitol building, and scheduled to open in March of 2026. This will be the first time the state of Utah has its own history museum! The new multi-purpose building will house storage for the state’s history collection and the state’s art collection, as well as offices and meeting spaces for other state entities. Team members are working with Utah Tribal Leaders and potential loan partners to flesh out various planned exhibits that will help tell the story of Utah. The museum will also feature rotating displays from smaller museums and cultural organizations around the state, encouraging visitors to explore beyond the capitol complex.

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Registrars at the **Church History Museum** were busy during 2023 Q4 conducting routine collection inventory both on-site and off. Collections-based trips were taken to central and southern Utah and to Hamilton, New Zealand to the Matthew Cowley Pacific Church History

Centre. While in New Zealand, Maggie Leak and other CHM staff made several museum visits and met with museum professionals to learn about Māori collections and interpretation. CHM registrars are also busy preparing for upcoming exhibitions opening in 2024–2026.

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## WASHINGTON

—Nives Mestrovic

Starting February 3, and running through April 21, 2024, the **Museum of History & Industry** (MOHAI) will host the exhibit *100 Years of Junior League of Seattle: Explore the Northwest Art Project*. This exhibit celebrates 100 years of Junior League’s volunteer service to the community and will feature a selection of works from their enduring art program that started in the 1960s. Featured Seattle artists include George Tsutakawa, Jacob Lawrence, and Barbara Earl Thomas. MOHAI has also recently hired a Temporary Digital Archivist to help us create a digital preservation program, prioritizing the preservation of born-digital photographs on a large collection of optical discs from the early 2000s.

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Opening on January 27, 2024, at the **Frye Art Museum** is the exhibition *Jessica Jackson Hutchins: Wrecked and Righteous*. Hutchins has been plumbing the relationship between art and everyday life for nearly thirty years, playfully melding materials with an intuitive, “by any means necessary” approach to traditional mediums and found objects alike. Based in Portland, Oregon, Hutchins gained international recognition for her expressive sculptural assemblages combining castoff household items with handmade elements to redefine value and beauty. In 2016, her work expanded into fused glass, including vibrant, collage-like windows that bring a form associated with exalted spiritual spaces into the secular realm.

This exhibition comprises works created since the late 1990s and, in its non-chronological presentation, surveys Hutchins’s pursuit of immediacy and communion through art, beginning in the museum’s rotunda entryway with a richly textured, two-story fused-glass window commissioned for the occasion.





▲ *Wishlist*, Jessica Jackson Hutchins, 2015  
Sofa, paper-mâché, collage, resin, glazed ceramic  
Sofa: 28 x 92 x 36 in.;  
wall: 61 x 85 x 9 in.  
Courtesy of the artist. Photograph: Mario Gallucci

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In November 2023, Washington state collections care professionals visited the collections storage spaces of the Museum of Flight in Seattle. Special thanks to our RC-WR members, Sarah Frederick (Collections Manager), Kathrine Browne (Collections Registrar), and Courtney Sprague (Museum Collections Technician) for housing the tour.