

REPORT OF THE CUSTER COMMITTEE

Submitted by Tyler Stump, Committee Senior Co-Chair, September 21st, 2023

At the July 31st deadline for Custer Award submissions, the committee received 12 nominations- 7 books and 5 articles. This number was slightly down from 2022 (16 nominations) and 2021 (22 nominations). All submissions were received electronically this year.

The Committee continued to add to and revise the list of outlets and organizations we sent the call for nominations to- notably adding all university presses in the MARAC region this year.

Committee members are currently reviewing nominations and will submit scores to determine the book and article prize winners by October 1st.

Finding Aids Committee Report MARAC
Steering Committee Meeting
October 19, 2023

The C. Herbert Finch Award was awarded to the University of Pittsburgh Library System for the web site the [August Wilson Archive](https://augustwilson.library.pitt.edu/) [https://augustwilson.library.pitt.edu/].

The [August Wilson Archive](https://augustwilson.library.pitt.edu/) website provides access for researchers interested in utilizing the collection and learning more about Pittsburgh native and famous playwright, August Wilson (1945-2005), and his work. Wilson is best known for his American Century Cycle, a collection of ten plays that chronicle the Black experience throughout each decade of the 20th century. The website includes access to the digital exhibit, “August Wilson in Place,” and to the collection finding aid. It also provides information about physical exhibitions, related events, and ongoing opportunities that utilize the collection and create community engagement.

The website does an excellent job of promoting and providing access to archival materials and related resources in a meaningful, organized, and well-designed way. The website is engaging and effectively encourages users to utilize and learn more about the collection through the resources it provides.

The committee is looking forward to the 2024 Finding Aids Award review and will accept nominations following the announcement that the committee is accepting submissions due December 31, 2023.

MARAC

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Communications Committee Steering Report

October 13, 2023

The Communications Committee is composed of Michael Martin, Missy Nerino, Carolyn Friedrich, Lara Szypszak, Renae Rapp, Emily Johnson, Jill Tominosky, Molly Tighe, Heidi Abbey Moyer, and Kathleen Donahoe. Kevin Clair and Sara Predmore are ex-officio members.

Committee Assignments

- Co-Chairs: Michael Martin and Missy Nerino
- *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* Editorial Staff: Carolyn Friedrich, Editor; Lara Szypszak, Associate Editor; Jill Tominosky, Advertising Editor
- *The Practical Archivist* Editorial Board: Heidi Abbey Moyer and Renae Rapp, Co-Editors-in-Chief; Molly Tighe and Emily Johnson, Editorial Board Members
- Social media: Kathleen Donahoe

Mid-Atlantic Archivist (MAA)

The Fall 2023 (Vol. 52, No. 4) issue of MAA published electronically on September 28, 2023. A social media post advertising the issue was also posted on September 28. This was the first issue published by the new editorial team. The issue will be noted in SAA's *In the Loop* newsletter in mid-October.

This issue included a book review of *Urgent Archives: Enacting Liberatory Memory Work*, and an article for the preservation column about identifying and dealing with moldy collections. Other articles included an update on MARAC's current strategic planning; an introduction to MARAC's new accessibility guidelines for presenters; an article on a major reappraisal project at Penn State; and news about MARAC's Mid-Career group's activities.

The MAA team has established guidelines for a new section, In Memoriam, that will be included in the publication as needed and will follow the Caucus News section. Submitters will contact the MAA email maa@marac.info with a short obituary for current or previous MARAC members who have recently died. They can edit an existing obituary to focus on the member's professional achievements and can contact Sara

Predmore for details about their MARAC participation (for individuals who have been recently active in MARAC). The MAA Style Guide will be updated to include this information for those submitting content for the In Memoriam section. This will both streamline the process and be equitable in honoring our colleagues.

The editorial team updated the rate card with new advertising editor information, as well as the contact information printed in each issue to utilize only the maa@marac.info. This action was taken in order to streamline communications from members and contributors, to ensure continuity of the publishing process if members are unable to respond, and to prevent single-point-of-failure communications that were previously caused when using individual personal emails.

The advertising editor reached out to 8 more possible advertisers/vendors for future issues and had either negative or no response. Lucidea is going through some organizational changes and would like to be approached in the new year.

The MAA team is exploring the possibility of expanding slightly to include a Caucus News editor. The Winter 2024 issue is currently being planned with an estimated publish date of early- to mid- January 2024.

The Practical Archivist: MARAC Technical Leaflet Series

Completed Work

- Renewed “Provisional ISSN” with the Library of Congress
- Contacted and confirmed two peer reviewers for current manuscript (inclusive and reparative description) that will be reviewed by mid-November with goal to publish by the end of December 2023
- Updated CFP for Fall 2023, which will be distributed at the meeting in Saratoga Springs. (Renaë Rapp will be there.)

Current Work

- Update MARAC website to reflect recent updates, CFP for future issues of the new publication
- First Editorial Board meeting, with all four members. Will be held soon to review our goals for the rest of the calendar year
- Revising the style guide for authors (Molly/Chatham University and Emily Johnson/VA Museum of Fine Arts)
- Streamline layout/standardization of publication to enhance efficiency: Updating the graphic design/layout of the publication to parallel *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*

Future Work

- Transfer Google Drive content
- Revise guide for peer reviewers
- Over the summer, we received a manuscript on textile care. We need to contact the author for a more detailed proposal document for us to review.

Social Media

We've had five blog posts go up on the WordPress, and based on some new stats features from WP we had 814 views and 707 visitors; this is the monthly totals added together so it may not represent 707 *unique* visitors, but we had about 100 views and visitors for July and August, while September saw 563 views and 499 visitors. All blog posts were shared on X (Twitter) and Facebook as well.

On X we had 14 posts and reposts, resulting in 1385 impressions, 48 profile visits and 4 new followers. Traffic on X has slowed a good amount over the last few months, so these stats aren't surprising. Their analytics site is also undergoing changes and is lacking some of the information we might usually have regarding top tweets.

On Facebook, 143 people have posted or commented since the end of July. There have been 133 posts both by admin and users, usually focused on job postings, professional development opportunities, and MARAC news related to meetings or committees. Our page was viewed by more than 5,000 people in that time period.

Since late July we've had 578 views of our videos, with a total watch time of 27.6 hours. We have four new subscribers, and 12,470 impressions (how many times thumbnails were shown to subscribers), and an average click through rate of 2.1%.

Additional News

The Committee met on October 10, 2023, prior to the Saratoga Springs meeting. They plan to meet again sometime around December 2023, before the winter Steering meeting.

Previously the Committee had been tasked with looking into MARAC branded "swag" but it was determined that was outside the scope of the committee as it currently stands.

Respectfully submitted by
Michael Martin & Missy Nerino
MARAC Communications Committee Co-chairs

MARAC
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report
October 2023

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is comprised of the following members: Rayna Andrews (chair), Ali Zawoyski, Joseph Azizi, Jessica E. Johnson, and Armando Suarez.

The committee discussed business via email and met via Zoom.

D&I session scholarship

No one self-nominated for the session scholarship for the Fall 2024 conference.

Symposium

Plans are moving ahead for the Spring 2024 symposium. We have extended the submission deadline for proposals to October 31.

Resource page

A reminder that the D&I committee has a [resource list](#). Anyone can send articles or resources to the committee chair for inclusion in the list.

Member term updates

Jessica E. Johnson - term ends summer 2025

Armando Suarez - term ends summer 2025

Joseph Azizi- special appointment, term ends summer 2024

Ali Zawoyski- term ends summer 2024, but now chair-elect, serving on the committee as a non-voting member

Rayna Andrews - term ends summer 2024

Respectfully submitted by Rayna Andrews (chair)

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MARAC Education Committee Report 19 Oct 2023

Activities and ongoing tasks:

- The August Copyright Workshop (Advanced) was well received and had full registration. It was facilitated by Ed. Comm. Chair Colleen Bradley-Sanders.
- Elizabeth Wilkinson obtained ACA credit codes for the Saratoga workshops.
- Mae Casey submitted changes to the Education Committee pages for the website.
- Kay Lewandowska has resolved most issues with DRUM, there are a few outstanding questions about some previous recordings that Workshop Coordinators Elizabeth Wilkinson and Amy MacDonald are working to answer. Recordings of the virtual workshops may now be uploaded to DRUM and made public after 12 months.

Proposal

The Education Committee would like to revise the pricing structure for workshops by offering MARAC's student members a 50% discount on registration fees, and also by raising the fees, either for 2024 or starting with the Spring '25 in-person meeting. Fees were last raised in Fall '21 from \$45/90 to \$50/10. Increased honorariums and expenses reimbursements make it more difficult to break even on a workshop.

Workshops proposal form is open for rolling submissions:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8eU8LqYtQx0FBk1_3r6QWYVWHjOI26zAPg51_4SMotmz3_q/viewform?usp=sf_link

Upcoming Workshops:

2023 Fall Meeting Workshops				
Workshop Title	Presenter(s)	Date	Mode	Length
Print Matters: Installing in-person and hybrid exhibits	Dr. Harrison Wick	Oct. 19	In-person	Half day
Understanding Archives	Dyani Feige	Oct. 19	In-person	Full day
Workshop Title	Presenter(s)	Date	Mode	Length

You're Hired! How to Navigate the Job Application Process CANCELLED	Peter Carini	Oct. 19	In-person	Full day
What is that? And Who Cares?: How to interest and engage K-12 students with archival materials to Promote critical thinking and learning	Tracy Harter	Oct. 19	In-person	Half-day
Personal Archiving and the Virtual Footlocker Project CANCELLED	Edward Benoit III	Oct. 19	In-person	Half-day
Housing How-To: Stabilizing and Supporting Paper-Based Collections	Amanda Murray, Kate Jacus	Oct. 19	In-person	Half-day
2024 Off Conference				
Workshop Title	Presenter(s)	Date	Mode	Length
Red Flags: When to call a conservator (Tentative)	CCAHA staff	Jan or Feb	Virtual	Half day
Multiple Origins and Multiple Outputs: An Archives and Digital Scholarship	Kira Dietz and Corinne Guimont	January? Need to settle on a date	Virtual	Coffee chat
An Introduction to Building Digital Exhibits: Creating Best Practices, Exploring Omeka, and Navigating Plug-ins and Web-based Tools	Kira Dietz and Corinne Guimont	May 29 & 30	Virtual	2 half days; 1-4:00 pm
Embracing Folklife Collections: The Roles of Community and Shared Stewardship (Tentative)	Ryan Koons and Laurainne Ojo-Ohikuare	Summer?	In Person; Baltimore, MD?	All day
Workshop Title	Presenter(s)	Date	Mode	Length

You're Hired! How to Navigate the Job Application Process (Tentative)	Peter Carini Peter.Carini@dartmouth.edu		Virtual?	2 half days
Project Management for Archivists (Super tentative—need to ask him if interested and available; need to find a venue)	Vin Novara		In Person	All day
Teaching with primary sources (Tentative)	Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh grover@etown.edu		Possibly virtual, or in-person Spring '25	Full day

Note: Whether or not the Fall '23 Workshops at Saratoga make any money is dependent on whether or not the instructors who can't take honorariums due to their institutional policies are also prohibited from accepting reimbursement for travel expenses.

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Bradley-Sanders, Chair

May Casey, Website Coordinator

Melissa Erlandson, Communications Coordinator

Kay Lewandowska, Digital/DRUM Coordinator

Amy MacDonald, Co-Workshop Coordinator

Elizabeth Wilkinson, Co-Workshop Coordinator

MARAC
Membership Committee Report October 2023

Membership

- Vicki Russo, Chair
- Kevin Delinger
- David Grinnell
- Sarah Leu
- Laura Melbourne
- Jordan Patty
- Emily Somach, Mentoring Subcommittee Co-Chair
- John Zarrillo, Mentoring Subcommittee Co-Chair

Progress and News

- After reorganizing the committee's roles, and planning for a Junior Chair, the committee member who had volunteered for that position has had to step down. At the Fall Conference we will have another committee member volunteer. This will keep us on our schedule:
 - 2023-2024:* Vicki and a committee member will serve as Chair/Junior Co-chair, respectively. Laura will shadow them in anticipation of moving into the Junior Co-chair position.
 - 2024-2025:* Vicki steps back as a regular member. Junior Chair becomes Chair, and Laura is appointed as Junior Chair. Another committee member will shadow them in anticipation of becoming the Junior Chair in 2025-2026.
 - 2025-2026:* Vicki and the prior Chair rotate off, and Laura becomes Senior Chair. The shadowing committee member becomes Junior Chair and serves alongside Laura.
- For the Fall 2023 Conference, the committee has arranged the Meeting Match and the Thursday night meet & Greet.
- The Membership Committee continues to work on the Academic Institution Liaisons Project (AILP) with the goal of having MARAC members be liaisons for academic institutions in order to provide information to the faculty and students about MARAC - local caucus events, conferences, membership brochures, classroom visits, etc.

MARAC
Nominations and Elections Committee
Report October 12, 2022

The Nominations and Elections Committee consists of: Jennifer Mitchell (chair), Maegan Peterman, Hannah Morgan, Christie Lutz, and Laura Christiansen

The initial message regarding the upcoming elections appeared in the Fall 2023 issue of the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*. The message soliciting nominations was sent on October 12th.

As of October 16, we have received 2 self-nominations for multiple positions. They are for the following committees:

- Arline Custer Memorial Award Committee, 3-year term (2 positions available) - 1 nom.
- Finding Aids Award Committee, 3-year term (2 positions available) - 1 nomination
- Scholarship Committee, 3-year term (2 positions available) - 1 nomination

Per the instructions of the MARAC chair, a special election will be held to elect a new chair of the Awards Committee. A message to the membership regarding this special elections is forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Mitchell