

Dear CMA Members,

As past and current CMA presidents, Robert Leopold and I are writing with an update on CMA accomplishments for 2018 and with a preview of what is on the horizon for 2019. Documents of interest including the CMA 2018 Treasurer's Report, a Facebook outreach report, our 2018 Board Meeting agenda and Secretary's Report, the *Museum Anthropology* journal spring 2019 issue table of contents, and Editor's report, along with an update from the AAA on proposed updates to the section dues structure will be available via the new CMA Community portal at the end of the month. Stay tuned for more information about the community and how to access it in the coming weeks.

## **2018 - Year in Review**

- Inaugurated the Council for Museum Anthropology Book Award to recognize and promote excellence in museum anthropology. The award will be awarded annually to a scholar within the field of museum anthropology for a solo, co- or multi-authored book published up to three years prior to the award date. Edited books will not be considered. The CMA Book award will be given to the author(s) whose work is judged to be a significant and influential contribution to museum anthropology. The winner will receive a \$500 cash award. Books that do not receive the award but are considered exceptional will receive honorable mentions at the award ceremony at the AAA meetings. Our inaugural 2018 CMA Book Award winner was Margaret M. Bruchac for her book *Savage Kin: Indigenous Informants and American Anthropologists* published by the University of Arizona Press.
- Awarded the Council for Museum Anthropology Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Candace S. Greene (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution).
- Awarded the Michael M. Ames Award for Innovative Museum Anthropology to Dr. Suzanne Seriff (Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, University of Texas at Austin) and Dr. Marsha Bol (Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe) for their work from 2010-2017 in founding and developing the Gallery of Conscience at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, and for collaborative projects, exhibitions, and documentation created through the Gallery of Conscience.
- Drafted a [Statement on Funding for Cultural Heritage](#) opposing the White House's proposal to eliminate NEA, NEH, and IMLS, three agencies which play a vital and unique role in supporting state, local, community, and grassroots organizations that enrich our appreciation of the arts and humanities, grow our understanding of our nation's diverse history, and preserve our nation's historical collections. They also have huge impacts among small communities and tribal museums, archives, and libraries that we as museum anthropologists work with closely.

- Developed a new relationship with the Whiting Foundation, whereby CMA will nominate candidates for the Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship. The Whiting Foundation has invited the Council for Museum Anthropology to nominate 1-2 individuals for their 2019-2020 Public Engagement Programs. This is a wonderful opportunity for CMA to help further the work of public-facing museum anthropology.

The Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship (\$50,000) and Seed Grant (\$10,000) are designed to celebrate and empower faculty who embrace public engagement as part of the scholarly vocation. They fund ambitious, often collaborative projects to infuse into public life the richness, profundity, and nuance that give the humanities their lasting value. Over time, we hope the two programs together will also build a community of faculty dedicated to this form of service; underscore just how essential history, philosophy, culture, and the arts are in helping us absorb the news of the day, participate as citizens, and live meaningful lives; and ultimately help to broaden the understanding of the value of advanced work in the humanities.

For both programs, nominees must have been full-time faculty at their institutions for at least two years (as of the end of this academic year), and must be early career, defined for this purpose as pre-tenure, untenured, or tenured within the last five years. To be nominated by the CMA board, we are asking for interested applicants to send us a 2-page letter detailing the public-facing project that you seek to do as part of the fellowship, as well as a CV by May 1. The CMA Awards Committee will review applications and make decisions based on: 1) Creativity: Is the project a unique way to make the work of museums more accessible? 2) Timeliness: Does the project say something important about museum anthropology and museum's current predicaments? 3) Impact: Does the project have the potential to make broad and lasting impact through engaging a diverse and underrepresented public?

Please refer to the Whiting Foundation's Guidelines for Nominators and Nominees (particularly the two appendices) for additional information on application procedures following your successful nomination by the CMA Awards Committee.

- Solicited a commentary by Prof. Manuel Ferreira Lima Filho (Universidade Federal de Goiás) on the [devastating fire in the Brazil National Museum](#), which appeared in the October 2019 edition of *Anthropology News*.
- Participated in discussions with members of the AAA Section Assembly regarding a set of new dues-related proposals aimed at making AAA and section dues simpler and more affordable for those in need. CMA and every other AAA section voted not to standardize section dues amounts as this affords all sections greater flexibility to address circumstances which vary from section to section.
- Developed an extremely rich slate of candidates for the Board of Directors in the Spring elections.

- Approved a new \$500 travel stipend for our student board member and agreed to continuing discussion regarding further board stipends.
- Selected a consortium of institutions in and around Santa Fe to host the second biennial stand-alone CMA conference and voted to approve funding to subsidize the conference.
- Discussed ways to strengthen the relationship between CMA's board of directors and the *Museum Anthropology* journal advisory board, including an upcoming survey of best practices from other AAA sections.
- Proposed a new Sustaining Member category which will be voted on at the next CMA Board meeting this spring.
- Student Board Member Sowparnika Balaswaminathan conducted a survey of CMA student members to identify how the CMA can best provide mentorship to the next generation of museum anthropology professionals.

### **2019 - CMA Events & Goals**

- Elect a new Student Board Member. Nominations are due to the Nomination Committee by Monday, February 11. Please send nominations to Carrie Heitman [cheitman2@unl.edu](mailto:cheitman2@unl.edu)
- The 2nd Biennial CMA Conference will take place in Santa Fe, NM in September 2019. Details are forthcoming. You can also check the [CMA Facebook page](#) for updates.
- Transition CMA Board and Membership communication to the new AAA "Communities" portal due to launch the week of February 25, 2019. Details on this transition are forthcoming and will be sent to you via the AAA.
- Identify 1-2 Whiting Public Engagement Program nominees. (See description above). Materials should be sent to Adrian Van Allen (Chair of the Awards Committee): [adrianvanallen@gmail.com](mailto:adrianvanallen@gmail.com)
- Develop new mentoring opportunities for CMA student members based on Dr. Balaswaminathan's survey results. For 2019, this will include mentoring event(s) to take place at the AAA Annual Meeting in Vancouver and development of an annual mentoring program.
- Implement a Sustaining Member category for the CMA
- Publish a call and identify the next *Museum Anthropology* journal Editor or Co-Editors.

- Grow CMA membership!

Thank you for your continued support and membership in the Council for Museum Anthropology!

Sincerely,

Carrie Heitman (CMA President 2018-2020) and Robert Leopold (CMA Past President 2016-2018)