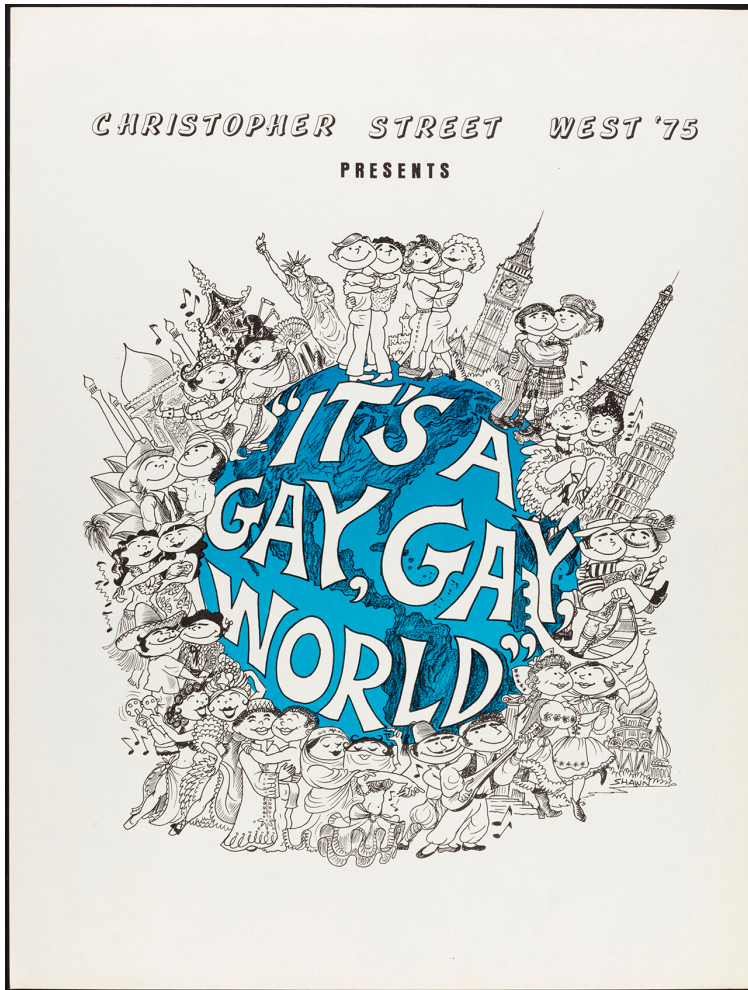


# SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVISTS NEWSLETTER

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Christopher Street West, Los Angeles pride parade poster, 1975.

## Poster Collection Highlights 60 Years of Pride in California

The ONE Archives at the USC Libraries recently completed cataloging and digitization of graphic materials from its archives, providing access to 60 years of LGBTQ visual history on the USC Digital Library. Thanks to a generous grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources' (CLIR) Digitizing Hidden Collections program, over 4200 posters and demonstration signs are digitized, most of which are available to the public for the first time. The images span the 1950s-2010s and document a variety of topics, including pride celebrations, AIDS/HIV education, LGBTQ rights, the women's movement, nightlife, arts, media, and other political movements.

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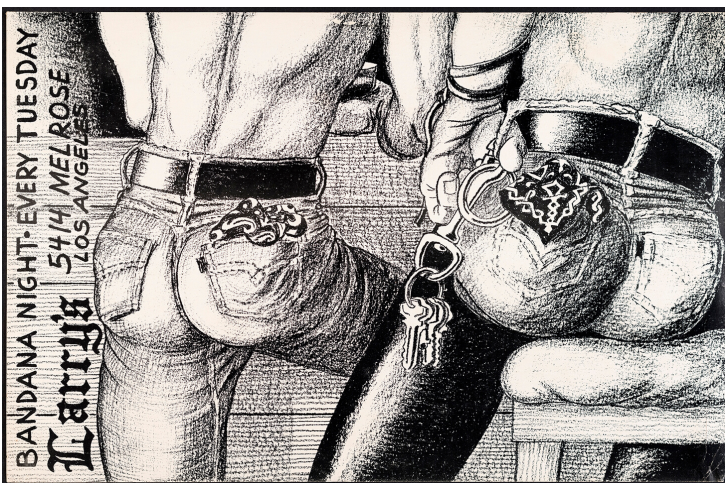
SCA Business



Gay Liberation Front, Alpine County separatist community poster, 1970.

One of the highlights in this collection is hundreds of LGBTQ pride parade posters from around the country. This summer marks the 50th anniversary of the first pride parade and marches in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York, all of which were first held in June 1970 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall uprisings. ONE's collection of pride posters reveals the evolution of pride celebrations throughout the United States, with posters from dozens of cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, New York, Atlanta, New Orleans, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Baltimore, Birmingham, Miami, and Las Vegas.

The history of LGBTQ political movements in California is also a strength of this collection. Several posters document the campaigns against anti-LGBTQ legislation, such as Prop 64 LaRouche Initiative (1986) and Prop 6 Briggs Initiative (1978), which would have banned LGBTQ people from working in public schools. Posters created by the Gay Liberation Front/LA document the group's activities, such as "touch-ins" at bars along Santa Monica Blvd., "gay-ins" held in Griffith Park, and an attempt in 1970 to create a gay and lesbian separatist community in Alpine County. In addition, hundreds of demonstration signs from ACT UP/Los Angeles reveal the visual strategies used to demand media attention, change public policy, and increase support for people living with HIV and AIDS.



Larry's Bar, Los Angeles, bandana night, c. 1976-1979.

The digitized materials also contain posters of LGBTQ social life and cultural organizations, including choruses, drag pageants, sports leagues, motorcycle clubs, and festivals. In particular, the collection consists of hundreds of posters originally displayed in LGBTQ bars, nightclubs, and discos around the country, most of which are no longer operating. These posters not only show the social and fashion trends of their time, but they also reveal a network of lesser known gay erotic artists and the development of safer sex messaging targeted to LGBTQ communities. The materials digitized through this project bring to light the hidden histories of LGBTQ communities and reveal the breadth of contributions in advancing the struggle for LGBTQ equality.

*Loni Shibuyama*

*ONE Archives at the USC Libraries*

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**[Note: As the message below was submitted prior to the death of George Floyd and the subsequent protests that have taken place to end police brutality and bring about the radical changes necessary to dismantle structural racism, I would like to first invite the membership to read the SCA Board's Statement in Solidarity with Black Lives Matter on page 17.]**

My deepest hope is that this letter finds you all healthy and safe. Our worlds, both personal and professional, have been and continue to be radically altered in ways we could never have imagined; many of us are still adjusting to new realities, losses and difficult transitions. But in the midst of the health crisis of COVID-19, I am inspired to see that we continue, as archivists, to bear witness to and record the inequities and trauma in our communities by soliciting stories from workers, students, and the public at large, thereby amplifying their present experiences. Every week, the number of these projects expands; within the CSU system alone, eight different projects have been launched as of May 31, and many other institutions have launched projects as well. Your fast work and thoughtful approaches will document this moment as few other global events in history have been documented in real time.

A more specific professional loss felt by us all was the cancellation of the Western Archivists Meeting. Sadly, as news of the devastation caused by COVID-19 began to spread and San Francisco took the prescient step of ordering a shelter-in-place before much of the nation, the leadership of the four regional organizations and the Local Arrangements Committee recognized that the meeting would not be able to go forward as planned. I want to acknowledge the incredibly hard work that the Program Committee, the Local Arrangements Committee, and the leadership of the western regional organizations put into both the planning for, and the dissolution of, the Western Archivists Meeting. The thoughtfulness of the Program Committee, the creative and engaging proposals submitted by the members of all of the organizations involved, and the heavy lifting of planning for such an event by our Local Arrangements Committee showed what a fully engaged and committed membership looks like. The great accomplishments we achieved are no less valuable because of the meeting's cancellation.

We are now, of course, in a new era, struggling to maintain our professional work while wrestling with the inequities in our institutions and in our personal lives that have been further exposed by the pandemic. Having worked for many years in archives, I have seen firsthand the struggles to keep our institutions functioning during times of scarcity, and the devastating impact that downturns can have when that struggle results in layoffs, furloughs and cuts to already-low salaries. Having been in positions of precarity throughout most of my career, including in my present position, I'm acutely aware of the anxiety and fear that comes from holding a job that is tied to funding that could disappear in the coming months. I am grateful that in this moment, we are reaching out to one another, supporting one another, and fighting for our colleagues in the ways that we are able. I'd like to highlight in particular the list shared recently by the [Los Angeles Archivists Collective \(LAAC\) COVID-19 Community Resources for Archivists](#). Please refer to it, add to it, and share it broadly, as it is a perfect example of how our community harnesses collective energy to share information and show empathy towards one another. I'm proud too of the work my fellow archivists are doing to highlight those inequities that persist within our cultural heritage institutions, government agencies, and universities. We must continue to press on these issues, even as raising our voices may not feel safe.

(continued on page 4)

To that end, it will be timely to hear from our own Task Force on Labor Issues, led in the coming year by Courtney Dean and George Thompson, and to increase advocacy on behalf of our members, in solidarity with our allies in national and regional organizations. To support your continued professional development needs, SCA's Education Committee—chaired by Adrienne Storey (Northern California), Mallory Furnier (Southern California) and Christine Kim (Online)—is working hard to transition our workshops to a virtual environment. You can look forward as well to our earlier webinars being published online in the coming months.

Before signing off, I want to extend my deepest thanks to outgoing Past President Teresa Mora, whose contributions to SCA cannot be overstated; to Liz Phillips, our outgoing Treasurer, whose thoughtful guidance and fiscal responsibility ensures that SCA's financial standing remains solid, despite the recent downturn; and for the commitment and dedication of Dee Dee Kramer as our outgoing Member At Large. I also would like to thank our outgoing committee members, as it is their heavy lifting that keeps SCA moving forward, as we enter our 50th year: Jennifer Martinez Wormser (Awards), Kate Dundon (Development), and Genevieve Preston (Government Affairs). Finally, recognizing that many of you are struggling due to job loss and family needs, the Executive Board voted to contribute funds to the [SAA Foundation's Archival Workers Emergency Fund](#). If you can afford to, please contribute; if you are in need, please apply. Wishing you all continued good health, safety, and security,

*Tanya Hollis*  
SCA President



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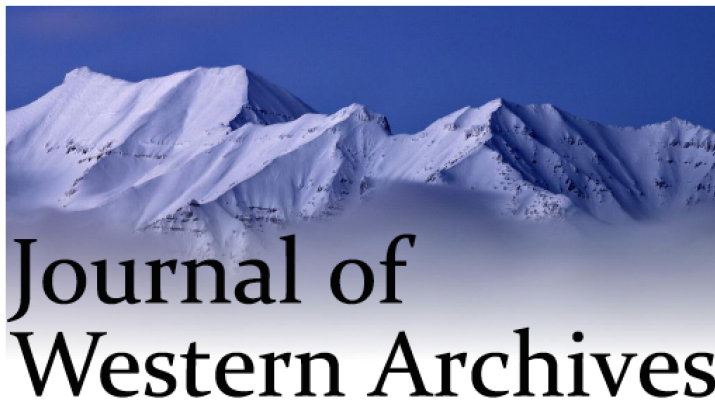
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# Journal of Western Archives

The *Journal of Western Archives* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal sponsored by Western regional archival organizations. The journal focuses on contemporary issues and developments in the archival and curatorial fields, particularly as they affect Western archives and manuscript repositories.

## Journal Contents

The *Journal of Western Archives* gives archivists, manuscript curators, and graduate students in the American West a place to publish on topics of particular interest and relevance to them. The journal features research articles, case studies, and review essays on regional topics. These include:

- Important Western regional issues in archives and manuscript repositories;
- Unique archival developments in the western United States;
- Technological innovations and their effect on archival theory and practice;
- The history and development of the archival and curatorial professions in the American West;
- Collaborative efforts and projects between various cultural institutions.

## Contributing to the Journal

If you are interested in contributing to the journal or serving as a peer reviewer for journal content, please contact the managing editor, John Murphy ([john\\_m\\_murphy@byu.edu](mailto:john_m_murphy@byu.edu)). Article submissions may also be made online at the journal website.

# JWA

<http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/westernarchives/>

## The Society of California Archivists, Inc.

The Society of California Archivists, Inc. exists to support and develop those who collect, care for, and provide access to the documentary heritage of California and adjoining areas. To this end it:

1. acts as a vehicle for dissemination of information about archival collections, issues, and methodology to the profession and the public;
2. provides a forum for the discussion of matters related to the creation, preservation, and use of historical documents;
3. develops, offers and supports archival education programs;
4. cooperates with individuals and organizations on matters of common concern; and
5. advocates the identification, collection, preservation, use, and appreciation of historical records and manuscripts.

The SCA Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. All submissions, advertisements for e newsletter should be directed to the Editors of the Newsletter:

Newsletter Editors  
The Bancroft Library  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California 94720-6000  
Email(s): [newsletter@calarchivists.org](mailto:newsletter@calarchivists.org)

Copy Deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, & June 1

Format for Submissions: Articles and other items submitted for consideration should be sent via e-mail attachment.

SCA Newsletter editors  
Amanda Mack, Sue Luftschein, and Patricia Delara



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# COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

## Documenting a Pandemic from Your Living Room: Preserving COVID-19 Responses

This collection announcement is to introduce our efforts in preserving and making accessible the born digital records of the University of San Francisco's COVID-19 response while sheltering in place. Starting in March 2020, while working remotely, the Special Collections & University Archives department at the University of San Francisco's Gleeson Library began to capture, track, and catalog born digital records that tell the story of the USF community reaction to the Coronavirus pandemic. *The USF COVID-19 Response Collection* documents the developing response by USF administration, faculty, staff, and students to this unprecedented situation. The collection, a collaboration between Special Collections & University Archives, Digital Collections, and the Scholarship Repository departments includes official administration communications, news items, faculty panel discussions, student-created media, web pages and social media posts. Our main goal is to preserve and make accessible an enduring resource for educators, researchers, students, and the public. We have already seen interest from USF faculty on using the collection in upcoming courses and research projects. We hope to generate additional interest in the collection from researchers and the community.

Since March, during strict shelter in place orders, we have developed completely new workflows for processing and describing born digital materials and have created accessible, interlinked collection records using CONTENTdm. All the while from our "home offices," we continue to build the collection as new content is being generated, informing our program on feasible electronic records management practices.

Future goals of the project include keeping an eye towards capturing diverse perspectives and reactions, configuring a user submission process, and designing digital humanities projects with educators that utilize the collection. There is also great potential to create collaborative research projects with other institutions on best practices for preserving websites and social media or how to archive events in real-time. Our project is currently included in the International Internet Preservation Consortium's *Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Collection* in Archive-it, listed in the SAA Web Archiving Section's project inventory, and recorded in Documenting the Now's *Documenting COVID-19* project list. If you are interested in collaborating with us, please contact the University Archivist at University of San Francisco.

To view the USF COVID-19 Response Collection, please [see our digital collections page](#).

Annie Reid  
University Archivist  
University of San Francisco,  
Special Collections & University Archives  
[areid1@usfca.edu](mailto:areid1@usfca.edu)

## The Lone Mountain and Laurel Hill Cemetery Records, San Francisco: 1854-1936

Due to concerns about the COVID-19 virus and in response to state mandates, The Society of California Pioneers' museum and library remain closed to the public. Our staff is working remotely during the closure, creating free online content and open access digital resources for historians, genealogists, and students. A key, recent accomplishment is the digitization of an important collection in our archives: over twenty handwritten ledgers recording burials at Lone Mountain, an early San Francisco cemetery that was later renamed Laurel Hill. The ledgers contain a wealth of information, including the names of the dead, the date of their death, the cause of their death, their age at the time of death, where in the cemetery they were buried, as well as when or if their body was ever moved to another location. There is no record to explain how these ledgers came to be a part of our collection, but they are a very significant holding nonetheless.



**Broderick Monument in Lone Mountain Cemetery. Lawrence & Houseworth photograph, circa 1860.**

Lone Mountain was dedicated on May 30, 1854. It was renamed Laurel Hill Cemetery in 1867. The cemetery closed in the late 1930s. Over the course of two years (1939 and 1940), bodies were exhumed and moved to Cypress Lawn Cemetery in Colma, California, where they remain today.

Aspects of history are revealed in these rare and remarkable ledgers. An unprecedented spike in the number of burials during the days and weeks after April 18 confirms the scale of the 1906 earthquake and fire, while graphic descriptions entered as the causes of these deaths (such as “burnt to a crisp” and “crushed by falling bricks”) vividly recall the disaster’s horrific consequences. Many Chinese immigrants perished during the great earthquake; often they are listed in these ledgers without a name, simply as “Chinaman.” A section near the end of some volumes lists Chinese deaths together, with few additional details. Often diseases, including croup, cholera, carbolic acid poisoning, alcoholism and even beriberi, are listed as causes of death. This provides evidence of serious, ongoing health concerns in nineteenth-century San Francisco.



**The Protestant burial ground from the Catholic cemetery. Lawrence & Houseworth photograph, circa 1860.**

The [Lone Mountain/Laurel Hill Burial Records](#) were kept chronologically in ledgers. The ledgers are indexed. The index is arranged alphabetically by last name. The original ledgers and index are bound separately (and, therefore, have been digitized separately). You can access and search either or both: to search by date, begin with the ledgers; to search by name, begin with the index. The index will direct you to a ledger (by volume and page number) where the detailed burial record is entered.

These ledgers were digitized thanks to a partnership with [SF Genealogy](#) that began in 2018. A San Francisco based nonprofit, SF Genealogy is a volunteer-run organization whose “primary purpose and highest priority is to provide free internet access to genealogical and historical information.” The City and County of San Francisco lost many vital public records in the 1906 earthquake and fire, making these cemetery records all the more significant to genealogists and historians. We appreciate SF Genealogy’s assistance in making them accessible to the public online. Lists of helpful online resources for research, as well as links to entertaining online exhibitions, created by our staff since temporarily shuttering our library and museum in mid-March are located at [californiapioneers.org](http://californiapioneers.org).

*Patricia Keats*  
*Director of Library and Archives*  
*The Society of California Pioneers*

*John Hogan*  
*Exhibitions and Public Programs*  
*The Society of California Pioneers*

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## Environmental Design Archives Receives National Endowment for the Humanities Grant



**Karen Alschuler and Cathy Simon.**

The Environmental Design Archives (EDA) at the University of California, Berkeley received a \$151,586 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Collections and Reference Resources to preserve and make accessible significant source materials generated by architect Cathy Simon and urban designer Karen Alschuler of the firm Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris (SMWM). While archival repositories have long been collecting architects’ records, there are few collections of significance that highlight the collaborative and innovative approach to design that is the trademark of Simon’s and Alschuler’s careers. Their work demonstrates that design brings people together, nourishing community and urbanity by championing excellent, user-centric design, environmental stewardship, and social equity.

The records of SMWM are significant primary sources ripe for study in both traditional and evolving humanities disciplines including the shifting relationships between urban studies and economics, geography and environmental science, design and gender, community and place, and sociology and landscape. The design approach taken by SMWM results in records that contain raw data about communities, local and national policy and economy, and design development. Primary sources that enable scholars to explore further the complicated dynamics of the inner workings of large cities and all they encompass. While other architectural archives often focus on traditional architectural design, this collection represents a unique social and cultural approach to design within the built environment.

The SMWM collection is comprised of project files and drawings, firm portfolios, born-digital design files, and models. Of special concern are the born-digital records on obsolete or proprietary removable computer media. Completion of the grant project will result in an electronic finding aid, disk images of all born-digital media, and collection level bibliographic records made accessible through the Online Archive of California, the Environmental Design Archives website, OCLC, and the UC campus library system. All materials processed in this project will be available for study on-site.

**About the Environmental Design Archives:** The Environmental Design Archives is a non-profit, self-supporting research unit housed in the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley. One of the largest archival repositories of its kind west of the Mississippi, with more than 200 collections that document the work of many of the San Francisco Bay region's historically significant architects, landscape architects, planners, and designers, the EDA is committed to collecting, preserving, and providing access to the primary records of the designed environment.

**About the National Endowment for the Humanities:** Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).



## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Chris Marino  
Environmental Design Archives  
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## Claremont Launches Western Water Archives

The Claremont Colleges Library is pleased to announce the publication of the [Western Water Archives](#), the culminating deliverable of a 3-year Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Digitizing Hidden Collections grant awarded in 2016.

The Digitizing Southern California Water Resources project, also known as the CLIRWater project, was a collaborative digitization and preservation project that aimed to digitize and democratize Southern California's water history to pave new avenues for research. Archival collections from seven partner institutions are now available in a central location within the Western Water Archives. These collections originate from a variety of sources, such as federal, state and local governments, water companies, local agencies, engineers and other individuals involved in water resources development in the region from the nineteenth through the twentieth centuries. The digitized collections provide a foundation for a "distributed" digital water resource archive, as well as facilitate and support digital scholarship for researchers.

The collaborative partnership between The Claremont Colleges Library, A.K. Smiley Public Library, California State University Northridge (CSUN) Oviatt Library, California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) Water Resources Institute, the National Archives and Records Administration at Riverside, Ontario City Library, and Upland Public Library formed a regional network of Southern California private and public institutions that demonstrates our commitment to leveraging our individual strengths (collections, subject knowledge, and professional expertise) and technical infrastructures towards the open proliferation of water heritage collections.

The bulk of the collections center on Southern California – the Los Angeles basin, the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, the Inland Empire region (San Bernardino and Riverside Counties) and San Diego County. Some of the collections include materials about Central and Northern California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah.

The archival holdings across the institutions comprise blueprints, correspondence, ephemera, ledgers, legal papers, maps, pamphlets, photographs, plans, reports, scrapbooks, and technical documents.

Subjects covered by the collections include contamination and pollution, floods and floodplains, irrigation, legal cases, the Colorado River Aqueduct, the Los Angeles Aqueduct, reservoirs and dams (including Boulder dam, Davis dam, and Parker dam), the Salton Sea, watersheds, water companies and municipal water suppliers, water engineering, water rights, land ownership and other legal matters, design and building of dams, and related topics.

Beginning March 2017 through February 2020, students from The Claremont Center for Engagement with Primary Sources (CCEPS) working as CLIR CCEPS Fellows, as well as students from CSUN and CSUSB, scanned, photographed, and converted analog audio cassette tapes, and created metadata, for a selection of materials from 26 archival water collections. Fellows were trained to handle historical documents, utilized an array of scanners and conversion software, created a variety of file types, described the digital objects using Dublin Core metadata schema, and uploaded their work into a digital asset management system for discovery by researchers worldwide. In addition to the technical aspects of the project, CLIR CCEPS Fellows were also tasked with writing a weekly pass down, creating a weekly blog entry for the CCEPS blog [“Out of the Box”](#) and giving a culminating presentation discussing their experiences with the fellowship to library staff, project partners, faculty, and their invited guests.

The Western Water Archives website provides a brief overview of the project, an introduction to the institutional partners, a short description of the 26 archival collections with links to online finding aids and catalogs as well as to the digital objects created under this grant, and a “shout out” for all who contributed to the project. An interactive document distribution map offers researchers access to a sample of the documents found in the Western Water Archives collection. The works in the Western Water Archives are accessible for purposes of education and research. The metadata describing the digital objects in the Western Water Archives is dedicated to the public pursuant to [Creative Commons’ CC0 public domain dedication](#) and can be used without permission.

Future development to the site will include the following:

- Resources will provide links to digital toolkit page, how to cite our sources page, partner repositories, and/or other water resources online
- Scholarship will contain links to presentations, workshop documents and poster prepared for the 2018 and 2019 American Society for Environmental History annual meetings, class assignment ideas, and other scholarly information
- Digital Toolkit will contain a list of tips/tricks regarding the digital project such as data dictionary, technical reference guide, student training guides, and other documents

*Lisa Crane and Tanya Kato*  
*The Claremont Colleges Library*  
[spcoll@claremont.edu](mailto:spcoll@claremont.edu)



**The logo for the Western Water Archives. The words “Western Water Archives” appear in white lettering on a background of water ripples.**

# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Announcing the Revised UC Guidelines for Efficient Archival Processing**

In 2012, the Guidelines for Efficient Archival Processing in the University of California Libraries was published and became broadly acknowledged as the template for improved archival processes across University of California libraries. Beyond UC, the Guidelines became an impactful resource that codified efficient processing techniques and supported an overall professional shift toward efficient processing practices.

In part because of the Guidelines, efficient processing has now become standard practice for many archivists. Yet the widespread adoption of this practice has not necessarily resulted in the elimination of nationwide backlogs of unprocessed archival material. The normalization of efficient processing is significant, but it is not a silver bullet to alleviating the myriad operational impacts of our growing physical and digital backlogs.

In 2018, a group of UC archivists began to consider how the Guidelines were currently being used and how the document could better advocate for improved collection management principles. Over the next two years, we worked together to reframe the Guidelines from a defense of efficient processing towards a broader set of modern collection management practices that reflect a more holistic approach to archival stewardship. This reframing recognizes the impact of backlogs on access, staff time, collection development, and space management, and emphasizes the inherently collaborative and interconnected nature of archival work.

The group also decided to weave processing and management strategies for born-digital content throughout the document, rather than addressing them in a separate section. Integrating this information reflects the notion that to be successful, born-digital stewardship must be a distributed responsibility, as opposed to the sole responsibility of digital archivists. We hope the revised Guidelines support operational integration of born-digital and hybrid collections within existing appraisal, accessioning, and processing workflows in UC and throughout the profession.

The resulting document builds off of the insights of the original authors, featuring new advice on appraisal, accessioning, and deaccessioning of all formats, as well as updated examples and appendices. A few key points that are new to the Guidelines:

- Pre-custodial appraisal is an essential method of preventing backlog growth, particularly with respect to born-digital content. Focus appraisal work at a high level whenever possible. Don't get bogged down in item-level decision making.
- Accessioning is another critical function in the prevention of backlog growth, and is the most important administrative activity that allows for processing to take place. Creation and publication of a collection-level descriptive record should be part of the accessioning workflow for all collections.
- For born-digital collections, accessioning entails additional steps that must be accepted as a normal part of the workflow, including the transfer of files from carriers to secure storage. Putting a hard drive in a box and creating an accession record is not accessioning for these materials.
- Deaccessioning is a legitimate and ethical archival practice. This process should be guided by policy, and decisions and actions should be documented consistently.
- Archivists responsible for digital collections must be able to play a role in policy creation and engage with donors and curators to set expectations for acquiring, processing, and providing access to digital content.

We are pleased to announce the recent publication of the revised [Guidelines for Efficient Archival Processing in the University of California Libraries \(Version 4\)](#). We thank the revision project team, our reviewers, and the original authors of version 3.2. We hope this document supports all archivists in their efforts to engage with efficient processing, collection management, and born-digital stewardship.

UC Guidelines Revision Project Team members:

Kate Dundon (UCSC), chair  
 Laurel McPhee (UCSD), lead editor  
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 Jolene Beiser (UCI)  
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## Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts Welcomes Lori Dedeyan

The Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts is pleased to announce that Lori Dedeyan joined their staff this February. As Processing Archivist, Lori will develop and implement a processing program for the Foundation's collection of original papers and materials documenting the life and work of Mike Kelley.

The nonprofit Foundation was established by the artist in 2007 and seeks to further his philanthropic work through grants for innovative projects that reflect his multifaceted artistic practice. Its newly established archival program is a key part of the organization's mission to preserve the artist's legacy and advance understanding of his life and creative achievements.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Lori held positions at UCLA Library Special Collections and the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, where her work encompassed organizational records, artists' papers, and rare books and manuscripts. We are excited to have her join our staff and look forward to establishing a processing program that will allow us to expand access to the collections.

*Mary Haberle*  
 Director of Archives  
 Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts  
[archives@mikekelleyfoundation.org](mailto:archives@mikekelleyfoundation.org)

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## EXCLUSIVES

## Standing Together in AWE



The [Archival Workers Emergency Fund \(AWE Fund\)](#) is a mutual aid effort organized by an ad hoc group of archivists and administered by the Society of American Archivists' (SAA) Foundation. Mutual aid is defined by the [Big Door Brigade](#) as people getting together "to meet each other's basic survival needs with a shared understanding that the systems we live under are not going to meet our needs and we can do it together RIGHT NOW!" The fund launched on April 15, 2020, and at the time of this writing has provided financial support to over 100 archival workers whose livelihoods have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AWE Fund aims to address some of the immediate financial implications of the current economic downturn, while also acknowledging broader systemic issues that have contributed to precarious labor in archives. Because workers are facing layoffs, furloughs, and pay cuts at different times, the fund is accepting [applications](#) on a rolling basis through the end of December 2020. Allied groups and individuals have been collecting and tracking these job losses through circulating spreadsheets such as [Library Layoffs](#), [Archives Staff Impact During COVID 19](#), and [Museum Staff Impact During COVID 19](#).

The authors of this article have personal experiences with financial precarity and contingent employment, and finding ourselves in positions of relative stability during this chaotic time, we were inspired to act. The Organizing Committee, led by Jessica Chapel of the Harvard Law Library and Lydia Tang of Michigan State University, includes nineteen additional archivists, from across the country. We worked together to outline the scope of the fund, create a rubric for evaluating applications, and submit a proposal to SAA.

Our discussions wrestled with questions of who would qualify, how to obtain relevant information without invading privacy or making the application unduly burdensome, and how we might prioritize distributing the funds if applications exceeded donations. We made a conscientious effort to lower barriers for receiving aid, and any archival worker regardless of SAA membership, including student workers, may apply for financial support up to \$1,000.

Our first moment of exhilaration came when SAA informed us that they had accepted our proposal. This was immediately followed by the news that the SAA Foundation would generously provide \$15,000 of seed funding. Once the fund launched, donations from individuals and organizations, including the Society of California Archivists (SCA), rapidly surmounted the Organizing Committee's expectations. At the time of this writing, over 550 individuals have donated to the fund, in addition to several institutions and regional organizations. This has allowed the Review Committee to provide funding to every qualifying applicant in the first few weeks. The ultimate goal of the AWE Fund is to provide aid to anyone who needs it, and the message to our colleagues is that we truly have each other's backs and recognize a sense of shared purpose in seeing one another through this impossible moment.

We are still actively fundraising, and applications have now exceeded available funding. This means that there are archival workers waiting for critical aid so they can pay their rent, buy food and medicine, and care for loved ones. You can help provide this direct support by [making a donation](#), spreading the word to your networks, and participating in the [AWE Fund Crafts Fair](#) July 1-4, 2020. The AWE Fund organizers have also launched a [Mutual Aid Match-Up Sheet](#) to allow those in need of tech, career advice, and more to connect with other archival workers offering up those services, similar to efforts underway by [MARAC](#) and the [BIPOC Library Residents group](#).

The AWE Fund is an example of the impact individuals can have when united in a common purpose. It exists only because of intensive collaboration, and will survive as long as we continue to work together. While it is considered a pilot project at the moment, it is our intention that it will exist in some form beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. We also share a commitment to working towards the moment when the state of archival labor is such that an emergency fund is no longer necessary for archivists' survival.

*We are always open to new partners in these efforts. You can reach us at [awefund@gmail.com](mailto:awefund@gmail.com) and learn more about us and our ongoing projects at <https://awefund.wordpress.com/>. Follow us on Twitter @awefund2020. If you are an archival worker in need, please [visit the SAA site to apply](#).*

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**Above: Ashley Senske Tweets her reaction to learning she would be receiving a grant from the AWE Fund. Used with permission from Ashley Senske.**

**Image under header: The AWE Fund logo, designed by Carady DeSimone, Contract Project Archivist and Organizing Committee Member**

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# SCA BUSINESS

## Statement from the Board of Directors

The Society of California Archivists affirms Black Lives Matter and stands in solidarity with the protesters calling for the end of police brutality and violence against the Black community.

We stand in opposition to the historic and present state of violence against Black lives. The murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor are a direct result of the structural racism that infiltrates every corner of our society, including the archival profession.

The Society of California Archivists acknowledges that our profession has supported and continues to support racist systems and practices that uphold systemic inequality and perpetuate white supremacy. The legacy and role of white supremacy in archives has led to a predominately white and male historical record, while Black communities and Black voices are silenced, distorted, or entirely excluded from the historical record. Anti-Blackness has infiltrated our collections, policies, and workforce. It is our responsibility as archivists to dismantle oppressive archival practices and work toward building a more accurate and representative historical record. This moment reminds us as archivists that our work is not only to preserve but to amplify those voices that have been, and continue to be, unheard and silenced. It is this work that we must prioritize at the present moment. Otherwise, we can be sure that the history that is told will be by those voices most carefully crafted to establish and maintain systems of dominance and control.

The SCA Board is stepping forward to acknowledge and work toward amending the inequities caused by systemic racism. We call on ourselves and our white and non-Black membership to think about the antiracist actions we can take both professionally and personally to support the Black Lives Matter movement and to eradicate anti-Blackness in all forms. Personally you can take action by: donating to bail funds; signing petitions advocating for police accountability; locally supporting policies that defund police/law enforcement; donating to organizations that advocate for an end to structural racism; and calling your local/state representatives. Professionally we can: consider the policing nature of the archives and review access/use policies; rewrite collection development policies; commit to ethical collecting practices and prioritize care for protesters if collecting on the protests; revise our descriptions to eliminate racist/biased language, distortion, and the erasure of Black lives; and support community archives by providing resources.

The Board recognizes that in order to make headway in dismantling structural inequity, SCA as an organization needs to change. The SCA Board is committed to taking specific actions to show our support and to dismantle white supremacy, and we will remain accountable to our membership through further communications.

In Solidarity,  
The SCA Board

## SCA 50th Anniversary: How We Got Started

The Society of California Archivists has been a part of our lives for nearly fifty years, so it's hard to imagine a professional life without the resources, support, education, and friendship that SCA means to us.

A half century ago there were few regional or state archival associations in the U.S. Although the Society of American Archivists had been founded in 1936, it took decades for regions and individual states to realize that they needed organizations to share resources and solve problems on a local level. Among the first were the Society of Ohio Archivists, founded in 1968, and the Society of Georgia Archivists, which got started in 1969.

As the 1970s opened, California archivists had no groups to turn to other than the Society of American Archivists. Anyone who wanted education, networking, or a place to talk about issues had to go to the SAA yearly meetings. But these conferences were regularly held far away from California or even the West. Between 1950 and 1970, only two SAA meetings were held in western states: Austin, Texas in 1964, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1967. That was still quite a trek for anyone from California, and there were many archivists and archival organizations in the state at the time: The Society of California Pioneers (founded 1850), the California Historical Society (founded 1871), UCLA University Archives (founded 1949), UC Berkeley University Archives (founded 1964), and the Walt Disney Archives (founded 1970).

Everything changed in 1971. SAA chose San Francisco as the site for its annual meeting, to be held in mid-October. A group of archivists, centered mostly around UCLA and University Archivist and oral historian James V. Mink, had already been talking about the need for a statewide organization. Then, in July of 1971, at the prompting of Lynn (Donovan) Bonfield, an ad hoc steering committee, which included Gary Kurutz (California Historical Society), Jim Kantor (UC Berkeley), and Pat Palmer (Stanford), met to talk about creating an archival association for Californians.

That October, archivists from all over the state converged at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco for the SAA meeting. In between sessions, forty-eight people sat down together and formally organized the Society of California Archivists.

The first annual meeting was held at UCLA in March of 1972. In April James V. Mink, for whom one of SCA's scholarships is named, was elected the first president, other officers were elected and the Bylaws were approved. In May, Council established a dues structure (\$5.00 a year!), and set up a newsletter. They also made plans for the first workshop, "Processing Manuscript and Archival Materials," held jointly with the Conference of California Historical Societies in Bakersfield in November of 1972. (Veterans of that event have a story about the size of the bar bill during the happy hour after the workshop.)

After SCA got started the floodgates opened, and other western regions created their own organizations: Society of Southwest Archivists (1972), Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (1973), Northwest Archivists (1977), and Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists (1979). Midwestern and New England groups were also formed in the 1970s.

SCA was founded and nurtured in its early years by dynamic and forward-thinking archivists, historians, librarians, and records managers. We owe a debt of gratitude to these pioneers who put into place the strong organization we benefit from today. That's why the 50th Anniversary Committee hopes you will join us at the 2021 Annual General Meeting in Palm Springs, where we will celebrate all that SCA has accomplished.

Here are names and contact information for the committee's members. If you have photos to contribute, stories to tell, or artifacts to display, please get in touch with us.

(continued on page 19)

Program ideas: contact Sue Hodson,  
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Photos: contact James Eason,  
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Newsletter stories or posts for social media: contact  
 Lynn Downey, [clio1954@gmail.com](mailto:clio1954@gmail.com)

We'll keep you posted on our 50th Anniversary plans  
 here in the newsletter, and on social media.

*Lynn Downey Consultant*  
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## SCA Awards Committee Update

In light of the cancellation of this year's conference due to COVID-19 safer at home guidelines, the Awards Committee submitted a recommendation to the SCA Board that none of the society's annual awards be presented in 2020 and instead be delayed or deferred until the 2021 conference.

However, the Awards Committee had already selected a Mink Scholarship recipient for 2020 before the above decision was made; thus, this year's Mink recipient was notified that their award will be available to attend the 2021 conference instead. Congratulations to Jiarui Sun, a doctoral student in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA, the recipient of the 2020 Mink Scholarship. The Awards Committee will still solicit and award a separate 2021 Mink Scholarship, so we anticipate celebrating two Mink recipients next year.

Thank you to those of you who submitted nominations for the Career Achievement Award; those nominations are being held for review until next year.

There were no nominations received for the Sustained Service Award or the Archives Appreciation Award this year, and we encourage the membership to start thinking about nominating a colleague for one of these prestigious awards for 2021.

The committee received several applications for the special one-time meeting scholarship that was announced for the now-cancelled April 2020 Western Archivists Meeting; we were delighted to see enthusiasm for and interest in this special funding opportunity and were sorry to not be able to award it to a deserving colleague.

The Awards Committee would still like to encourage the SCA membership to apply for the Bonfield Scholarship once it is safe to travel again. The committee can award two Bonfield scholarships per year, and it is available to members to attend non-SCA sponsored continuing education events outside of California to enhance their professional training. More details are [available online](#).

*Jennifer Martinez Wormser*  
*Chair*  
*Awards Committee*

## Election Committee

Dear members,

Thank you so much for participating in the 2020 SCA elections. The SCA Election Committee is delighted to announce the election results in the summer 2020 newsletter.

Vice President/President Elect: Leilani Marshall  
 Treasurer: Lara Michels  
 At-Large Board Member: Sue Luftschein  
 Nominating Committee: Elena Colón-Marrero

Thank you candidates and welcome to the SCA Board!

Many thanks,

*Alexandria Post and Marlayna Christensen*  
*Election Committee*

## Presenting: The Society of California Archivists' YouTube Channel

SCA's Education Committee is delighted to announce and invite you to subscribe to the official [SCA YouTube channel](#).

We are thrilled to debut with four excellent webinar presentations, each thoughtfully speaking to the wide breadth of archival practice, theory, and advocacy:

### [An Archivist Walks into a Backlog: Strategies for Efficient Processing](#)

Presented by: Laura Uglean Jackson, University of Northern Colorado; and Kelly Spring, East Carolina University

Date of presentation: September 21, 2017

### [Applying Radical Empathy Framework in Archival Practice](#)

Presented by: Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez, UC Irvine; and Jasmine Jones, UCLA

Date of presentation: September 17, 2018

### [Successful Grant Writing for Archives](#)

Presented by: Greg Williams, CSU Dominguez Hills

Date of presentation: February 27, 2019

### [ArchivesSpace and Airtable for Improved Workflow Management](#)

Presented by: Weatherly Stephan and Rachel Searcy, New York University

Date of presentation: December 11, 2019

Special thanks to the SCA Online Education team for their work and dedication to develop a program to share these presentations widely: Marlayna Christensen, April Feldman, Mallory Furnier, Martha Noble, Michelle Paquette, Marie Silva, and Adrienne Storey.

Please stay tuned for updates on [upcoming webinars](#). If you have suggestions for future webinar topics, or are yourself interested in presenting a webinar, please feel free to contact the Education Committee at [educationcommittee@calarchivists.org](mailto:educationcommittee@calarchivists.org). And please share this news with your colleagues and friends!

*Christine Kim*

*OAC/Calisphere Service & Outreach Manager*

*California Digital Library*

[christine.kim@ucop.edu](mailto:christine.kim@ucop.edu)

## SCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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# SCA AGM 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce that the SCA Board has decided to move the 2021 Annual General Meeting to an online-only environment.

A number of factors have led us to this decision, most importantly the health and well-being of our members. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the recent surge in cases across our state, and the expected wave of even more cases in the fall/winter we feel an in-person meeting would put our membership at undue risk. Recent news of California State University's (CSU) extension on staff travel restrictions through June 30, 2021, which is likely to be adopted by the State and UC system as well, also factored into our decision as the majority of our members are employed by those systems and would be unable to attend an in-person meeting. By making this decision now, we can allow our Program and Local Arrangements Committees ample time to plan for the transition to a virtual meeting. We hope that we will once again be able to meet with each other in person again in 2022, in Palm Springs.

*Tanya Hollis,  
SCA President*

Society of California Archivists  
c/o California State Archives  
1020 "O" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

