

Beyond the Bazaar

Collectively preserving, archiving, and sharing the history and culture of the Los Angeles region

Happy Silver Anniversary!

How wonderful that we've made it to our 25th anniversary! We began in the mid-1990s and since then we've blossomed into an ever-evolving community of those that work to preserve, research, and share our city's history. We run the gamut from individual researchers and history keepers to smaller volunteer run organizations to mid-sized museums to large institutions and everything in between. Despite our differences, we all have one thing in common - our work in making sure what should be remembered is not forgotten. Whether you've been here from the beginning, or joined along the way, all of our members and allies should feel proud of their contributions to preserving the histories of our city.

This has been an extremely difficult year on many levels for both individuals and organizations. The pandemic challenges our ability to continue our work, while ongoing social justice issues simultaneously make the preservation of history and culture feel more pressing and needed than ever before.

With the local arrival of the pandemic in the spring, LA as Subject switched gears from in-person general membership meetings and events to uniting together in the virtual realm. Thanks to the tenacity and willingness of LAAS members, the Executive Committee, and the USC team, we've temporarily adapted our community to remain connected and engaged with one another online.

We look forward to when we'll be able to come together again in person. In the meantime, stay safe, take care, and see you virtually!

*Mallory Furnier
L.A. as Subject Executive Committee Chair, 2019-2021*

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Archives Bazaar 2020 Recap

This year's Archives Bazaar, held on October 17, was the first virtual Bazaar in the event's fifteen-year history. Shifting from the usual in-person gathering at USC's Doheny Memorial Library, participants instead gathered online for a full-day – 8am to 8pm – of programming on a range of engaging topics concerning all things archives in Los Angeles.

Presentations included a film and talk by the South El Monte Art Posse, who shared their archival project that is a corrective re-writing of their community's history; an introduction to Garifuna culture and history by community members from the Garifuna Museum of Los Angeles; and a talk about African American sites of leisure in Southern California during the Jim Crow era and archival resources that preserve this history. Colleagues from the Los Angeles Public Library provided an informative overview of the wide range of L.A.-related primary source materials held at the Central Library, and archivists from throughout the Southwest shared

photographs and stories about Archives Bazaars in their own communities. Partners from Home Movie Day, Basement Tapes Day, and The Los Angeles Preservation Network (LAPNet) led instructive sessions on the preservation of audiovisual materials and books. Volunteers from the L.A. as Subject community made themselves available throughout the day to answer questions and engage in conversations about L.A. history and archives in the virtual Reference Room.

A host of L.A. as Subject members created virtual exhibitor booths and video tours, while L.A. as Subject Residents offered pre-recorded tutorials on personal and family archiving, digitizing scrapbooks, and conducting collection surveys. Two virtual exhibitions were also created for and unveiled at the Archives Bazaar. *L.A. as Subject: Twenty-Five Years of Highlighting Southern California Archives* celebrates the 25th anniversary and history of L.A. as Subject, and the 15th anniversary

of the Archives Bazaar inspired *When I Think of Home: Images from L.A. Archives*, which features materials from nearly fifty L.A. as Subject members who contributed archival materials related to the theme of home.

Finally, artist Guadalupe Rosales, founder and steward of the digital archives, *Veteranas & Rucas* and *Map Pointz*, was awarded the Avery Clayton Spirit Award at the Archives Bazaar reception in recognition of her work documenting late 20th and early 21st century Latinx youth culture in Southern California (see article in this newsletter).

The program committee wishes to thank all of those who attended and contributed to the success of this year's Archives Bazaar – and we look ahead to 2021!

*Suzanne Noruschat & Alejandra Gaeta
Archives Bazaar Planning & Program Committee Co-Chairs,
2020*

Are you a member in good-standing?

An L.A. as Subject member in good standing is required to participate in at least **one** of the following activities per year:

- ◇ Attend a membership meeting
- ◇ Host a membership meeting
- ◇ Provide content to LAAS website
- ◇ Volunteer at events in which LAAS participates
- ◇ Serve on Executive Committee
- ◇ Lead a tour or workshop
- ◇ Host an LAAS collaborative special event or projects (visit <https://laassubject.org/members-area> to submit a proposal form)

In addition, members with directory listings must keep their contacts and directory information up to date.

2020 LA as Subject Executive Committee

Liza Posas, Mallory Furnier, Yolanda Bustos, Lisa Crane, Alejandra Gaeta, Phyllis Hansen, Suzi Noruschat, and Julie Yamashita

For more information about the executive committee and meeting notes, please visit: <https://laassubject.org/la-subject-executive-committee>

LAasSubject.org

The Avery Clayton Spirit Award 2020

The Avery Clayton Spirit Award was established by the Executive Committee of LA as Subject in 2010. Avery Clayton was a long time active member of LA as Subject and founder of the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum, home to his mother Dr. Clayton's life work - a collection that preserves and shares the story of all aspects of the African-American experience. Each year at the close of the Archives Bazaar we proudly take time to recognize and honor his role in keeping Los Angeles memory alive in archival form.

This year at our virtual Bazaar, we were very pleased to honor Guadalupe Rosales for her work documenting late 20th and early 21st century Latinx youth culture in Southern California. Guadalupe is a visual artist from East Los Angeles, and founder and operator of digital archives *Veteranas & Rucas* and *Map Pointz*, as well as companion physical archives.

Since 2015 Guadalupe has used Instagram as an access point and center of dialogue for community memory and self-representation through archival materials. Viewers can submit their own photographs and ephemera to the digital archive via e-mail or Instagram direct messages. *Veteranas & Rucas* now has over a quarter million followers on Instagram. The use of an online platform is now more appropriate than ever, as the digital realm has become a central connective space for many of us during the pandemic.

This year has also seen a rise in archives accepting self-submissions of archival materials documenting contemporary events. *Veteranas & Rucas* and *Map Pointz* were ahead of the curve in allowing people represented in the archives to be active agents in the preservation of their own stories and identities related to a place and time that is still very much a living memory.

LA as Subject is largely centered around community archives, and a local community of archivists. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary year, and look toward the future of community archives over the next twenty-five years, Guadalupe's work demonstrates the importance of and possibilities for archival work as a shared, participatory process that centers the voice and identity of the community.

Mallory Furnier

L.A. as Subject Executive Committee Chair, 2019-2021

Archives At Risk Committee

The LA as Subject Archives At Risk Committee is tasked with creating assessment and support resources for LAAS member archives facing change. The Committee began its work in January 2020, prior to the pandemic's local arrival, and is centered on helping archival caretakers thoughtfully manage change before their situation becomes an archives emergency.

From 2020 through 2021 the Committee's core mission is to create a regularly maintained organizational and collection management self-assessment program to help caretakers of Los Angeles related archival materials make their own informed

decisions. The self-assessment process will include a pre-defined amount of support from peers and archivists on the standing Committee, and consider the challenges specific to archives in the Greater Los Angeles region.

Since the Committee began convening, we've identified and surveyed existing relevant resources and assessment programs to help inform the creation of our local guided self-assessment program. Resources that relate to specific nuts and bolts archival needs, rather than broader organizational or structural needs, were assembled into a Help Desk

to debut soon on the LAAS website.

At the close of 2020 and into early 2021, the Committee is actively researching common challenges local archival collections face, and possible paths to take to overcome these challenges. Based on this research, the Committee will begin creating our program with a goal of having the self-assessment pilot running by fall 2021. Stay tuned for information on how to participate in the pilot program!

Mallory Furnier

L.A. as Subject Executive Committee Chair, 2019-2021

L.A. as Subject Talk Shops: A Virtual Success

Back in 2013, the L.A. as Subject “talk-shop” became the brainchild of Rebecca Fenning and Mallory Furnier (your current LAAS Executive Committee chair!) and was designed to be part workshop and part informal discussion. The aim of the talk-shops was to provide opportunities for members to come together to learn new skills as well as encourage dynamic conversations.

As the country began to lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the one-hour talk-shop model and the use of virtual conferencing systems, like Zoom, became the perfect way to keep L.A. as Subject members connected.

The L.A., as Subject Virtual Talk-Shop Series was held twice a week from March 31 to April 30 and covered topics like *Intro to Zoom*, *#ing @ Home*, and *LAAS Membership: Now and Then*. Topics also focused on helping members update their profile on the L.A. as Subject Directory Portal. The VTS Series took a break in May and resumed from June-October. This round of VTS series topics reflected the activities related to remote work, collection care during shutdown, and preparing for the 15th Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar (to be held in October). VTS hosted guest speakers, such as Casey Winkleman presenting *Digital Sustenance: A Mini Manual for Community Archivists*; Yuri Shimoda and Miles Levy, *Basement Tapes Day*; Brian Belak and Megan Needels, *Home Movie Day*; and Laura Verlaque, *Collections Sharing Q&A*. The VTS presentations by Stella Castillo, the L.A. as Subject Community Archives Specialist, also covered topics such as copyright, social media takeovers, and online exhibits.

The VTS series proved to be very popular. Overall, 21 VTS events were held with 438 attendees combined. Most of the presentations were recorded and will be posted on the L.A. as Subject website in early 2021. The last VTS of 2020 was held on October 1, but we are looking forward to scheduling more in 2021.

Liza Posas
L.A. as Subject Coordinator

The Stellar Work of Stella Castillo

For the last two years, Stella Castillo has served as the L.A. as Subject Community Archives Specialist. This position was made possible through the generous support from California State Library and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) *Pitch-An-Idea* grant program.

She assisted LAAS members in updating their directory entries in preparation for the updated L.A. as Subject Directory Portal that launched in 2019. She continued these efforts after-

wards to help members add photo galleries, event information, and news articles to their portal site. Through one-on-one sessions, “edit-a-thons,” and Virtual Talk-Shops, she helped 145 members overall. Stella also presented about the evolution of the LAAS 25-year membership at the Digital Public Library of America and Society of American Archivist conferences.

As the country began to shelter-in-place, she only stepped up her efforts. In 2020 alone,

she coordinated 21 virtual talk-shops, held remote weekly office hours, and was a major contributor to the 15th annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar, especially the *When I Think of Home* online exhibit. Sadly, her position ended on September 30. Although we are happy to report that her stellar work will continue as the Archivist for the USC Digital Library, a position she started in November.

Images: Stella at an LAAS general membership meeting, the Getty, and hosting an “edit-a-thon” at USC.



In Memoriam

Terry Cannon, 1953-2020



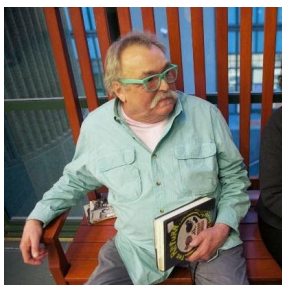
Terry Cannon founded the Baseball Reliquary in 1996. The Baseball Reliquary is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to fostering an appreciation of American art and culture through the context of baseball history and to exploring the national pastime's unparalleled creative possibilities. The Reliquary eventually grew into the Institute for Baseball Studies, a humanities-based research collection at Whittier college.

Josef Lesser, 1936-2020



After 45 years of producing films with his wife, Jo Ann Lesser, Joe began the Los Angeles Railroad Heritage Foundation in 1999 along with Ronald Gustafson. Since the very early days of LARHF, Joe passionately promoted and expanded its mission to diligently and dynamically present how the railroads and inter-urban systems impacted the social and economic fabric and growth of the greater Los Angeles Basin.

Tom Meyer



Tom Meyer, a local photographer and longtime Board Member of Photo Friends of the Los Angeles Public Library, passed away in March 2020. For many years he taught film and large-format photography classes at Barnsdall Art Center. His photo archive has been donated to the Los Angeles Public Library. He is pictured here at a library event with Carolyn Kozo Cole, former Photo Collection manager who passed away in December 2018.

Janis Purins, 1949-2020



Janis Purins died at age 71 on September 21, 2020 following a short fight with pancreatic cancer. Born in a displaced persons camp in Wurzburg, Germany in 1949, he was brought to Grand Rapids, Michigan with his parents as a baby. A resident of Silver Lake for several decades, he was an active member in the Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, the Silver Lake History Collective and the Working Group for the Silver Lake Reservoir. He will be remembered as a kind, socially conscious man of integrity and fine intellect who was a true and stalwart friend.

LAasSUBJECT

Welcome New Members!

- Stan Winston Archives
- Valley Relics Museum
- Zoellner Family String Quartet
- Corita Art Center
- LA Historic Theatre Foundation
- Women in Art and Film,
- Museum of Neon Art
- Claremont Heritage, Inc.
- California State Library
- Fowler Museum of UCLA Archives
- Cal State San Luis Obispo
- Gamola Garifuna Museum
- Burbank Public Library, Burbank in Focus

2021 L.A. as Subject General Membership Meetings

- February 9
- April 13
- June 8
- August 10
- October 12
- December 14

More info on laasubject.org/events

Interested in hosting a meeting? Contact Liza Posas at posas@usc.edu

LAasSubject.org

In Memoriam

Christine “Cris” Rohde, 1947-2020



Christine “Cris” Rohde (last name pronounced “Roadie”) passed away on September 7, losing her battle with cancer. A longtime Marina del Rey resident and community leader, Ms. Rohde served on the board of directors for Marina del Rey’s Holiday Boat Parade, Marina del Rey Historical Society, Santa Monica Red Cross, and on committees for MarinaFest and the Marina del Rey 50th Birthday celebration (2015). She has been fundraising chair and president of the John Tracy Clinic Women’s Auxiliary and served in the civilian reserve Santa Monica Police Department.

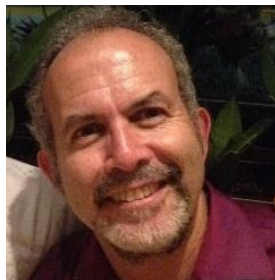
In 1990, Ms. Rohde joined the contemporary design firm of William Dale Brantley, aARts Architects, and continued for three decades in administration, project management, interior design, model homes and governmental entitlement interface, including work with several Marina del Rey lessees.

Sharing an interest in vintage powerboating, Rohde and Mr. Brantley each owned 1950s Chris Craft yachts, which they completely restored. Both were involved with Classic Yacht Association, which strives to preserve and maintain the maritime architectural heritage of fine old wooden power boats. Rohde also provided marine interior design consulting.

As a member of Classic Yacht Association, Rohde served as International Commodore, Southern California Commodore and Treasurer, and produced the Old-Fashioned Day in the Park event, which occurred annually for over four decades until this past summer’s cancelation.

In the late 1970’s Rohde joined the firm of Pearson & Wuesthoff (P&W), working on numerous Marina del Rey development and renovation projects, including Fisherman’s Village dock kiosks. Born Christine Diane Brainard, April 2, 1947, in Burbank, California, Ms. Rohde grew up in San Diego and Seattle, Washington. She earned a degree in Environmental Design from San Diego State University. She was in a previous marriage to Paul Rohde.

Walt “Cat” Walker



In June 2020, Cat Walker unexpectedly passed away. In his thirty years of service he volunteered his time with Jim Kepner’s International Gay & Lesbian Archives (IGLA) and continued with what is now ONE Archives at the USC Libraries. In the 1980s he sought out Jim Kepner to volunteer at IGLA. Cat’s personality and dedication overcame Kepner’s skepticism of library students. At ONE he served on the board and chaired the library committee. As a cataloger he was responsible for cataloging over a third of ONE’s Library collection of 33,000 books and countless magazines, newsletters, and newspapers. Cat was active in the community as a founding member of ACT UP/Los Angeles and Queer Nation Los Angeles. He served in numerous committees of the American Library Association

GLBT-Round Table [now the ALA Rainbow RT]. He also volunteered his time with the Los Angeles LGBT Center, and the California Men’s Gatherings.

Ann Walnum, 1928-2020



Ann Walnum, Highland Park Heritage Trust, was a local community activist, public school teacher and music instructor.