2006 Annual Meeting & Conference Review

The 2006 HMA Conference was outstanding. The Maui Arts & Culture Center in Kahului was an excellent facility. The conference started on Wednesday with a tour of Pihana and Haleki'i Heiau. It was a very intimate tour and eye opening opportunity to see the sand dunes of Kahului. The heiau are an oasis of green amongst the new development in the area and this is very evident from the view atop the heiau. Later that evening, attendees took the opportunity to partake of the Maui Film Festival, also at MACC or the stage show 'Ualena at the Maui Myth & Magic Theater in Lahaina.

Thursday started with a great keynote address by Rosa Lowinger that brought together the topics of views, voice, and the visitor using examples of contemporary art and native peoples. The morning panel session covered learning from non-traditional settings with examples from stage productions to underwater whale recordings. It really brought to light that the goals of many of these varied organizations are the same, education. The afternoon session covered digitizing collections and showcased two great resources to us: the Law Library Consortium, a locally based organization with international holdings, and the Hawaii Language Legacy Project of 'Alu Like with their on-line Hawaiian dictionary Ulukau. Later, painting conservator Larry Pace treated us to many insightful stories of local art treasures. The evening ended with a gallery reception and tour led by Darrell Orwig.

Friday began with a case study of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and their interactions with the Hawaiian community. It was an engaging presentation with many anecdotes told by the consultants. HMA business was handled during the annual membership meeting over lunch with the incoming board members. Local, national, and international presenters on subjects from museums and community interaction to audio tours filled the rest of the day.

The conference was a great experience that offered something to many facets of the museum and cultural institution community. We look forward to next year's annual meeting and conference on O'ahu.
Honolulu Workshop

"I wonder if I can repair this?" If this thought has ever entered your mind then this workshop can help.

Conservation: Do It Yourself vs The Pros will be offered Wednesday, September 13, 2006 from 10am to 4pm at the Old Archives Building on the 'Iolani Place grounds, 364 S. King Street in Honolulu. Registration begins at 9:30 am with lunch on your own from 12 noon to 1pm. $55 registration fee ($50 for Hawai'i Museums Association members, Museum Studies Students, and active volunteers or members of The Friends of 'Iolani Palace).

Professional conservator, Beverly Perkins from the Balboa Art Conservation Center in San Diego, will help you determine if you can conserve an artifact in your collection yourself or if you need to call a professional conservator. Hands-on activities will be offered, and topics will include 1) how to clean and polish artifacts, 2) choosing safe adhesives, 3) tape and mat removal, and 4) hints on working with a conservator. Many kinds of artifacts will be discussed, and you are invited to bring items for review.

Enrollment is limited to 30. Call to register: (808)522-0838, or email: collections@iolanipalace.org

This workshop is sponsored by The Friends of 'Iolani Palace and is made possible in part by Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, through 'Iolani Palace's participation in the 2006 Conservation Assessment Program, ILMS Grants to State Library Agencies.

New HMA Board Members

Peter Van Dyke, the new Hawai'i Island representative on the board, is manager of Balboa Art Conservation.

Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden in Kona. The Garden, which is part of Bishop Museum, has a small staff, so Peter has been involved in a variety of activities in his 16 years there: grant writing, interpretive development, educational programming, accessions record keeping, labeling, propagating, and landscaping. He has a lifetime involvement in horticulture and spends his weekends taking care of his tropical fruit and coffee farm. His academic background is in anthropology (BA, UCSB), and ESL (MA, UH Manoa), and he was a teacher before coming to the botanical garden.

David Scott, new at-large director, is Executive Director of Daughters of Hawai'i, an organization founded in 1903 to restore and operate the Queen Emma Summer Palace on O'ahu and Hulihee Palace on the island of Hawai'i. He is responsible for the day to day management of the office, supervision of staff and volunteers, and representing the organization at public meetings, press conferences, state and national gatherings. His academic background is in Historic Preservation of which he has a Masters of Science Degree from Eastern Michigan University. Prior to his current position he served as Executive Director of Historic Hawai'i Foundation here in Hawai'i from 1996-2004 and prior to that, as Executive Director of Historic Wilmington Foundation, Inc. in Wilmington, N.C. from 1989 to 1996. He also has a background in research and construction of exhibits and historic structures.

Karen Sinn, Board Secretary, has served for the last eight years as Administrative Assistant for the Hawaiian Historical Society. The Hawaiian Historical Society is dedicated to preserving historical materials relating to Hawai'i and the Pacific region and to making scholarly research relating to this region available through publication, conferences, and lectures. Ms. Sinn's work in these areas provides an additional depth and level of expertise that will serve the Hawai'i Museums Association well. Prior to her employment at the Hawaiian Historical Society, Ms. Sinn worked at the Mission Houses Museum for 8 years, first as a historical interpreter and eventually as the Coordinator of Educational Programs.

Shangri La

New Associate Director

The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art announced that Robert Saamio joins the foundation's staff on September 5 as Associate Director of Shangri La, Doris Duke's five-acre oceanfront estate in Honolulu.

Mr. Saamio is currently the National Endowment for the Arts Rome Prize Fellow in Historic Preservation at the American Academy in Rome, Italy. Prior to that, he served as the Director for Historic Houses and Curator of University Collections at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland for three years.

"We are thrilled to have Rob join our staff," said Deborah Pope, Executive Director of Shangri La. "His expertise in historic preservation and his experience in the stewardship of important architectural and cultural treasures will be a major asset to Shangri La and to our community."

At Shangri La, Saarnio will be responsible for planning, preservation, care and maintenance of the five-acre site with three historic buildings designed by architect Marion Sims Wyeth (1889-1992) and built between 1936-1938 as a seasonal home for heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke (1912-1993). Shangri La borrows architectural elements and artistic sensibilities from regions of the Islamic world, and blends them with a distinctly Hawaiian landscape that features sweeping ocean views and exotic gardens.

First opened to the public in November 2002, Shangri La offers small guided tours and other educational programs including periodic symposia and residencies for artists and scholars. It is owned and supported by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, which Doris Duke created in her will to promote the study, understanding, and preservation of Islamic art and culture. For more information, visit www.shangrilahawaii.org.
CAP Applications
75% of small museums and historical societies need a condition assessment of their collections. Are you one of them? If so the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) is designed to help small to mid-sized museums, from art museums to zoos, obtain an assessment of the condition of their collections, environment, and historic buildings. Following an on-site assessment by a conservation professional, a comprehensive written report recommending priorities to improve collections care is provided.
To be added to the CAP application mailing list, or for more information, please contact CAP staff at cap@heritagepreservation.org or 202-233-0800.

Historic Site Managers Advanced Training
AASLH offers a two day workshop Historic Landscapes that provides a broad overview of the preservation and interpretation of landscapes at historic sites, including historical research, site documentation, preservation approaches, and education programs through in-class lectures and on-site demonstrations at Decatur House, and will equip participants with the current standards, best practices, and practical approaches.


Digital Initiative
NEH has launched a new digital humanities initiative aimed at supporting projects that utilize or study the impact of digital technology.
NEH supports a wide variety of digital humanities projects through its core programs: creating digital humanities tools for analyzing and manipulating humanities data; developing standards and best practices for digital humanities; creating and maintaining digital archives; creating digital or online versions of a scholarly edition; working with a college on a digital humanities project; enhancing an institution's ability to use new technologies in research, education, preservation, and public programming in the humanities; and developing digitized resources for teaching the humanities.
For more information on these programs and core grant deadlines visit www.neh.gov

Artistic Excellence
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Access to Artistic Excellence grants encourage and support artistic excellence, preserve our cultural heritage, and provide access to the arts for all Americans for projects that include but are not limited to: conservation, documentation, provenance research, collections management, permanent collection catalogues, reinstallation of collections, and public programs such as lectures, symposia, and community outreach. Application deadline is August 14, 2006. For more information on this and other opportunities visit www.nea.gov

NEH Public Programs: Interpreting Historic Places
Are you preserving an historic place? If so, you might also want to think about exhibits, interpretive materials, heritage tourism partnerships, or other strategies for helping the public to learn more about your historic place, along with the people, stories, events, and ideas that make it a significant part of American history.

Interpreting America's Historic Places grants support public humanities programs that use one or more historic sites to interpret important topics in American history. Projects can interpret a single historic site, a series of sites, whole neighborhoods, communities or towns, or larger geographic regions.
For guidelines and further information about Interpreting America’s Historic Places grants, visit www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/historicplaces.html.

IMLS Services
The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Grants are awarded using a population-based formula. The program priorities are using technology for information sharing between libraries and other community services, and making library resources more accessible to urban, rural, or low-income residents, and others who have difficulty using library services. For more information visit www.imls.gov.

Digitization & Museums
Bringing Our Collections into the 21st Century is a AASLH sponsored 3 day workshop that explores new technologies in museums with in-depth training on digitizing collections. Day 1 is an introduction to issues surrounding the digitization of primary source materials. Day 2 focuses on basic digital imaging techniques. Day 3 is an introduction to creating metadata for digital objects. Come for one or more days.

Security Tip
Organizations strive for security when handling membership data. Anyone can be subject to unauthorized attempts to use domains and data. The Western Museums Association (WMA) suggests protecting e-address books and other internal data through appropriate firewalls and sending all mass emails with blind addresses (addresses hidden).
Fall '06 Calendar

AUGUST
14 Deadline NEA Access to Artistic Excellence grant
22-25 AASLH Digitization & Museums Workshop, Columbus, OH.

SEPTEMBER
12 Deadline for proposals for both NEH Consultation Grants and Planning Grants for Interpreting America's Historic Places.
13 Conservation: Do It Yourself vs The Pros Workshop Old Archives Bldg, Tolani Palace, Honolulu, HI.
13-16 AASLH Conference: History's Enduring Voices, Phoenix, AZ.

OCTOBER
3-6 IFCPP 8th Annual Conference, Hearst Castle, San Simeon, CA
12-13 AASLH Training Workshop for Historic Site Managers, Decatur House, Washington, DC.
31-Nov 5 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference: Making Preservation Work, Pittsburg, PA

NOVEMBER
8-11 Museum Computer Network Conference, Pasadena, CA.
8-12 Association of Railroad Museums/Tourist Railway Association Conference, Sacramento, CA.

The Hawai'i Museums Association is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to communication and cooperation among the staffs and supporters of Hawai'i's museums. Membership, subject to approval by the HMA Board, is open to all individuals, educational institutions, historical organizations and museums interested in the growth and development of the museum professionals and its activities in the State of Hawai'i. Individual Memberships: Students $15, Out-of-State $20, Single $35 per year, Dual $65. For institutional rates and applications please refer to the website at www.hawaiimuseums.org. Complete and mail with payment to: Hawai'i Museums Association, P.O. Box 4125, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96812-4125.

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Nūhou is the quarterly newsletter of the Hawai'i Museums Association which carries articles of professional interest to HMA members. Submissions to Nūhou are welcome, subject to editing, and should be received c/o HMA at the above address by January 20, April 20, July 20 and October 20. Photos and artwork are welcome and encouraged. HMA reserves the right to accept, reject and edit all submissions.

Hawaii Museums Association
Nūhou
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