

Working with Emergency Responders: Tips for Cultural Institutions

This year, make an institutional goal to meet your community's emergency responders. In any major emergency, you will be working with local emergency responders to save and secure your institution. If you have a good relationship with your emergency responders and know how their systems and practices work, you can help them keep your staff and collections safe. How do you initiate the critical first step? The Heritage Emergency National Task Force can help with a new poster, *Working with Emergency Responders: Tips for Cultural Institutions*.

Developed as part of the Lessons Applied: Katrina and Cultural Heritage initiative, the poster lays out instructions on how to find and build relationships with local emergency responders, what responders need to know to better protect cultural institutions, and how to interact with emergency response professionals before, during, and after an emergency.

This full-color poster is available for just \$2 on the Heritage Preservation Bookstore at www.heritagepreservation.org/catalog. The Tips can also be downloaded free as a 5-page, 8.5 x 11 inch booklet.



Online Resource Guide Available

Need to know how to manage your collections or prepare for an emergency? Help is just a click away! Heritage Preservation has compiled a Guide to Online Resources for the Institute of Museum and Library Services as part of the Connecting to Collections initiative.

The Guide to Online Resources contains links to the most current and reputable collections care resources on the Web. Users can find answers to common conservation and collections management questions.

The Guide to Online Resources is divided into six sections:

- Manage a Collection
- Manage the Collections Environment
- Care for Collections
- Prepare for and Respond to Emergencies
- Increase Support for Collections Care
- Learn More about Collections Care.

The Guide is a companion to the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, a core set of books, DVDs, online resources, and an annotated bibliography that is being distributed free to 2,000 collecting institutions. To read the guide, go to www.imls.gov/collections/resources/.

It's Spring! Have you...

- reviewed emergency procedures with staff and conducted a fire drill?
- ensured smoke detectors and other warning devices are operating properly?
- checked and maintained fire extinguishers to be certain they will operate properly when needed?
 - cleaned roof gutters and cleared downspouts?

CAPped Museum Spotlight

The List Visual Arts Center (LVAC), located on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was established in 1985 to explore challenging, intellectually inquisitive, contemporary art making in all media. One of the main responsibilities of the LVAC is to oversee MIT's Permanent Collection. Starting out with a gift in 1951 from the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey of 26 paintings and drawings, it has grown to 1,681 artworks, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, and print media, displayed at various locations around MIT campus.

The LVAC received a Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grant in 2000. Cliff Craine of the art conservation firm Daedalus in Watertown, Massachusetts, conducted the assessment of the permanent collection.

Using the CAP assessment report, the LVAC successfully sought funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Judith Rothschild Foundation, Save Outdoor Sculpture!, the Henry Luce Foundation, and several individuals that has enabled the conservation of many important works in the collection. Based on Craine's recommendations, Harry Bertoia's *Altarpiece for MIT Chapel* (1955), a sculpture made of brazed steel rods arranged on a curve and attached to the floor and ceiling, received cleaning, rust removal, and polishing. An endowment was also created for future conservation of this work.

The LVAC also used the reports from the assessment as a guideline for conserving, cleaning, and properly displaying many other public works, including Jules Olitski's *Magic Number* (1967), Gene Davis' *Klondike*

Tell Us Your Story!

If CAP jump-started collections care efforts at your museum, please let us know! We are interested in learning about your efforts in implementing recommendations from your CAP report, long-range planning, fund-raising, or community outreach. Send your story and images to cap@heritagepreservation.org.

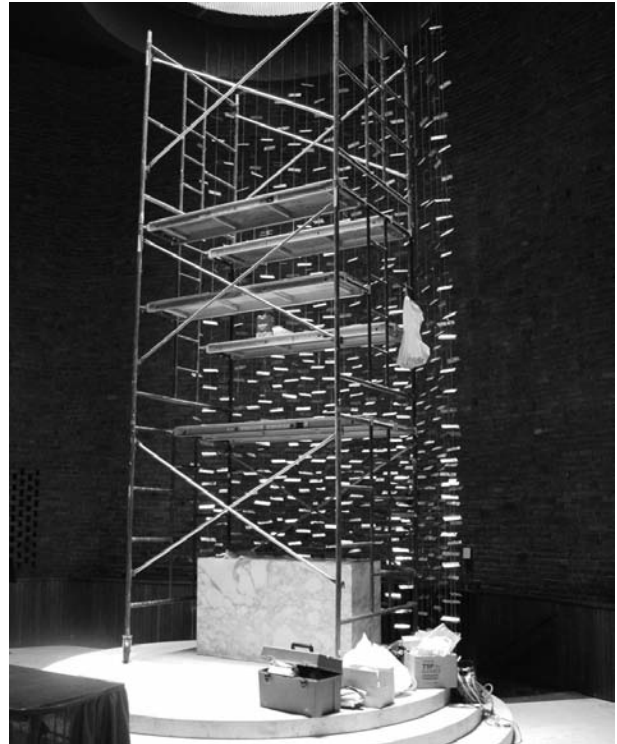


Photo courtesy the List Visual Arts Center

Harry Bertoia's Altarpiece for MIT Chapel during conservation.

Calendar (1965), Bernar Venet's *Two Indeterminate Lines* (1993), Henry Moore's *Reclining Figure* (Working Model for Lincoln Center Sculpture) (1963), and Nicholas Schöffer's *Spatiodynamique* (1967). One of the most popular pieces within the MIT community, Tony Smith's *For Marjorie* (1961), was repainted and relandscaped. This work reflects Smith's interest in mathematical and modular principles of construction, appropriate for the math- and science-focused MIT.

The CAP assessment has enabled the LVAC to maintain a lasting relationship with Daedalus. The firm has helped to conserve many pieces of the collection, including Jacques Lipchitz' *Bather* (1923-25) in 2002 and *Hagar in the Desert* (1957) and *Sacrifice III* (1949/1957) in 2005. A final Lipchitz bronze, *Birth of the Muses* (1944/1950), will be treated later this year.

Each of these efforts toward conservation has helped the LVAC in its mission to enhance the visual environment of the MIT campus, to increase the aesthetic awareness of both the MIT community and the larger public, and to support teaching and research in the visual arts.

Thanks to David Freilach and Zoe Foss from the MIT List Visual Arts Center for their help with this article.

Fund Raising and Resources

Focus on Fund Raising: Grants.gov

Is your organization registered with Grants.gov? In these days of progressive technology, many government funding organizations like the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities are using grants.gov to administer their application process. Registration is easy, but it may take longer than you expect, so don't forget to register online well in advance of your potential grant deadline!

Things you'll need:

- DUNS Number. If you don't have one, go to the Dun & Bradstreet Web site (<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>) to get one.
- Registration with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), www.ccr.gov.

For more information, go to www.grants.gov and click on "Get Registered" on the left-hand menu.

Apply for the Free Connecting to Collections Bookshelf

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History, is offering 2,000 free copies of the Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, a core set of books, DVDs, online resources, and an annotated bibliography that are essential for the care of collections. A simple electronic application for the IMLS Bookshelf is available at www.aaslh.org/Bookshelf.

The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in library special

collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It will address topics such as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The second application period is from March 1 through April 30, 2008.

Save the Date!

Planning on digitizing museum collections? Baffled by digital preservation concerns? The next Institute of Museum and Library Services Connecting to Collections Forum, "Collaboration in the Digital Age," can help. The meeting will be held at the Denver Public Library and Colorado Historical Society on June 24 and 25, 2008, and will address digital collections issues specific to smaller institutions. Check www.imls.gov/collections/tour/ for more details.

Do One Thing for Emergency Preparedness on MayDay

It's easy to put off disaster planning, but you can take one simple step to prepare for disaster this MayDay. It might make all the difference! Archives, libraries, museums, and historic preservation organizations across America are setting aside May 1, 2008, to participate in MayDay, a national effort to protect collections from disasters. For suggested activities, visit www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/tflessons/MayDayInfo.html.

Do's and Don'ts: Artifacts That Hang

DO carry paintings, framed works of art, and other artifacts hung on walls vertically with one hand beneath and the other hand at a point where the frame or edge is solid. **DO NOT** carry a picture by the top of its frame or by its stretcher. **DO NOT** apply pressure to the front or the back of a painted surface. **DO NOT** carry *any* object by its hanging wire. **DO NOT** set a frame's edge directly on the floor; let it rest on padding. Frames often have protrusions that can chip if they are put down on hard surfaces.

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Dates and Deadlines

Below is a list of upcoming grant deadlines and national conference dates. For a complete list of preservation workshops, including ones near you, visit www.heritagepreservation.org/calendar.htm.



- April 1 "The Digital Museum: Transforming the Future Now: Online Learning and Education," American Association of Museums, www.aam-us.org/get-involved/learn/webinars.cfm
- April 21 Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, Heritage Preservation, www.heritagepreservation.org
- April 21-24 "36th Annual Meeting: Creative Collaborations," Denver, CO, American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, <http://aic.stanford.edu>
- April 27-
May 1 "Annual Meeting," Denver, CO, American Association of Museums, www.aam-us.org/am08/index.cfm
- May 1 **2008 Native American Library Enhancement Grant application deadline**, Institute of Museum and Library Services, www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/nativeEnhance.shtm
- May 13 "The Digital Museum: Transforming the Future Now: Emerging Technology," American Association of Museums, www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/learn/webinars.cfm
- May 15 **Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions application deadline**, National Endowment for the Humanities, www.neh.gov
- June 6 **Save Our History grant application deadline**, The History Channel, www.history.com/minisites/saveourhistory/
- June 24-25 "Collaboration in the Digital Age," Denver, CO, Denver Public Library and Colorado Historical Society, www.imls.gov/collections/tour/

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Address & Contact Person Corrections Requested

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