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The VRA Foundation Mission

The mission of the VRA Foundation is to advance knowledge in the field of visual resources and image management and to provide educational and training opportunities in support of broad access to cultural information in the digital age.

The Foundation advances awareness of important issues for digital information management; encourages the application of professional standards, innovative technology, and metadata cataloging protocols; facilitates workplace training; and promotes awareness of intellectual property rights and copyright issues.

The VRA Foundation supports a range of educational offerings to help ensure that such information reaches a diverse and global audience.

Message From the Chair

Thanks to your continuing, committed generosity, the Visual Resources Association Foundation has again experienced a successful year.

We are particularly proud of the rapid development and success of our Regional Workshop Program. During its second year, this program expanded from two to four workshops focusing on a diversity of visual resources topics, taught by experts, and hosted throughout the country. We are deeply grateful to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for their support of this effort and to directors Betha Whitlow and Steven Kowalik for managing the program so ably. Working with their implementation team, they have been spectacularly successful in bringing expert training in visual resources issues to a diverse audience in various regions of the country.

This year for the first time we presented three professional development grants to Audrey Sage Lorberfeld, Chris Strausbaugh, and Sali Underwood. Stephanie Norby was awarded the 2017 VRAF Project Grant for Research and Development to support a pilot project for The Smithsonian Learning Lab. The project grants are now being awarded on a semi-annual basis.

We granted our fourth internship award in visual resources and image management to Rebecca Pattillo in September 2016. Rebecca completed an ambitious, multi-faceted, cross-departmental project at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

The Foundation is grateful for the committed work of the VRAF Internship Awards Committee: Linda Callahan, Meghan Musolf, Margaret Webster, and Meghan McGowan. The immediate past recipient also serves on the committee. The Foundation is extremely grateful to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for continuing to fund this educational initiative.

The fourteenth annual Summer Educational Institute was held from June 6-9, 2017, at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. We are grateful for significant, sustaining support from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation; this funding allowed SEI 2017 to provide scholarships to selected, qualified participants.

The Foundation continues to collaborate with the Executive Board and the membership of the VRA in a variety of ways. Foundation sponsored committees, implementation teams, and task forces typically include VRA members as acknowledged experts. We are a sponsor of VRA conferences. The Foundation supports a wide range of emerging and experienced visual resources professionals including VRA members through the grant program, the regional workshops, internship program, and SEI. Finally, we work with the VRA Executive Board to raise funds in support of the visual resources profession. Following recommendations of the VRA and VRAF Joint Task Force on Fundraising and Development, a working group assessed and evaluated several fundraising databases for joint use by VRA and VRAF. As a result, DonorPerfect was selected; it is being implemented for VRA by Jeannine Keefer and for VRAF by Christine Hilker. A big thank you to Ian McDermott, Melanie Clark, Jeannine Keefer, Chris Hilker, Maria Elia, and Billy Kwan for their work in making this a reality.

As I prepare to end my term as VRAF director, I am grateful and honored for the opportunity to serve the Foundation on behalf of the visual resources profession. Every director works hard to promote this endeavor. In particular, Christine Hilker who will also retire has been a superb treasurer and source of institutional memory. Outgoing directors Betha Whitlow and Steven Kowalik leave their legacy of the Regional Workshops in good hands. We all look forward to following the accomplishments of the incoming board as they find new ways to promote visual resources.
The VRA Foundation Internship Award

The fourth VRA Foundation Internship Award in visual resources and image management was granted in September 2016. The VRA Foundation supports the education and practical training of new information professionals through this grant, which provides a $3,000 stipend for a graduate student to obtain practical work experience in archives, libraries, or museums. It also includes $1,000 for professional development in the visual resources field, such as conference or SEI attendance, plus a year's membership to the Visual Resources Association. We thank the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for funding this award and for recognizing its potential to foster the next generation of visual resource professionals. The VRA Foundation's pursuit of additional funding continues so that we may offer this award annually.

Rebecca Pattillo was selected as the 2016-2017 Intern. In May of 2016 she received an MA in History with a concentration in Public History and an MLIS from Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis. In the fall of 2016 Rebecca completed 200 hours of work on a multi-faceted, cross-departmental project in the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

Focusing on the Clowes Fund Collection of Old Masters, with supervision from the Photography Department, Conservation Department, and the IMA Piction Task Force, she coordinated the creation of metadata for 7,000+ conservation images, the implementation of updated workflows for future imaging and metadata application, and integration into the museum’s digital asset management system.

Visit this link to learn more about the VRAF Internship Award.

Professional Development Grants

The 2016 Professional Development Grant student recipient Audrey Sage Lorberfeld (University of Washington, MLIS, 2017) used her grant to speak at the 2016 Library and Information Technology Forum, Fort Worth, TX, where she gave a presentation entitled “Why Does Quality Assurance Matter in Web Archiving?” based on her work as Web Archiving Technician for the New York Art Resources Consortium. The VRAF is pleased that Audrey was able to share her innovative, cutting-edge project in archiving born-digital and art-oriented web resources with the broader information community, and that this grant enabled her to participate in her first professional conference.

In 2017, due to the considerable number of commendable grant applications submitted, two Professional Development Grants were awarded. Chris Strasbaugh, Ohio State University, used his funding to attend the May 2017 “2 + 3D Photography -- Practice and Prophecies” conference held at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, where he presented his paper “Hacking Technology to Document Difficult Spaces" describing a creative use of technology in the digitization and preservation of student work. Sali Underwood, Nevada State Museum, used her funding to attend the 32nd annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections in Denver, where she presented on her project, “Nevada’s Neglected Lepidoptera Herbarium”, a digitized collection of over 2500 specimens and the collection’s relevance to understanding the life cycle of Nevada’s butterflies.

Project Grants for Research and Development

The VRA Foundation’s Project Grants program provides support for projects that reflect the VRA Foundation mission to advance education, research, and outreach in the field of visual resources and image management. The Project Grant funds may be used...
In April 2017, a workshop on managing digital content, co-hosted by the Boatwright Memorial Library, University of Richmond, and the Library of Virginia, was led by Shyam Oberoi, Director of Technology and Digital Media, Dallas Museum of Art.

The VRAF Regional Workshop Program

The VRAF Regional Workshop Program's second year saw an expansion to four workshop offerings representing a diversity of visual resource topics, each led by insightful instructors and hosted at locations across the USA.

The program was developed and executed by the Regional Workshop Implementation Team, composed of members of the VRAF and representatives from the Visual Resources Association (VRA).

Members included:
Anna Bernhard, VRA (Colorado State University)
Maureen Burns, VRA (Archivision and Independent Consultant)
Marlene Gordon, VRA (University of Michigan, Dearborn)
Steven Kowalik, VRAF Director (CUNY – Hunter College)
Ian McDermott (CUNY – LaGuardia Community College)
Shyam Oberoi (Dallas Museum of Art)
Betha Whitlow, VRAF Director (Washington University in Saint Louis)

In February 2017, a visual literacy workshop, co-hosted by Colorado College and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, was led by Jessica Sack, Senior Associate Curator of Public Education, Yale University Art Gallery.

Also in February 2017, a second visual literacy workshop was hosted by the International Center of Photography, New York City, and was led by Nicole Brown, Multidisciplinary Instruction Librarian, New York University.

In March 2017, an intellectual property rights workshop was hosted by the Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, OR, and was led by Cara Hirsch, Associate General Counsel, Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation.

Our Generous Donors

VRAF Foundation

Fiscal Year
2016-2017 Donors

Our grants partner for the VRAF Internship Award:
Samuel H. Kress Foundation

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### Visual Resources Association Foundation
**Financial Statement, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017**

#### Income
- Personal donations: $8004.66
- Corporate donations: 4000.00
- Regional workshops: 23068.34
- SEI 2017: 20422.34

**Total VRAF Income**: $55495.34

#### Expenses
- Annual Board meeting: $4105.50
- Grants awarded: 9541.44
- Fundraising: 1934.72
- Insurance: 1593.00
- General administrative expenses: 699.00
- Professional fees: 3300.00
- Taxes: 251.69
- Web hosting: 156.00
- Regional workshops: 10506.06
- SEI 2016: 14638.65
- SEI 2017: 18385.52

**Total VRAF Expenses**: $65111.58

**Net profit**: $-9616.24

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#### Summer Educational Institute 2017
**Profit & Loss (Calendar year 2017)**

#### Income
- Kress scholarships: $5000.00
- Donations: 1175.00
- Tuition: 11954.09
- Housing & parking: 1864.34
- ARLIS/NA (share of loss): 1837.45

**Total SEI Income**: $21830.88

#### Expenses
- Scholarships: 5000.00
- Administrative costs: 494.47
- Food events/miscellaneous: 323.47
- Host institution (housing, parking, facilities): 1584.00
- Co-chairs, incoming co-chair & local co-chair: 6257.72
- Instructors: 6335.78
- Accommodations (instructors & SEI Team): 3672.90

**Total SEI Expenses**: $23,668.34

**Net SEI 2017 Loss for VRAF**: $1837.46

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Please note: VRAF operates on a July to June fiscal year while SEI uses a calendar year; this accounts for income and expenses from 2 SEI years in the VRAF financial report.