

Beyond the Bazaar

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

You're the Best of the Best Coast

I want to cap off 2022 with a big thank you to L.A. as Subject's membership and friends from the entire Executive Committee. Continually adapting to evolving circumstances is so challenging and I'm so grateful as an archivist and lover of L.A. history for all that you do. The progress towards normal as the pandemic becomes more manageable has been gradual; a series of stops and starts that will not culminate in a declaration of unalloyed victory. It's a little frustrating and a little tiresome but L.A. as Subject members have kept the momentum going, continuing to find ways to provide exhibits, programs, and projects to make collections more visible.

Whether you're new to L.A. as Subject or have been here since the beginning, I hope you're looking forward to 2023 as much as I am. Next year should hold more visits to historic Los Angeles locales, hearing about member projects and events at meetings, and attending (or presenting at) Talk Shops. I also hope all interested member organizations can participate in L.A. as Subject's joint project with ONE Archives. With a two-year grant from the California State Library, LAAS and ONE will be able to elevate LGBTQ+ stories within the collections of our members. It's a really exciting opportunity to raise the visibility of collections and communities that have been underrepresented for long enough.

Though we have not met in person to see each other's spaces since early 2020 everyone has still been so engaged! I appreciate most of all that members who couldn't attend on site meetings in the past can more easily keep up to date with what's new with L.A. as Subject through online meetings. Even as health concerns become less of a barrier to meeting in person we don't want to lose the accessibility that virtual meetings make possible. Next year may continue to bring online business meetings but hopefully with more opportunities to visit member repositories and sites in person. I hope you will let the Executive Committee know what you think.

*Jessica Gambling
L.A. as Subject Executive Committee Chair, 2021-2023*

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Archives Bazaar 2022 Recap

On October 22, 2022, L.A. as Subject held its seventeenth Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar at the Doheny Memorial Library, University of Southern California. For the past two years, the bazaar was held through a virtual/hybrid platform. However, this year's bazaar was an all-in-person affair. Over seventy L.A. as Subject members participated as exhibitors to share their collections and services with the local community.

The bazaar featured five public programming events which included:

The Legacy of Helen Brown's Filipino American Library presented by Alyssa Adraneda, cocurator of the Preserving Filipino Los Angeles: Helen Brown's Library for the People; Florante Ibanez, Historian and Filmmaker; and Alex Monta, Advisor for the USC Troy Philippines Student Organization. The panel discussion centered on educator and librarian, Helen Summers Brown who founded the Filipino American Library in 1985 as the it became a research center for activism, education, and community engagement.

The Thomas Mann's Los Angeles discussion followed shortly after and was presented by Michaela Ullmann, USC's Exile Studies Librarian; Benno Herz, Program Director of the Thomas Mann House; and Friedel Schmoranzner, Head of Fellowship Programs at Villa Aurora Los Angeles. The discussion centered on the Nobel prize-winning author Thomas Mann who was forced to flee Germany in the 1930s and sought refuge with a community of exiled intellectuals in Los Angeles, the "Weimar on the Pacific."

(continued on page 3)

Archives At Risk Committee Report

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 LAAS membership meeting
- ◇ Provide content to LAAS website
- ◇ Volunteer at events in which LAAS participates
- ◇ Serve on a committee
- ◇ Lead a tour or workshop
- ◇ Host an LAAS collaborative special event or project (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.

This year, the Archives at Risk Committee completed a pilot of its self-assessment with three participant archives. From 2020 to 2021 the AARC conducted research to determine the most relevant risk factors that threaten the sustainability of L.A. as Subject member archives. The AARC then created a self-assessment program intended to respond to these highlighted issues. For the 2022 pilot program, the three participating archives tested out the new program and filled out a feedback survey at the end of the pilot.

The participant feedback survey asked if expectations were met, the goals of the program were clear from the beginning, the time commitment was reasonable, whether the final recommendation report was actionable, and what kind of additional interactions and

Phyllis Hansen 2022 Avery Clayton Spirit Award Recipient

Phyllis Hansen, has been active in Los Angeles history for the better part of 20 years, contributing her time and expertise to multiple organizations and initiatives that champion a better understanding of Los Angeles and its neighboring communities.

Phyllis has served on the LAAS Executive Committee but that is merely a footnote to her commitment to L.A. history. She started volunteering with the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association in the early 2000s, joining its Board in 2006 and currently serving as their Vice President. In 2008 she began working with the San Fernando Valley Historical Society serving as their Recording Secretary as well as a founding member of

support they would be interested in, among other questions. Responses from pilot participants indicated that the program goals were clear, the time commitment was reasonable, and that there was interest in engagement with the AARC beyond the self-assessment program, as well as with other program participants.

The Volunteer members of the AARC reflected upon the pilot experience in conjunction with the participant feedback. The AARC is interested in clarifying the goals of our work through conducting outreach. We will also consider evolving and growing our work to reflect the pilot participant interest in additional engagement over a broader span of time, while maintaining our reasonable time commitment requirements for all engaged in the program. We're also interested in exploring ways

to more broadly support local archives through the idea of creating living wills, and providing advice on red flags to look for for those interested in working with larger archival repositories.

If you are interested in joining the next cohort please get in touch with us. In January 2023 we will send out a call on the LAAS listserv for participation in our next self-assessment survey round. If you'd like to get in touch with us in the meantime, our contact information is on our page on the LAAS website.

Stella Castillo
L.A. as Subject Executive
Committee Member, 2021-2023

Mallory Furnier
Archives At Risk Committee
Member

the Board of the Museum of the San Fernando Valley. She is the former historian and current Director of Programs of the Ebelle of Los Angeles. Phyllis represents all three of these organizations at meetings and the Archives Bazaar each year.

Phyllis demonstrates generosity in service of Los Angeles history. She can be counted upon as a booster or attendee at your most obscure Southern California history program or place and elevates Los Angeles history by creating Wikipedia articles on notable Angelenos including artist Orpha Klinker and empresario L.E. "Bee" Behymer. The latter known for booking the likes of 19th and early 20th century superstars like Sarah Bernhardt, Edwin Booth and Nellie Melba (she of toast and peach desert fame) to perform in L.A. Even in

her Wikipedia activities creating and updating articles she is still happy to help newcomers (including the author of this article) navigate Wikipedia's notoriously finicky citation and "notoriety" criteria.

Established by the Executive Committee in 2010 The Avery Clayton Spirit Award honors the memory of long time L.A. as Subject member and founder of the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum, Avery Clayton. Thank you, Phyllis, for continuing Avery's legacy of service and support to our community and its mission.

Jessica Gambling
L.A. as Subject Executive
Committee Chair, 2021-2023

Archives Bazaar 2022 Recap (con't)

The next panel was the Lost LA Curriculum Project, which was presented by Amparo-Chavez Gonzalez, Lead Facilitator and Coach; Danny Diaz, The UCLA History Geography Project Director; Cindy Mata, The UCLA History Geography Project Associate Director; Maia Ruiz, Teacher; Marissa Matich, Teacher; Frank Salcedo-Fierro, Teacher; and Miguel Sandoval De La Torre, Teacher. The presenters shared their experiences with developing K-12 lesson plans that focused on LA based archival materials to develop historical thinking skills and empower students. The lesson plans were inspired by The *Lost LA* television series by PBS.

Reclaiming Hood Stories: Building a Youth Compton Community Archive was presented by Abigail Lopez-Byrd, Color Compton Director, and Noel Lopez, Undergraduate student at San Luis Obispo. Their presentation focused on the Color Compton Archives fellowship program, which centered Black and Brown stories and narratives that have not been included in traditional educational spaces. The discussion also covered how Color Compton is reclaiming community narratives and archives and engaging with the local community of Compton.

The last workshop of the day was the Introduction to Common Book Structures, Proper Handling, and Housing presented by the Los Angeles Preservation Network (LAPNet) members Hilary Swett, Archivist at the Writers Guild Foundation, and Cynthia Kapteyn, Conservator at the Huntington Library. The workshop provided an overview of book structures, and the damaged books typically endure over time. Participants learned basic preservation techniques and were provided with examples of protective book enclosures that can be used at home.

In addition to these public programming events, the bazaar featured Basement Tapes Day and Home Movie Day, that provided the opportunity to play home recordings on analog formats such as open-reel tapes, cassettes, and micro-cassettes. Through the Basement Tapes, participants played back their home movies and received a digitized copy provided by the UCLA's Media Archival Studies Program. Home Movie Day on the other hand showcased analog recording submissions from the public and L.A. as Subject members for a public viewing.

The bazaar closed the day with a reception to honor the Avery Clayton Spirit Award recipient, Phyllis Hansen for her active commitment as an LA as Subject member.

The 2022 Los Angeles Archives Bazaar was a success, and we hope to welcome the community next year to share the rich history and culture of Los Angeles.

Azalea Camacho

LAAS Executive Committee Member & Archives Bazaar Planning Lead, 2021-2023

Welcome New 2022 L.A. as Subject Archive Members

- Palmdale City Library
- Quinn Research Center
- Westchester/Playa Historical Society
- Russian Research Collective/Los Angeles
- El Alisal—The Charles F. Lummis House
- Polytechnic School Archives
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Library and Archives
- Library of Calabasas
- Friends of Rockhaven

2023 L.A. as Subject General Membership Meetings

- February 14
- April 11
- June 13
- August 8
- October 10
- December 12

For more information and to RSVP, visit laassubject.org/events

Until further notice, all meetings will be held virtually over Zoom.

L.A. as Subject Receives Two CSL Grants

LGBTQ+ Archives & Discovery

ONE Archives at the USC Libraries and L.A. as Subject are collaborating to increase the visibility of archives and historical collections highlighting a diversity of LGBTQ+ experiences and human rights activism in California.

As part of a two-year project, ONE Archives will process 19 historical collections including the records of the Center for Health Justice, the Gay Men's Chorus, and the Long Beach/Orange County Motorcycle Club as well as the papers of activists like *BLK Magazine* creator Alan Bell, Lee Mentley, Pat Rocco, founding ACT UP Women's Caucus member Judy Sisneros, and Project 10 founder Virginia Uribe.

The project team members Beth McDonald, Liza Posas, and Loni Shibuyama will also gather information about less-visible LGBTQ+ collections in archives throughout Southern California. Primarily working with LAAS members, the project team will conduct outreach to L.A.-area archives, complete site visits, and document a wealth of primary materials on California LGBTQ+ experiences. To participate in this project contact Beth McDonald at bethmcd@usc.edu.

Safeguarding L.A. Community Histories

This project will provide four workshops in 2023 on topics that have been identified as urgent areas of need by the L.A. as Subject Archives at Risk Committee: 1) Costs and practical considerations for housing physical archives in Southern California; 2) Creating essential operational documents; 3) Partnering with local government entities for essential operating support; and 4) Environmental risks due to climate change.

Video recordings of each workshop will be created with supporting educational materials for free online distribution via the L.A. as Subject website. Building on work by L.A. as Subject's Archives at Risk Committee (see page 3) and additional outreach efforts, specific needs of L.A.-area community archives will also be identified through the course of the project. These findings will be used to develop additional educational programs and continue longitudinal studies of L.A. area community-based historical collections.

For more information about the Safeguarding L.A. Community Histories project, contact Snowden Becker at snowdenb@usc.edu.

Both projects are supported by funding by the State of California, administered by the California State Library.

LAAS 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 An Archive" search for easier discoverability and browsability.

<https://laasubject.org/find-an-archive>

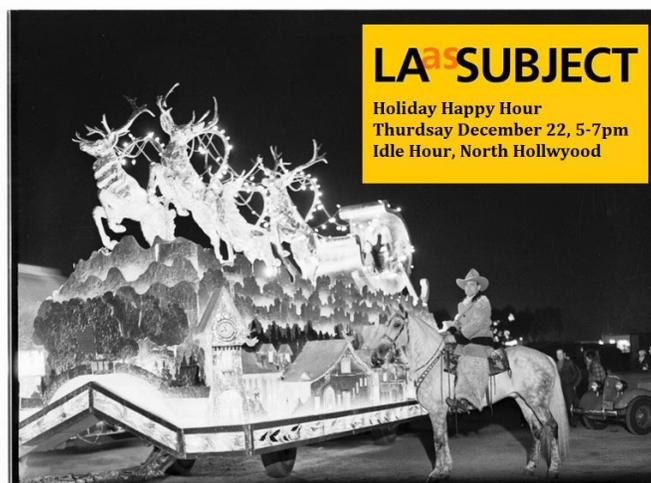


Image: Man on horseback beside a Christmas display featuring reindeer, [s.d.],

California Historical Society Collection, 1860-1960. Public Domain. California Historical Society and University of Southern California Libraries. Digitally reproduced by the USC Digital Library.