

Awards Committee Report MARAC Winter 2026 Steering Committee

In the fall, we made some updates to the Scholarship Manual to be in line with current practices and information on the public website. I hope to work with the other subcommittees this quarter to update their manuals, as well--most have not been updated since 2020/2021, though the overall Awards Manual was updated in 2025.

Following the Fall Steering meeting, in conjunction with Sara Predmore (hat tip to her awesome idea), she and I created two new record-keeping files. The "[ONGOING-Record-Keeping Awards Spreadsheet](#)" is designed for internal MARAC use only and will be used to track all award winners and some details we may find helpful. We've been working on backfilling information and I will reach out to D&I this quarter so we can include conference session winners, as well. The "[Master List of Achievement and Service Award Winners](#)" is a public facing file, excerpted from the larger file. Sara has updated webpages for subcommittees to reflect the most recent five years and has included a link to this spreadsheet so MARAC members can review past winners. I will be working on documentation for the maintenance of these spreadsheets to be added to the Awards Manual for future chairs.

Reports from awards subcommittees are included below.

Arline Custer Committee (Sarah Almond): No report, since this award is between awarding and nominations.

Distinguished Service Award (Ali Zawoyski):

The DSA has scheduled a meeting for February 16th to review applications; the chair is filing the materials received so far in the Google drive and sharing them with the committee members. Please encourage folks to send their materials if they have someone for DSA to consider!

Finding Aid/Finch Awards (Amy Poe):

C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award

Following the committee selection of Kate Mitchell of Baruch College, CUNY as the recipient of the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award on August 18, 2025, the award was virtually presented at the October 31, 2025, MARAC virtual membership. The committee has not further discussed the proposal to align the eligibility dates to the calendar year for the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award to increase peer recognition. As a first step, the committee is planning for in-person recognition of the 2025 Finch Award recipient at the MARAC Spring 2026 Meeting.

Frederic M. Miller Finding Aid Award

A call for nominations for the Frederic M. Miller Finding Aid Award was issued to MARAC membership on November 3, 2025, with a follow-up reminder on December 12, 2025. The submission window is open through January 31, 2025, and due to low interest, was extended on December 16, 2025, from the original deadline of December 30, 2025. This is the second year the submission window has been extended through the end of January. To date, three nominations have been submitted for consideration. The committee will meet in early February 2026 to review the nominations and select the award recipient(s).

Other Business

In accordance with MARAC By-Laws, a special election was held December 15-19, 2025, to replace former committee member Ben Blake whose three-year Finding Aids Awards Committee term extended through June 2026. Ben discontinued membership and ended his participation with MARAC (and the committee) without notice. Multiple attempts were undertaken by MARAC members to confirm Ben's resignation from the Finding Aids Awards Committee, but he could not be reached. From a slate of five special election candidates, Matthew Snyder of the New York Public Library was elected to fill the Finding Aids Awards committee vacancy through June 2026. He accepted the position immediately after the election and onboarded with the committee in early January 2026.

In early December 2025, MARAC member, Lauren Brown, shared information from the MARAC archives to update the incomplete MARAC website roster of annual recipients of the C. Herbert Finch Online Publication Award and the Frederic M. Miller Finding Aids Award. Updates to the record will be shared with the MARAC Awards Committee Chair in late January.

Scholarship Awards (Jodi Boyle):

The Scholarship Committee awarded the Graduate Archival Education Scholarship to Claire Nguyen. Claire (pronouns she/they), who lives in Philadelphia, is an MLIS student (remote) at the University of Alabama. They are concentrating in archival studies. The Committee considered 17 applications this year, several more than last year and more than double that of two years ago.

The Richmond spring meeting travel awards deadline is scheduled for Friday, March 13.

Respectfully submitted,
Kira Dietz
Awards Chair
January 16, 2026

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Communications Committee Steering Report

January 16, 2026

The Communications Committee is composed of Missy Nerino, Lara Szyszak, Carolyn Friedrich, Jill Tominosky, Michael Martin, Diane Bockrath, Anna Julian, Kathleen Donahoe, Molly Tighe, Megan Craynon, Nicole Font, Alexander Callahan, Taylor Schuler, Daniel Stimpfle. Sara Predmore and Kevin Clair serve in an *ex-officio* capacity.

Committee Assignments

- Chair: Missy Nerino
- *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* Editorial Board: Carolyn Friedrich, Editor; Lara Szyszak, Associate Editor; Jill Tominosky, Advertising Editor; Anna Julian, Caucus News Rep
- *The Practical Archivist* Editorial Board: Megan Craynon and Diane Bockrath, Co-Editors-in-Chief; Molly Tighe, Michael Martin, Nicole Font, Alexander Callahan, Taylor Schuler, and Daniel Stimpfle, Editorial Board Members
- Social Media Coordinator: Kathleen Donahoe

Mid-Atlantic Archivist (MAA)

Winter 2026 (Vol. 55, No. 1) issue of MAA will be published the week of January 19. A social media post advertising the issue will be shared on Facebook and LinkedIn. An announcement will be shared in SAA's *In the Loop* newsletter.

This issue marks the third entirely digital issue since the decision last year to eliminate print copies and thus MAA institutional subscribers. While turn around time for creating the issue with the designer has remained about the same, the cost effectiveness of the change so far indicates that this was a net positive.

This issue includes an article about the first New Jersey Archival Film Festival and the collaborative work behind-the-scenes to make the event possible. An article highlights what conference attendees can look forward to during the Spring Conference in Richmond, Virginia. Also included in the issue is an article about the work occurring at Lafayette College that utilized both traditional techniques and AI to identify photographs

of theatrical performances as part of processing the collection. To complement this article, the MAA drafted a list of AI-specific resources. The Editorial Team also added a list of resources related to digital preservation as a starting point on the topic. This issue features a Committee Update from the Web Team. Finally, this issue includes interview responses from three MARAC members, Tiffany Cole, Deb Schiff, and Ilhan Citak, who were asked to share their advice for early career archivists. This is paired with career resources, including a variety of links to job boards and tips for job interviews.

The caucus news editor worked with the Caucus Representatives to gather updates for the Fall 2025 issue and is pleased to report that caucus representation continues to be robust, highlighting member accomplishments across the geographic area represented by MARAC.

The Advertising Editor is pleased to report that, with the upcoming Spring issue, all contracted advertisers have renewed under the updated fee schedule. These new rates have increased MAA's advertising revenue from \$1,976 to \$2,670. Over the past several months, the editor has reached out to lapsed advertisers, though no responses have been received to date. Efforts will continue to identify and pursue additional opportunities for advertising partnerships.

The MAA continues to wait on a timeline for ingest of back issues of the MAA dating from 2014 to present to be made available on the Internet Archives, and if additional steps will be required on our end to assist in this process. The Editorial Team is also waiting to hear if past issues will be documented within MARAC's Archives.

With two members from the Communications Committee on the Ad hoc Records Retention Committee, the MAA expects both points above can be discussed further and that workflows and expectations can be established moving forward.

The Spring 2026 issue is currently being planned with an estimated publish date in early April.

The Practical Archivist: MARAC Technical Leaflet Series

Completed Work (October 2025 - January 2026)

- Meetings: The Editorial Board continued to meet via Google meet on the first Thursday of the month. Three meetings were held during this period: November 6, 2025; December 4, 2025; and January 8, 2026.
- Manuscript No. 17 was highlighted to SAA membership through the *In the Loop* mailing
- Call for manuscript proposals was drafted and given to MAA for inclusion in the next *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* (Winter 2026)

Current Work (October - December 2025)

- *The Practical Archivist* No. 18 draft has been received from the authors. The Editorial Board has reviewed and comments are being assembled to send back to authors for the first revision.
- Co-editors-in-chief are setting up peer reviewers for No. 18 now so that they are ready to go as soon as the first round of revisions is complete.
- TPA is currently seeking author(s) for No. 19, subject TBD, for Fall 2026 or Winter 2027. TPA editorial board has tossed around topic ideas and may end up approaching potential authors.
- Securing copies of the long-lost issues of No. 1 and No. 7 of the MARAC Technical Leaflet Series at the University of Maryland—this work has been stalled by competing priorities.

Future/Ongoing Work

- Authors/Peer Reviewers: Creating and maintaining a list of potential authors and reviewers, to sustain the production schedule/model of 1-2 releases per year (release schedule contingent on budget).

Social Media

Blog

On the blog we've posted 12 times, with those posts getting a little under 1,100 views. The blog has had 785 visitors in that time. Those posts have also been shared to Facebook and LinkedIn.

Facebook

On Facebook, there were 35 posts shared within the group by myself and other members. The top posts were the MARAC Member Minutes and those focusing on the Richmond meeting.

LinkedIn

On LinkedIn our posts had more than 2,600 impressions, and our page had 73 views and 38 unique visitors. Our followers have increased to around 280.

YouTube

On YouTube our videos have gotten more than 7,500 views, with 86 hours of watch time. We have 43 new subscribers, and our thumbnails have more than 6000 impressions. Those numbers look great, but when you delve into the analytics it turns out that one video from a virtual poster session discussing using Google Lens to identify photos has almost 7000 views on its own, and a significant percentage of those are coming from India (not at all typical for our videos), indicating the non-human activity

Additional News

The committee met virtually on January 13, 2026.

The committee reviewed members' terms of service, as several members are slated to complete their current terms on June 30, 2026. Lara Szyszak, current Associate Editor of MAA, will be finishing her term on that date. Diane Bockrath, Nicole Font, and Michael Martin will be renewing their current roles for another two year term.

Carolyn Friedrich and Missy Nerino are discussing how to approach filling the MAA Associate Editor position. Any committee membership needs will be communicated with the MARAC Chair Elect in the coming months.

The committee additionally discussed any budgetary needs for the 2026-2027 FY. The TPA Editorial Board anticipates only having one issue being invoiced during the upcoming fiscal year, which will reduce the committee's budget compared to recent years. Missy has relayed the anticipated budget needs for 26-27 with the Treasurer.

Committee members Carolyn Friedrich and Missy Nerino are serving on the Ad Hoc Records Retention Committee and provided brief updates on the work of that committee to the Communications Committee.

The Committee plans to meet again in April before the Spring Steering Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Missy Nerino
MARAC Communications Committee Chair

MARAC
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Report
October 2025

Please note that the names of D&I Committee members, with the exception of the chair, have been excluded from the D&I Steering report since the Winter 2025 meeting because of concerns with the current climate. The names of members volunteering to serve on committees can be shared during the Zoom Steering Meeting.

The D&I Chair, Tara Wink, announced the recipients of the Fall 2025 D&I Session Scholarship at the Virtual Fall 2025 Members meeting. The following individuals received the award for their posters at the Fall Symposium:

- Erin Mustard, Raíces Cultural Center.
- Meral Agish, Queens Memory Project, Queens Public Library.

The Chair also attended the Fall 2025 Symposium debrief meeting, as D&I Liaison, to discuss any concerns that came up from the symposium survey.

Two members of the D&I Committee are serving on the Richmond planning committees. The Chair will reach out to the Program committee in the coming months to get the session descriptions to begin scoring for the D&I Session award.

The Chair reached out to the Steering Committee recently to discuss sending out an email about free Right to Be trainings in light of current events. The Executive Committee suggested D&I should draft an email alerting membership to these free resources since Right to Be was a facilitator at the Spring 2024 Symposium. The Chair alerted the committee to the idea, but we have not had a chance to draft anything as of yet. Be on the lookout for something soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Wink

MARAC D&I Committee Chair

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MARAC Education Committee Report 19 January 2026

Activities:

Virtual Workshops and Webinars:

- *Communicating Your Collection: Making Short Video Content for Outreach and Education* by Allie Alivis 18 & 19 November 2025
 - 9 attendees
- *Networking at Professional Conferences* by Kate Juhl on 14 January
 - 31 attendees

Caucus Conversations series:

- The sixth conversation will take place on 23 January. The Pennsylvania Caucus has organized *Archives Outside the Institution: A Review of Archival Needs and Impact in Small Arts Organizations* with speakers Katherine Barbera and David Bernabo.

Information:

- In November 2025 Jada Twitty resigned as Communications Coordinator as well as from the Education Committee

2026 Virtual offerings in the hopper:

- Virginia Caucus Conversation
- Events Made Easy: Developing and Executing Programs
- Retro accessioning
- Setting up a Digitization Program & Managing Digitization Projects

2026 Spring Meeting, Richmond

Title	Presenter(s)	Length
Disaster Recovery	Kara McClurken, Director, Preservation Services, UVA	Full-day
Reference Isn't Dead: Building and Maintaining a Patron-Oriented Reference Team	Morgan Miller, Rachel Frazier, Director of Reference Services, Maryland State Archive	Full day
Donor Relations	Dr. Aaron D. Purcell, Director of Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries, Virginia	Full day

	Tech; Lynn Eaton Director of Special Collections Research Center at George Mason University	
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Workshops proposal form is open for rolling submissions:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8eU8LqYtQx0FBk1_3r6QWyVWHjOI26zAPg51_4SMotmz3_g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Ongoing and future tasks:

- Developing webinars
- Investigate technical leaflets as webinar series
- Updating and creating workflows, draft emails, timelines, and list of past workshop and webinar offerings
- Drafting workflow for Caucus conversations
- Prepping content and policies for adding workshops to DRUM
- Developing list of GLAM organizations in MARAC region to promote workshops

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Clausen-Brown, Workshop Co-coordinator

May Casey, Website Coordinator

Jessica Grimmer, Digital/DRUM Coordinator

Gillian Mahoney, Workshop Co-coordinator

Jen Wachtel Litwin, Caucus Conversation Coordinator

Elizabeth Wilkinson, Chair

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Membership Committee Report 01/23/2026

1. We reached out to the Mentorship subcommittee chair, Lou Hines, to discuss the creation of a “Buddy Program” to create a network of support for MARAC members who may want a colleague to check in with throughout the year. The program would look similar to the Meeting Match program but extend beyond individual conferences. Two mentorship committee members, Amelia Verkerk and Danielle Glynn, expressed interest in helping lead the program and we connected them with Zach.
2. We prepared a new form for the Meeting Match program for the Spring MARAC conference at Richmond to be advertised in the conference program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liza Zakharova and Jen Pulsney, Co-chairs Membership Committee

MARAC Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) Report

Steering Committee Meeting

January 23, 2026

The Nominations and Elections Committee consists of: Dustin Frohlich (Chair), Colleen Bradley-Sanders, Meagan Cairns, Dyani Feige, Nathan Fralick.

1. The 2026 general election is underway and will run from January 16, 2026 through January 30, 2026. MARAC members will be electing the Chair-Elect, Treasurer, Caucus Representatives, Arline Custer Memorial Award Committee (2 positions), Distinguished Service Award Committee (1 position), Finding Aids Award Committee (2 positions), Nominations and Elections Committee (3 positions), Scholarship Committee (2 positions), and Caucus Representatives (8 Caucuses). NEC secured at least one nominee for each position on the ballot, though recruiting enough nominees for competitive races was a challenge, especially for Caucus positions.
2. Post election procedures will be sharing final results with NEC; notifying all candidates of results (Winners are notified first and asked to confirm acceptance of positions); notifying remaining nominees with thanking them for their willingness to stand for election; notifying members of Steering of election results; emailing all MARAC members sharing election results; and formally announcing results at Spring Membership Meeting.
3. The 2025 special election for a vacancy on the Finding Aids Award Committee was successful. The winning candidate, Matt Snyder (NYPL), will serve on the committee until the end of the term, June 30, 2026.
4. NEC continuity planning will begin after Spring Membership Meeting with tasks centered around onboarding the incoming committee.