

2023 BPG Business Meeting Minutes

AIC 51st Annual Meeting, Jacksonville (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 1:00 PM ET

Meeting duration: 1:39:14

Minutes by Marieka Kaye, BPG Secretary/Treasurer (2021-2023)

[Meeting agenda](#)

Opening

BPG Chair, Liz Dube, called the BPG business meeting to order. They presented the meeting with the other members of the Executive Council: outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, Marieka Kaye, outgoing Program Chair, Morgan Browning, and Amy Hughes, who will move from Assistant Program Chair to Program Chair. Several guests also joined to present during the meeting.

The Executive Officers attended the Annual Meeting in Jacksonville in May. The business meeting continues to be held on Zoom to remain accessible to a broader constituency than those attending in-person and live streaming from the meeting is extremely expensive. Holding the business meeting on the AIC Zoom platform after the in-person meeting made the most sense from both time management and cost perspectives.

Members voted on and approved the [2022 Business Meeting minutes](#), originally shared by Marieka Kaye in September 2022 in the online [BPG Community on Higher Logic](#). No corrections were submitted. Michelle C. Williams made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Seth Irwin.

Announcements from the Chair

Liz gave thanks to the many BPG volunteers who assisted with helping her in her first year as BPG Chair. Liz also shared a list of current and incoming volunteers and a link to the [leadership opportunities page](#) of the AIC website. Liz also thanked those involved in creating the AIC Strategic Plan, approved in December, and highlighted [AIC's Core Values](#), encouraging membership to keep returning to them as we ponder challenges and opportunities and consider where we invest our resources. Liz also thanked Priscilla Anderson for organizing the lead article for the May 2023 issue of *AIC News*, [Centering Voices: Undergraduate Preservation Internships for Students of Color](#).

AIC Board Updates

Elmer Eusman, AIC/FAIC Treasurer, and Sarah Reidell, AIC Director of Communications, presented news from the AIC Board. This included thanking Sarah Melching for her years of service as a specialty group liaison (2017-2023). Greg Bailey will be serving in this role next.

Abstract submissions for the 2024 meeting, taking place in Salt Lake City, May 21-24, 2024, are due on September 15, 2023. Theme is “Expect the Unexpected: Embracing and Managing Change, Uncertainty, and Surprise.” There will be **no** extensions for abstract submissions this year. There will be meeting-related training sessions offered - what kinds of things have been useful in the past, and what kinds of things would you like to introduce to the moderator training moving forward?

The 2023-2025 Board Strategic Plan was shared with the following top five priorities:

1. Welcome, value, and support members at all career stages
2. Integrate sustainability into all that we do
3. Promote and invest in diversity, equity, inclusion, and access
4. Strengthen communications
5. Continue to invest in our mission with good governance

They are working on a Board Diversity Plan and onboarding. They are collecting info on how specialty groups are incorporating the Strategic Plan into their goals and projects. The election process has problems, and they are working on fixing these problems for the coming year.

Discussion continued about the final stages of the change to Bylaws. They are still soliciting feedback on the Member Community about the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property, focusing on countries in conflict. Suzanne Davis posted about this matter in the Member Community.

Sarah discussed the Climate Impact survey results. They will be diving in further and sharing findings over the summer. Tote bags are out, water bottles are in. Geographic rotation is very important to members. Cost and time are significant factors in attendance. Networking is more important than local attractions. We should be addressing climate change and action in our organization. There is no clear preference in meeting format and frequency (virtual vs. in-person vs. hybrid, reducing meeting to biennial, etc.).

The current Board of Directors can be found here:

<https://www.culturalheritage.org/about-us/association/leadership/aic-board-of-directors>

No questions followed the AIC Board updates.

AIC Member Engagement Subcommittee

Bonnie Naugle, AIC Communications & Membership Director, presented information on the Member Engagement Subcommittee (MES) for Rebecca Rushfield.

Bonnie shared the mission of MES, a small subcommittee that started in 2020. They hold monthly member meetups. Members discuss challenges they face, followed by breakout discussions. Encourages members to volunteer and provides support for volunteers.

Goals: create orientation materials to familiarize members with AIC and FAIC; collaborate with Equity & Inclusion Committee and Nominating Committee to promote diverse membership; develop materials, events, and communication strategies to ensure members feel welcome and supported; create plan to encourage members to volunteer; develop materials and strategies to support volunteers; create a plan for volunteer recognition. This is a good way to connect for new members, members working in private practice or in isolated locations, etc. They meet on the second Friday of each month 2-3pm.

AIC Website & Community Tips

Bonnie Naugle, AIC Communications & Membership Director, presented information on the AIC website and community tips.

Current set-up:

1. AIC main website
 - a. Database
 - i. Member portal
 - ii. Transactions
 - b. Online community (login)
 - c. Learning community (login)

2. Donation website
3. Application website
4. Abstracts forms

- Goal: one website with one login for everything - big technical challenge but hopefully will be done in the next 6 months
- Despite it appearing outdated, the CoOL search tool works well for AIC resources, postprints
- Member portal - you can manage digests, membership, join communities, look up your postprints, newsletters (digital library) - huge amounts of information.

Reach out to Bonnie any time with questions.

Increasing Diversity Through Undergraduate Internships

Priscilla Anderson, Host, HBCU/Winterthur Library Preservation Interns

Priscilla discussed her experience as a host for the HBCU/Winterthur Library Preservation Interns, which she highlighted in the May 2023 issue of *AIC News*, [Centering Voices: Undergraduate Preservation Internships for Students of Color](#). The goal of this experience is to provide preventive conservation training, overview of digital preservation, and other skills that are applicable to a variety of future work placements and career opportunities. Sensitivity to

workload and providing opportunities for the interns to be seen and heard were important to the success of the internships. Priscilla encouraged others to think about developing similar internship initiatives at their institutions and to reach out to her if they'd like to brainstorm and get advice.

Treasurer's Report

Marieka Kaye presented the Treasurer's Report. This included the 2022 income and expenses and the 2023 proposed budget. All financial matters discussed happened between Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2022. The full report and all financial details can be found in the presentation slides: [2023 BPG Treasurer's Report](#).

- BPG is in good financial standing with a reserve of \$67,772 (the goal is to have between \$40-50K in reserve).
- BPG was able to support more speaker and volunteer travel for those needing assistance to attend the annual meeting.
- BPG also continued to cover student memberships.
- Members voted to approve the continuance of current donation allocations, which was \$1,200 to Gaehde, \$1,200 to the Horton, and \$1,000 to Stout Funds.
- BPG also reduced dues from \$35 to \$25 and made international membership dues the same as US memberships. This reflects the reduction in printing and shipping costs associated with the *BPG Annual*, which is now fully electronic.
- Nora Lockshin suggested an increase of Stout to \$1,200 to match the others. Eliza moved to vote on Nora's suggestion, seconded by Fletcher Durant and Sarah Casto. Members voted to approve the increase.
- A motion was put forward by Elmer Eusman to accept the 2023 Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Katie Smith. Members voted to approve the 2023 Treasurer's Report and the motion passed.

Program Chair Report

Morgan Browning discussed the meeting, starting with the abstract review committee. There were less abstracts submitted but still a well-rounded program. There were four sessions of talks, a joint BPG/RATS/Preventive Care session with the Bibliotoxicology Working Group, Art on Paper Discussion Group, and part 2 of the 19th C. Varnished Wall Map lunchtime panel session. The Library and Archives Discussion Group and BPG Wiki Group sessions took place virtually in June.

Assistant Program Chair Report

Amy Hughes discussed the reception, held at the Jacksonville Public Library. 115 members of BPG were present. Northeast Document Conservation Center was the sponsor.

Education & Programs Committee Update

Melina Avery, EPC Chair (outgoing)

An [EPC survey](#) was shared with membership to help guide future programming. Melina shared results of the survey including:

- Membership prefers a mix of virtual and in-person programming (approx. 90%)
- People are already comfortable with returning to in-person programming (74% have already returned to in-person events)
- Taking Covid precautions - no consensus (51% would like vaccine mandate; 43% would like to see masks encouraged but not required); organizers can make decisions for their own events
- People who receive financial resources for travel are mixed, 93% received some; 50% responded that they only occasionally receive funding, highlighting the need for low cost and free programming, such as virtual options
- Barriers to travel for in-person programming - 65% have no barriers; 35% shared specifics such as family care obligations, busy schedules, work responsibilities; several mentioned abstaining from travel due to environmental impact and budget limitations
- Most popular request for programming topics included treatment techniques (90%), reconstructing historical and contemporary materials and techniques (60%), scientific analysis and testing (50%)
- Least popular: exhibition and transport (29%); other: Asian art conservation repeat, leadership, project management
- Specific course suggestions and hosts are saved in an EPC spreadsheet
- More topic suggestions: tape removal, gels
- The connection between respondent and response was lost, so Melina asked if people could reach out to her if they were interested in hosting or teaching; 48 people responded that they could host or teach but contact info was not included
- Suggestions: make teaching materials from workshops made more widely available; tie workshops to the annual meeting, or not; courses for mid-level to senior-level conservators would be valuable
- Next steps: EPC can make a template or article to help flesh out workshop ideas, offer workshops several times in different locations, do hybrid workshops, seek feedback more often, remind people that EPC is there to help plan workshops, better communicate, and strengthen the pipeline between ideas and making workshops happen; coordinate more with F/AIC Education & Training Committee
- Melina shared links to upcoming workshops (in-person, virtual, and on-demand)
- Jennifer Hain Teper will be the next EPC Chair

Publications Committee Update

Lydia Aikenhead, Publications Committee Chair

- Introduced new members, thanked members rolling off
- Website Coordinator has new email address: bpgwebpage@gmail.com

- BPG Annual Vol. 41 is available online:
<https://www.culturalheritage.org/membership/groups-and-networks/book-and-paper-group/about-the-annual/bpgannual>
 - Open access, no more paywall
- BPG Wiki updates: over 30 people contributed; significant updates included East Asian Book Formats, East Asian Scrolls, Parchment, Parchment Bookbinding, Animal Skin and Leather, Iron Gall Ink, Washing, and Alkalization and Neutralization

Nominating Committee Report

Shelly Smith, Nominating Committee Member

- Melissa Tedone, Debra Cuoco, and Shelly Smith served on the committee
- Ballot was open April 10-30, 2023
- Tessa Gadomski is incoming Secretary/Treasurer (2023-2025) and Morgan Adams is incoming Asst. Program Chair (2023-2024) & Program Chair (2024-2025)
- Call for two nominees to serve on the Nominating Committee with Melissa Tedone for a one-year term (2023-2024)
- Self-nominations: Morgan Browning and Marieka Kaye
- Members voted to approve Morgan and Marieka to serve with Melissa on the next Nominating Committee

General Announcements

- *Conservation of Books* (ed. Abigail Bainbridge) was published by Routledge this year - contributions by many members
- *BPG Annual* and *JAIC* authors were thanked
- Shannon Zachary retired from University of Michigan Library after 29 years; awarded AIC Honorary Membership
- Acknowledgement of speakers and volunteers who received financial support to attend the meeting
- Jennifer Hain Teper received the President's Award for exceptional work in examining and improving accessibility for AIC members
- Samantha Callanta was awarded the Christa Gaehde Scholarship
- A group of members who were awarded the Horton scholarships were recognized
- An article was published by Sarah Reidell and colleagues on paper fiber identification techniques using OCT, presented at the Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics (CLEO) in May 2023.
- FAIC Photomechanical Prints Symposium registration info was shared, taking place at National Gallery of Art in October 2023

New Business from the Floor

- Bonnie asked if people prefer virtual business meetings or if they'd like to have them onsite at the annual meeting again (with hybrid option); Bonnie says that virtual meetings that happen after the annual meeting can get overwhelming (she has to be involved in 12) and virtual attendance isn't great; AIC staff prefer onsite, but members may prefer otherwise
 - Sarah Reidell replied - pluses to both; timing is an issue - virtual business meetings spread out the conference season a lot; worth exploring further
 - Comments were recorded in the chat: time zones are difficult for hybrid; virtual allows people to attend without attending the annual meeting
- Crystal Maitland stated (in chat) that this year the AIC annual meeting overlapped with the CAC meeting, making it difficult for Canadian members to attend
- Seth Irwin reminded members that they will be doing a special postprints issue for the varnished wall map symposium, coming out in summer 2024

Closing

Liz thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.