

## The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association

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### SERA OFFICERS

**Chair:**

Corinne Midgett

**Vice-Chair:**

Meg Cook

**Secretary:**

Amy Beisel

**Treasurer/Membership****Chair:**

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney

**Development Chair:**

Kali Mason

**Communications****Chair:**

Erica Hague

**State Coordinator:**

Deanna Taylor

## Notes from the Chair

Corinne Midgett

Greetings!

2022 has already been a busy year. SEMC session proposals were due in early February and I'm confident that the program committee has some great collections sessions to review. At our SERA meetup in January, a lot of timely session topics were discussed and a list is available on our Facebook page. It's not too early to start thinking about next year!

Many of the museum professional associations are planning a return to in-person events in 2022. One of the big ones is AAM's conference in Boston in May. If you plan to attend, make sure to apply for SERA's travel scholarship of \$750. Applications are due on February 18.

SERA also plans to bring back all of our usual conference events when SEMC meets in Northwest Arkansas in October. If you have any suggestions for a respite location, please let us know. This is my first trip to Arkansas and I'm looking forward to it!

Lastly, I'm happy to announce that the fifth edition of [\*Basic Condition Reporting: A Handbook\*](#) is now available from Rowman & Littlefield. Huge thanks to former SERA chair Deb Van Horn and former board member Heather Culligan for preparing and editing the book for publication! We also appreciate all the authors who have contributed to this and previous editions. New to the fifth edition are chapters on digital condition reporting, taxidermy, and mixed media objects. Use promo code RLFANDF30 for a 30% discount when ordering from Rowman & Littlefield. All proceeds from the book go toward supporting SERA's activities.

*Corinne*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

Greetings SERA Members,

We are entering 2022 in a very strong position, both financially and in regard to our membership numbers. I can't wait to see what great things we are able to do together this year.

I am delighted to share that 41 of our current members have already renewed for 2022! I have enjoyed processing these renewals and getting a glimpse into the wide range of institutions our members represent.

As a reminder, SERA's memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. So, if you have not renewed since the 2021 SEMC Conference, your membership is now technically expired. Please take this opportunity to renew for 2022 if you have not already. You must be a member in good-standing to qualify for SERA's upcoming conference scholarship opportunities.

As of February 10, 2022, SERA has 104 active members, down from 106 (-1.9%) this time last year.

As of February 10, 2022, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$9,861.81. The current balance in the PayPal account is \$3,218.67. The combined total on-hand is \$13,080.48, up \$2,558.11 (+23.9%) from the \$10,552.37 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA's fiscal activity for November 5, 2021 to February 10, 2022 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Treasurer/Membership Chair

SERA Income/Expenses:

November 5, 2021 - February 10, 2022

Opening Balance \$12,427.20

**Income**

Membership renew/sales \$1,065

Income total \$1,065

**Expenses**

Domain Renewal (\$59.98)

PayPal fees (\$54.74)

SurveyMonkey (\$297.00)

Expense total (\$411.72)

Ending Balance \$13,080.48

Arkansas

**Amanda Cheatham**

Registrar, Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College

**Jennifer Kick**

Collections Manager, Rogers Historical Museum

**Rachel Smith\***

Assistant Director/Curator of Collections, Rogers Historical Museum

Florida

**Austin Bell**

Curator of Collections, Marco Island Historical Society

**Megan Crawford**

Museum Registrar, Artis-Naples, The Baker Museum

**Juliette Ibelli**

Registrar and Collections Curator, Art and Collections Management

**Heather Thayer Culligan**

Curator of Collections, Tampa Bay History Center

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**MEMBERSHIP****NEW\* / RENEWING MEMBERS**

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**Corinne Roth\***

Archive Intern, University of Wisconsin,  
Milwaukee

**Georgia****Aimee Brooks**

Collections Manager, The Columbus Museum

**Erica Hague**

Collections Manager, Atlanta History Center

**Christa McCay**

Collections Manager, Marietta Museum of  
History

**Tricia Miller**

Head Registrar, Georgia Museum of Art

**Annelies Mondt**

Deputy Director, Georgia Museum of Art

**Christy Sinksen**

Associate Registrar, Georgia Museum of Art

**Kentucky****Christopher Goodlett**

Director of Curatorial and Educational Affairs,  
Kentucky Derby Museum

**Laura Hendrickson**

Registrar and Collections Manager, The National  
Quilt Museum

**Hannah McAulay\***

Associate Registrar, Speed Museum of Art

**Louisiana****Deborah J. Clifton**

Curatorial Volunteer, Lafayette Science Museum

**Mississippi****Tommie Rodgers**

Registrar, Lauren Rogers Museum of Art

**North Carolina****Jordan Cao**

Assistant Registrar, Gregg Museum of Art &  
Design, North Carolina State University

**Carrie Duran**

Collections Manager, The Schiele Museum of  
Natural History

**Marian Inabinett**

Curator of Collections, High Point Museum

**L. Catherine Riddle**

Collections Manager, Duke Lemur Center  
Museum of Natural History

**Jonathan Schwartz**

CEO, Atelier 4

**Kimberly Terbush**

Registrar, Weatherspoon Art Museum UNC  
Greensboro

**South Carolina****Rylee Aquilanti**

Culture & Heritage Museums Historical Center  
of York County

**Robyn Adams**

Registrar, South Carolina State Museum

**Rebekah Cobb**

Registrar, Museum & Gallery at Bob Jones  
University

**Carleigh Isbell**

Archives Specialist, Culture & Heritage  
Museums Historical Center of York County

**Jen LaMaster**

Collections Specialist, Culture & Heritage  
Museums Historical Center of York County

**Jillian Matthews**

Director of Collections, Culture & Heritage  
Museums Historical Center of York County

**Nancy Sambets**

Director of Archives, Culture & Heritage  
Museums Historical Center of York County

**Chelsea Sigourney**

Registrar, SC Confederate Relic Room and  
Military Museum

**Tennessee****Elizabeth Le**

Registrar, Hunter Museum of American Art

**Michelle Lopez**

Collections Manager/Registrar, National Civil  
Rights Museum

**Virginia****Catherine DeSilvey**

Registrar/Curator, Virginia Military Institute  
Museum System

**Jeanne Niccolls**

Museum Collections Consultant

**West Virginia****John Spurlock**

Curatorial Assistant/Digital Imaging Specialist,  
Huntington Museum of Art

**New\* / Renewing Associate Members****Terry Dowd**

President, Terry Dowd, Inc.

## SERA NEWS

**ARKANSAS****Amanda Cheatham***Registrar***Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College**

Four exhibitions opened up on Friday, February 4: Make Me Feel Mighty Real: Anthony Sonnenberg, an over the top baroque inspired installation; Delita Martin: Conjure using her unique approach to portraiture - aiming for portraits to feel like a particular person rather than looking like a particular person; Walker Evans: American Photographs based on an exhibition originally organized by The Museum of Modern Art, New York and organized by Sarah Hermanson Meister, former Curator, with Tasha Lutek, Collection Specialist, Department of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art, New York with support provided by Art Bridges. The museum's window gallery will have James Hayes art glass. Hayes is a Hendrix College 1988 graduate, who has studied glassblowing in places ranging from Murano, Italy to Hong Kong. Information on associated programming and film screenings can be found at [windgatemuseum.org](http://windgatemuseum.org).

**Diane Karlson***Museum Registrar***William J. Clinton Presidential Library**

Due to the pandemic, all the exhibit plans the museum made recently have been canceled or postponed with no reschedule date. Current exhibits have been extended thanks to lenders willingness to extend loans. The library is open to the public, with proof of vaccination, to tour the permanent exhibits and visit the store and restaurant.

**Rachel Smith/Jennifer Kick***Curator/Collections Manager***Rogers Historical Museum**

After half a year without an Assistant Director/ Curator of Collections and other staff adding to their duties in the interim, a full inventory is again a priority for collections staff this year. Digitization and updating collections records will be part of that effort, making use of new photo studio equipment. Unfortunately, a project to add movable shelving in collections storage was not funded, though some reorganization of collections storage has been ongoing. The museum managed to get the newest exhibit 'Aprons: Function to Fad' installed before a winter storm hit, closing the

museum for 2 days. Focusing on aprons from the collection and community collectors, it highlights both the functional and fashionable aprons of the last 150 years. The exhibit follows the traveling exhibit 'Thrift Style' from ExhibitsUSA which ran December to January and explored the reuse of feed sacks to make clothing and other household objects. The 'Our Favorite Things' exhibit - up through March - was a fun one for the staff. They were asked to pick a few of their favorite things from the museum collections and explain why it's their favorite. A voting system was set up so visitors can choose their favorite, and results will be announced when the exhibit closes!

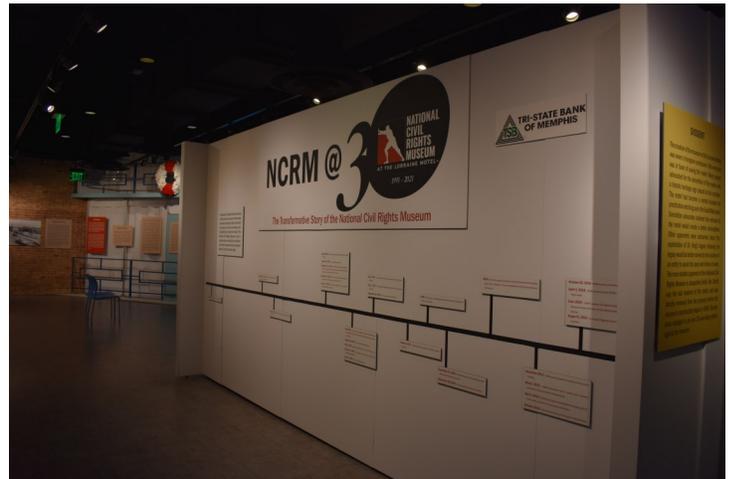
**Carolyn Reno**  
*Collections Manager/Assistant Director*  
 Shiloh Museum of Ozark History



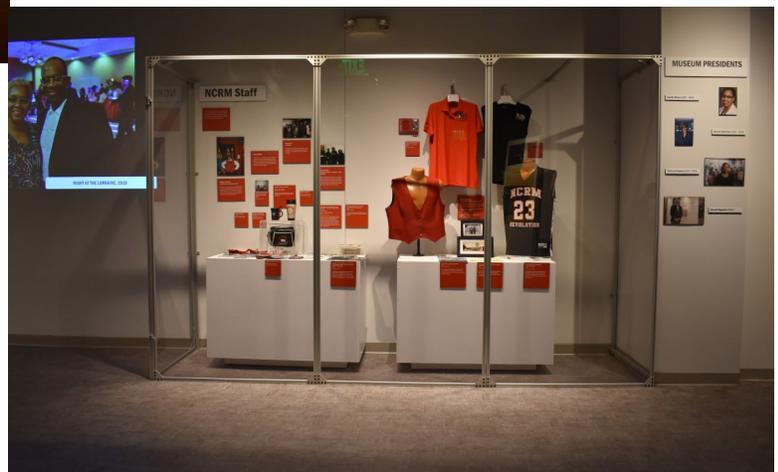
In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Buffalo River's national status, the museum opened the exhibit, 'Ken Smith's Buffalo River Country' featuring Smith's photographs of the Buffalo River and its environs. Smith's photos, research, and his book *The Buffalo River Country* (1967) brought awareness to the Buffalo River and was instrumental in helping The Ozark Society achieve its goal of getting it a national river designation, the first to be granted the distinction. Besides photographs, Smith has

loaned his research material, camera, typewriter, and drafting building tools used in his long years dedicated to documenting the river. Buffalo River National Park Service has loaned trail building tools used to build trails along the river. The exhibit will run through 2022.

**TENNESSEE**  
**Michelle Lopez**  
*Collections Manager and Registrar*  
 National Civil Rights Museum



Since starting my new role as Collections Manager and Registrar for the National Civil Rights Museum, I processed over 90 acquisition proposals including pending donations since 2013. In the fall, the museum opened, *NCRM @ 30: The Transformative Story of the National Civil Rights Museum*, a temporary exhibition which celebrates the museum's 30th anniversary.



The exhibition provided an opportunity for me to learn the collection and institutional archives in addition to developing an open call of artifacts initiative for the community and museum staff to donate or loan objects that feature key people and significant events in the museum's existence. Through this initiative we collected over 60 artifacts from donations. We also have two new interns starting this Spring semester from Rhodes College, Marlo Morales and Kait Berry. Marlo and Kait will assist with cataloging new acquisitions and research for upcoming exhibitions.

**KENTUCKY**

**Sandy Staebell**

*Registrar/Collections Curator*

**Kentucky Museum**

preparing to open the exhibit, Crazy Quilt Mania on March 30th.



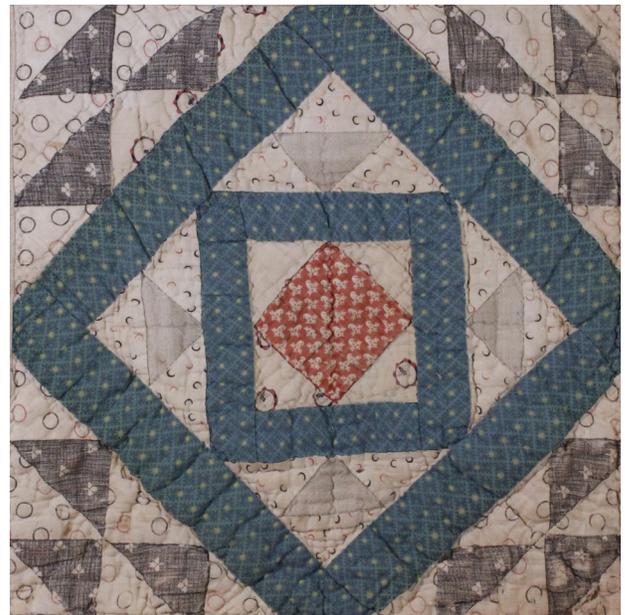
In January, quilt historian Laurel Horton of South Carolina made her fourth and final site visit to assess the quilt collection of the Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University. Ms. Horton's work is part of a grant to evaluate and catalog the folk art collection and is funded by the Luce Foundation. The staff is in final preparations for the 2022 U.S. Bank Celebration of the Arts exhibit. A regional show open to Kentucky residents who are 18 years of age or older and live within a 65-mile radius of Bowling Green, this year's exhibit will be in-person after last year's virtual exhibit. The Collections staff are also in the final stages of

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Corinne Midgett**

*Registrar*

**High Point Museum**



The High Point Museum recently opened a new exhibit, Domestic Art, which showcases quilts made or used in High Point. Tools used by famed quilter and High Pointer Gwen Magee are also displayed with images of her quilts

from the Mississippi Museum of Art. Quilts on exhibit will be rotated several times to minimize light exposure. Selected quilts from the collection can also be viewed [online here](#). The Museum is accepting applications for a summer 2022 Collections Internship. The intern will gain experience in processing and cataloging a large collection from a local community organization, as well as in object cleaning, inventories, and exhibit installation. A \$2,000 stipend will be provided. Applications are due February 28. More information is [available online](#).

## **FLORIDA**

**Jennifer Guida**

*Curator of Collections*

**Collier County Museums**

## **ALABAMA**

**Sabra Gossett**

*Registrar*

**Berman Museum**

Sabra Gossett reports that in the summer of 2021, the Berman Museum was awarded a \$182,300 grant from the Small Business Administration. A major project made possible by the grant was the installation of new carpet throughout the museum. Having the carpet funded allowed the Berman Museum to move forward on developing plans to renovate the exhibit halls.

In September and October, the second floor of the Berman Museum was completely renovated. New walls were installed as well as a new layout and storyline. The two main galleries on this floor are Arts of Asia and

Modern Warfare. The new Arts of Asia expanded upon the original concept introduced in 2001, separating items by nationality and explaining dynasties. Modern Warfare was also expanded beyond the Berman Museum's seminal WWI and WWII galleries through the end of the 20th century.

In November, the first floor followed in the renovation. Like the second floor, this renovation consisted of a new layout and storyline. Becoming America highlights the development of the United States during the nineteenth century and its trials during

the Civil War. Reigns and Revolutions details the history of Europe through major events and characters from Ancient Greece to the Crimean War.

**Rose Wood**

*Chief Registrar*

**Birmingham Museum of Art**

After working on a silver and glass deaccession of over 800 works since 2016, Rose Wood bid a fond farewell as the objects finally went to auction. She is happy about gaining new space in storage but not looking forward to all of the post disposal documentation needed for each object's record.



We are happy to announce that Wilitza Santos has accepted a full-time Museum Assistant position at our Museum of the Everglades location in Everglades City. Wilitza served as a temporary Museum Assistant at our Government Center location working with the Curator of Collections for the past year. A trained archaeologist, she is seen here organizing archaeological materials for the Education Collection. The Museum is now searching for Wilitza's replacement as it plans to launch PastPerfect Online in 2023, as part of Collier County's Centennial. Resume and cover letter can be submitted to [Jennifer.Guida@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Guida@colliercountyfl.gov).

To gain more permanent collection file space, Rose is moving and reorganizing retired incoming loan files at the same time. In the past, loan and deaccession files were organized in a complicated system that divided everything into classification instead of just by accession or loan number. This is slowing down the process but Rose is gaining a better understanding of lender history at the BMA.

The BMA is coming up on its AAM reaccreditation and Rose has been tasked with updating the collections management policy. Assistant registrar for exhibitions, Eric McNeal is taking on the collections portion of the emergency plan.

## Pamela Bransford

*Registrar*

### Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Pam Bransford and Sarah Elizabeth Kelly, associate registrar, welcomed Monika Cantin, associate registrar at The Historic New Orleans Collection in January. Monika was on site for the installation of loans for their exhibition, Pieces of History: Decorative Arts of the Gulf South. In the photo, Monika assists MMFA preparator Brad Echols during the installation of a 1850-66 Charles Lee bedstead from Stanton Hall in Natchez. In addition to loans received from THNOC, objects were borrowed from three local collectors, Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery and the Alabama Department of Archives and History. It has been years since the MMFA has had a decorative arts exhibition so Pam had to pull out her old copy of What's What for a refresher course on rails, spindles and splats in order to make condition reports.



## JOBS UPDATE

ERICA HAGUE

2021 wrapped up with a whopping 589 jobs with salaries posted. This is up from 2020 where there were 292 jobs that were posted, and 2019 where there were 285 jobs posted. This is a positive trend for salary transparency in newly posted jobs!

**2021 Salary Averages for Jobs Posted (adjusted for Cost of Living)**

Low-Median-High

**Associate/Assistant Registrar/Curator**

\$36,669-\$39,740-\$42,810

**Registrar/Collections Manager/ Curator**

\$42,704-\$46,589-\$51,013

**Senior/ Director**

\$59,727-\$65,342-\$70,957

Last fall I also began to capture static copies of job postings so that you can look at the duties. This was after a discussion about the wide range of duties for titles. These are shared on the [comprehensive job list](#) which has auto-calculated totals for each year under each tab. This is a great resource if you're looking for comparable salaries.

In January 2022 an additional 72 jobs were posted, which is an all-time high. I have continued to track these on the [SERA Jobs board](#), and have cross posted them one a week onto the [SERA Facebook page](#). If you have a job opening at your institution (or a neighboring one) and you'd like them shared on the SERA job board, please [forward them along!](#)

**SERA NEWS** is published quarterly by the Southeastern Registrars Association. The Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA) recognizes high standards of museum practice and fosters professional growth among museum registrars in the Southeastern region of the United States. We promote the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas through education seminars, publications and other means. SERA initiates and supports activities and projects which help create an atmosphere of cooperation and communication among, and between, registrars, other museum professionals, and those in related fields, and pursues further development of professional practices in the field.

**Membership:** Individual membership (\$25.00) is open to museum professionals who perform registrarial functions for institutions in the twelve states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Associate membership is also available to those outside the region or those employed by for-profit businesses or organizations who express interest in the objectives of SERA.

**Membership Contact:**  
SERA Treasurer/Membership Chair  
Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney