

# Beyond the Bazaar

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

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

Thank you so much for attending another Archives Bazaar. We are proud of our annual event and of all who contribute to its success. But we are also proud of the work we do throughout the year to help improve access and raise awareness for member archival collections that document the many faceted stories of Los Angeles.

We are excited about the new collaborative opportunities that our recently awarded National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grants provide, and look forward to gathering together to envision what our 25th anniversary celebration will look like in 2020. We hope to see you at one of our General Membership meetings, History Keepers education events, on our listserv, or proposing an event or project for us to rally around together (did you know there's a form on the L.A. as Subject, website to do that? See "Members in Good Standing" on page 4).

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. From our members with archival collections, to our research and student members who don't hold collections but do hold our local history dear—together we can preserve and promote a more inclusive narrative of Los Angeles.

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From one "History Keeper" to another,  
*Mallory Furnier*  
LAAS Executive Committee Chair, 2017-2019

## Welcome to the Bazaar

We all look forward every year to the Archives Bazaar. It's an inspiring, invigorating, friendly, educational, and interesting event where thousands of visitors (re)discover the diversity of LA's stories each year.

Some of you may remember the very first Archives Bazaar—in 2006 at the Huntington Library, with 34 exhibitors (including some of our long time and founding members—the Autry, Loyola Marymount University, the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, and

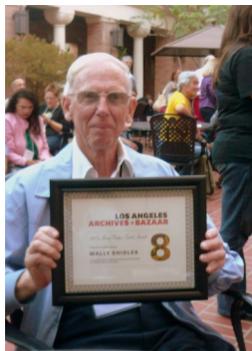
the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives). That first Bazaar promoted access to less-visible collections and community-based archives. Programming consisted primarily of members speaking on the contents of their collections. But the Bazaar's ability to connect members to each other proved to be so popular that it became an annual event.

In 13 years much has changed. This year features 75 L.A. as Subject members; panels, film screenings, and a preservation workshop; the presentation of

the Avery Clayton Spirit Award; and, of course, the opportunity to connect and reconnect with members and with Angelenos interested in preserving and studying LA's unique histories.

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

## The Avery Clayton Spirit Award



**Wally Schidler,**  
*recipient of the 2013  
Avery Clayton Spirit  
Award*

One of the highlights of the post-bazaar reception every year is finding out who will be presented with the Avery Clayton Spirit Award.

The award is named for Avery Clayton (1947-2009), a long time active member of L.A. as Subject and founder of the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum, in honor of his mother's life and collection.

The MCLM has become one of

the world's largest archives related to African-American history. Avery was a beloved friend to all who knew him, and an honored colleague to all who worked with him.

The Avery Clayton Spirit Award was established by the LAAS Executive Committee in 2010 and is given annually to a person or organization that embodies Avery's spirit of dedication, enthusiasm, energy, curiosity, and generosity.

Past honorees of the Avery Clayton Spirit Award are: Sue Hodson, Florante Ibanez, Karen Stokes, Ernest "Ernie" Marquez, Wally Shidler, Cynni Murphy, Carol Wells, and the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum.

*Kelsey Knox, L.A. as Subject  
Executive Committee Member*

## L.A. as Subject and USC Awarded Three Major Grants

We are pleased to announce the following grant-funded projects in partnership with the University of Southern California:

### **L.A. as Subject Digital Residency and Training Program (2018-2021)**

USC, in partnership with the Gerth Archives and Special Collections at California State University, Dominguez Hills and the Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge, has been awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant through the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program to provide training and mentoring in digital collections management to 150 staff and volunteers at 30 community archives in the L.A. as Subject research alliance.

The grant creates three residency positions for recent MLIS graduates to consult with and train staff and volunteers. Residents, in turn, receive mentorship and training.

Gerth Archives and Special Collections, Oviatt Library, and the USC Libraries will each

host one, two year residency starting May of 2019.

### **L.A. as Subject: The Southern California Community History Access Project (2018-2019)**

USC, in partnership with L.A. as Subject, has been awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Pitch-An-Idea grant from the California State Library to create an online platform for discovery of California Community histories. Built by USC Libraries, the platform will be accessible via the L.A. as Subject website, providing visibility and access to the holdings of 250-280 Southern California community archives. Features will include the ability to link to finding aids and digital images, the ability for archives to publish information about their collections and events, and support for user-generated content such as virtual galleries and blog entries.

Information will be gathered from L.A. as Subject members and a dedicated Community Archivist will be hired to shepherd the features, functionality, and implementation of the new platform.

### **L.A. as Subject Community Histories Digitization Project (2018-2020)**

USC has been awarded a two-year National Endowment for the Humanities grant to digitize a photographs, video recordings, letters, documents, and other materials documenting the histories of less-visible communities throughout the greater Los Angeles area. Over 17,000 items documenting underrepresented L.A. community histories will be freely available via the USC Digital Library and the Digital Public Library of America. Six L.A. as Subject member institutions will collaborate with USC to digitize their materials: the Filipino American Library, the First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles, the Go for Broke National Education Center, the Pasadena Museum of History, the Southern California Library, and the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum.

*Alexis Adkins, L.A. as Subject  
Executive Committee Member*



**Lawyer Sofia Nietes**  
*from "Leading  
Filipino Americans  
from the Greater Los  
Angeles Area" (ca.  
1970s). Filipino  
American Library.*

### 2019 L.A. as Subject General Membership Meetings

- February 12
- April 9
- June 11
- August 12
- October 8
- December 10

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)

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

**ARCHIVES  
BAZAAR  
2019**

**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 12, 2019**

**USC Doheny Library**

**9:00am - 5:00 pm**

All Day.  
All in one Place.

Come and celebrate the diversity of stories that make Southern California at the 14th Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar, presented by L.A. as Subject and the USC Libraries.

## General Membership Meetings

We hesitate to call them meetings. They are so much more. Our gatherings every other month are just plain fun, Here's why.

### 1. We meet at amazing sites!

Our hosts are our member institutions, which means we get behind the scenes at historic and unexpected venues and see surprising archives.

### 2. Great educational AND entertainment value.

You might hear a great guest speaker! Or be treated to a special guided tour. Have you been to the Hyperion Sewage

Treatment Plant? Or stood onstage at the Hollywood Bowl? Or had an insider's peek at the Academy of Motion Picture Archives? We *oohed* and *ahhed* at all these adventures. Yours truly especially loved the virtual reality workshop at Pepperdine University Library where I was in Chamonix, France for ten blissful minutes.

### 3. Think of the networking potential!

We often break into "think tank" groups to brainstorm ideas. What a great way to get to know like-minded professionals and hear about

new institutions and archives.

**4. Your opinion matters.** We do fun surveys. Our 20/20 celebration is looming when LAAS has its 25-year anniversary. How will we celebrate? You'll have a say...if you're here to brainstorm.

### 5. You get "in good standing" status with LAAS

Just by attending one meeting a year you earn priority privileges for the next Archives Bazaar.

*Phyllis Hansen, L.A. as Subject Executive Committee Member*

## History Keepers Brings Treasures to the Public and Exhibition Know-How to LAAS Members

In 2015 LAAS had an opportunity to partner with the California Historical Society and El Pueblo de Los Angeles to organize an exhibition of objects lent from LAAS member organizations. We saw it as a great way for repositories that don't routinely lend to exhibitions, or mount exhibitions of their own, to gain visibility. The public would be able to see a selection of some of the incredible historic artifacts, documents, photographs, and artwork that help tell the history of our city, and learn about the organizations and individuals that care for them.

Our first exhibition, *History Keepers: Storied Objects from Los Angeles Collections* was mounted in the Pico House. In 2016, the theme of transportation and moving through the city guided submissions in *History Keepers: Traversing Los Angeles*. Last year the exhibition, *History Keepers:*



Items on exhibition. Photo courtesy California Historical Society.

*Eleven Stories That Moved Los Angeles*, focused on compelling stories of people who had helped to shape the city.

So this year instead of an exhibition, we are offering members an opportunity to learn more about best practices, to go behind-the-scenes at museums, and attend

workshops with professionals in the field. Our first event was at the Broad Museum in early October. Look out for more events coming your way over email.

*Jessica Hough, L.A. as Subject Executive Committee Member*

## Are you a member in good-standing?

Per the updated L.A. as Subject charter (approved by members December 12 2017), members in good standing receive priority for exhibiting at the Archives Bazaar and participate in grant funded collaborative projects. A 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 History Keepers or other exhibition 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.

## Three Grants, Two Emmys, and Many New Members: L.A. as Subject Year in Review



2018 was a particularly successful and active year for L.A. as Subject.

As detailed in the article by Alexis Adkins, L.A. as Subject was awarded with state and nationally funded grants that involve collaborative partners throughout southern California. Although each grant project has distinct parameters they all promise to increase the connectivity of L.A. as Subject members to each other, the community, and multiple archive collections.

*Lost L.A.*, a co-production of KCET and the USC Libraries, won two Emmy Awards at the 70th Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards ceremony on Saturday, July 28, 2018. *Lost L.A.*, now in its 3<sup>rd</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 membership also grew. New archive members include the City of Thousand Oaks Library, Chinese American Museum, and the Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site. New research and student members include individuals interested in Los Angeles

architecture, politics, and industry.

For the bimonthly meetings, members travelled to and toured locations across Los Angeles that includes Boone Special Collections and Archives at Pepperdine University, Santa Monica Public Library and History Museum, San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, Museum of Social Justice, and the USC Library Special Collections. The last meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, December 11, at the Glendale Downtown Central Library from 10am-noon.

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



Images from past L.A. as Subject general membership meetings,

Clockwise: Hollywood Bowl Museum; Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Margaret Herrick Library; Boone Special Collections and Archives at Pepperdine University; LA County Archives

