Presidential Letter  
March 2006

Aloha,

The Hawai’i Museums Association — the only statewide organization of its kind for professionals in our respective fields — can be proud of the many outstanding ways it serves as a cross-regional resource. As a networking tool, it advances communication and opportunity for professional development on the local level, while also commanding a variety of inquiries from all over the world through the HMA-List Serve and HMA website. This past September, I had the pleasure of attending the Western Museums Association meeting in Pasadena, California, and meeting with representatives from other statewide organizations. It was exciting to exchange ideas and learn what entities similar to ours provide their membership.

Now, we are preparing for the 2006 annual conference on May 25th and 26th, which will take place at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center. I look forward to seeing you all there. We, the HMA board and officers, are continually striving to fulfill the needs of our membership — you, our colleagues and supporters. Thank you for all the ways you contribute and for your dedication to the Hawai’i Museums Association.

E. Tory Laitila  

E. Tory Laitila has served on the HMA board since 2002. He served as vice-president from 2004 until becoming president after Deborah Du

Keynote Speaker  
Rosa Lowinger

A 1982 graduate of New York University’s Institute of Fine Arts, Rosa Lowinger is the founder of Los Angeles’ Sculpture Conservation Studio—a facility dedicated to sculpture and architectural preservation. Lowinger has published extensively on conservation of outdoor sculpture, coatings for metals, and conservation of contemporary and ethnographic art. Cuban-born Lowinger is particularly interested in the conservation problems of tropical climates. In the aftermath of hurricane Katrina she has been working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation on conservation of buildings in Biloxi, Mississippi, and has previously worked in Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Miami, and Havana. Most recently she has been working in Honolulu and on Kaua’i under the auspices of the Mayor’s Office for Culture and the Arts.

She is also an author with numerous pieces in magazines such as ArtNews, Preservation, Sculpture, and Latina. Her first book, Tropicana Nights: The Life and Times of the Legendary Cuban Nightclub, was recently heralded by Publisher’s Weekly as a “scintillating chronicle [that] offers an overview of the florid, splashy era when Cuba was an endless party, and Tropicana was its epicenter.”

Views, Voices & Visitors  

HMA Annual Conference

Pack your bags and get ready for a few days of learning on the island of Maui. Mark the dates—May 24-26, 2006—for sessions being held at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center on the outskirts of Kahului. www.mauiarts.org

Schedule:

Wednesday, May 24, 2006
Pre-Conference Tour
The Maui Film Festival at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center

Thursday, May 25, 2006
Keynote address by conservator and author Rosa Lowinger
Morning and afternoon Sessions
Evening reception in the Schaefer Gallery
Darrell Orwig will give attendees a special showing of the exhibit Udo Nager: Light as Material, Jodi Endicott: Beasts to Birds

Friday, May 26, 2006
Morning and afternoon sessions
Hawai’i Museums Association Annual Meeting
Waimea, Kaua‘i
One of America’s Dozen Distinctive Destinations
Annual List Promotes Heritage Tourism

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the country’s largest private, nonprofit preservation organization, named Waimea its 2006 list of America’s Dozen Distinctive Destinations, an annual list of unique and lovingly preserved communities in the United States. It was selected from 93 destinations in 39 states that were nominated by individuals, preservation organizations and local communities. Waimea is the first to receive this designation in Hawai‘i and claims many firsts in its long history including Captain Cook’s landing, the first Christmas celebration, the first apple pie, the first Main Street program and more. It has registered landmarks, buildings, walking tours, and unique historical accommodations.

“Waimea is visually stunning and rich in history from ancient to modern times,” said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “The town celebrates its culture and heritage not only on special occasions but in everyday life, making Waimea a jewel in plain sight.”

This is the seventh time the National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced its list. To date, there are 84 Dozen Distinctive Destinations located in 41 states throughout the country. To see a complete list and download high resolution images visit www.nationaltrust.org.

In each community, residents have taken forceful action to protect their town’s character and sense of place. Whether by enacting a local preservation law to protect historic buildings against demolition, rewriting zoning codes to prevent commercial sprawl, removing regulatory barriers to downtown housing, making downtown areas more walkable, enacting design standards, or taking some other major step that demonstrates a strong commitment to their town, residents have worked hard to preserve the historic and scenic assets of their communities, with rewards that transcend town limits.

2005-2006
Historic Preservation Honor Awards

Started in 1975, Historic Hawai‘i Foundation’s Preservation Honor Awards recognize the outstanding projects, people and organizations that have enhanced the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration or interpretation of the state’s archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage. Historic Hawai‘i Foundation is accepting nominations for the Historic Preservation Honor Awards for 2005-2006. The deadline for nominations has been extended to March 31, 2006.

Nominated projects should be related to rehabilitation, restoration or interpretation. The awards committee welcomes entries from all the islands of Hawai‘i. Entry forms, which include eligibility rules and nomination procedures, are available at www.historichawaii.org or by calling George Casen at (808) 523-2900.

2006 list of America’s Dozen Distinctive Destinations are:

- Arrow Rock, Missouri
- Bartlesville, Oklahoma
- Bowling Green, Kentucky
- Lewes, Delaware
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Monterey, California
- Palm Springs, California
- Philipsburg, Montana
- Prescott, Arizona
- Saranac Lake, New York
- Waimea, Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i
- West Chester, Pennsylvania

AAM Announces Winners of the 2006 Brooking Paper on Creativity in Museums

The American Association of Museums announces the winners of the second annual Brooking Paper on Creativity in Museums. This competition invites museum professionals to write about notable examples of creativity, innovation, and imagination in museum operations. Funding for the competition was provided by Dolores Brooking, professor of art administration at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

The first-prize essay will be published in the May/June issue of Museum News, AAM’s bimonthly magazine, and a $1,000 prize awarded to the author. The three winning essays also will be posted on the association’s website at www.aam-us.org in late April.

First Prize—
Maggie Russell-Ciardi
Education Director, Lower East Side Tenement Museum

"Immigrant Voices: A No Language for Museums"

Honorable Mentions

Benjamin Filene, Senior Exhibit Developer, Minnesota Historical Society
"Small Stories in the Big Picture—Open House: If These Walls Could Talk"

Heather DeGaetano, Grants Coordinator, Tennessee Aquarium
"A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats: Collaboration Among Museums in Chattanooga"

Information for the competition for the 2007 Brooking Paper on Creativity in Museums will be posted on the AAM website in early May. For more information, please go to www.aam-us.org.
Save the Date!
WMA Annual Meeting
in Boise, Idaho. October 11-15, 2006. Frontier Without Limits:
High Desert Rendezvous.
The Western Museums Association is accepting nominations for the 2006 Director's Chair Award recognizing outstanding achievement in the museum profession. The Director's Chair Award is presented annually to an individual making a significant and lasting impact on museum practices or the museum profession in the Western Region in any discipline. The award, a canvas's chair with the recipient's name boldly printed across the back, will be given at the opening general session on October 12, 2006 during the annual meeting of the Western Museums Association in Boise, Idaho and recognized in the fall issue of WestMuse.

Go to http://www.westmuse.org/award_director.htm for information and a nomination form. Mail, e-mail or fax your nomination by May 1, 2006 to: WMA Nominating Committee, Western Museums Association, P.O. Box 13314, #578, Oakland, CA 94661; fax (510) 665-9701; director@westmuse.org.

Conference Scholarships
Application deadline is June 1, 2006 for the Wanda Chin Professional Development Support Fund helps to fund travel and registration for WMA members and non-member students who meet the qualifications in three eligibility categories, student, incoming professional and mid-career professional. For application and guidelines go to http://www.westmuse.org/WandaChin_Appl.htm

National Endowment For The Arts — Available Grants
June 1, 2006. Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review Grants support projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations.


August 14, 2006. Access to Artistic Excellence Grants encourage and support artistic excellence, preserve our cultural heritage, and provide access to the arts for all Americans.

National Endowment For The Humanities Application Deadlines
May 1, 2006. Challenge Grants help institutions and organizations secure long-term improvements in and support for their humanities programs and resources.

May 15, 2006. Preservation Assistance Grants help small mid-size institutions, such as libraries, museums, and historical societies, archival repositories, town and county records offices, and colleges, improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections. For information, click NEH.

America’s Treasures
Submittal deadline for FY 2006 Historic Preservation Fund Grants is April 18, 2006. Applications pertaining to western treasures are especially sought! Applications are invited for Federal Save America’s Treasures Grants administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Save America’s Treasures grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and collections and on nationally significant historic properties. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a dollar-for-dollar, non-Federal match, which can be cash, donated services, or use of equipment. Go to information and guidelines or application.

May 1, 2006. The International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection will be conducting its management-level certification workshop at the Sheraton Boston Hotel in conduction with the American Association of Museums annual conference. Full-day workshop allows qualified applicants to attend course work and test for the Certified Institutional Protection Manager (CIPM) designation. www.ifcpp.org for registration or additional information.

Partners in History
June 2, 2006 deadline. The History Channel will award $250,000 in grants of up to $10,000 in 2006 to fund partnerships between history organizations and schools or youth groups on projects that teach students about their local history and actively engage them in its preservation. History museums, historical societies, preservation organizations, historic sites, libraries, archives, government agencies, and other historical organizations are all eligible to apply. For guidelines and criteria, and to apply, visit http://www.saveourhistory.com/pres_org/index.html.

Upcoming Conferences


Spring Calendar

MARCH
31 Deadline for Historic Preservation Honor Award nominations.

APRIL
18 Deadline for Federal Save America's Treasures Grants.
20 Deadline for submissions to Nāhōu

MAY
1 Deadline for NEH Challenge Grants
15 Deadline NEH Preservations Assistance Grants
24-26 Views, Voices & Visitors HMA Annual Conference. Maui Arts & Cultural Center, Kahului.
26 Hawai‘i Museums Association Annual Meeting

JUNE
1 Deadline NEA Challenge America Grant
12 Deadline NEA Learning in the Arts Grant
14 Deadline for NEA Access to Artistic Excellence Grants

Nāhōu is the quarterly newsletter of the Hawai‘i Museums Association which carries articles of professional interest to HMA members. Submissions to Nāhōu 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
P.O. BOX 4125 HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I 96812-4125