

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Fall 2021 Chapter Meeting (Virtual)

November 4, 2021

9AM

Present: Jenny Akins, Andi Back (vice-chair/chair-elect), Susan Craig, Andrea Degener, Lora Farrell (communications officer), Suzy Frechette, Stephanie Grimm (chapters liaison, ARLIS/NA), Kris Impastato, Phil Jones (secretary/treasurer), Skye Lacerte (chair), Megan Macken, Sara Mautino, Amelia Nelson, M. J. Poehler, Katrina Windon (past chair)

Lacerte began the meeting at 9:00AM. Attendees introduced themselves.

Lacerte asked for two volunteers for two committees, Susan V. Craig Travel Awards and Nominating. Poehler and Windon agreed to serve on Travel Awards. Lacerte clarified that the officers for 2022 were the eligible recipients. The chapter discussed the amount to offer; Farrell, the last recipient, received \$450. Poehler moved to set the amount of the award at the early registration rate (for members) to the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference. Back seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Lacerte and Back agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. The term of the secretary/treasurer is ending and a new vice-chair/chair-elect must be named.

Lacerte asked about recent new members; several persons joined for the first time in recent weeks. One member was from North Dakota State University. (Slightly later in the meeting the newest member, Sara Mautino, of Oklahoma State University, was able to join and was welcomed.)

Grimm gave updates for ARLIS/NA, many of them from a message to chapter leaders in late October. The society has a new web site. It requires everyone to set a password, which did not carry over from the old site. Grimm encouraged everyone to do so and complete one's profile and confirm demographic details. Amy Trendler and Heather Slania, co-chairs of the Anti-Racism Task Force, recently sent an e-mail to explain these categories and their purpose. The new web site is more robust than the prior one and allows searches by demographic data. One also can create a list of members of ARLIS/NA in a region; likewise, chapters will be able to see members of ARLIS/NA who have not joined a chapter. Secretaries will be able to access the New Members Directory to learn of new members. Gaby or Emily Clifford will be available for updated reports as needed; please allow one week for a report to be delivered. Changes to the bundled membership are underway and are possible because of the new system's capabilities. Chapters can once again set different membership rates. Work on the ARLIS/NA Commons remains. Previous material on the Learning Portal moved to a Kaltura channel, which will be part of the Commons once it goes live. No date has been set, although Grimm hoped that it would be by the annual conference. The timeline for planning an annual conference has been streamlined, down from 4–5 to 2.5–3.5 years. The planning material is evolving, with a greater focus on policies. The society's 50th Anniversary Task Force is asking chapters to supply information on their histories.

Lacerte asked about the location of some of the material on the annual conference for St. Louis. Once it was posted but can no longer be found. Members had expressed a desire to retain an archival record of sessions and other events planned for the conference. It was pointed out that the data from the third-party scheduling software were separate from other information. Grimm suggested checking with web services but offered to take the question to the Board should the mystery not be solved.

Nelson reported that she will send out a call for articles for the next newsletter. She encouraged submissions on the virtual "Montreal" conference.

Lacerte shared a proposed passage with wording for specific categories of membership within the chapter: student, regular, and friend. A friend would be a paid member of the chapter but not a member of ARLIS/NA and thus ineligible to vote on formal chapter matters. Some discussion ensued, primarily related to the student category. Was it a separate category or a regular member who did not pay dues or paid reduced dues? Lifetime membership was raised as well. Does lifetime membership constitute a separate, formal category to be codified? A majority agreed to send the document to the entire chapter for discussion over the chapter's list. Once approved a second vote would need to be taken on a revision of the chapter's by-laws.

Nelson created a list of resources related to DEI. In her call for submissions for the newsletter she will cite this list, which is in Zotero. She can make multiple members of the list editors so that more can contribute and it can be a living document that is regularly updated.

Lacerte asked about everyone's plans to attend the annual conference in Chicago. Many plan to travel to Chicago. She anticipates that the chapter will have its spring meeting at the conference and that someone who attends with a laptop can launch Zoom so that others can attend the meeting remotely.

Lacerte shared responses from the general survey to the chapter, which the chapter discussed. There was a recognition of the challenges of getting members of Central Plains to serve as an officer and an interest in exploring financial incentives, such as payment of membership to ARLIS/NA (either in full or in part) or lifetime membership to Central Plains. Grimm said that the Board had recently discussed financial incentives for officers and the potential for significant conflict of interest. Financial incentives may be impossible. Some discomfort of having this conversation was raised—should not members be willing to serve without a financial incentive? Lacerte asked if attendees had ideas for non-monetary incentives. Degener suggested limiting terms of office to force broader participation. There were no additional ideas.

The survey showed that members would like more opportunities to hear about what others are doing at their libraries. The chapter agreed to try a virtual coffee chat of approximately 45 minutes in January. The survey also pointed toward an interest in pursuing more professional development as a chapter.

The chapter ended its formal business and began an "open share" session.

Winton reported that Special Collections at the University of Arkansas had acquired a large collection of photographs of Lawrence Sumulong, through which he documented the Marshallese community of Northwest Arkansas. She also cited Special Collections' series of graduate student speakers and encouraged virtual attendance at the next presentation, which will be by an MFA student in art who used the division's collection of artists' books.

Lacerte, Degener, and Akins shared material from a casualty of the pandemic, the annual conference to be held in St. Louis in April 2020. Lacerte gave a slide show on the historic Chase Park Plaza Hotel, particularly the Starlight Ballroom, which was to be the site of the convocation party. Degener shared more historic material on the hotel and highlighted the National Building Arts Center Archives Service Project. Akins described a planned program on the Delmar Divide, the distinct demographic boundary between the Delmar neighborhood and the Central West End. Artists and architects at Washington University, including those who were to present, have studied this boundary from multiple angles in the interest of bridging these divisions.

Lacerte asked if others wished to share anything. Nelson talked about the portal Missouri Remembers:

Artists in Missouri through 1951. It now has 203 artists, up from 172. Impastato reported that she had directed an out-of-state researcher to the portal, who found it an astounding resource and was delighted to learn of an artist previously unknown to her.

Lacerete said that she will schedule a coffee chat soon.

Lacerte adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.

The following report was distributed in e-mail in October and is included as an addendum to the minutes:

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Chapter Report of Secretary/Treasurer, September 30, 2021

Treasury

Balance on Apr 27	\$4750.03
Total Income	\$157.50
Total Expenses	\$150.00
Balance on Sept 30	\$4757.53

Income included three bundled renewals (\$60) and one lifetime membership (\$97.50). Expense was support for the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference (\$150).

Membership

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Membership (presumed)—unchanged from 16 Aug 2021

Akins, Jennifer (Jenny)*	Washington University in St. Louis
Back, Andrea (Andi) (Chair-elect)	University of Kansas
Besaw, Jeanne*	Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
Bobo, Susan*	Oklahoma State University (retired)
Carbonell, Marilyn*	Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (retired)
Clements, Helen	Oklahoma State University
Craig, Susan V.*	University of Kansas (retired)
Crane, Rachel*	Wichita State University
Cranor, Anna*	Stephens College

Degener, Andrea	Washington University in St. Louis
Eggebraaten, Lisa	North Dakota State University
Farrell, Lora (Comm. Officer)	Kansas City Art Institute
Frechette, Suzy*	St. Louis Public Library (retired)
Graham, Richard	University of Nebraska
Impastato, Kristina (Kris)*	St. Louis Public Library
Jones, Phillip J.* (Sec. / Treas.)	University of Arkansas
Lacerte, Skye (Chair)	Washington University in St. Louis
Macken, Megan	Oklahoma State University
Michael, Ron*	Birger Sandzén Art Gallery
Nelson, Amelia	Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Poehler, M. J.	Kansas City Art Institute
Russell, Marilyn L.	Haskell Indian Nations University (retired)
Rylance, Keli	Saint Louis Art Museum
Sullivan, Jill Halbach*	Post Memorial Library
Urton, Ellen R.*	Kansas State University
Vecchiola, Rina	Washington University in St. Louis
Weidman, Jeffrey*	Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (retired)
Williams, Marianne	Bates College (formerly University of Arkansas)
Windon, Katrina* (Past Chair)	University of Arkansas
Young, Thomas*	Philbrook Museum of Art (retired)

*Lifetime member

Submitted by Phil Jones