



**Washington Conservation Guild
Annual Report
2019/2020**

Submitted by Jayne Girod Holt, President

Introduction

The Washington Conservation Guild is a local non-profit organization, founded in 1967. The goal of the WCG is to provide for the exchange of information among our members who are conservators, curators, collectors, framers, architects, students and others interested in the conservation, restoration, preservation and protection of objects of historical importance. We organize and hold monthly meetings that include social activities and talks on a variety of conservation and preservation related topics. In addition, we sponsor specialized seminars and workshops for our members and the community. As part of our public education programs we participate in local cultural events in partnership with DC area libraries and museums. We provide conservation information to the public through our website and our social media platforms. WCG membership is open to everyone who has an interest in the conservation and preservation of our art and historical heritage.

Message from the President

The 2019/2020 year has been one of change and adjustment for WCG. The committee positions underwent a major restructuring at the beginning of the year with some positions eliminated and many others created in order to reflect a new commitment to expanding our presence online. We added two new accounts on social media, Twitter and Instagram, and decided to retire the booth, which had not aged well. We have been fortunate in having a dynamic board this past year. They brought new ideas to meetings and were enthusiastic about performing their duties. This has been a very good team.

2019/2020 WCG Board

Officers

President: Jayne Girod Holt

Vice President: Rachel Greenberg

Treasurer: Jennifer Morton-Hauck

Membership Secretary: Dawn Wallace

Recording Secretary: Ann Schaffer

Directors

Past President: Diana Galante

Dina Anchin

Valinda Carroll

Ashley Jehle

Arianna Carini Johnston

Linda Landry

Josie Maldonado

Gwen Manthey

Samantha Owens

Advisory Committees

Archivist: Alison Reppert Gerber

Intern Coordinators: Beth Knight; Karen Wilcox

Nominating Committee: Diana Galante, Past President; Sarah Stauderman; Peter Muldoon

Logistics: Lindsay Cross

Liaison to Safety & Cultural Heritage

Summit: Anne Marigza

WCG Review Committee: OPEN

Communications and Outreach Chair: Anne Kingery-Schwartz

Web Content Editor: Jessica Phillips

Web Administrator: Katie Mullen

Community Outreach Liaison: Holly Herro

Volunteer Task Force Coordinator: OPEN
Community Partnerships Project: OPEN
Photographer: Miguel Resendiz
G-Suite Administrator: Anne Marigza

Social Media Team: Sarah Hesler, Saki
Kunikata, Veronica Mercado, Jacquie
Riddle, Daniella Villamil

Membership Summary

The total number of members this year was 160. Of those, 28 were new members, 102 were renewals and there were 30 student/intern members. A membership directory was sent to the membership by email on April 4th. Any member who has not received a directory should contact WCG to request a copy.

Meeting Venues and Speakers

Below is the list of monthly meetings held by WCG during the 2019/2020 season. The list includes the venues and speakers as well as the directors who were directly charged with making sure that their particular meeting was a success.

Due to the pandemic and quarantine restrictions starting in March, our regularly scheduled April meeting was canceled and replaced by a virtual presentation. The April meeting was to have been at Mount Vernon and included free tours of the property for members. It is hoped that this will be rescheduled next year. Tammy Hong, at the National Gallery, was to be the speaker and we are hoping she will present her talk to the membership in the Fall of 2020.

2020 marks the first year for WCG holding virtual meetings. The first foray into this was our regular April meeting. This was a great success with nearly 100 attendees, many from outside the area. The May Business Meeting was also virtual and we decided to continue our tradition of holding a raffle during the meeting. We used part of the untapped food budgets for April and May to cover the cost of some of the raffle prizes. We had 46 members attend the May meeting.

Meeting Date	Meeting Venue	Directors	Speaker(s)
September 5, 2019	Mr. Henry's, Capitol Hill	Arianna Carini Johnston	N/A
October 3, 2019	Barbara Kruger Gallery and Ring Auditorium, The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden	Dina Anchin and Ashley Jehle	Conservator Lisa Young, Project Manager Ashlee Pevette, Curator Cathleen Lewis, and Curator Mike Neufeld, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum
November 7, 2019	George Peabody Library,	Josie Maldonado and Gwen Manthey	Connie Stromberg and Howard Wellman, Conservators in Private Practice

	Johns Hopkins University		
December 5, 2019	Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital	Valinda Carroll and Josie Maldonado	Lindsay M. Chervinsky, White House Historian
January 9, 2020	Dillon S. Ripley Center	Dina Anchin, Ashley Jehle, and Samantha Owens	<p>Evolving Approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soon Kai Poh, Gerrit Albertson, Jia-Sun Tsang <p>Historic Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josephina Maldonado, Steven Pickman, Edward McManus <p>Modern Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MarkCoulbourne, Bryan Draper, and Carla Q. Montori, Dylan Lorenz, Crystal Sanchez
February 6, 2020	African American Civil War Memorial Museum	Linda Landry and Gwen Manthey	Cathie Magee, Harper-Inglis Fellow in Conservation at the Library of Congress
March 5, 2020	3M Innovation Center	Arianna Carini Johnston, Samantha Owens, and Intern Coordinators	<p>Intern Talks</p> <p>Miguel Resendiz, Smithsonian Institution Archives</p> <p>Karen Wilcox, National Air and Space Museum</p> <p>Austin Anderson, The Walters Art Museum</p>
April 2, 2020	FreeConferenceCall.com Originally Scheduled: George Washington's Mt. Vernon	Valinda Carroll and Linda Landry	Amber Kerr, Chief of Conservation, Smithsonian American Art Museum
May 7, 2020	Zoom.com Originally Scheduled: Belle Vue Room, Dumbarton House	Gwen Manthey	Jayne Girod Holt, WCG President, and Rachel Greenberg, WCG Vice President

Additional Activities

- Safety and Cultural Heritage Summit, October 30, 2019
- Community Partnership Project with the African American Civil War Memorial Museum, February 22, 2020
- Preservation Week Virtual Presentation with Fairfax County Public Libraries, May 2, 2020
- Postponed: Silver Ring workshop with Michael Brehl
- Postponed: Materials Swap

Financial Highlights

As of May 1, our PNC checking account is at \$9,633.59 and our savings account is at \$11,082.71. Our PayPal account is at \$9,408.32. Current financial assets are at \$30,114.71.

We didn't achieve our projected revenue goal for this fiscal year. We came in \$804.28 below our target. This was likely due to the fact that we brought in less money in a number of categories including the WCG/AIHA workshop profit and grant funding. However, we didn't meet the projected expenses for this fiscal year either. We came in \$5,543.94 below our targeted expenses. This was largely due to COVID-19 making it impossible for us to have our final two meetings in-person and having to cancel our Preservation Week outreach event. We also didn't spend any money we had budgeted for our Intern Career Day or the Logistics Suitcase supplies. Overall, we have a surplus of \$4,914.66 this year, and should be in a good place for next year.

Looking ahead, the recommendation is for the Board to focus on increasing revenue next year, perhaps through workshops. As was true this past year, those efforts may be subject to disruption from continuing concerns over COVID-19.

Archives

This was Alison's first year as WCG Archivist and she is in the process of updating the guidelines for digital submissions as well as continuing the good work of her predecessors. The WCG Archives is part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7577. A finding aid is online at <http://siarchives.si.edu/findingaids/FARU7477.htm>

Members are encouraged to submit photographs of WCG people and events to the board to be included in the archives.

Interns

Our Intern Coordinators put in a lot of time and energy welcoming interns and fellows to the area. They planned many social and enrichment events throughout the year and they didn't let the pandemic stop them, switching to virtual events after the start of quarantine. These sorts of events not only provide a networking opportunity to our emerging conservators, they also help create community for many who are new to the area and far from family and friends.

Beth and Karen organized the following events this past year, some in partnership with the Emerging Museums Professionals and the Emerging Conservation Professionals Network:

- A Speakeasy Evening at NMAAHC (October 2019)
- Drinks at Crimson DC (November 2019)
- Dinner and drinks at Elephant and Castle (January 2020)
- Virtual Trivia Night (April 2020) – included participants from as far away as Williamsburg!

They also oversee the Williston Fund, which continues to be used to underwrite membership dues for 4-5 Washington area interns or fellows. This includes maintaining an updated contact list of area lab head and private practice conservators and recruiting applications. The recipients are recommended to WCG at the beginning of the season and winners are announced in the fall.

The recipients for 2019/2020 were Austin Anderson, at the Walters Art Museum; Tammy Hong, at the National Gallery of Art; Miguel Resendiz, at the Smithsonian Archives and the Phillips Collection; and Karen Wilcox, at National Air and Space Museum.

Communications and Outreach

This year marked a major restructuring for WCG. In previous years, our digital presence was largely confined to a website and official email addresses. A Flickr account and a Facebook page was created at some point as well. Last year we added G-Suite to help organize our digital documents and materials. There was little coordination between those overseeing the various parts.

Last summer we made the decision to really inhabit our Google Drive space, providing a way for the board to use and access our forms and documents in one place. This is still a work in progress as we continue to find new ways to exploit the capabilities of the Drive.

We also decided to make a concerted effort to change and expand our outreach through some of the newer and more widely used digital platforms. We added our own Twitter and Instagram accounts. We quickly realized these new platforms fell under both Outreach and Communications so we decided to combine the two into one committee. We also created several new official roles to manage what has become a very important part of WCG.

Anne has been instrumental in getting Communications and Outreach launched. She has gathered a team of talented people to take charge of various aspects. This is a work in progress and Anne remains flexible in continuing to grow this part of WCG.

At the beginning of the year, the board decided to focus more on small outreach events coordinated with local museums and historical societies. We believe this collaboration will strengthen our ties with the community as well as provide new ideas for events.

Acknowledgements

I'd like to start by thanking those who are stepping away from active leadership roles at WCG. Dawn Wallace will be stepping down at Membership Secretary after three years in that position. We thank Dawn for all her hard work and dedication as she manned the reception table at every meeting, sent scores of emails out to the membership and got a directory out to everyone in April. Thank you also to Beth Knight and Samantha Owens who are leaving their positions as Intern Coordinator and Director.

I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge the contributions of Dana Moffet and Bill Tompkins who have always been so good to WCG, especially with making the 3-Ring Circus possible at the Ripley Center. We simply wouldn't be able to have this important meeting in that fantastic space without them!