



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

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.

2021-2022 Board of Directors

Marcia Focht, Chair
Liz Gadelha, Secretary
Otto Luna, Treasurer
Joan Beaudoin
Robb Detlefs
Chris Strasbaugh
Bonnie Rosenberg

Message from the Chair

Greetings!

Looking back over the past year, I am proud of the work of the VRA Foundation, the support from our generous donors, and the accomplishments of the individuals who benefited from the programs we offer. I encourage you to read the following report. As you do, I am confident you will share my satisfaction with what our partnership has been able to accomplish, as well as feel optimistic for the future of the visual resources profession.

Education

One of the most important roles for the VRA Foundation is education. Our regional workshops remained popular, affordable, and, not surprisingly, became less regional as we turned to an online format to keep the information flowing while maintaining safe pandemic practices. We will consider future offerings in both in-person and online formats in order to serve our audience best. The Summer Educational Institute for Digital Stewardship of Visual Information (SEI), a joint project with Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) & VRAF, went virtual this year, filling 50 spots in just a few days and providing much a needed opportunity for training and professional activity during a year when so much was curtailed.

Professional Support

VRA Foundation 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 Award grant helps current and recent graduate students to obtain valuable work experience and professional development while preparing for a career in image management. Professional Development Grants provide funds to successful applicants for conference participation or other visual resources related professional development opportunities. Project Grants for Research and Development may be used for various types of project initiatives, whether stand-alone, pilots, or components of larger projects.

I've got to say, it is so satisfying to read so many excellent applications full of exciting and interesting projects or goals. The hard part, of course, is that we cannot fund them all, but it feels so good to do what we can.

Team Efforts

The Foundation has a symbiotic relationship with the VRA Executive Board and membership. As we reimagine the future of our profession, we look forward to streamlining our joint operations and efforts, which include continued dedication to education and professional support for both emerging and established professionals.

Transitions

With much appreciation and awe for their hard work, we thank the Board members who completed their terms this year: Beth Haas, Regional Workshops Director and SEI Liaison, and Jennifer Kniesch, who served as Communications and Publicity Director, and with Project and Professional Development Grants. We welcome Liz Gadelha and Joan Beaudoin, who joined the Board in March of 2021. Together we are already working to make the 2021-2022 season run smoothly.

Fundraising

There was some worry that we would be facing budget woes. We didn't know what to expect from our donors, but were pleasantly surprised that the amount raised from individual contributors (\$7,795.26) was so close to last year's amount. This allowed the Foundation to continue offering programs and planning for the future.

Going Forward in Gratitude

The Board of Directors is so very grateful for the ongoing partnership with our donors, volunteers, and supporters. I'd especially like to extend our deep gratitude for the Kress Foundation's support of the profession with their funding of the Internship Award and 30 SEI scholarships. It really makes a difference. Thanks, too, are in order for our individual donors. So many of you continue to give year after year and that's amazing! It is your collective generosity that allows us to fulfill our educational and outreach mission, so please consider continuing, or even increasing, your valuable support.

The VRA Foundation remains dedicated to the work of advancing the visual resources profession, and we value our relationship with Visual Resources Association (past, present, and future) members as well as like-minded information professionals in associated fields. I look forward to next year, and all we can accomplish together!

--Marcia Focht, Chair

SEI 2021

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, SEI pivoted to a virtual format for the 2021 workshop. Fifty registered attendees participated in the week-long workshop, which took place from June 22-25. The Kress Foundation's generous sponsorship once again made it possible for worthy scholarship recipients to attend SEI; due to the lower registration cost of the virtual format, 30 registrants were awarded full scholarships. The core curriculum remained focused on the digital life cycle, but received a fresh update, offering two new modules on "Inclusive Description and Subjects for Cultural Heritage Materials" and "Digital Accessibility." Other modules focused on topics including Intellectual Property and Copyright, Project Management, Digitization, Metadata, Critical Cataloging, Digital Repositories, and Digital Preservation. The workshop opened with a facilitated discussion on "What a Steward Must Do: Introspection, Engagement, and Humility as Core Values for Inclusive Digital projects" by Steve Adams from Northwestern University to set the stage for digital stewardship. Attendees accessed Zoom links to the modules, instructor materials, and other session information via a password-protected Attendee Portal on the main SEI website: seiworkshop.org. The SEI Implementation Team made an effort to recruit a more diverse faculty, welcoming three new instructors who identify as BIPOC to the roster.

Overall, in spite of the pandemic, the reaction to SEI 2021 was very encouraging, as seen in the positive feedback to the workshop taken from the attendee survey. The curriculum was largely very well received, with the new modules mentioned in a positive light by several attendees. Survey respondents were also quite forthcoming with their suggestions and criticisms allowing for room to improve SEI 2022.

The VRAF Board would like to thank the entire SEI 2021 Implementation Team which included co-chairs Courtney Baron, Bridget Madden, and Molly Szymanski, as well as team members Nicole Finzer, Annie

Sollinger, Kimberly Wolfe and Otto Luna.

As a result of the success of SEI 2021, and the ongoing uncertainties regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been decided to hold the workshop once again in a virtual format in 2022.

Internship Award

The VRA Foundation supports the education and practical training of new information professionals through the Internship Award in visual resources and image management. 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 2020-2021 internship award was granted in August 2020 to Miriam Sappington, a MLIS student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Miriam's project with the university's Hamilton Library focused on creating an online catalogue raisonné of Juliette May Fraser, a talented and influential artist in Hawai'i during the early 20th century. Over 400 prints, photographs, and index cards from the artist were scanned, edited, linked to appropriate metadata from the artist's own records, uploaded into collection management software with appropriate metadata, and will be uploaded into the online image gallery. In this way, Miriam facilitated accessibility between cultural collections and community, bringing awareness to multiple narratives and cultivating a shared connection to place.

In addition to creating these resources, Miriam worked and collaborated with local organizations and colleagues from the Honolulu Museum of Art, the Hawai'i State Foundation's Art in Public Places Collection, and the Mayor's Art in City Buildings Collection.

The Foundation is grateful for our VRA colleagues' service on the 2020-2021 VRAF Internship Award Committee: Linda Callahan and 2019-2020 Internship Awards recipient Kristine Clark, who worked alongside VRAF board members Bonnie Rosenberg and Marcia Focht.

Again, the VRAF Board of Directors would like to extend our deep gratitude for the Kress Foundation's support of the profession and the emerging professionals within the field.

Professional Development Grants

This program offers two \$1000 grants yearly, one with a summer/fall 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).

The Fall 2020 Professional Development Grant was split between John Burns, an Electronic Resources Librarian at Dixie State University, and Ashlea Green, Metadata and Cataloging Librarian at Appalachian State University.

With the grant award, John attended the 2021 VRA Conference, where he participated in a session titled Collaboration and Outreach: Building Innovative Projects, with the vastly talented Sara Schumacher, Krystyna Matusiak, Sonja Sekely-Rowland, and Jackie Spafford. He was able to attend a wide array of sessions at the virtual conference, broadening his visual resource knowledge and skills. Ashlea used the funds to attend the Wikidata Institute. Attending this course provided Ashlea with essential knowledge and skills in Wikidata and Wikibase linked data applications, ethical data/ontologies, data modeling, and entity mapping, among others.

The Spring 2021 VRAF Professional Development Grant was split between Brian Watson, a Doctoral Student at the University of British Columbia's School of Information, and Steffi Terasaki, the Curatorial Assistant/Assistant Registrar at the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle.

Brian used the funds towards a [Certificate](#) in XML and RDF from the Library Juice Academy. These languages are necessary to build compatibility between [Homosaurus](#)—an international, community-maintained LGBTQ linked data vocabulary system intended to function as a companion to broad subject term vocabularies, such as the Getty or LCSH—and other major thesauri used in GLAMS cataloguing. Brian is passionate about building new ways for cultural heritage organizations to represent intersectionality and diversity in subject descriptions; these languages are key tools in doing just that.

Steffi used the grant funds to attend the Society of American Archivists Basics of Managing Digital Collections Online [course](#), the 2021 Visual Resource Association [conference](#), and the [Summer Educational Institute for Digital Stewardship of Visual Information](#). Steffi's greater goal is to become proficient in digitization, preservation, intellectual property policy, and metadata cataloging best practices. With the aid of the Professional Development Grant, she was able to grow her expertise in these areas.

Project Grants for Research and Development

Jamie Fogel, Director, Arthur Vining Davis Library & Archives at the Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium in Florida, has been awarded the 2021 VRAF Project Grant to digitize a selection of films that are important to the history of Mote and will promote knowledge about marine science to students and the public. Library and video services staff, with the assistance of a volunteer, will begin to document the entirety of Mote's film collection, an estimated 1,500 films on a variety of formats including 16mm, VHS, BetaCam, and MiniDV. Once documented, the films will be evaluated and the top 75 assets – those of the greatest educational and historical value and those most at risk of degradation – will be selected for digitization. The objective of the project is to preserve and make accessible a selection of important films from Mote's collections, which are currently hidden.

This grant supports projects in the field of visual resources and image management and is for \$3,000. 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

This year was the sixth VRAF Regional Workshop. While the name still states “Regional” this year’s workshop series was truly global as we pivoted to an interactive online format. The schedule moved to a calendar year cycle and our 2021 cycle features five online workshops.

Learning to Look and Looking to Learn: A Workshop on Visual Literacy, which was taught by Instructors Jessica Sack and Rachel Thompson from the Yale University Art Gallery, kicked off the 2021 workshop series on May 7 and 14, 2021. Participants provided positive feedback on both the format as well as content providing additional direction on how to increase engagement through an online format.

Building on previous experiences, we launched a software-heavy workshop, *Python for Beginners*, in June. Taught by Maneesha Sane from The Carpentries (a project that teaches foundational coding and data science skills to researchers worldwide) this workshop was hands-on and practical giving attendees usable skills from an expert. It was so popular that a waitlist was created and we are exploring offering this workshop again in the future.

The final three workshops are upcoming throughout the fall. *Can We Do That? Intellectual Property Rights and Visual Media* with instructor Cara Hirsch will take place on September 17 and 24, 2021. *From Project to Product: Effective Project Management and Strategic Planning*, will be hosted remotely on November 5 and 19, 2021 by Elizabeth Parke at the University of Toronto Mississauga with instructor Cristela Garcia-Spitz. *Beyond Licenses: Integrating Creative Commons, RightsStatements.org, and Traditional Knowledge into Permissions*, with instructor Anne Young, Director of Legal Affairs and Intellectual Property at Newfields, will complete the series on December 10, 2021.

The program was developed and executed by the Regional Workshop Implementation Team, with Meghan Rubenstein as Workshop Coordinator, Beth Haas as Sr. Workshop Liaison, Janice Shapiro Hussain as Junior Workshop Liaison, and Chris Strasbaugh as VRAF Board Liaison. Recruitment for new team members will be a priority as we move into the next workshop cycle.

Our Generous Donors Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Grants partner for the Internship Award, Regional Workshops Program and Summer Educational Institute: Samuel H. Kress Foundation

Donors to the general fund of the VRAF:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anonymous | Jeannine Keefer |
| Cindy Abel Morris | Karen Kessel |
| Kathe Albrecht | Jennifer Kniesch |
| Patricia McRae Baley | Allan T. Kohl |
| Megan Battey | Steven Kowalik |
| Suzanne Bennett | Billy Chi Hing Kwan |
| Victoria Bleick | Carolyn J. Lucarelli |
| David Bowers | Otto Luna |
| Maureen Burns and Brad Lancaster | Amy McKenna |
| Linda J. Callahan | Elaine Paul |
| Lavinia Ciuffa | Mark Pompelia |
| Sherman Clarke | Heidi Raatz |
| Heather Cleary | Meghan Rubenstein |
| Sarah Coe | Molly Schoen |
| Jolene de Verges | Sara Schumacher |
| Robert Detlefs | Brian Shelburne |
| Melody Ennis | Nancy J. L. Smith |
| Lael Ensor-Bennett | Christine Sundt |
| Marcia Focht | Ann M. Thomas |
| Cynthia Frank | Christina (Tina) Updike |
| Sheryl Frisch | VRA Greater NY Chapter |
| Ashlea Green | vrcHost (Andreas Knab) |
| Beth Haas | Margaret Webster |
| Macie (Virginia) Hall | Betha Whitlow |
| Christine Hilker | Loy Zimmerman |

Respectfully submitted by the 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Marcia Focht, Chair
Liz Gadelha, Secretary
Otto Luna, Treasurer
Joan Beaudoin
Robb Detlefs
Chris Strasbaugh
Bonnie Rosenberg

vrafoundation.org
vrafoundation@gmail.com
facebook.com/visrafoundation
instagram.com/vrafoundation
twitter.com/vrafoundation



visual
resources
association

FOUNDATION

Financial Statement, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

| Income | FY 19-20 | FY 20-21 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Contributions Income | \$ 9,283.83 | \$7,795.26 |
| Grants | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| Regional Workshops | 6,525.00 | 8,550.00 |
| SEI | 16,030.44 | 4,150.00 |
| Interest Income | 6.76 | 3.38 |
| Other Income | 546.84 | 546.84 |
| | | |
| Total VRAF Income | \$ 36,392.87 | \$ 25,045.48 |
| | | |
| Expenses | | |
| Annual Board meeting | \$ 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Charitable Distributions | 10,451.68 | 8,827.00 |
| Other expenses * | 7,522.40 | 11,412.09 |
| Regional workshops | 6,508.59 | 3,787.14 |
| SEI | 12,061.64 | 7,718.38 |
| | | |
| Total VRAF Expenses | \$ 36,544.31 | \$ 31,774.60 |
| | | |
| Net Income | - \$151.44 | \$ -6,729.12 |

* Fundraising fees, Insurance, Zoom, PayPal monthly charges, Accounting, Consulting, Web services & Legal Fees.

.....