

# Beyond the Bazaar

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

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## Hi L.A. as Subject members and friends!

We're always glad to celebrate Los Angeles archives at the annual Archives Bazaar, but it is one day out of each year. The L.A. as Subject Executive Committee put together this newsletter to showcase what we do throughout the year, and to invite you to join us on our non-Archives Bazaar endeavors too.

In 2019 we were excited to bring on board our three new grant funded Resident Archivists to work with members and their collections. We were also excited for the launch of the new L.A. as Subject Directory Portal, guided by L.A. as Subject Community Archives Specialist Stella Castillo.

We were saddened by the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum's loss of their physical space, but also saw it as a call to action. During the presentation of the 2019 Avery Clayton Spirit Award we announced the establishment of a new standing committee to develop and maintain assessment resources and a system of support for the L.A. as Subject community.

Organizations do not exist without the maintenance work that keeps the lights on. We hope to see you at a 2020 General Membership Meeting, running for a spot on the Executive Committee (elections in June!), participating in 25th anniversary activities organized by the Ad Hoc Anniversary Committee, or getting involved in the new standing committee to better support our LAAS archival neighbors. As L.A. as Subject continues to thoughtfully evolve, we welcome all ideas and new perspectives to help shape our next 25 years!

Happy silver anniversary!

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

## Archives Bazaar 2019 Recap

This year's Archives Bazaar (our 14th) was a resounding success. We had 92 exhibitors, including eight first time exhibitors.

By the middle of the afternoon, the exhibitor space in Doheny Memorial Library was very crowded!

We also offered a slate of very popular programming including a discussion on women's rights moderated by the founder of the LA Women's March Foundation; a panel of authors discussing LA noir; reflections on the LAPL fire; author,

scholar, lecturer and founder of Libros Schmibros, David Kipen, talking about his new book *Dear Los Angeles: The City in Diaries and Letters, 1542 to 2018*; and a workshop, "Better Sharing Through Metadata: Good Practices for Better Discovery", presented by members of the California Digital Library team.

The Archives Bazaar has also long been a way for visitors to learn about the preservation and long-term care of heritage materials, and this year's Bazaar was no exception.

We held the inaugural Basement Tapes event, in which members of the student chapters of the Association of Recorded Sound Collections from UCLA and UC Santa Barbara performed preservation on audio materials. This event was a great complement to Home Movie Day, which joined the Bazaar for the second time, and LAPNet's preservation workshop, a long-standing event. All of these events/workshops saw great attendance.

*Sue Luftschein, L.A. as Subject  
Executive Committee Member*

## Meet the L.A. as Subject Resident Archivists

### 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.

In May 2019, the three of us began our participation in the L.A. as Subject residency and training program, made possible through a generous grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Hard as it is to believe, we've recently passed the six-month mark in our residencies. This has been a great opportunity to get to know the first round of member sites that we will be working with, to become familiar with their collections, and to discuss the goals that each one has in mind for their digital project. We've now reached the point where we've done initial assessments, worked up plans, and have begun to delve into training staff and volunteers on the preparatory steps of assessing, selecting, and preparing materials for digitization.

Some of the collections that we're looking forward to sharing in the coming months include the letters of a woman detained as part of the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II (courtesy of the Japanese American National Museum); photos of South Bay region taken by a photojournalist during the 1940s, 50s, and 60s (courtesy of the Historical Society of Long Beach); historical newspapers from the 19th and 20th century (courtesy of the Whittier Public Library History Room); photographs and slides from filmmaker Ben Caldwell's personal collection (courtesy of KAOS Network); programs, photographs, and ephemera documenting the history of the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse and John S. McGroarty's *The Mission Play* (courtesy of the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse);

yearbooks, photo albums, and meeting minutes (courtesy of The Ebell of Los Angeles)

We have also been deeply involved in the evaluation for a second round of sites that we will work with in 2020. We may have spoken with many of you at the Archives Bazaar in October as we encouraged as many sites and collections to apply as possible. The response has been great and the proposals exciting, and we plan to share our final selections in January 2020.

*Azatuhi Babayan, Gerard Collins, and Crystal Johnson*

*L.A. as Subject Resident Archivists, 2019-2021*

## The Avery Clayton Spirit Award 2019

The Avery Clayton Spirit Award was established by the Executive Committee of L.A. as Subject in 2010. Avery Clayton was a long time active member of L.A. 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.

Unfortunately, the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum had to move out of its building in Culver City this summer, despite the desire to remain in

its current location. This left many of us wondering, did L.A. as Subject become involved too late? Is there a way for us to be better partners and advocates for Los Angeles archival collections? In 2019 the Executive Committee of LA as Subject decided that we would NOT award the Avery Clayton Spirit Award. We still recognize Avery's spirit of dedication, enthusiasm, energy, curiosity and generosity, but we also see the Mayme Clayton's loss of space as a call to action. We want to recognize the challenges that they faced, as well as the challenges faced by other archival collection stewards.

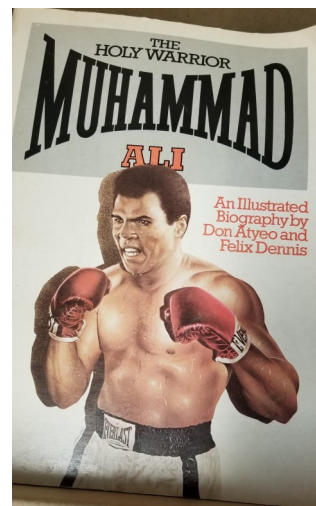
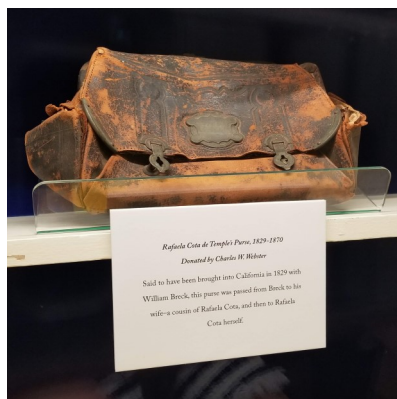
How can we build a better support system? On the eve of our 25th anniversary, what can we do to help one another as an

archival community over the NEXT 25 years? To explore and answer these questions, LA as Subject is establishing a new standing committee to develop and maintain assessment resources and a system of support, to help stewards of archival collections navigate an evaluation of where they are, where they would like to go, AND how to get there. We will share more with our LAAS community as this initiative develops throughout 2020.

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

## L.A. as Subject: A Year in Images

These images are just a few taken during some of the many L.A. as Subject events held at different member locations in 2019.



Left to right: Rafael Cota de Temple's Purse, 1829-1870 at Rancho Los Cerritos; LAAS meeting at Ebbl of Los Angeles; *The Holy Warrior Muhammad Ali* from the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum.

Left to right, top to bottom: Archives Bazaar exhibitors; LAAS meeting at Marina Del Rey Historical Society; Resident Archivists at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse; Model trolley at the Los Angeles Railroad Heritage Foundation (LAHRF); Directory Portal workshop; LAPL Exhibit display of the Candy Wrapper Museum with founder Darlene Lacey; LAAS meeting at the Museum of the San Fernando Valley; L.A. as Subject Executive Committee member Phyllis Hansen, meeting at the LAHRF





# LAasSUBJECT

## 2020 L.A. as Subject General Membership Meetings

- February 11
- April 14
- June 9
- August 11
- October 13
- December 8

More info on  
[laassubject.org/events](http://laassubject.org/events)

**Interested in hosting a meeting?** Contact Liza Posas at [posas@usc.edu](mailto:posas@usc.edu)

## New Directory Portal features at a Glance:

Each Directory profile page provides the option to create:

- Photo galleries
- News and events
- Online exhibits
- Groups with like institutions or collections

Also try the "Find Collections" search for easier discoverability and browsability.

[laassubject.org/find-collection](http://laassubject.org/find-collection)

[LAasSubject.org](http://LAasSubject.org)

## L.A. as Subject 2019– A Year in Review

L.A. as Subject members, we can proudly close out 2019 with another productive year.

We implemented the new L.A. as Subject Directory Portal, made possible through a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Pitch-An-Idea grant project from the California State Library. The new Directory Portal allows the public to discover 267 LAAS member collections including photo galleries, news, and events, as well as an organizational structure designed for easy searchability and browsing. You can read more about this in Stella Castillo's article "Introducing the new L.A. as Subject Directory Portal" below. The Directory Portal project was so successful that LSTA and the California State Library awarded a second round of funding to assist in developing a Directory Portal "toolkit" that will freely be made available to other affinity groups similar to L.A. as Subject.

*Lost L.A.*, a co-production of KCET and the USC Libraries, won another Emmy Award for the "Yosemite" episode. *Lost L.A.*, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> season, is a series of half-hour episodes that tell the history of Southern California through archival materials from the USC Libraries' holdings in regional history, as well as L.A. as Subject members.

The L.A. as Subject Resident Archivist and Digitization Training program also began this year. Resident Archivists Azatuhi Babayan, Gerard Collins, and Crystal Johnson were hired in May to assist L.A. as Subject members build skills related to the various phases of a digitization project. You can read more about their experiences so far in the article "Meet the L.A. as Subject Resident Archivists" on page 2.

The L.A. as Subject membership also grew. New or returning archive members include the Columbia Memorial Space Center, Historical Society of Centinela Valley, Self Help Graphics and Art, Inc., Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Piatigorsky Archives, Santa Barbara Mission Archive and Library, and more as well as 36 student and research members interested in LA history.

For the bimonthly general members meetings, members travelled to and toured locations across Los Angeles that include the Marina Del Rey Historical Society, Ebell of Los Angeles, Museum of the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles Heritage Railroad Foundation and USC Doheny Library. We are ending this year of meetings at the magical Rubel Castle.

*Liza Posas*  
*L.A. as Subject Coordinator*

## The new L.A. as Subject Directory Portal has arrived

The new L.A. as Subject Directory Portal is now live and in action!

The Directory Portal is an active space for LAAS archive members to present themselves and their collections in a more visually accessible and user-friendly manner. This centralized and dynamic space has been created as a central jumping off point for research

into the history and culture of the greater Los Angeles area.

Each directory profile page acts as a "microsite" where members have the ability to curate photo galleries featuring collection materials, create event listings and exhibition announcements, and write news articles. Events announcements and news articles published by members are featured on the member's

profile page as well as the L.A. as Subject home page.

The Directory will continue to grow into a more robust and effective tool for Los Angeles research as archive members continue to add more content into their directory profiles!

*Stella Castillo*  
*L.A. as Subject Community Archives Specialist*