



ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

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.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

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Message from the Chair

Thanks to your ongoing generosity, the Visual Resources Association Foundation experienced yet another successful year of supporting and strengthening the profession through our education and outreach activities.

The fifteenth annual **Summer Educational Institute** was held from June 5-8, 2018, at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. A joint project of ARLIS/NA and VRAF, SEI provides information professionals with a substantive educational and professional development opportunity focused on digital imaging, the information and experience needed to stay current in a rapidly changing field, and the opportunity to create and be part of a network of supportive colleagues. Each year the SEI Implementation Team devotes a significant amount of time to reviewing, editing, and enhancing the curriculum to ensure that the Institute remains current and relevant.

We are grateful for significant, sustaining support from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation; this funding allowed SEI 2018 to provide scholarships to six worthy participants. We thank the 2018 co-chairs Nicole Finzer and Lesley Chapman; incoming co-chair Courtney Baron; local host Cindy Abel Morris; and the entire Implementation Team for making this first SEI in Albuquerque a success.

The VRAF **Internship Award** provides financial support for graduate students preparing for a career in visual resources and image management. The award grants \$4,000 to support a period of internship in archives, libraries, museums, visual resources collections in academic institutions, or other appropriate contexts. The recipient receives a stipend of \$3,000 for 200 hours completed at the host site. A professional development component of \$1,000 supports conference attendance or attendance at the Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management. The recipient receives a one-year complimentary VRA student membership. Our fifth internship award went to Maria Nuccilli, MLIS student at Wayne State University, to assess and create a digitization plan for the Scarab Club's collection of images and other materials relating to Detroit's cultural heritage, and create an interactive virtual exhibition to showcase collection highlights.

The Foundation is grateful for the committed work of the VRAF Internship Award Committee: Linda Callahan, Carolyn Lucarelli, Rebecca Pattillo, Elaine Paul, and Margaret Webster. This committee is a collaboration of the VRA Awards Committee, the VRA Education Committee, and the Foundation. 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.

Our **Professional Development Grant Program** reflects the broad mission of the Foundation to support professional development in the field of visual resources and cultural heritage information management. The \$1,000 grant can be used to attend a conference, symposium, workshop, etc. or to engage in relevant research activities, such as fieldwork or a site visit. The 2018 grant was awarded to the Getty Museum's Karly Wildenhaus to speak at the 2018 Museum Computer Network Conference in Denver, Colorado.

VRAF **Project Grants** in the amount of \$3,000 may be used for stand-alone projects, pilots or start-up financing for larger projects, or for a component of a larger project. Collaborative projects and those proposed by groups, whether or not affiliated with an organization or institution, are encouraged. James Sobczak, of the University of Washington, received the 2018 award to support graduate student stipends for digitizing a large collection of 35mm slides from the Patricia Young Collection.

VRAF's **Regional Workshop Program** continues to thrive, with support for localized educational and professional development opportunities relating to cultural heritage. The program brings experts to various regions of the country to provide training on a range of topics. These include capturing and managing digital content, metadata, intellectual property rights, visual literacy, collaborating across institutions, Omeka, moving images, and the International Image Interoperability Framework. We extend our deep thanks to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for their support of this initiative, and to directors Steven Kowalik and Betha Whitlow for their adept management of the program. Join us in congratulating Betha for receiving the 2018 VRA Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her outstanding service to the profession.

During the fall of 2017, we launched a "matching" campaign by asking long-time supporters and donors to provide seed money to be used to challenge prospective donors including the entire VRA membership to equal or exceed this amount. We were raising funds to support the Foundation's Professional Development Grant Program. Progress was measured by an incremental and colorful makeover of the Liberty Bell. We ultimately received \$7,177 from 45 individual donors and commercial partners like you in support of the VRAF Professional Development Grant Program. We thank you so much for your support.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support VRAF whenever you shop at Amazon. The funds generated through this program as a percentage of member purchases helps support the Legacy Lectures at VRA conferences. During the Philadelphia conference, Jane Golden of Mural Arts Philadelphia gave an inspiring plenary presentation about Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program, which began as an anti-graffiti and restorative justice initiative and grew into a powerful force for community identity.

The Foundation continues to collaborate with the VRA Executive Board as well as 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 sponsors of VRA conferences. The Foundation supports a wide range of visual resources professionals and emerging 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.

Serving the Foundation on behalf of the visual resources profession is both rewarding and inspiring. Every director works hard to support our programs. Please join me in thanking Margaret Webster, who masterfully served two consecutive terms as chair from 2014-2018. We also thank this year's outgoing directors Cindy Abel Morris, who served as Treasurer; Jeannine Keefer, who worked on grants, development, and served as VRAF's SEI Liaison; and Billy Kwan, who headed our development efforts with two back to back terms.

We welcome Marcia Focht, Otto Luna, and Chris Strasbaugh to the Board of Directors, and look forward to exploring new ways of supporting our profession in the coming year.
-Elaine Paul, Chair, 2018-2019

SEI 2017-2018

The July 2017-June 2018 year saw SEI move to a new host, the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. For the first time SEI was paperless and participants were not required to bring a laptop. This year also continued program improvements made in previous years including the elimination of gifts for co-chairs and faculty, using Google for the post-conference survey, and using Google Sites and Google Drive as the hub of communication, documentation, and registration for SEI. Development efforts produced \$7,415 including gifts from long-time supporters such as Dr. Kathe Hicks Albrecht, new donors like ProQuest, and sustaining scholarship funds from the Kress Foundation. Development efforts and healthy registrations allowed for a profit in 2018. Attendees were evenly divided between members of ARLIS/NA and VRA and non-members and represented seventeen states. Faculty receiving particular praise were Nancy Sims (Intellectual Property), Jesse Henderson (Workflow, Digitization Standards & Process Monitoring), and Greta Bahnmann (Metadata for Cultural Heritage and Embedded Metadata). Following significant review and revision, the curriculum included longstanding essential building blocks (copyright, metadata, embedded metadata, digitization), with the addition or enhancement of Digital Preservation, Digital Stewardship 101, Digital Assets Management & Digital Repositories: User-Focused Access & Preservation Services, and Let's Get Practical: Problem Solving Digital Library Sustainability. The evaluations will inform the planning decisions and curriculum changes for SEI 2019. We would like to thank the 2017-2018 co-chairs, Nicole Finzer, Lesley Chapman, and Courtney Baron, local host Cindy Abel Morris (also the SEI-VRAF Liaison), and the SEI Implementation Team members Susan Dreher, Carolyn Lucarelli, Deidre Spencer, Chelsea Stone, Otto Luna, and Chris Hilker.

Internship Award

The fifth VRA Foundation Internship Award in visual resources and image management was granted in September 2017. 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.

Maria Nuccilli, MLIS student at Wayne State University, was selected as the 2017-2018 Intern. She proposed the assessment and creation of a digitization plan for the Scarab Club's collection of images and other materials relating to Detroit's cultural heritage, and the creation of an interactive virtual exhibition to showcase collection highlights. Maria was responsible for evaluating and selecting tools, workflows, and materials to digitize. She also facilitated a partnership between the Scarab Club and the Digital Media Projects Lab at Wayne State's School of Information Sciences, whose tools and guidance she relied on during her work. Maria noted, "Ultimately, the funding of this project resulted not only in my own resume-building experience, but more importantly, an enhanced research opportunity for scholars of Detroit history and art that would have gone unnoticed without financial support."

Professional Development Grant

The 2018 Professional Development Grant recipient Karly Wildenhaus (Research Assistant, Getty Museum) used her grant to speak at the 2018 Museum Computer Network Conference in Denver, Colorado. She co-presented at a session titled, "The Possibilities of Exhibition Histories, LOD, and Improving Access to Historical Museum Materials" and discussed the "current and proposed data models of MoMA's archival documents, images and publications going back to 1929, with the integration of including a 40-year exhibition history of MoMA PS1 for sharing and publishing."

This program offers two \$1,000 grants

yearly, one with a summer deadline and another in the winter. The purpose of the Grant is to support professional development in the field of visual resources and cultural heritage information management. Grant funds can be used to participate in a professional development opportunity of the grantee's choosing (such as a conference, symposium, workshop, online education), or to enroll in relevant research activities (such as hands-on field work or a site visit for scholarly purposes).

Project Grants for Research and Development

James Sobczak, Digital Imaging Assistant II, and Morgan Bell, Digital Projects Manager + Learning Technologies Liaison, University of Washington, Seattle, WA were awarded the 2018 VRAF Project Grant to digitize the Patricia Young Collection (PYC) (<http://content.lib.washington.edu/patriciayoungweb/index.html>).

The VRAF Project Grant allowed the University of Washington's School of Art + Art History + Design to begin digitizing a collection donation of 26,800+ 35mm slides from Patricia Young, which provided a stipend to graduate student employees. The digitized portion of the PYC Collection is housed in their MDID collection, which crosswalks with CONTENTdm for further outreach to researchers worldwide. The project allowed the PYC Collection graduate student workers to improve upon the GIS digital mapping of images, network mapping of metadata, and semantic query integration.

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 for stand-alone projects, pilots or start-up financing for larger projects, or for a component of a larger project. Collaborative projects and those proposed by groups, whether or not affiliated with an organization or institution, are encouraged. Of particular interest are innovative projects with the potential to have a broad impact across the global community.

Regional Workshop Program

The Regional Workshop Program's third season offered four workshops on topics of interest not only to the visual resources community, but to many who work throughout cultural heritage institutions. The workshops were led by seasoned instructors, and offered in locations throughout the US.

The program was developed and executed by the Regional Workshop Implementation Team, spearheaded by VRAF Board Members Betha Whitlow and Steven Kowalik. When Betha and Steven's Board term ended in March, new Board Member Beth Haas stepped into the role of leading the Regional Workshop Implementation Team and recruited Sonya Coleman and Meghan Rubenstein as Workshop Liaisons.

In December 2017, Princeton University hosted a workshop on Intellectual Property Rights. The workshop was led by Anne M. Young, Manager of Rights and Reproductions at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.

In March 2018, a visual literacy workshop, hosted by the University of Kentucky in Lexington, was led by Jessica Sack, the Jan and Frederick Mayer Senior Curator for Public Education at the Yale University Art Gallery.

Also in March 2018, a digital capture workshop focused on cultural heritage, was hosted by The Ohio State University in Columbus, and was led by Chris Strasbaugh, Knowlton School's Digital Library Archivist and Curator.

In May 2018, an International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) workshop was hosted by the University of Texas at Austin and led by Sara and Ben Brumfield of Brumfield Labs.

Respectfully submitted by the 2018-19 Board of Directors

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vrafoundation.com

vrafoundation@gmail.com

twitter.com/vrafoundation

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Visual Resources Association Foundation
Financial Statement, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Income

Contributions Income	\$ 6,378.28
Grants	10,000.00
Regional workshops	13,646.30
SEI	42,955.17
Interest Income	3.03

Total VRAF Income **\$ 72,982.78**

Expenses

Annual Board meeting	\$ 3,645.90
Charitable Distributions	12,225.00
Fees, Services, Office Expenses	7,854.21
Regional workshops	7,404.95
SEI 2017-2018	35,792.17

Total VRAF Expenses **\$ 66,922.23**

Net Income **\$ 6,060.55**

Summer Educational Institute Profit & Loss 2018

Income

Kress scholarships	\$ 5,000.00
Donations	3,165.00
Tuition	26,535.00
Housing & parking	4,160.34
ARLIS/NA (share of loss)	1,873.45

Total Income **\$40,733.79**

Expenses

Site Visit	1,474.14
Scholarships	5,593.00
Administrative costs	1,903.24
Food events/miscellaneous	1,471.44
Host institution (housing, parking, facilities)	4,160.00
Co-chairs, incoming co-chair & local co-chair	6,504.65
Instructors	6,100.86
Accommodations (instructors & SEI Team)	3,034.53

Total SEI 2018 Expenses **\$ 30,241.86**

SEI 2018 profit to share with ARLIS/NA \$4,885.76

SEI 2019 Office/General Administrative Expenses \$99.00

Total Expenses **\$ 35,226.62**

2018 SEI Net Income **\$ 5,507.17**

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.