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.

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**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.

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**Our Generous Donors**

**Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

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

Corporate Sponsors:
Artstor | ProQuest | Samuel H. Kress Foundation | VrcHost LLC

2018 SEI:
Cindy Abel Morris | Kathe Albrecht | Sherman Clarke | Melissa Gill | VRA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

2017-2018

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**From the 2018-2019 Board of Directors**

Elaine Paul, Chair
Sheryl Frisch, Secretary
Cindy Abel Morris, Treasurer
Beth Haas
Jeannine Keefer
Jennifer Kniesch
Billy Chi Hing Kwan
The fifteenth annual Summer Educational Institute was held from June 24-28, 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 the emerging digital realm. 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 relevant to emerging needs.

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, Finzer and Frimmer, including co-chair Courtney Baron; local host Cindy Abel Morris; and the entire Implementation Team for making this first SEI in Albuquerque a success.

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 corporate partners like you in support of the VRA 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 represent a percentage of purchases helping to support the Legacy Lectures at VRA conferences. During the Philadelphia conference, Jane Golden of the 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 it develops 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 in support of the visual resources profession.

Professional Development Grant

The 2018 Professional Development Grant Program offers a $3,000 stipend for a graduate student to obtain practical work experience in a digital imaging, digitization, or visual resources position. It also includes $1,000 for professional development in the visual resources field, such as conference or SEI attendance, plus a 1-year 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 VRAF’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 Scabrac 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 Scabrac Club and the Digital Media Projects Lab at Wayne State University’s School of Information Sciences, whose tools and guidance she relied on during her work.

The 2018 Professional Development Grant Program was supported by grants from the Scarlet Fund and the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

The Professional Development Grant Program enables students 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 further the VRA Foundation mission to advance education, research, and outreach in the field of visual resources and image management. The Project Grants program 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 teams of any size, whether or not affiliated with an organization or institution, are encouraged. Of particular interest are interns or projects with the potential to have a broad impact across the global community.

The VRAF’s Regional Workshop Program continues to thrive, with support for localized educational and professional development opportunities relating to our changing field. 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 invitation committee for its support of this initiative, and to directors Steven Kowalk and Betha Whitlow for their adapt 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.

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 Karyn Wildenhuis 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 teams of any size, whether or not affiliated with an organization or institution, are encouraged. James Sobczak, Digital Imaging Assistant, and Morgan Bell, Digital Projects Manager at ProQuest, will be the Program Co-Chairs for 2018.

The evaluations will inform the planning history of MoMA PS1 for sharing and using digital materials, digitization, and image management. The Project Grants program provides support for projects that reflect the VRA Foundation mission and image management. The Project Grants program provides support for projects that would have gone unnoticed without the support of the VRAF. The Project Grants program will offer this award annually.

The VRAF Project Grants program is housed in the MOCOD collection, which crosswalks with CONTENTdm for further outreach to researchers worldwide.

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The VRAF’s Pursuit of additional funding continues so that we may offer this award annually. Thanks to your ongoing generosity, the Visual Resources Association Foundation continues its 28th year of funding and strengthening the profession through our education and outreach activities.

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