Regional Workshop Program

The VRAF Regional Workshop’s fifth season was not, surprisingly, disrupted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. As in-person events throughout the world came to a grinding halt, so did our planned spring workshops.

We were able to host one in-person workshop, as planned, on November 22, 2019. This workshop was significant as it was the first workshop where the local hosts proposed the topic, rather than choosing from our proffered list. The workshop, Beyond Licenses: Integrating Creative Commons, RightsStatements.org, and Traditional Knowledge into Permissions, was hosted by the University of Denver and led by Anne M. Young, Director of Legal Affairs and Intellectual Property at Newfields in Indianapolis, IN. Eighteen registrants signed up for the workshop and we received a significant number of inquiries about attending the workshop virtually. At the time, this was not an option. However, our team agreed that an intellectual property rights topic would be ideal if we were to test remote options.

Can We Do That? Intellectual Property Rights and Visual Media with instructor Cara Hirsh was originally scheduled at Occidental College on March 13, 2020. We first postponed until June 5, and then decided to host this as our first virtual workshop. The content was presented in two, 2.5-hour segments on June 5 and June 12 using Zoom video conferencing software. Of the original 43 participants registered for this workshop, 35 chose to stay registered for the online version. Of those, 31 attended the first live session and 28 attended the second live session, while others chose to view the content asynchronously for a limited time. Recordings, slides, and additional materials were made available to all participants. Both the participants and the instructor reviewed this experience positively. The process may be used as a model for any future online workshops.

The two workshops cancelled due to COVID-19 will be rescheduled for the 2020-21 season. Both workshops have significant interactive elements that could not be duplicated through online tools at this time. Collaborating Across the Institution: Creating Professional Partnerships to Support Cultural Heritage will be hosted by the University of Michigan Library and led by instructor Jackie Spafford. Metadata and Management of Cultural Heritage Digital Media: From Fundamentals to Future Trends will be hosted by the University of Toronto Mississauga and led by instructor Shyam Oberoi. Metadata and Management of Cultural Heritage Digital Media will be the first international Regional Workshop. In addition, the Regional Workshop Implementation Team will continue to explore online content.

Our program was developed and executed by the Regional Workshop Implementation Team, with Sonya Coleman as Workshop Coordinator, Meghan Rubenstein as Sr. Workshop Liaison and Beth Haas as VRAF Board Liaison. Two Junior Workshop Liaisons assisted briefly with the 2019-2020 season. Recruiting and building a Regional Workshop team has proved challenging, but we hope to have all open positions filled by the time planning begins for the 2020-2021 workshop season.

Our Generous Donors
Fiscal Year 2019-2020

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Samuel H. Kress Foundation

Donors to the general fund of the VRAF:

Anonymous
Cindy Abel Morris
Dr. Kathe Albrecht
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Jeaninne Keefer
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Andreas Knab
Jennifer Kniessch

Respectfully submitted by the 2020-21 Board of Directors
Marcia Focht, Chair
Robb Detlefs, Secretary
Otto Luna, Treasurer
Beth Haas
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Bonnie Rosenberg
Chris Strasbaugh

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ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020

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.

2019-2020 Board of Directors
Elaine Paul, Chair
Otto Luna, Treasurer
Marcia Focht, Secretary
Sheryl Frisch
Beth Haas
Jennifer Kniessch
Chris Strasbaugh
Message from the Chair

The VRA Foundation (VRAF) is dedicated to the work of advancing the visual resources profession and this annual report is an opportunity for us to share information about our work and how much we value our relationship with Visual Resources Association (past, present, and future) members as well as like-minded organizations and potential supporters. As a Board of Directors, we are very much looking forward to continue to support our members in the interests of our profession and to envision the future progress of the field.

True to our profession, the Foundation has been nimble and proactive in responding to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. During this difficult time, members of our profession have stepped up in a big way to keep our community active and to support institutional constituencies—leveraging technology, sharing expertise, and innovating collaboratively. This environment of fear and uncertainty has also led to hardship in the form of ever-changing schedules, difficult working conditions, and lost positions. We want you to know that you are on our minds and the VRAF is here to support you. We will continue to evaluate, train, and support our members to meet the profession’s needs so we can be helpful in our outreach and education offerings. We are simultaneously asking for your suggestions, participation, and support in the coming year.

When news of COVID-19 began, we put all VRAF Face to Face events and programs on hold in the interests of safety. Our education and professional development activities continue as planned. We have taken the opportunity to reorganize and redesign professional development activities remotely and use technology to collaborate. The Summer Educational Institute for Digital Stewardship of Visual Information: Networking with Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) x VRAF, SIE 2020 provides professionals with a substantive educational and professional development opportunity centered on digital stewardship information, and experience needed to stay current in a rapidly changing field, and the opportunity to contribute to the creation of a network of supportive colleagues.

The workshop was renamed the Summer Educational Institute for Digital Stewardship of Visual Information. The placement of the workshop in Evanston, IL, was crucial to the basic components of the digital life cycle, with modules on Intellectual Property and Copyright, Digital Analysis, Metadata, and DAMS and Digital Repositories. Additionally, SIE welcomed new faculty lineup in an effort to increase the diversity of the instructors and expand the curriculum to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility content. The new modules focused on accessibility, digital stewardship, and critical cataloging and metadata. The team introduced a new component: daily Choose Your Own Adventure breakout sessions on topics such as multimedia management tool Trophy, to give SIE participants the ability to customize their SIE experience. We want to thank the VRAF Directors for their hard work. In particular, Haas and the Regional Workshop Implementation Team for their agility and hard work, especially so many unexpected obstacles.

The VRAF also offers opportunities for growth and experience through awards and grants. These opportunities are designed to assist Visual Resources professionals at every stage of their career. The Internship Awards grant $4,000 to help current and recent graduates launch their careers in the visual resources profession or a career in image management. Professional Development Grants provide $1,000 to successful applicants for conference participation or other visual resources related professional development opportunities. Project Grants in the amount of $3,000 may be used for various types of project initiatives, whether individual, collaborative, or involving larger projects. A new component of the program described above would not have been possible without generous funding and the ongoing support of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. We are fortunate to have the Kress Foundation support our new VRAF projects, support our professional development, and provide scholarships for SEI, for which we extend our deepest thanks.

Those who serve on the Foundation collaborate successfully, so our programs are rewarded by a deepening of professional and shared experience. With much appreciation for their support, we thank the Board members who completed their terms this year: Elaine Paul, who served as Chair, and Sheryl Frisch, who served as Secretary. Project grants and Professional Development Grants, and the transition of CCO to VRAF. We welcome Robb Detlefs and Bonnie Rosenberg, who joined the Board in March of 2020. I’m grateful for the crucial role each Director plays in sustaining our various programs and progressively moving the VRAF forward.

Finally, know that the 2020-21 Board is working hard to achieve our mission, as we go forward with optimism and determination.

Marcia Focht, Chair

SEI 2019-2020

SEI 2020 was scheduled take place June 23-26, 2020 at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, but was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the SEI 2020 implementation team made significant progress revamping the structure and layout of the SEI 2020 workshop. The workshop was renamed the Summer Educational Institute for Digital Stewardship of Visual Information. The placement of the workshop in Evanston, IL, was crucial to the basic components of the digital life cycle, with modules on Intellectual Property and Copyright, Digital Analysis, Metadata, and DAMS and Digital Repositories. Additionally, SEI welcomed new faculty lineup in an effort to increase the diversity of the instructors and expand the curriculum to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility content. The new modules focused on accessibility, digital stewardship, and critical cataloging and metadata. The team introduced a new component: daily Choose Your Own Adventure breakout sessions on topics such as multimedia management tool Trophy, to give SEI participants the ability to customize their SEI experience. We want to thank the VRAF Directors, in particular Haas and the Regional Workshop Implementation Team for their agility and hard work, especially so many unexpected obstacles.

The Foundation is grateful for our VRA colleagues for their support on the 2019-2020 VRAF Internship Award Committee: Linda Callahan (representing the Awards Committee) and Carolyn Lucarelli (representing the Education Committee). We also thank the 2018-2019 Internship Awards recipient Adelaide McComb for her hard work. In these unprecedented times of COVID-19, it is clear that remote work and research are dependent upon online collections. VRAF believes that there are many learning opportunities for VRAF members to help promote scholarly and public access to collections by working remotely in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Professional Development Grant

The 2019-2020 Professional Development Grant was awarded to Kristine O’Connor at Malick O’Connor Augmented Reality Developer for the Penn & Slavery Project, Pen Libraries Digital Scholarship, UPENN, Philadelphia, PA to participate and attend a 4 day workshop with African Digital Heritage in Nairobi and Kisumu, Kenya, Malick’s video regarding her experience at the African Digital Heritage workshop can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuTY-lHImFX0&feature=youtu.be

The Winter 2020 Professional Development Grant was awarded to Meghan Lyon (MISLIS Student Graduate Assistant at the Pratt School of Information’s Semantic Lab, and a NYARC Web Archiving Fellow at the Ark Fract Art Reference Library) to co-present at the 2020 Society for American Archivist’s National Conference. Ms. Lyon will present virtually at a session of ‘Digital Access and Preservation: Artists’ Archives: Challenges, Strategies, and Solutions’. This program offers two $1,000 grants yearly, one with a sum for a component of a larger project. Collaborative projects and those proposed by groups, whether or not affiliated with an organization or institution, are welcome. A valuable interest are innovative projects with the potential to have a broad impact across the global community.

Project Grant for Research and Development

Stephanie Becker, Digital Collections Manager and Project Manager for Region 4, Case Western University, Cleveland, OH has been awarded the 2020 VRAF Project Grant to allow Ms. Becker, and other members of the African Digital Heritage team, to participate in the Kelvin Smith Library, to find, research and collaborate with a vendor, who will assist in transcribing approximately 70 moving image and oral history files regarding the community of Cleveland, Ohio. The text and/or captions will then be uploaded to the files and an extra grant fee for $250. The Foundation collaborates will create and build a framework for the audio and video files to be available with caption formatting for easy and intuitive viewing.

The project will create needed accessibility features for the public and provide a more accessible portal for the Cleveland, Ohio community. This program supports projects that reflect the VRA Foundation mission to advance education, research, and the preservation of visual resources and image management. The Project Fund grants may be used for stand-alone projects, pilots or start-up financing for larger projects, or as a component of a larger project. Collaborative projects and those proposed by groups, whether or not affiliated with an organization or institution, are welcome. A valuable interest are innovative projects with the potential to have a broad impact across the global community.

The VRAF Foundation is dedicated to the work of advancing the visual resources profession and this annual report is an opportunity for us to share information about our work and how much we value our relationship with Visual Resources Association (past, present, and future) members as well as like-minded organizations and potential supporters. As a Board of Directors, we are very much looking forward to continue to support our members in the interests of our profession and to envision the future progress of the field. For example, the 2020 Joint VRA and VRAF Solidarity Statement condemning all violence, and acts of racism especially against Black people, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) was released in June of 2020. We understand that statements require action and we will continue to examine our policies, practices and purposes to make measurable change in our profession and community.

The Winter 2020 Professional Development Grant was awarded to Meghan Lyon (MISLIS Student Graduate Assistant at the Pratt School of Information’s Semantic Lab, and a NYARC Web Archiving Fellow at the Frick Art Reference Library) to co-present at the 2020 Society for American Archivists National Conference. Ms. Lyon will present virtually at a session of ‘Digital Access and Preservation: Artists’ Archives: Challenges, Strategies, and Solutions’. This program offers two $1,000 grants yearly, one with a sum for a component of a larger project. Collaborative projects and those proposed by groups, whether or not affiliated with an organization or institution, are welcome. A valuable interest are innovative projects with the potential to have a broad impact across the global community.

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Message from the Chair

The VRA Foundation (VRAF) is dedicated to the work of advancing the visual resources profession and this annual report is an opportunity to share information about the programs, services, and initiatives that we have developed to support professional development activities remotely and use technology to collaborate. The Summer Educational Institute for Digital Stewardship of Visual Information (SEI) provides professionals with a substantive educational experience and professional development opportunity centered on digital stewardship information, and experience needed to stay current in a rapidly changing field, and the opportunity to contribute to a network of supportive colleagues. For 2020 SEI, originally scheduled for June at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, plans are underway to offer SEI in 2021 at the same venue.

VRAF’s Regional Workshop Program continues to flourish, providing localized educational and professional development opportunities relating to cultural heritage. The program offers expert instruction and training on a variety of pertinent topics. This year an in-person workshop on permissions and rights statements took place in the fall, with a swift pivot to a virtual workshop on intellectual property and Copyright, presented by Beth Haaga and the Regionally Speaking Webinar Program team for their agility and hard work, especially with so many unexpected obstacles.

VRAF also offers opportunities for growth and experience through grants and awards. These opportunities are designed to assist Visual Resources professionals at every stage of their career. The Internship Award grants $4,000 to help current and recent graduates find employment or develop the skills necessary for a career in image management. The 2020 award went to Alex Laursen, a recent graduate from the University of Alabama. Project and Professional Development Grants provide up to $1,000 for successful applicants for conference participation or other visual resources-related professional development opportunities. Project Grants in the amount of $3,000 may be used for various types of project initiatives, whether stand-alone, pilots, or components of larger projects.

The programs described above would not have been possible without generous funding and the ongoing support of the Van- uel H. Kress Foundation. We are fortunate to have the support of many new VRAF projects, support our professional development, and provide scholarships for SEI, for which we extend our deepest thanks.

Finally, know that the 2021-2022 Board is working hard to achieve our mission, as we go forward with optimism and determination.

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tal Stewardship of Visual Information. The plans for the workshop include two basic components of the digital life cycle, with modules on Intellectual Property and Copyright, Data Management, Metadata, and DAMS and Digital Repositories. Additionally, SEI welcomed new faculty lineups in an effort to increase the diversity of the instructors and expand the curriculum to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility content. The new modules focused on accessibility, digital stewardship, and critical cataloging and metadata. The team introduced a new component: daily Choose Your Own Adventure breakout sessions, on topics such as image management tool Tropy, to give SEI participants the ability to customize their SEI experience. We express our thanks to the SEI planning committee chairs Courtney Baron, Bridget Maddox, Molly Szymbanski, and local host Nicole Finzer, and the SEI implementation team members Annie Solinger, Kimberly Wolfe, Tina Budzise-Weaver, and Otto Luna. Beth Haaga served as VRAF Board Liaison. The 2019-2020 SEI Online Speaking Series will stay on to plan the SEI 2021 workshop. For more information and updates, visit https://seweworkshop.org.

Internship Award

The VRA Foundation supports the education and practical training of new information professionals through the Internship Award, a program generously funded by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. The award includes a $3,000 stipend, a contribution of $1,000 toward a professional development opportunity, and a year’s membership in the VRA.

The 2019-2020 internship award was granted in August 2019 to Kristine Clark, a recent graduate in Museum Studies at Arizona State University. We selected Kristine’s proposed project for the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art for a number of reasons, including Kristine’s demonstrated initiative, passion, and resolve to contribute to the advancement of her professional development; the support for visual resources standards and best practices within the museum community; it’s importance for the museum’s and Kristine’s, and competent cataloging practices; the benefits to this small, understaffed museum; and the potential to result in a number of outcomes with diverse content. Kristine’s objective was to “bridge the gap between accessible and available” on the museum’s website, with a focus on encouraging tag and catalog descriptions. Kristine established a methodology for creating these tags, including a lexicon of controlled vocabulary terms that others will be able to apply into the future.

The Foundation is grateful for the VRA Foundation internship’s contribution, on the 2019-2020 VRAF Internship Award Committee: Linda Callahan (representing the Awards Committee) and Carolyn Lucarelli (representing the Education Committee). We also thank the 2018-2019 Internship Awards recipient Adelaide McComb for her hard work. In times such as these, it is clear that remote work and research are dependent upon online collections. VRAF believes that there are many learning opportunities that allow learners to help promote scholarly and public access to collections by working remotely in the 2020-2021 academic year.

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The Fall 2019 Professional Development Grant was awarded to Malika Olatunde (Digi-

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Stephanie Becker, Digital Collections Manager and Project Manager for Benjamin-Day Collection, at Case Western University, Cleveland, OH has been awarded the 2020 VRAF Project Grant to allow Ms. Becker, and other social scientists to analyze the车联网 Library, to study and investigate how the Cleveland, Ohio community. The text and/or captions will then be applied to the audio file. The project is expected to take 6 months and two collaborators will create and build a framework for the audio and video files to be available with caption formatting for easy and intuitive public viewing and downloading.

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Andreas Knab
Jennifer Kniesch
Allan T. Kohl
Steven Kowalk
Billy Chi Hing Kwan
Brad Lancaster
Amy Lazet
Carolyn J. Lucarelli
Otto Luna
Amy McKenna
Stephen Patton
Elaine Paul
Mark Pompella
Tracy Priest
Linda Reynolds
Meghan Rubenstein
Molly Schoen
Brian Shellburne
Jacqueline Spafford
Chris Strasbaugh
Marsha Taichman
Ann M. Thomas
Christina (Tina) Updike
Margaret Webster
Betha Whitlow
Loy Zimmerman

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# Financial Statement, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>FY18-19</th>
<th>FY19-20</th>
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<td>Contributions Income</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total VRAF Income</strong></td>
<td>$ 68,400.94</td>
<td>$ 36,392.87</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<td>Annual Board meeting</td>
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<td>Charitable Distributions</td>
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<td>Other expenses *</td>
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<td>Regional workshops</td>
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<td>SEI</td>
<td>27,753.65</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total VRAF Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$ 59,669.09</td>
<td>$ 36,544.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Income**

|               | $ 8,731.85 | - $151.44 |