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It's Spring! Have you...

- Cleaned roof gutters and cleared downspouts?
- Washed windows and repaired screens?
- Checked for missing or eroded mortar and loose or damaged stone and brickwork?

Spotlight on a CAPped Museum

Erie Art Museum

For more than 100 years the Erie Art Museum in Pennsylvania has been exhibiting the works of local and national artists. The collections include artworks from ancient times to the present, from the United States and around the world. Steady growth in both the collections and buildings prompted the Museum to plan a major building expansion and renovation in 2009 and 2010. As part of this planning, the Museum participated in CAP.



Erie Art Museum, Erie Pennsylvania

Conservator Ann Shaftel from Halifax, Canada, conducted the Museum's assessment in November 2008. Although collections management practices at the museum were already established, Ms. Shaftel made many timely recommendations. To increase the effectiveness of the monitoring of temperature and humidity, Ms. Shaftel recommended the purchase of new data loggers for the exhibition galleries and collections storage, which the Museum's staff implemented. Another recommendation was for steel shelves to be constructed for an important photography collection. The Museum's registrar, Vance Lupher, was able to carry out the recommendation and simultaneously save funds by constructing the required shelving himself.

The Erie Art Museum staff has been creative in identifying cost effective ways to complete collections care projects. For archival rehousing and other collections management projects, Mr. Lupher is assisted by a work-study student from Gannon University, located a few blocks from the Museum. He has also found a qualified assistant from Senior Aides, a federally funded program that provides employment opportunities up to 20 hours per week for eligible senior citizens.

The museum's building project improves the preservation of and access to its collection. It creates a new, visitor-friendly entrance, connects the Museum's five historical buildings into a single complex, and dramatically increases exhibition gallery space, including galleries for both changing exhibitions and collections. The CAP survey kept collections issues in the minds of staff as the project advanced. For example, to consider the needs of oversized art storage and incoming traveling exhibits, the plans were revised to include a new first floor collections storage facility convenient to the loading dock rather than having it on the third floor which would have required an elevator.

Mr. Lupher said, "I take the CAP survey very seriously, and we use it as a tool to guide improvements in our collections storage and handling as we move forward into the new facilities."

Thanks to Vance Lupher for his help with this article.

MayDay and Free Tools for Disaster Preparedness

Every year cultural institutions across the nation set aside May 1 to participate in MayDay, a national effort to encourage disaster preparedness. Just taking one simple step to protect the art, artifacts, records, and historic sites you hold in trust can make all the difference. Last year, cultural institutions updated disaster plans, held fire extinguisher training, and met with local emergency responders to ensure the future safety of their collections.



Free Disaster Preparedness Tools

To help your institution formulate its disaster plan, use the free tools that were developed through the Risk Evaluation and Planning Program (REPP). REPP Tools & Tips have been made available at no charge to all museums at www.heritagepreservation.org/REPP/tools.html. With tools like the walk-through checklist and the Risk Prioritization Worksheet, you'll have any potential threats to your collections documented in no time!

Canadian Conservation Institute's Free CCI Notes Available Online

CCI Notes offer practical advice about issues and questions related to the care, handling, and storage of cultural objects. Written by CCI's expert staff, many Notes are illustrated, and provide bibliographies as well as suggestions for contacting suppliers. There are currently over 100 Notes in this ever-expanding series, and they are now available free to everyone on the CCI Web site at www.cci-icc.gc.ca/crc/notes/index-eng.aspx



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Focus on Fundraising Save America's Treasures 2010 Applications Available!

As many members of the museum community are aware, the FY2011 Federal budget proposed zero funding for the Save America's Treasures and Preserve America grant programs. But did you know that you may still apply for a Save America's Treasures grant for FY2010? The 2010 application is now available at www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/application.htm and is due May 21, 2010. Grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and historic structures and sites. Federal, state, local, and tribally-run institutions may apply. For more information on efforts to restore the funding for Save America's Treasures, go to www.heritagepreservation.org.

Attention Western Region Museums!

Looking for a boost toward long-range planning? Need help with a specific collection? Still a few years away from being eligible for ReCAP? Then check out the Subsidized Survey Program offered by the Balboa Art Conservation Center (BACC). BACC's Western Region Field Service Office will offer on-site collections preservation surveys to a select number of institutions within the western region at a subsidized cost. The survey can consist of a general needs assessment, a collection-specific survey, or a survey adapted to address the particular needs of an institution. The goal of the accompanying survey report is to offer practical recommendations that form the basis for development and implementation of a long-range preservation plan for collections care. The cost for participating institutions is a \$950 flat fee. See www.bacc.org/collect_survey.htm for more information.

Become a Member

Heritage Preservation provides its members with timely, useful information and represents them before decision-makers in the cultural heritage arena. For information on how to join please visit us at www.heritagepreservation.org or call us toll-free at 888-388-6789.

Think Spring – Think Green!

On June 16 – 17, 2009, IMLS and Heritage Preservation hosted “Stewardship of America’s Legacy: Answering the Call to Action” a *Connecting to Collections* forum in Buffalo, NY. During the second panel (webcast at www.tvworldwide.com/events/heritage_preservation/090616/default.cfm), Patricia Silence, Conservator of Exhibits at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, provided tips for greening your museum that can be followed even by the smallest institution. They included:

1. At your next staff meeting discuss how you can use less and reuse more. Create central areas where reusable paper, matboard, ethafoam, tyvek, fabric, and other supplies are stored so that new materials aren’t purchased unnecessarily. You might even consider working with another museum, library, or school to share these resources.
2. Custom-made mounts are expensive! If an object has a custom mount, be sure to note this fact and the mount’s location in the object’s collections database record. When constructing cases and other supports for exhibits, use screws instead of glue so the elements can be taken apart and re-used.
3. Encourage double-sided printing: it reduces the size of files and takes up less storage space, which saves money. If you have paper that’s been printed on one side, try to re-use it by printing on the other side.

4. Digital records can be searched, transmitted and assessed much more effectively than paper records. Try restricting your paper records to the past three years and having all earlier records scanned and stored on a hard drive.

For additional green tips and resources, see the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works Green Task Force page at www.conservation-us.org.

Tell Us Your Story!

We are interested in learning about your efforts in implementing recommendations from your CAP report, long-range planning, fund-raising, or community outreach. Please email your comments to cap@heritagepreservation.org.

Save the Date!

Planning to attend the American Association of Museums’ Annual Meeting in Los Angeles this May? If so, check out the session “Taking Your Museum to the Next Level with the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) and the Museum Assessment Program (MAP)” on Sunday, May 23 at 1:15 p.m. The session will outline practical ways that small to mid-sized museums can implement CAP and MAP recommendations to achieve standards and best practices and can get your institution started on the road to accreditation. Bring your colleagues!

Do’s and Don’ts: Carts, Dollies and Trolleys

DO be careful not to overload the shelves or let objects protrude from the sides. **DO NOT** place objects of different weights and sizes together. **DO** use pads or containers to stabilize artifacts on carts that will travel on ramps, or over door sills or curbs. **DO NOT** forget to check door sizes and elevator sizes before moving large objects. **DO** drive carefully and slowly, watching out for cabinet handles and shelving corners, which are easy to run into. **DO** use two people, one at each end of the cart, for travel between buildings, through a crowded or narrow path, or where doors or elevators need to be handled.



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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** Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Grant Deadline, Institute of Museum and Library Services
<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/nativeServices.shtm>
- May 1** MayDay!, Heritage Preservation
<http://www.heritagepreservation.org>
- May 9–15** Preservation Week, The American Library Association
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/confevents/preswk/index.cfm>
- May 17** Native Hawaiian Library Services Grant Deadline, Institute of Museum and Library Services
<http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/nativeHawaiian.shtm>
- May 18** Preservation Assistance Grants Deadline, National Endowment for the Humanities
<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html>
- May 21** Save America's Treasures Grant Deadline, National Park Service
<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/index.htm>

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Conservation Assessment Program
Heritage Preservation
1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20005
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