



MACC AND THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL CONDUCT REGIONAL SURVEY

MACC and the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) will be collaborating through a recently awarded Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) planning grant to develop new resources for preservation activities in Minnesota. The Society and MACC will initially be conducting a survey of the collections care needs in Minnesota and convening statewide meetings.

MACC's regional constituency in Iowa, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota will be invited to participate in the survey to further the reach of preservation activities. Institutions

will be asked to complete on-line surveys in the coming months.



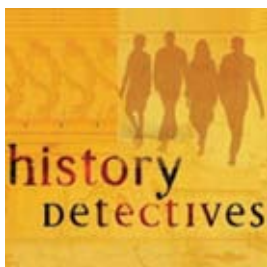
MACC Executive Director, Colin Turner and Sherelyn Ogden, Head of Conservation of MHS will work closely on IMLS funded collaboration.



EPISODE OF PBS SERIES HISTORY DETECTIVES FILMED AT MACC

The producers and cast of the PBS television series, *History Detectives*, visited MACC in January to film a segment for an upcoming episode. MACC paintings conservators played an integral role in the 'detective work' on a historic piece under investigation. Watch for it on PBS later this year.

Senior Paintings Conservators, Joan Gorman and David Marquis with host Tukufu Zuberi



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WHAT IS MACC'S PRESERVATION SERVICES PROGRAM?

When people think of museum conservation they usually think of treatment conservators working carefully and precisely with special tools and materials on individual works of art, but what about the care and protection of whole collections?

Where and how art and artifact collections are exhibited, stored or traveled is essential to their long-term preservation. The overall environment of museums, historical societies, libraries and other institutions needs to be safe and secure for collections to endure and remain accessible for the public. Light levels, temperature and humidity controls, storage practices, security measures, pest controls, exhibition cases, fire suppression systems, and handling and shipping practices, are some of these important concerns. This general collections care is the focus and mission of MACC's Preservation Services program.

Primarily working in the Upper Midwest (MN, WI, IA, ND, and SD) Preservation Services provides several important services that assist institutions in evaluating and improving their overall stewardship.

General Assessment Surveys are the first and most important step for any institution. A General Assessment Survey discovers the strengths and deficiencies in an institution's environment and identifies any needed improvements. Each year, our Preservation

Services staff travels throughout the region performing on-site, multi-day, highly detailed surveys at institutions. These not only document very specifically the current state within an institution, but importantly provide a detailed and prioritized list of improvements to be addressed. Often, the Preservation Services staff makes suggestions for innovative ways to accomplish these improvements with a minimum of resources, for example utilizing trained volunteers to safely re-house collection artifacts. Sometimes the needed improvements can be significant, such as an upgraded HVAC system. When improvements are sizeable, Preservation Services suggests potential funding sources and examples of other institutions' successful planning and achievements. Providing a prioritized list of improvements and then subsequent assistance is essential to the long term preservation of collections at all institutions, whether large or small.

Preservation Services also works closely with institutions on their specific projects and goals, for example, new construction and building expansions, the design of storage and exhibition spaces and long-range preservation strategies. Preservation Services conducted 14 in-depth surveys and multi-day consultations in 2007. Preservation Services also instructs institutions in a variety of appropriate preservation practices and in the preparation of important



Kou Xiong of the Hmong Archives – As a first step, the Hmong Archives just received a General Assessment Survey from MACC's Preservation Services.



Steven Yang of the Hmong Archives – MACC's Preservation Services will continue its assessment and planning assistance to the Hmong Archives.

long-range planning tools. At this time, a sequential, 3-year format of Disaster Planning and Response Workshops are being presented around the 5 states in conjunction with regional museum and library association meetings. Other workshops are also developed and offered each year on a wide range of topics such as culturally respectful care and handling of Native American collections, specialized care in photographic collections, the selection and use of proper storage and exhibition materials, proper HVAC systems and many more topical issues. Preservation Services had nearly 200 staff and volunteers attend their workshops in 2007.



Staff at the Olmsted County Historical Society in a Preservation Services Textile Storage workshop.

Preservation Services also loans institutions books and diagnostic tools at no charge. For example, light meters are available for institutions to take accurate ultraviolet and visible light readings and dataloggers to monitor humidity levels. Preservation Services

helps interpret that data to isolate specific areas and levels of concern and to provide recommendations for properly addressing particular situations. Also, Preservation Services has special publications and books on a variety of collection care issues which it makes available to institutions. The program's staff is always available by phone and email to assist with specific technical questions. Last year, Preservation Services answered over 7,000 inquiries on specific collections care questions. Whether Preservation Services is traveling the Upper Midwest or answering questions by email, this program is one of MACC's most vital resources for protecting the cultural and historical collections of this region. MACC's Preservation Services program is funded by generous contributions from individuals, The Travelers Foundation and The National Endowment for the Humanities.



Volunteers, Bonnie Lievan and Gloria Thvedt, at the South Dakota Art Museum making storage boxes for Native American artifacts.

MACC 2007-2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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MACC's Board of Trustees is made up of dedicated volunteers with a passion for preserving our region's culture and heritage. Regional institutions as well as business and community members are represented. Non-profit governance takes skill, planning and dedication and the MACC Board has successfully guided the organization through many improvements over the last few years.

MERCURY FOUND IN SOME ANTIQUES

Common sources of mercury in homes include thermostats and thermometers, but elemental mercury may also be in antiques. Vintage items such as clocks, barometers, mirrors, and lamps may contain it. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and many state agencies track and report on incidents of mercury spills. Six incidents that were reported to the Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance system in New York State from 2000 to 2006 can serve here as excellent examples of mercury spills related to antiques.

The items that were involved included two pendulum wall clocks from which 150 milliliters (ml) and 500 ml of mercury were spilled, a clock which had a 15 inch mercury filled column from which 30 to 330 ml were spilled, a barometer from which 35 ml spilled, a mirror from which approximately 30 ml of mercury leaked from the back, and a lamp from which about 35 ml of mercury spilled.

In most cases, the people in the stores or homes where the spills occurred tried to clean up the mercury themselves, but soon called their health departments for professional help. Those that tried to clean with ordinary vacuums only made the problem worse. It also should be noted that rugs and fabrics into which the mercury spilled were bagged for disposal as toxic waste.

MEASURES SUGGESTED BY THE CDC TO PREVENT MERCURY RELEASE:

Know the various types of antiques and items that might contain elemental mercury: Thermometers, barometers, pendulum clocks, electrical switches, blood-pressure gauges, thermostats, silvered mirrors, silvered vases. Do not purchase an antique known to contain mercury. If the seller is uncertain, have the seller verify the item is mercury-free.

For antiques in the household, exercise care:

- Inspect each item thoroughly for cracks or leaks in susceptible areas (e.g., seals, columns, and castings).
- Replace or remove mercury-containing components, whenever possible. Do not attempt to drain or replace the mercury.
- Because mercury is hazardous waste, contact the state or local health or environmental department for advice on cleaning up or disposing of mercury.



Small beads of mercury can be invisible to the naked eye but releasing vapor into the environment.





When handling mercury-containing items:

- Move slowly.
- Keep the item in a leak-proof container.
- Support the item with padding.
- Do not turn the item horizontal.
- Keep barometers at a 45-degree angle
- Because mercury is regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation, know the applicable laws before shipping an item.

- * Ensure that the antiques containing mercury are not within the reach of children and that children are educated about the dangers of mercury.

Also, mercury coated mirrors that do not spill visible amounts of elemental mercury can instead constantly release mercury vapor from their backs. They can be identified by examining their backs where tiny shiny beads of mercury can be seen with a magnifying glass. There are also glass vases that look like they have been silvered on the inside which also contain mercury. Collections of rocks may also contain ores which release mercury. Some old medicines contained mercury compounds or metallic mercury. Always study the types of antiques you buy in depth to identify potential sources of mercury and other toxic substances.

Reprinted courtesy of ACTS FACTS, a newsletter from Arts, Crafts & Theater Safety (ACTS), Monona Rossol, Editor.

SAVE OUR HISTORY GRANTS FOR PRESERVING COMMUNITY HISTORY

www.history.com/minisites/saveourhistory/

Inspire the youth in your community to become the preservationists of tomorrow. Museums, historic sites, historical societies, preservation organizations, libraries, and archives are invited to partner with a local school or youth group and apply for funding to help preserve the history of their communities. Each year, The History Channel awards grants of up to \$10,000 to organizations across the country that partner with schools or youth groups on community preservation projects that engage students in learning about, documenting and preserving the history of their communities.

The 2008/2009 Grant Cycle has begun and the grant application is available online – please click on “Grant Application” on the left hand menu to learn more and submit an application. Applications are due June 6th, 2008. All questions can be directed to info@saveourhistory.com.

If you are interested in applying for this grant and would like assistance in any preservation activities you'd like to propose, let MACC know. We'd be happy to assist.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

MAY 15, 2008

PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR SMALLER INSTITUTIONS

Funds provided for small to mid-sized institutions with humanities collections to hire a conservation professional for consultation on a specific preservation issue or for performing a general assessment of the institution's facilities and collections. For those institutions that have completed the consultation or general assessment, funds can be used towards the purchase of storage furniture or other recommended supplies. Awards are up to \$6,000 with the option of cost sharing for project costs above the award amount.

CONTACT:

Division of Preservation and Access
Room 411
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506
Ph: 202/606-8570
Email: preservation@neh.gov
web: www.neh.gov

MAY 20, 2008

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES

Funds preservation or conservation work on nationally significant and endangered cultural collections or historic properties. Awards are a maximum of \$700,000 for all projects with a one to one non federal match

CONTACT:

Institute for Museum and Library Services
Office of Museum Services
1800 M Street NW 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20036-5802
Ph: Christine Henry 202/653-4674
Email: chenry@imls.gov
web: www.cr.nps.gov/hps/treasures
or www.imls.gov

JULY 1, 2008

PRESERVATION AND ACCESS EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS

Funds the creation and presentation of courses or programs related to the care and management of collections for staff in cultural organizations. Awards range from \$50,000 to \$250,000 per year with a match depending on available funding or at applicant's request.

CONTACT:

Conservation Survey Grants
The Getty Foundation
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1685
310/440-7320 • researchgrants@getty.edu
www.getty.edu/grants/conservation/museum_survey.html

MEMBERS!

Contact MACC to receive help with funding your next conservation project.

We can:

Suggest conservation funding sources

Answer grant related questions

Assist with preparation of budgets and narratives

Review draft grant proposals

And more!

ONGOING

CONSERVATION SURVEY GRANTS

Support for surveys to analyze and assess conservation requirements of permanent art collections and to formulate plans for their appropriate care and preservation. Submit inquiry letter with an estimate of the financial support needed for the project.

CONTACT:

Conservation Survey Grants
The Getty Foundation
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1685
310/440-7320 • researchgrants@getty.edu
www.getty.edu/grants/conservation/museum_survey.html

Please note, applications sent via the U.S. postal service to locations within Washington DC will be irradiated. This will mean substantial delays in mail delivery. Irradiation can cause damage to photographs and magnetic media. Locations within Washington, DC are requesting that application materials be sent via Fed Ex or UPS

CONTACT:

Preservation and Access Education and Training Grants
 Division of Preservation and Access
 Room 411
 National Endowment for the Humanities
 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20506
 Ph: 202/606-8570
 Email: preservation@neh.gov
www.neh.gov

JULY 15, 2008

PRESERVATION AND ACCESS: HUMANITIES COLLECTIONS AND RESOURCES

Combines support for activities that were funded previously through two separate grant categories – Preserving and Creating Access to Humanities Collections and Reference Materials. Funds are provided to create better access to important humanities collections, including: Cataloging, Conservation Treatment, Preservation Reformatting, and Digitization. Awards range from \$50,000 to \$350,000 for a period of two years. Possibility of 1 to 1 match.

CONTACT:

Grants to Preserve and Create Access to Humanities Collections
 Division of Preservation and Access
 Room 411
 National Endowment for the Humanities
 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20506
 Ph: 202/606-8570
 Email: preservation@neh.gov
[web: www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov)

AUGUST 11, 2008

ACCESS TO ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Funds for larger institutions for the preservation / conservation of significant works of art. Awards are available from \$5,000 to \$150,000 for up to two years with a one to one non-federal match.

CONTACT:

National Endowment for the Arts
 1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW
 Washington, D.C. 20506
 Ph: 202/682-5576
 Email: bancroftd@arts.gov
 Web: www.arts.gov

ONGOING

CONSERVATION OF WORKS OF ART GRANTS

Supports the conservation treatment of works of art of outstanding artistic significance that are part of a museum's permanent collection. Projects eligible must extend beyond the proposed treatment to include a significant interdisciplinary research component. Submit inquiry letter with financial estimate.

CONTACT:

Conservation of Works of Art Grants
 The Getty Foundation
 1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 800
 Los Angeles, CA 90049-1685
 310/440-7320 • www.getty.edu/grants/conservation/museum_treatment.html



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Minneapolis, MN 55404

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Minneapolis, MN

The Midwest Art Conservation Center is a non-profit regional center dedicated to the preservation and conservation of art and artifacts. We provide treatment, education and training for museums, historical societies, libraries and other cultural institutions.

DEAR PATRON,

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) recognizes that our Preservation Services program is vital for the protection and access of this region's art, artifacts and history. Now, the NEH is offering a unique and important opportunity to augment your support of this program.

CONTRIBUTE NOW TO MACC'S PRESERVATION SERVICES PROGRAM AND THE NEH WILL MATCH YOUR CONTRIBUTION 1 FOR 1.

MACC • 2400 3rd Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55404

YES, here is a contribution to preserve our region's art and heritage through MACC's Preservation Services Program. My Contribution now will be matched 1 for 1 by the NEH.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount \$ _____

- Enclosed is a check payable to MACC
- Bill my VISA, MasterCard, AmEx (circle one)

Card# _____

Expiration Date: _____

Midwest Art Conservation Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent that law allows. Federal tax ID 41-1312834. Many employers will match employee charitable donations. Please check with your employer to further increase the power of your support

* NEH Matching funds available up to \$27,000 in 2008