

Submitted By:

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Board Members:

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- John Lukavic (board member) - JLukavic@denverartmuseum.org
- Helen Robbins (board member) - hrobbins@fieldmuseum.org

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.

Number of Members: 296

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.

Our membership has decreased a bit in the last two years. This appears to be due, in part, to AAA's re-organizing of membership lists to eliminate duplicates and more efficiently remove members whose memberships lapse. AAA might want to consider adjusting the timing of annual dues payment to cover what appears to be a gap in renewals during the summer, and an increase in renewals during the months preceding the annual meeting.

CMA seeks to encourage more student participation in the section, through reduced membership rates and the inclusion of a new student position on the CMA Board. We implemented lost-cost dues for student memberships in 2014, but have not yet realized significant increases in student participation.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).

Financial Balance: 42295.41

Publication Sponsored budgets.

2014 annual budget for the publication of Museum Anthropology, 10700

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.

Our finances have been generally stable over the last several years, with modest increases in our net assets each year. This has been due to favorable returns from publication royalties, and mindful expenditures. The creation of two quasi-endowments in 2014 allows us to provide annual awards with less concern about their impact on our annual budgets.

Sessions:

List the titles of your Section's AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated.

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Museum Anthropology Current Themes

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Producing Anthropology Through Museum Collections: Conversations in Critical Cataloguing

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Repatriation Relations

Session Type: Invited
Session: Museums, Power and Globalization: Shifting Institutional Identities in the Age of Plurality

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Antecedents of 'Mid-Century Modern': Towards the Production of the History of the 20th Century Relationship Between Art and Anthropology

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Negotiating Identities---A Role or a Challenge for the Museum

Session Type: Invited
Session: What Role Can Museums Play in the Revitalization of Endangered Languages and Knowledges? A Roundtable Discussion

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: Collecting Things, Connecting People: Revisiting the Meaning and Significance of Collections for Contemporary Anthropology

Session Type: Special Events
Session: CMA Reception at the Museum At the Smithsonian NMNH

Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: CMA Student Travel Award

Date: 12/05/2014

Recipient: HannahTurner

Affiliation: U of Toronto

Project/Paper/Accomplishment: "The Infrastructure of Ethnographic Data." Session: "Producing Anthropology through Museum Collections: Conversations in Critical Cataloguing."

Award: CMA Student Travel Award

Date: 12/05/2014

Recipient: Joseph Feldman

Affiliation: U of Florida

Project/Paper/Accomplishment: "Not South Africa.: Making Transitional Justice Peruvian at a National Museum Project." Session: "Transitional Justice in Space and Time."

Award: Michael Ames Award for Innovative Museum Anthropol

Date: 12/06/2014

Recipient: Noeleen Murray & Leslie Witz

Affiliation: University of Western Cape, South Africa

Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Hostels, Homes, Museum: Memorialising Migrant Labour Pasts in Lwandle, South Africa

Meetings

Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?

Yes

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?

we supported the decision to give unallocated fee waivers to the Ebola session.

Guest registrations were provided for: Clyde Tallio, Alan Corbere, Heidi Bohaker and Evelyn Windsor for the Session: What Role Can Museums Play in the Revitalization of Endangered Languages? A roundtable discussion

List spring meeting activities

The members of the CMA Board communicate via email throughout the year to conduct business, plan the annual meeting, and promote museum anthropology events. At present, the section does not have a spring meeting, but this might be a possibility in the future, as a means to offer a less expensive venue for members to gather outside of the annual meeting.

Mentorship:

Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.)

Undergraduate and/or graduate students.

CMA plays a significant role in linking the museum anthropology community together, nationally and internationally, by offering multiple opportunities for young scholars to connect with mentors and institutions. We have maintained close links with the Smithsonian Institute for Museum Anthropology, a National Science Foundation sponsored summer program for graduate students interested in researching museum collections. The internship programs that these and other museums offer are a particularly good way of engaging young scholars in the discipline and opening up career possibilities.

We have a wide range of membership on the board, from young scholars to long-time museum professionals, and we actively encourage the participation of early career scholars in our programs. We actively encourage student members and have agreed to have an elected student board member. Each year, we offer two competitive CMA Student Travel Awards for graduate students to attend the annual meeting. We also offer a reduction in the CMA student membership fee.

For the annual meetings, we encourage our members to develop sessions that cover important topics for the museum profession in general. Sessions are regularly organized to include students who have undertaken the Smithsonian SIMA program for research students in museum anthropology. In planning our annual receptions, we make sure that we link in with the local museum community and, wherever possible, have a local museum

co-sponsor the event.

Early career scholars.

see above

Independent scholars.

Museum anthropology also attracts independent scholars who follow up personal interests through becoming involved in museums as volunteers which often allows them to pursue their scholarly interests.

Outreach:

Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities.

We have close links with the Society for Visual Anthropology and a history of cooperating with other

sections. Museums are an important portal for community engagement and perhaps should be used more

in communicating anthropological knowledge broadly defined to different audiences and interest groups.

We work closely with the Smithsonian and other museums in developing programs and in many ways

CMA provides a fulcrum for museum anthropology on a global basis, which means that it links in with

the wider museum community. CMA has significant minority representation on its board and through its

membership, but equally importantly engages with minorities through its programs. Our Journal fulfils a

major role internationally. There are no equivalents.

Communications:

Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for.

In 2014, CMA formed a Communications Committee to improve communication with CMA members and outreach to students and the general public. The Committee devised new protocols and guidelines that explicitly identify the goals of our communication efforts, as follows: 1) provide information about matters involving CMA and AAA business and news; 2) draw attention to CMA-related opportunities, deadlines, and updates to the CMA website; 3) acknowledge and promote members' news, achievements, events, press appearances, columns, etc.; 4) draw attention to current issues and scholarly-professional resources and opportunities related to museum anthropology, heritage, cultural property, and related fields; 5) promote articles in the *Museum Anthropology* journal; 6) add a social dimension to communications.

For private CMA membership communications, CMA makes use of the AAA-maintained membership listserv. These sporadic announcements (called "email blasts") concern crucial CMA business (e.g., elections, voting procedures, changes to the by-laws, etc.).

CMA continues to submit periodic columns to the print and on-line versions of

Anthropology News, but these have decreased in number, and are now used primarily to celebrate CMA award-winners. *Anthropology News*'s changes in publishing procedures resulted in a limited publishing schedule for for section news and increased advance deadlines that make it difficult to communicate in an effective and timely manner through printed columns. *Anthropology News* does offer web-based columns, but these have a very short window of visibility on-line, and are very difficult to find once they have been archived and the original link has been de-activated. Hence, CMA now communicates primarily through open-access on-line media.

CMA has dramatically expanded its use of social media, using venues that are open to members and the general public. They include:

- *Museum Anthropology Blog*, maintained by the editors of *Museum Anthropology*. See: <http://museumanthropology.blogspot.com/>
- CMA Website, maintained by CMA Secretary Margaret Bruchac. See: <http://museumanthropology.org/>
- CMA Facebook page, maintained by Corinne Katz. See: CMA Facebook page.
- CMA Twitter feed, maintained by Cara Krmpotich. See: <https://twitter.com/MuseumAnth>
Follow: @MuseumAnth

Governance:

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.

We voted to change the by-laws in order to extend the term of board members from two to three years (to ensure better continuity), and to elect a student member as follows:

ARTICLE VI. Officers and Board of Directors

1. The Officers shall be elected by the membership and shall include a President, President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. Each shall serve two year terms and shall be *ex officio* voting members of the Board of Directors. Six additional members of the Board of Directors will be elected to serve three year staggered-terms, with two members being elected each year. In addition a student Board member will be elected biennially to serve a two year term. Incoming Officers and Board Members will begin their respective terms immediately following the Council's Annual Meeting which is held at the time of the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

Initiatives:

What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

Museum anthropologists are playing a crucial role in the reengagement of peoples with their material heritage, and are beginning to develop a more nuanced understanding of the motivations of those who helped to create the major ethnographic collections. Experiences in Australia, Europe, Canada and increasingly the USA are beginning to show a very different kind of engagement between museum anthropology and indigenous communities. Museum collections and archives are increasingly seen, not just as repositories of the Indigenous past, but as major resources for cultural reclamation, language recovery, digital repatriation, and other projects that are of immediate use to Indigenous communities in the present. CMA needs to be part of that movement as a portal for the positive engagement of indigenous communities with the resources from anthropology's past. That should be one of our greatest strengths.

We see the meetings at Denver as an opportunity to foreground the importance of museums as a portal for anthropology, highlighting the significance of museum collections and archives in generating an historically informed and indigenously engaged anthropology. We intend to use the myriad opportunities presented by museum exhibitions to increase public awareness of the importance of anthropological knowledge in enhancing cross cultural understanding.

Ask AAA:

Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.

no additional

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.

Keep working on ways to ensure that the Annual meetings (including workshops etc) do not stretch out over too long a time period, increasing the costs to attendees.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.

Keep up your excellent work!