

# SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVISTS NEWSLETTER

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## Stories of the East and West Barrios

Claremont Heritage, a non-profit organization in Claremont, California, has been awarded a California Humanities grant to conduct the

“Stories of the East and West Barrios” project. In collaboration with the Claremont Colleges Library and students from Claremont Graduate University, this project records, collects, and preserves personal narratives of residents who lived in the East and West Barrios of Claremont in Southern California in the 1930s-1960s, before equitable housing policies existed. Oral histories, photographs, and related ephemera are currently being gathered from people who lived in these two Mexican American barrios during an era of institutional racism, segregation, and civic neglect due to discriminatory land use policies.



TOP LEFT: Church of the Sacred Heart.  
TOP RIGHT: College Heights Lemon Packing House, c. 1940s.  
BOTTOM: Aerial photo of West Barrio, 1951.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## In This Issue

1

Feature

3

President's Message

5

Collections Spotlight

6

News and Announcements

9

Exclusives

10

SCA Business

19

Labor Notes

20

SCA Board and Committees

21

Calendar

In “Requiem for a Barrio: Race, Space, and Redevelopment in Inland Southern California” from *Making Cities Global: The Transnational Turn in Urban History*, scholar Matt Garcia asserts that “we need to account for a long history of Mexican suburban, as well as urban, community formation.”<sup>1</sup> The under-recognized history of the East and West Barrios in Claremont deserves to be remembered and examined critically as just such a community.

The East Barrio, a neighborhood on the edge of two counties—Los Angeles and San Bernardino, and three cities—Claremont, Montclair and Upland, was created around 1910 by Mexican immigrants who sought refuge from the Mexican Revolution and moved north in search of work. They lived on the edge of town, next to the tracks, because of restrictive covenants. The East Barrio grew up next to the Claremont Colleges. The West Barrio was approximately one mile to the west on the other side of Claremont’s main business district, next to three of Claremont’s citrus packing houses and constructed specifically for citrus industry laborers.

Residents in the two barrios struggled under the oppression of substandard living conditions and racial discrimination, yet together formed a vibrant and resilient community with a tight-knit social and cultural life. The East Barrio built the Sacred Heart Chapel in 1935, and was home to a pool hall, grocery stores, and a dirt baseball field. Barrio children attended the “Escuela Mexicana,” a community school dedicated to teaching and preserving Mexican history and culture. The East Barrio was also the site of the Intercultural Council of Claremont (ICC) housing project begun in 1947, a cross-cultural cooperative development called “Neighbors Incorporated.” It housed both Mexican and Anglo families, as well as two of the first Black residents in Claremont, to create an intentionally integrated neighborhood before restrictive covenants were lifted. Claremont Heritage

successfully nominated the ICC housing to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015.

As Garcia writes: “Years of home dumping, college expansion, intercultural experimentation, and urban development transformed this corner of Claremont into a contested and diverse space.”<sup>2</sup> In 1968, the construction of Claremont Boulevard led to the seizure through eminent domain and demolition of the church, pool hall, and numerous homes in the East Barrio, and the expansion of the Claremont Colleges further encroached on the community. In 1972, El Barrio Park was founded to commemorate the history of the barrios and the Mexican American community in Claremont.

In collecting oral histories from long-time residents of the barrios, “Stories of the East and West Barrios” seeks to preserve the important history of a marginalized community, adding to the growing body of primary source material on the many historic Mexican American barrios across Southern California that existed before restrictive covenants were ruled unconstitutional and fair housing laws were implemented. These oral histories will be made available to the public through the Claremont Colleges Digital Library.

Claremont Heritage will host an exhibition in the Ginger Elliott Exhibition Center at the Garner House from September 2–29, 2023 on the history of the barrios, as well as a panel discussion on September 28, 2023 to share the project with the public. We thank the Mexican American community in Claremont for their generosity in sharing their stories, and community consultants and East Barrio residents John Dominguez and Lydia Henry for their invaluable leadership and tireless efforts in bringing this project to life.

*Chelsea Shi-Chao Liu*

*Archivist*

*Claremont Heritage*

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<sup>1</sup> Matt Garcia, “Requiem for a Barrio: Race, Space, and Redevelopment in Inland Southern California,” in *Making Cities Global: The Transnational Turn in Urban History*, eds. A.K. Sandoval-Strausz and Nancy Kwak (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018), 187.

<sup>2</sup> Garcia, “Requiem for a Barrio,” 180.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that this message finds you all in good health and good spirits as we cruise into summer.

It was wonderful to see so many of you in person at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Sacramento! Over 200 attendees had the opportunity to learn from 14 sessions, eight poster presentations, and two guest speakers, around the theme "History by the People." The AGM also featured a variety of tours, a pre-conference workshop on digitizing video, vendor displays, an awards ceremony, and a fabulous opening reception at the Elks Tower. Before the AGM becomes a distant memory, I would like to thank those that put in the hard work to make the AGM a success. Kudos to the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC)—Sara Gunasekara, Alex Post, and Kelsey Knox—for handling all the arrangements with the hotel, making sure our activities ran smoothly (including a few last-minute changes), pulling off an excellent reception, and arranging some lovely tours. Big thanks to the Program Committee—Kate Dundon, Kelly Besser, Drew Bourn, Jessica Geiser, Rebecca Leung, Sue Luftschein, Mariella Soprano, and Supriya Wronkiewicz—for their work evaluating session proposals, creating the program, and serving as session liaisons. I also wish to acknowledge the Education Committee for planning the pre-conference workshop, the Awards Committee for the awards presentations, and the Development Committee for their work with the vendors who exhibit at the AGM. Also, thanks to an initiative of the Development Committee, we were able to fund the attendance of five presenters on community archives. We hope to repeat this at future AGMs.

This is the time of year when SCA leadership transitions, and I am honored to begin my term as your President. I wish to thank those members of the SCA Board who completed their terms in May: Leilani Marshall (Immediate Past President), Christine Kim (Secretary), Alix Norton (Membership Director), and Kate Dundon (Member-at-Large). It was a pleasure working with all of you. Welcome to new Board members Nicole Shibata (Vice President/President Elect), Joanna Black (Secretary), Marie Silva (Membership Director), and Stefani Baldivia (Member-at-Large). And of course, my thanks to continuing Board members Liza Posas (Immediate Past President), Alex Post (Treasurer), and Mallory Furnier (Member-at-Large).

As my comments above attest, SCA is a volunteer-run organization. SCA belongs to all of us and works best when a diversity of members participate. There are many opportunities to get involved at whatever level feels right for you: becoming a member of one of SCA's [committees](#) (a good way to get started), volunteering to co-chair a committee, or running for a leadership position. Several committees need members right now, and there are two vacant co-chair positions, so please consider giving your time and talents to SCA. Please contact [admin@calarchivists.org](mailto:admin@calarchivists.org) for more info, or contact specific committees directly using the information listed at the end of this newsletter.

The evaluation forms from the AGM yielded some great feedback on how to improve future meetings. If you want to help put your ideas into action, please consider joining the Program Committee (contact [vicepresident@calarchivists.org](mailto:vicepresident@calarchivists.org)) or Local Arrangements ([localarrangements@calarchivists.org](mailto:localarrangements@calarchivists.org)) to plan the 2024 AGM. The LAC is seeking a junior co-chair, who will also head up site selection for the 2025 AGM. If you have opinions on locations for future AGMs, here is your chance! Though the 2024 AGM will be virtual, the 2025 AGM will be in-person or hybrid, most likely in Southern California. We need to get started on this work soon, so please consider joining.

*(Continued on page 18)*



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 at [jwa.editor@gmail.com](mailto:jwa.editor@gmail.com). 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 for 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 and advertisements for the 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: November 25, February 25, May 25, and August 25.

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

SCA Newsletter editors  
Marissa Friedman, Sue Luftschein, Alison Quirion, Shaula Stephenson, and Sue Tyson



# COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

## Preserving a College's History with Digital Archiving

An archive is not just a storage warehouse, but a vehicle for storytelling for an organization, a community, a city, and even a country. For the past year, I had the distinct pleasure of joining the Saddleback College Library staff to assist with their digital archives. The mission of the [Saddleback College Digital Archive](#) is to showcase the college's history from its founding in 1968 to the present day. This history is expressed through college memorabilia, which is digitally preserved and can be accessed online. The archive is fully online and hosted by ContentDM. As the digital archives project specialist for the Saddleback College Library, I am responsible for digitizing collection materials, including college catalogs, schedules of classes, images, videos, and oral histories. This arrangement allows the librarians on staff to address other pressing tasks while the archival backlog is being digitized and made accessible online. As we all know, backlog is one of the most frequent issues archivists face today.

This article will address the full cataloging workflow in more detail. A majority of the records are printed catalogs, pamphlets, chancellor's messages, books, and brochures that need to be converted to electronic format through scanning. Some records contain fragile pages, so care must be taken when handling these items. Once scanning is complete, the supervising librarian checks my scans to confirm every page is uploaded and each image quality (tiff format) is sound. After clearance, I label each image file with a page number, the numbering depending on the way the pages are numbered in the original record (e.g., Roman numerals, Arabic numerals, plates, blank pages, sections, etc.). Every page corresponds to a file. When each and every file is numbered and placed into their respective chapters or sections via

electronic folders on the computer, the files are given the ending of .cpd to signify that they are ready for cataloging on ContentDM. ContentDM is a cataloging software provided by OCLC, and it is popular among librarians for several reasons. ContentDM utilizes Dublin Core (DC) metadata, so cataloging follows standards provided by the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative. It also makes showcasing and preserving data easy.

I catalog items using the following DC metadata elements: title, alternate title, date, description, ID, file size (in bytes), file type (a tiff image), category, time period, and copyright. If the original record has chapters or sections, it is considered a monograph. This is signified by the electronic copy having folders. If no chapters are present, it would just be considered a compound document. After entering the necessary information, I then go through each page's transcription, which is generated by the optical character recognition (OCR) software. This can be a tedious process, as I have to thoroughly skim the content the OCR unit transcribed for any errors. When OCR verification is finished, I upload the full digital record for review by the supervising librarian. Once approved, the digital asset is published on the digital archive's website, where students, faculty, and the community can access the material from anywhere.

The final result of this cataloging workflow, which utilizes a variety of tools and software applications, is the Saddleback College Digital Archive, a collection of digital assets that can be accessed online by the public.

*Sereen Suleiman*

*Saddleback College Digital Archive*

[schistory.contentdm.oclc.org](http://schistory.contentdm.oclc.org)

# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Jessica Tai Appointed Bancroft Institutional Records and Faculty Papers Archivist

The Bancroft is pleased to announce that, after a national search, Jessica Tai has been appointed the



Jessica Tai, Institutional Records and Faculty Papers Archivist at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Processing Archivist for Institutional Records and Faculty Papers at The Bancroft Library. We are excited to have Jessica join the Bancroft Technical Services team and bring her experience in archival processing and photographic materials to the University Archives and faculty papers.

Jessica comes to the Library from Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, where she was an Archivist for the library's Archival Description Unit and served as chair of the "Reparative Archival Description Working Group" at Yale University Library. Prior to her time at Yale, Jessica was a Project Archivist for the Barbara and Willard Morgan Papers at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Library Special Collections, and a Research Team Member for the Community Archives Lab at UCLA. While in her MLIS program, Jessica was a graduate student researcher for UCLA's Community Archives Lab, for which she co-wrote a Mellon Foundation grant to

fund MLIS students to complete paid internships in community archives that represented marginalized communities in Los Angeles.

She holds an MLIS from UCLA's School of Education and Information Studies. Jessica also brings a strong background in photographic materials, holding a BFA in Photography from the Ontario College of Art and Design University and experience as a photographic intern at the Oakland History Room, The Colby Library at the Sierra Club, and Gawain Weaver Art Conservation.

Jessica noted, "I am thrilled to be joining the team at the Bancroft Library. In my role, I will be excited to work in depth with materials documenting the diverse history of the University, as well as for the opportunity to work with Technical Services Division team members who hold deep and wide-ranging expertise. As a Bay Area native, I am delighted to be returning home and re-discovering all my favorite things about the area."

Jessica can be reached at [jessicatai@berkeley.edu](mailto:jessicatai@berkeley.edu).

*Mary W. Elings*  
Interim Deputy Director  
Associate Director  
Head of Technical Services  
The Bancroft Library  
University of California, Berkeley

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## Arhoolie Foundation Awarded NEH Processing Grant

The Arhoolie Foundation has been awarded a \$50,000 Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support the processing of our core archival collections. By providing funding for student interns and preservation supplies, the project will allow us to perform MPLP processing of our collections while also identifying manuscript materials for future digitization.

Based in El Cerrito, the Arhoolie Foundation was established in 1995 to document, preserve, and promote regional and vernacular music made throughout the United States. Over the last two decades, the Foundation worked with the University of California, Los Angeles to digitize our [Frontera Collection of Mexican and Mexican American Recordings](#), the world's largest known repository of Mexican border music. Over the years, the Foundation has also amassed a sizeable manuscript and audiovisual archive thanks, primarily, to donations by the organization's founder Chris Strachwitz. By the time of my hiring in early 2022, these materials had swelled into a considerable backlog of unprocessed, inaccessible material. The NEH grant is an important first step in our effort to achieve greater control over our collections and enhance access to our archive of American vernacular music and culture materials.

Among the collections to be processed during the grant period is the Chris Strachwitz Collection, comprising the correspondence, photographs, research files, and audiovisual recordings of roots



music documentarian and Arhoolie Records founder Chris Strachwitz (1931-2023). Strachwitz's Arhoolie label recorded some of the most significant figures in the roots music revival of the twentieth century, from blues artists Mance Lipscomb and Lightning Hopkins to Tejano stars Flaco Jimenez and Lydia Mendoza. The collection documents Strachwitz's relationships with these seminal artists as well as his broader life's work of documenting the rich tapestry of American roots music. The grant will also support processing of the Harry Oster Collection, consisting of the photographs, papers, and field recordings of renowned midcentury folklorist Dr. Harry Oster (1923-2001).

We're grateful for the support of NEH and excited to begin providing greater access to these rich collections via MPLP processing and selection for digitization. We hope you'll track the project by visiting our [website](#) and our Online Archive of California (OAC) page!

*Clark Noone, Archivist*  
Arhoolie Foundation, El Cerrito, CA  
[clark@arhoolie.org](mailto:clark@arhoolie.org)



## Apply for Digitization and Preservation Assistance!

We are currently accepting [applications](#) for our 2023-2024 Digitization and Preservation Assistance Program. The submission deadline is Friday, July 28, 2023.

We highly encourage applications from new partners, as well as collections that reflect communities who traditionally have been underrepresented in the historical narrative of California. Check out the [California Revealed website](#) to learn more about our application requirements and find resources to assist your organization's digitization projects.

If you have questions about our program, you can reach us at [outreach@californiarevealed.org](mailto:outreach@californiarevealed.org).

*California Revealed*  
Sacramento, CA

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# EXCLUSIVES

## Curating Trios: Making a Big Impression with a Small Exhibit

Assembling a bigger collection does not always make for a better one. Sometimes it's just *more*. In fact, building and sharing mini collections like curated trios can be useful exercises because they push archivists to employ discernment in selecting pieces that tell impactful stories while working on a scale that is just a fraction of what a larger exhibition might be. And while it is true that discernment is not unique to curating collections of any size, curating large collections affords archivists a modicum of flexibility that is simply nonexistent working with only a trio of objects. With just three selections, each piece must be skillfully selected to convey a very specific message.

### Define the Trio

Plainly stated, a trio is a set of three. However, the form the set takes can vary. A trio may be:

- Curated to tell a story from different perspectives using the same type of item, such as a set of three related images
- Organized to show progressive iterations using the same type of object, like a set of three cellular phones produced decades apart
- Prepared to communicate cause and effect using the same type of document, perhaps a set of Congressional bills

(Continued on page 10)



A curated trio of Apollo-era items composed of a press photo for the life support systems vest for astronauts innovated by Beckman, NASA-issued mission patch with Apollo 11 insignia, and President Nixon's invitation to the "Dinner of the Century" celebrating the successful Moon landing (shown with exterior envelope).

These examples represent trios composed with similar items. Another form of trio would involve a group of three different items that all speak to the same story. For example, one image, one object, one document—like a press release, a piece of equipment, and a picture of the item in use.

### ***Identify a Goal***

As with any archival project, it's useful to consider what needs to be achieved; that is, what the desired outcome would be and how that would support the organization's mission. Perhaps the goal is to generate a higher volume of web content so that the archive can effectively share more with the public than just what appears in the physical space. Or maybe the goal is to tease a future, large-scale exhibition by offering early curated glimpses into it. Other goals might include engaging the public in an organization milestone or anniversary, speaking to a seasonal theme, spotlighting a particular type of material, or partnering on a shared topic with another organization.

Whatever the goal may be, let the formation of a corresponding goal statement be the initial step toward curating a trio. Articulating the goal of the project will help to guide it to successful completion, and maybe even point toward the form that the trio should take.

### ***Select Content***

It's tough to imagine an archivist without a never-before-shared object, image, or document occupying their thoughts. If that's the case, start there! Make it the centerpiece of the composition. What story is it trying to tell? Now, think about how to connect it with another object to tell more of the story or offer a unique point of view on the same moment. Finally, turn that pair into a trio by rounding out the story with another object. Has the story been communicated in an interesting, special, or new way

to engage a specific audience? How well do they work together to provide interpretation of the subject matter? Could the story be better served by ordering the objects differently? These are important curatorial questions for the archivist because the answers can influence the way the trio is shared later on.

If an object doesn't readily spring to mind, fear not. Try composing a trio around a time period, subject or theme, individual, or even perspective to create a learning moment.

### ***Prepare to Share***

As with larger exhibits, a curated trio should include concise, interpretive object labels, whether the aim is to share with an in-person viewer or online visitor. Let these objects and their labels help craft a title for the collection and add to that a supporting sentence of text that can, in the words of author Beverly Serrell, communicate the "big idea" so that visitors and/or viewers can better understand its "scope and purpose."<sup>1</sup>

Finally, use the object label with its descriptive information to prepare captions for social media and to inform notes about how the collection was curated. Curated trios are pithy, visual, and bite-sized in nature so they're fun to create, easy to share, and surprisingly impactful storytellers.

*Kaerie Ray, MBA*

*[Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Archive](#)  
Beckman Center at the National Academies of  
Sciences, Engineering and Medicine  
[kray@beckman-foundation.org](mailto:kray@beckman-foundation.org)*

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<sup>1</sup> Beverly Serrell. *Exhibit Labels: An Interpretive Approach, Second Edition*. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), 7-9.

# SCA BUSINESS

## 2023 SCA BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Vice President/President Elect

Nicole Shibata

Secretary

Joanna Black

At-Large Board Member

Stef Baldivia

Membership Director

Marie Silva

Nominating Committee Member

Hanna Ahn

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Thank you so much for participating in the 2023 SCA elections. The SCA Election Committee is delighted to announce the election results in the Summer 2023 newsletter.

Thank you candidates and welcome to the SCA Board!

*Marlayna Christensen, Kiera Sullivan, and Suzi Noruschat*  
*Election Committee*

## Thank You from the Local Arrangements Committee to 2023 Annual General Meeting Attendees

The Local Arrangements Committee would like to extend our thanks to everyone who attended the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM). We were pleased to welcome you all to Sacramento and hope you enjoyed your time in the capital city.

Organizing an AGM requires the work of many individuals. We express our appreciation to the Board and the following committees for all their assistance with coordinating a successful AGM: Awards, Communications and

Outreach, Development, Education, Ethics and Inclusion, and Program.

We look forward to seeing you virtually at the 2024 AGM. We'll be announcing more details, including the conference dates, soon. If you are interested in serving on the Local Arrangements Committee, please reach out to us at [localarrangements@calarchivists.org](mailto:localarrangements@calarchivists.org).

*Sara Gunasekara*  
*Local Arrangements Committee*



## A Note from the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee

The members of the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee would like to thank all the candidates who ran for office during the 2023 SCA election, which was held from February 7 to March 17, 2023:

- Joanna Black was the candidate for Secretary
- Marie Silva was the candidate for Membership Director
- Emily Vigor and Stef Baldivia were the candidates for Director-at-Large
- Hanna Ahn and Hilary Swett were the candidates for Nominating Committee member

This year, there was no candidate for Vice President/President-Elect.

This, of course, caused a bit of a scramble among members of a couple of SCA's committees and the Board. As no one on the Nominating Committee, Election Committee or the Board of Directors could recall this ever happening before, the SCA Handbook was consulted on how to address the situation. Fortunately, we discovered that [section IV.3 of the SCA Bylaws](#) gives the SCA President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, the responsibility to appoint a Vice President. While the wording of this section does not address the lack of a candidate on the election ballot, the members of the Board agreed that the intent for the President to appoint a Vice President is clearly stated in the Bylaws.

After discussing the issue with Marlayna Christensen, the 2022-2023 Chair of the Election Committee, it was determined that the election would move forward with a write-in option for the Vice President/President-Elect position. The Board determined that after the election the SCA President Liza Posas would contact those members whose

names were submitted on the ballot for Vice President and hopefully locate a member willing to serve as SCA's next Vice President/President-Elect. Whoever agreed to be the Vice President would then be appointed by Liza, with the approval of the other members of the SCA Board.

But there were concerns: What if no names were submitted on the ballot? What if those whose names were submitted had already declined to run for Vice President? What if those whose names were submitted declined Liza's invitation to serve as Vice President? Really, what would we do? In the end, the SCA Board and Election Committee were very pleased that a successful election was run and a few names were written in for Vice President. Even better, one of them agreed to serve a three-year term on the Board, starting in May 2023, as Vice President/President-Elect.

While the SCA Board of Directors was thrilled to discover that SCA's "Plan B" for filling the Vice President/President-Elect position was on-target and effective, no one wants to see another SCA election with an empty slot on the ballot. Please consider running for a position on the SCA Board when nominations are called later this year, and be a part of the success that is the Society of California Archivists. This organization is its members, and only by participating and taking responsibility for ourselves will SCA continue to be a relevant and useful professional organization. You can contact Immediate Past President Liza Posas, Chair of this year's Nominating Committee, at [past-president@calarchivists.org](mailto:past-president@calarchivists.org) if you'd like to run for service on the SCA Board.

*Leilani Marshall*

*Chair, 2022-2023 Nominating Committee*



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## Announcing the SCA Strategic Planning Task Force

The SCA Board is pleased to announce a new task force that will focus on strategic planning for the future of the SCA organization. The charge of the Strategic Planning Task Force is to learn more about the needs and wants of membership by developing and distributing a comprehensive member survey that will be used to prioritize future directions for SCA.

This task force will complete its charge from 2023 to 2025 and produce a final report that will guide the organization's work for the next several years.

[Our last strategic planning effort as an organization occurred from 2011 to 2013](#), and

resulted in the creation of more online education opportunities and member-initiated networking events at the local level.

The Strategic Planning Task Force is currently recruiting members to serve along with the two co-chairs, and encourages nominations, questions, and suggestions at [strategicplanning@calarchivists.org](mailto:strategicplanning@calarchivists.org).

Sincerely,

*Leilani Marshall and Alix Norton*

*Strategic Planning Task Force Co-chairs*

## The Future of the Western Archives Institute (WAI)

The Western Archives Institute (WAI) was established in 1986 with a mission to “provide integrated instruction in basic archival practices to individuals with a variety of goals including those whose jobs require fundamental understanding of archival skills.” Over time, the program evolved to become an introduction to all aspects of modern archival theory and practice, with a diverse curriculum going beyond the care of archives and manuscript collections.

In 1987, the WAI held its first two-week intensive program at University of California, Los Angeles and went through varying administrative structures during the first few years. Co-sponsorship between the Society of California Archivists and the California State Archives started in 1992 and became an established relationship that ran the WAI until recent years.

The WAI continued to be held over the summer, alternating between Northern and Southern California locations every three years. A change in the State Archives leadership, however, brought sustainability challenges related to how the WAI was administered and run. This was further exacerbated by the 2020 pandemic and its

aftereffects, especially in relation to accessibility, inclusivity, and cost.

Attempts by SCA and the State Archives to find a mutually beneficial Memorandum of Understanding for a newly envisioned Western Archives Institute were thoughtful and extensive, but ultimately, unsuccessful. These efforts also caused delays that resulted in the cancellation of the WAI in 2022, 2023, and now, 2024.

Therefore, the SCA Board decided at the last AGM that separating ties from the State Archives was the best course of action. This “split” was amicable and the possibility remains that the State Archives will rejoin the WAI.

For now, the WAI Working Group will focus on developing a new structure that will include potential partnerships and collaborators. It is this group's aim to revive the WAI so that it addresses expectations of a current-day archival curriculum while keeping the intent of its original mission.

*Liza Posas*

*SCA Past President, 2023-2024*

[past-president@calarchivists.org](mailto:past-president@calarchivists.org)



## Colleagues Recognized at Awards Luncheon

At the 2023 Society of California Archivists (SCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) Awards Luncheon, held on Saturday, April 8, the Awards Committee presented scholarships to outstanding graduate students and honored the work and contributions of committed colleagues.

The Mink Scholarship is intended to support graduate, or recent graduate, students to attend the AGM and a pre-conference workshop. This year's recipient was Rosa Peña, a graduate student at San José State University who will graduate with an MLIS degree in 2024. She is currently President of La Historia Historical Society Museum, a community archive located in El Monte, California. Her interests in community outreach, sharing local history, preservation, and uncovering hidden and untold stories have led her to pursue a career in archival work.

Ricardo Ceballos was this year's recipient of SCA's Advancing Equity: Graduate Education Scholarship. This scholarship promotes the diversification of the larger archival community by providing financial support to students of color pursuing graduate archival education. Ricardo will receive his MLIS degree with a Media Archives Specialization from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in June 2023. A first-generation student who had a significant gap between high school and college, Ricardo interned in the University of California, Irvine's Special Collections and Archives as an undergrad. He is currently a page for the Library and Archives at the Autry Museum and also interns at the UCLA Film and Television Archive.

California Revealed, a California State Library initiative, was recognized with the Archives Appreciation Award. Their program "helps

heritage organizations digitize, preserve, and provide online access to materials documenting the state's history, art, and cultures." According to their [website](#), "California Revealed includes more than 95,000 objects from over 350 partner organizations representing a diverse array of constituencies and collections." Willow Germs and Megan Lohnash accepted the award on behalf of California Revealed.

The Career Achievement Award was presented to Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil, the first woman to be appointed as California's State Archivist, a position she held from 2006 to May 2019. Nancy began her work at the California State Archives in 1987 and from 1992-2007 served as the Administrator of the Western Archives Institute, an intensive, two-week instructional program sponsored by the State Archives and the Society of California Archivists. She always said that the program was "near and dear to her heart." As State Archivist, she made it a priority for the State Archives to continue providing archival education via the Western Archives Institute, internships, and preservation training for those in the field, because it made such a difference to so many. According to a former staff member of hers, Nancy was "very supportive of my professional development and encouraged me to take advantage of different opportunities over the years, many of which allowed me to gain the breadth of experience I needed to get where I am today."

This year there were no nominations for SCA's Sustained Service Award.

*Lisa Crane, Chair*  
SCA Awards Committee  
[awards@calarchivists.org](mailto:awards@calarchivists.org)

## Advancing Equity: Graduate Education Scholarship Recipient Reflections

I am honored to have been selected to be the recipient of the Advancing Equity: Graduate Education Scholarship for 2023. This award granted me the chance to attend the 2023 Society of California Archivists (SCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is my first time attending a conference focused on archives, and I was privileged to meet the many talented members of SCA. Hearing the stories and perspectives of fellow attendees and presenters was deeply inspiring. It provided an important first step for me in getting to know this tight-knit group of professionals and what I can do to contribute to this community.

My trajectory to becoming an archivist was a nontraditional one. I am a first-generation college student who returned to school after an extended break. Having come from a low-income, working-class family, I did not have any guidance for attending a four-year university. Without a clear goal, I went immediately into the workforce after high school. What I did have, however, was a voracious curiosity about the world. Libraries were my haven, and I deeply appreciated the value of publicly accessible information and resources. As a fan of all things pop culture, I have also been interested in preserving physical media as the world goes increasingly digital. After starting a family, I refocused my efforts to find a career path that would support them while still doing something personally rewarding.

I explored my options while at Cerritos College by speaking with many amazing people in both academic and public libraries to learn what careers were available. When I transferred to University of California, Irvine, I was able to intern at their Special Collections and Archives as part of the school's Humanities Out There program. Through the internship, I was able to get an introduction to digital asset management and preservation. Learning about the many types of materials that require unique care, and the people who do this

critical work, was exciting and something I wanted to be a part of.

My goal brought me to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for their MLIS program in 2021, where I found a community of faculty and students who shared my interests in their own unique ways. I also first got to know the Society of California Archivists through the UCLA student chapter, which had been restarted during the pandemic. I have been fortunate to gain experience during this time by working as a page for The Autry Museum of the American West at their Library and Archives. I also have been able to intern at the UCLA Film and Television Archive, where I work for their collections department to inspect prints and clean up records. I am very

*(Continued on page 17)*

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grateful to be able to work at two amazing institutions that demonstrate the realities of working in an archive.

This year's Annual General Meeting offered a wealth of fascinating events and presentations. The panels provided the chance to hear from scholars and professionals on a multitude of topics. Presentations like "Level Up! Archivists Are Unlocking the 'Extra Life' for Video Games" and "In Frame and In Focus" related directly to my personal interests and how they can be deployed in a professional setting. I also found the "Intro to VHS Transfers" workshop hosted by Bay Area Video Coalition (BAVC) to be fascinating, and it spoke directly to my love of physical media.

Other presentations, such as the panel on Voces del Teatro Oral History Archive, and "Your Data Don't Define Me!: Making Space for Feelings Amidst the Data Dump" offered a deeper appreciation of how the field needs BIPOC voices more than ever. The guest presentation by Dr. Lorena V. Márquez about the Sacramento Movimiento Chicano and Mexican

American Education Oral History Project was also very engaging. Coming from a Mexican American family, it was poignant to see the work being done to promote underserved communities and the amount of work still to be done. Hearing from so many engaged people involved in all aspects of archives made the conference one I will always treasure.

I want to thank everyone on the SCA Awards Committee who made this experience possible. It is an act that I plan to repay after graduation by being a resource to others in the way others have been for me. Getting to continue to work with people involved in SCA and to provide my own perspectives is very exciting and I hope to develop long lasting relationships within the organization. Thank you so very much.

*Ricardo Ceballos*

*The Autry Museum of the American West*

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## My Experience at the SCA Annual General Meeting 2023

Through the support of the James Mink Scholarship, I was able to attend the Society of California Archivists meeting in Sacramento. The excitement I felt when I received the email notification made for a great April! I was thrilled to be able to see both students and professionals who work in the archives field. The topics that were presented helped me to expand my archival knowledge. The field trip opportunities to tour different libraries were also a great addition to my experience with SCA.

With the volunteer work I do at La Historia, I was able to ask questions and learn from experienced people in the field. I was also able to share what I do at La Historia and take confidence knowing that others are experiencing some of the same issues. I believe our work relies heavily on building

relationships and connections of support. I was able to connect with one presenter who is interested in visiting La Historia and working on a project with our local high school community. I was also able to connect with other San José State University (SJSU) students who do not live in Southern California who will be volunteering at La Historia this year.

I would like to thank the people who donated to the James Mink Scholarship and let them know it does make a difference to send a student to a conference/meeting. As a student, the opportunity to know what career paths are available to me is very important and exciting! Thank you.

*Rosa Peña*

*La Historia Historical Society*

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## President's Message

*(Continued from page 3)*

Speaking of the AGM, I am grateful for the work of the AGM Review Task Force, headed by Tanya Hollis and Teresa Mora, and look forward to their report later this year. The Task Force is looking at various models for the AGM with the aim of ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of SCA's membership and will be sustainable well into the future.

There are several SCA initiatives going on, including reviving the Western Archives Institute (WAI) Management Committee, the Records Management Task Force's work on the Society's

records, and a newly minted Strategic Planning Task force that will be surveying the membership to determine what our members need and want from SCA.

I look forward to serving all of you over the next year and hope to interact with many of you.

Please reach out to me at [president@calarchivists.org](mailto:president@calarchivists.org) with your ideas.

*Lisa Mix*

*SCA President*

[president@calarchivists.org](mailto:president@calarchivists.org)

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# LABOR NOTES

The SCA Labor, Advocacy, and Public Policy Committee hosted the session “Preserving the Profession” at the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to discuss the committee’s work on drafting Fair Labor Principles. Thank you again to everyone who participated! We had three enthusiastic breakout groups that read our current draft and offered feedback and reconvened before the session’s end for general discussion and reflection.

We discovered each of the groups shared similar concerns about the state of the profession, including the prevalence of contingent labor and grant-funded positions, issues of ethical stewardship and the devaluing of archival labor, unpaid internships, fair wages and salary negotiation, and more.

All session comments were captured anonymously and shared with the working group responsible for drafting the principles, who very much appreciated the input. The valuable feedback is being incorporated into a new draft.

Session attendees also suggested potential audiences for the principles as well as methods for disseminating the document once it’s finalized.

If you weren’t able to join us at the AGM, stay tuned for future virtual opportunities to review and provide feedback on the Fair Labor Principles as we progress with the work. All are welcome to contact the committee with questions, concerns, and ideas. We want this document to reflect the needs and perspectives of our community, and we are eager to hear from you!

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The Labor, Advocacy, and Public Policy Committee would also like to give a shout out to the Archival Workers Collective (AWC) who recently released [a report on their 2022 survey of archival workers](#), designed to gather information on work experiences from January 2021 to Spring 2022 within the context of the COVID pandemic.

The survey participants expressed “pervasive themes of burnout... largely due to expanding job duties, low pay, inflation, and toxic work environments.” Another troubling finding was “a lack of trust in professional organizations and disillusionment regarding their ability to advocate for archivists or make an impact within their workplace.” The Labor, Advocacy, and Public Policy Committee hopes its Fair Labor Principles and our other efforts to support archival workers will help to combat this issue.

*SCA Labor, Advocacy, and Public Policy Committee*

[advocacypublicpolicy@calarchivists.org](mailto:advocacypublicpolicy@calarchivists.org)



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# CALENDAR

## **EVENTS:**

### **ARCHIVES\*RECORDS 2023**

Joint Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists and the Council of State Archivists  
July 26-29, 2023

Washington, D.C. and Online hybrid

[Register for an In-person/Virtual pass or Virtual Only pass](#)

## **WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING:**

### **NEDCC Webinar - Getting Ready for Preservation Grant Season**

July 13, 12:30-1:30 pm Eastern

[Register for this free webinar by July 11](#)

NEDCC training program schedule posted through September 2023: <https://www.nedcc.org/pt>

## **EXHIBITIONS:**

### **[Viva La Lucha: Art and Work of the Royal Chicano Air Force](#)**

Open through August 2023 (in-person, gallery exhibit)

California State Library

### **[Power to the People: Black Panthers in the Bay Area](#)**

Open through August 2023 (in-person, reading room display)

California History Room, California State Library

### **[Dreaming People's History: The Asian American Radical Imagination](#)**

Open through August 2023 (in-person, gallery exhibit)

San Francisco Public Library

### **[Helen Cammock: I Will Keep My Soul](#)**

Open through August 5, 2023

Art + Practice in collaboration with the California African American Museum

### **[Sam McDonald: A Stanford Pioneer](#)**

Open through August 2023 (in-person)

Available online indefinitely

Medical History Center, Lane Medical Library, Stanford University

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