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What Will You Do for MayDay?

Museums and other cultural repositories across the nation will set aside May 1, 2009, to participate in MayDay, a national effort to prepare for disasters. Sponsored by Heritage Preservation and other members of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, MayDay encourages organizations to take one simple step to protect the art, artifacts, records, and historic sites they hold in trust. Any organization can participate in MayDay.

Heritage Preservation is collecting examples of creative but practical measures to increase disaster preparedness to share online. This year, any institution submitting a MayDay story will be entered in a drawing for disaster supplies donated by Gaylord Brothers. Four winners will be announced on June 1, the beginning of the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season. Brief descriptions of 2009 MayDay plans or accomplishments should be submitted to taskforce@heritagepreservation.org by May 22, 2009, to be eligible for prizes.

Heritage Preservation will also be offering its award-winning *Field Guide to Emergency Response* and *Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel* at special MayDay prices from April 15 through May 31.

Visit www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/tflessons/MayDay.html for project ideas, information on prizes and the publications sale, and customized version of the MayDay logo for publicizing this national event.



It's Spring! Have you...

- conducted a fire drill and emergency procedures review with staff?
- changed the air conditioning filters and confirmed the system is working correctly?
- taken a walk around the grounds to determine general building maintenance needs?

One Thing You can Do – Develop an Integrated Pest Management Plan

Junebugs, mice – even snakes! Museums across the country have seen their share of all these creepy critters, sometimes even in quantities they're embarrassed to admit. But traps and spraying alone aren't enough – to achieve the best results, museums need to employ an Integrated Pest Management Plan. This is a system that uses a holistic approach to pest management decision making, which takes advantage of as many low-risk pest management options as possible in order to present the fewest possible hazards to people, the environment, and museum collections.

Tools for creating an Integrated Pest Management System are only a click away. Visit www.museumpests.net for sample IPM policy and procedure documents, pest information fact sheets, and to join the MuseumPests forum to get pest-control advice from your peers in the field.

Spotlight on a CAPped Museum: The Friends of Iolani Palace

Iolani Palace was built in Honolulu, Hawaii in the early 1880s as a grandiose abode for the Hawaiian royal family and as a mark of Hawaii's status as a modern nation. Over the years, the Palace became the government headquarters for the Provisional Government, the Republic, the Territory, and finally the State of Hawaii. Restoration of the Palace began when the government changed headquarters in 1969, and the Palace re-opened as a historic house museum in 1978. The museum is dedicated to preserving the history of the Hawaiian monarchy and to providing visitors with a fresh understanding of Hawaii's royal heritage.

The Friends of Iolani Palace participated in the Conservation Assessment Program in 2006 and selected Beverly Perkins (conservator) and Spencer Leineweber (architect) to conduct their conservation assessments. Over the past two years, the staff, under guidance from Collections Manager Malia Van Heukelem, has found that "CAP has truly set the course for addressing the highest needs of the building and collections."

One of the top collections priorities was new storage equipment. In November, 2007, seven new SpaceSaver storage units with shelves and dividers were installed for the painting collection. This was made possible through a donation from an estate. Additional collections storage funding was secured in 2008 from a National Endowment for the Humanities *Preservation Assistance Grant* for storage furniture materials. This grant included an Elsec 764 environmental data-logger and archival materials. In addition, rolled textile storage will be installed in April 2009 with the help of a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Another priority identified by both the assessors was to create the new position of Facility Manager. This position was added in the spring of 2007 and has improved coordination between Palace staff and contractors. That same year, operating, security and maintenance issues were addressed, and the Palace's first formal disaster plan was adopted by the Board of Directors.

The entire furniture collection was surveyed in 2008 through a *Museums for America* grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services. Iolani Palace was the first museum in Hawaii to secure this grant. A furniture conservation project, funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's *Cynthia Wood Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors* and the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, designed conservation treatments for selected upholstered collection items.

In the words of Malia Van Heukelem, "object conservator Beverly Perkins and preservation architect Spencer Leineweber have continued to be amazing supporters long after their assessments were completed. They have volunteered expertise, supported grant applications, and connected us to other consultants whenever we sought their help."

*Thanks to Malia Van Heukelem
for her help with this article.*

TELL US YOUR STORY!

Has your institution been affected by the recent economic crisis? What cost-saving measures or tips would you like to share with your colleagues in the cultural field? Please email your comments to cap@heritagepreservation.org.

Do's and Don'ts: Glass



- DO provide sufficient padding between glass objects in storage and during transport.
- DO NOT dust any glass artifacts.
- DO use special padding materials or procedures for your archaeological glass or glass with delaminating surfaces.

Reprinted with permission from *A Guide to Handling Anthropological Collections* by Nancy Odegaard, illustration by Grace Katterman, Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC), 1991. Copies may be purchased from WAAC c/o Donna Williams, Williams Art Conservation, 6234 Afton Place, Los Angeles, CA 90028, wacinconserve@sbcglobal.net, or 323-462-2346. The books are \$8.95 each or \$6.60 each for orders of 10 or more (prices include US postage). Books are also available in Spanish.

Focus on Fundraising: Tourism Cares



When searching for grants to pursue after CAP, it helps to think outside the box. Two former CAP museums, the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico (CAP 2001) and the Huddleston Farmhouse Inn Museum in Cambridge City, Indiana (CAP 1997), looked beyond state and federal grants and found a program offered by Tourism Cares, a non-profit public charity.

Each of these museums needed specific structural improvements and found that Tourism Cares provides funds, through their Worldwide Grant program, for bricks-and-mortar projects at tourism-related sites of exceptional cultural, historical, or natural significance. Representatives from both institutions reported positive results from their experience with the Worldwide Grant, and described Grant Program Director Carolyn Viles as “user-friendly.”

Tourism Cares is a 501(c)(3) public charity that was formed by the merging of the National Tourism Foundation and the Travelers Conservation Foundation. It benefits society by preserving the travel experience for future generations by giving grants to cultural and historic sites worldwide; by awarding academic and professional development scholarships to college and graduate students studying travel, tourism, and hospitality; and by organizing volunteer restoration events at tourism-related sites in need of care and rejuvenation. The Worldwide Grant deadline is July 31, 2009. For more information, visit www.tourismcares.org.



Institute of American Indian Arts Museum, Santa Fe, NM, recipient of the Worldwide Grant from Tourism Cares.

Preservation Assistance Grant Applications Now Available

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions help small and mid-sized institutions, such as museums, historical societies, archival repositories, libraries, town and county records offices, and colleges and universities, improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections. Awards of up to \$6,000 support preservation related collection assessments, consultations, training and workshops, and institutional and collaborative disaster and emergency planning. Grants cover consultant fees, workshop registration fees, related travel and per diem expenses, and the costs of purchasing and shipping preservation supplies and equipment.

The 2009 guidelines for Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions are available at www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html. You will also find sample project descriptions, sample narratives, and a list of frequently asked questions. The deadline for applications is May 14, 2009. All applications to the NEH must be submitted through Grants.gov. See the application guidelines for details.

Small and mid-sized institutions that have never received an NEH grant are especially encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the staff of NEH's Division of Preservation and Access at 202-606-8570 and preservation@neh.gov.

If your institution could use assistance in the application process, the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) is offering FREE grant application support to your grant writing team to help bring this important funding to you. Contact Lee Price, CCAHA Director of Development at lprice@ccaha.org for more information.

Staff Changes

In October 2008, Kate Marks, CAP Coordinator, left the position to become the State of Maryland's War of 1812 Bicentennial Program Coordinator. She passed the torch to Sara Gonzales. Sara comes to CAP from the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society in Illinois, where she has most recently served as Curator. Heritage Preservation welcomes Sara and is confident she will be an asset to CAP.

Save the Date! Collections Conference in Buffalo

Heritage Preservation has partnered with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in producing *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a multi-faceted national initiative to save America's threatened collections, which has brought information and inspiration to thousands of professionals who are committed to ensuring that our nation's heritage survives for future generations.

The fourth forum in the *Connecting to Collections* National Tour will be held in Buffalo, New York on June 16 and 17, 2009. This forum will explore how committed individuals, ranging from small town librarians to directors of national conservation training programs, can work together, both nationally and in their communities. Registration is free and open to any museum staff or Board member who would like to attend. More information regarding the program, travel, and registration will be posted as it becomes available at: www.imls.gov/collections/Tour/index.htm.



Become a Member!

Heritage Preservation provides its members with timely, useful information and represents them before decision-makers in the cultural heritage arena. Our members know they can count on us to voice their concerns where it counts most—from Capitol Hill to corporate boardrooms to federal agencies!

For information on how to join please visit us at www.heritagepreservation.org or call us toll-free at 888-388-6789.

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Collections Care Calendar

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*For dates and links to Preservation Events and Grant
deadlines please visit:
www.heritagepreservation.org/calendar.htm*

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