

**LA as Subject**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**Via Zoom**  
**8/8/2023**

**# of attendees: 33**

**Agenda:**

1. Standing items
    - A. Approve June meeting notes (Lisa)
    - B. Welcome new members (Victoria)
  2. ONE Archives/LA as Subject LGBTQ+ Preservation & Accessibility Grant Update - Beth McDonald
  3. Claremont Tour Recap (Lisa)
    - A. In Person Event Reminder
  4. Membership survey from the Archives At Risk Committee (Stella)
  5. Archives Bazaar Update (Azalea)
  6. Bill Dotson - Acting Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives (Liza)
  7. Announcements and New business
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1. **Approval of the June 2023 LAAS General Meeting notes**
    - a) Jessica Gambling asked all members in attendance to vote “aye” (approve) or “nay” (don’t approve) using the Zoom Chat feature.
    - b) Notes were approved as written.
  2. **Welcome new members**
    - Victoria Bernal introduced our newest members:
      - [Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA](#)
      - [LA Contemporary Exhibitions](#) – LACE
  3. **ONE Archives/LA as Subject LGBTQ+ Preservation & Accessibility Grant Update**
    - Beth McDonald, archivist with ONE Archives at USC provided update on grant.
    - The ONE Archives is one of the oldest and largest LGBTQ+ archives in the world.
    - Beth provided a recap of the recent workshop called “Style and Substance: Language and Description in LGBTQ+ Archives.”
      - Use of language in describing LGBTQ+ collections.
      - Use of inclusive language; how to make LGBTQ+ materials findable.
      - Evolution of language, using descriptive terms, improving findability, respectful for community.
      - Megan Needles and Isaac Fellman co-presented at the workshop.
      - One challenge with description is a lack of community developed language.
      - New terms/old materials: Transgender v. transexual and transvestite.
      - Link to recording: <https://youtu.be/mxV9EXZiLi0>.
      - 50 participants in the workshop were engaged and there was good conversation.
    - Beth’s contact information: [bthmcdo@usc.edu](mailto:bthmcdo@usc.edu).
    - Attendees of this membership meeting were asked if they had any questions.
      - There were no questions asked.

#### 4. Claremont Tour

- Lisa Crane provided a recap of the recent tour at The Claremont Colleges Library.
- Liza Posas shared photos.
- Reminder: We are looking for other venues for in-person get togethers, site visits, etc. to be held during the months in-between the General Membership meeting months such as September, November, etc.
  - September is just around the corner! Any takers?
  - Please fill out the Google form if you would like to offer a site visit:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehHSDyKkOGfIBbgUwt1M3fcgQX4EsY-W3F2S8TWpCpWoQYg/viewform>

#### 5. Membership survey from the Archives at Risk Committee

- Stella Castillo informed the members that the Archives at Risk Committee has put together a survey to query the membership about what kind of activities should be offered in the future, how members would like to attend (in-person, virtually, hybrid), and what is the availability for members to attend these activities. Link to form: <https://forms.gle/udLUZNQpCWokW5RN9>.

#### 6. Archives Bazaar update

- Azalea Camacho provided an update on this year's Archives Bazaar.
  - Date: Saturday, October 28, 10am to 3pm.
  - The program has been finalized and will focus on food history in Los Angeles.
  - Azalea ran down a list of some of the speakers and their presentation topics.
  - There will be a member/exhibitor reception following the end of bazaar at 3pm.
  - There is still time to sign up to be an exhibitor.
  - Everyone was encouraged to download the Archives Bazaar Save the Date flyer and start promoting the bazaar.
  - An exhibitor packet will come out in September.
  - During the General Membership Meeting in October, Patty Johnson and Tyson Gaskill will be attending to answer any questions members might have.

#### 7. Bill Dotson – Acting Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives

- Liza Posas announced that Hugh McClurg, former dean of the USC Libraries has left USC. He was an avid supporter of LAAS and Liza reported to him in her LAAS Coordinator role.
- Bill Dotson is currently the Acting Associate Dean and he has been the author of all the grants LAAS has received. So he is familiar with LAAS and its activities and is also an avid supporter.
- Question from Denise McIver: Wasn't there some discussion years back about developing a new/revised Strategic Plan for LAAS? Did that ever occur?
  - Answer: We didn't do a revised strategic plan, but we did rework the MOU between LAAS and USC Libraries which will be approved by the new Dean of the USC Libraries once hired.
    - Jessica Gambling further commented there is an older strategic plan in place. Perhaps the Executive Committee could review it to be sure we are still meeting goals, etc.

## 8. Announcements and New Business

- Liane Schirmer recently published an article in American Theater magazine. Here is a link to the article titled, “Voces del Teatro: Let our voices be heard”:  
<https://www.americantheatre.org/2023/08/02/voces-del-teatro-let-our-voices-be-heard/>.
- Guadalupe Martinez from CA Revealed announced a “Description Assistance: Cataloging California” (grant opportunity): <https://californiarevealed.org/describe>. Please reach out to Guadalupe for questions: [gmartinez@californiarevealed.org](mailto:gmartinez@californiarevealed.org).
- Denise McIver shared that the California African American Museum had a successful re-opening of its newly renovated 5 galleries. It is hoped the library will re-open during early 2024.
- Christina Rice of LA Public Library has long been a volunteer with the Girl Scouts in the Los Angeles area. Many of you may remember she helped a Girl Scout digitize materials which was shared with the LAAS Membership a couple of years ago. Christina helped the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Heritage Committee win a grant from the Haynes Foundation to process the Heritage Committee’s collection.
- Lulu Urdiales announced that as Self-Help Graphics turns 50 and goes through a renovation, they are partnering with institutions to celebrate the legacy of the organization. They will be adding more information about the exhibitions as they roll out. See their website:  
<https://www.selfhelpgraphics.com/traveling-exhibitions>.
  - Next week they are working on a Laguna Art exhibition.
  - They will also be working with CSU San Bernardino on a Day of the Dead exhibition.
- Tom Savio shared there will be a Railway Festival exhibit on September 9 and 10 at Union Station. The Los Angeles Union Station Historical Society will be exhibiting as will other historical societies related to Union Station.
- Lisa Crane announced two job openings at The Claremont Colleges Library:
  - Drucker Archives Archivist
  - Myrlie Evers-Williams (POM ’68) Collection Processing Project Archivist
- Vivian Escalante from Boyle Heights Community Partners mentioned planning is underway for celebrating Veterans Day and will include celebrating riveters from WWII with live entertainment, a swing band, etc. Does anyone have a family member who was a riveter? Celebration will be in November 2023 in Boyle Heights. Contact:  
[Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com](mailto:Vivian@BoyleHeightsCommunityPartners.com).
- Keith Rice shared about the Central Avenue Jazz Festival which will be held at the Dunbar Hotel:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/central-avenue-jazz-festival-tickets-664883172467>.

**Next meeting:**

**Tuesday, October 10, 10am to noon via Zoom.**