

Council for Museum Anthropology Annual Report 2005

Mari Lyn Salvador

Accomplishments

This annual report is based on reports given by CMA Board members

Museum Anthropology

At the end of 2004 Christina Kreps stepped down from the position of Editor of *Museum Anthropology*, a publication of the Council for Museum Anthropology. Members of the CMA board acknowledge her efforts and thank her for working for an additional year in order to facilitate a smooth transition for the Journal.

During 2005, the Board recruited Jason Baird Jackson to be the new editor of *Museum Anthropology*. Jackson is an assistant Professor of Folklore and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University. The journal is published in partnership with the University of California Press as part of the publications program of the American Anthropological Association. The journal benefits from the support of the College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University, the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and the CMA membership.

Museum Anthropology publishes peer-reviewed research articles on material culture and in museum studies, including research on professional practice in museum settings and the cross-cultural study of museums and related organizations, viewed both in historical and ethnographic terms. The journal also publishes commentaries and reviews of books, catalogs, exhibitions, and digital productions of interest to material culture and museum scholars.

Membership

CMA has 412 members, 311 regular and 101 students. Although the board was concerned about a drop in membership given the change of date and location of the 2004 annual meeting, the average number of members in 2005 was 416, approximately the same as the previous year. As with other Sections the CMA board continues to be concerned about a potential drop in membership due to AnthroSource.

Financial

Revenues were \$8,640.77. This includes membership dues, subscriptions, royalties, permission fees, mailing list rentals and sales of *Museum Anthropology*. Expenses were \$9,213.70, including publication costs and a CMA reception at the AAM meetings.

Expenses, primarily those associated with *Museum Anthropology* and the transition to AnthroSource, continue to exceed revenues. In order to minimize annual deficits CMA

raised membership dues from \$25.00 to \$35.00 for regular members and from \$18.00 to \$20.00 for students. The last increase in dues was in 1993.

Net assets are \$49,885.51 due to reduced number of *Museum Anthropology* over the past years. The Board recognizes the importance of the success of our Journal and increasing paid subscriptions. We remain optimistic that electronic distribution via AnthroSource is critical to the survival of the journal in that wider distribution will hopefully be more appealing to authors and generate increase revenue. With this in mind, the Board has decided to invest significant funds in the editorship of the journal by providing \$8,500 for a half time graduate assistant and \$1,000.00 for travel to meetings. While CMA has never invested such sums of money in the journal before, we believe that this investment is necessary to remain competitive.

CMA budget for 2006 includes:

Section Budget:

Travel & related expenses for AAA meeting	600.00
AAA meeting food and space	500.00
Development	500.00

Publication Budget:

Editorial office (7810)	9,500.00
UCP Publication expenses	12,037.00

Total 23,137.00

AAA Meeting Activities

CMA held a Board meeting and a Business meeting. At the Business meeting Jason Jackson reported on his activities as new editor of *Museum Anthropology*. The transition to AnthroSource continues to raise many concerns. The Board expressed its appreciation to Jason and his home institution, Indiana University.

Nancy Rosoff offered the Treasurer's Report and Rebecca Dobkins gave the Secretary's Report. In 2006, the following board positions are open: President, Secretary, and two board slots. Suggestions for nominations were sought at both the Board and Business meetings. Rebecca continues to solicit columns from the membership-at-large for her column in *Anthropology News*.

Mari Lyn Salvador gave the President's Report and indicated that the CMA reception at the AAM meeting was a success and that CMA will sponsor a reception in 2006. She also reported on the meeting of the AAA Section Assembly, and the important discussions taking place on the role of sections in the governance of the AAA.

Vice President Alex Barker reported on the issue of the national crisis in collections curation and his work with the Society for American Archaeology's Collections

Committee. NSF has declined to fund a proposal that SAA put forward, and the search continues for funding for this crucial issue.

The AAA Race Initiative was discussed at both the Board meeting and the members meeting. Yolanda Moses and Peggy Overbey updated the Board on the development of the "Understanding Race and Human Variation" 5,000 square foot exhibition that will open in early 2007 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The discussion was lively, with Board members posing a number of questions about exhibition design, message, and preparation of staff at the various venues. Past CMA President Enid Schildkrout (now at the Museum for African Art) is a member of the Advisory Board. A smaller 800 square foot panel exhibition is currently under development, and CMA members who may be interested in hosting either exhibition at their venues should contact Peggy Overbey poverbey@aanet.org.

CMA sponsored several well-attended sessions. The two invited sessions were "Museum Resonance", and "Paradigms of Value: Aesthetics and Authenticity in Native American Art". There was also a panel on "Advances in Museum Anthropology"; a poster session on "Work as a Museum Exhibit"; a plenary session with an address given by W. Richard West, Jr., Director, NMAI; and a panel entitled "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about NMAI But Were Afraid to Ask".

On, Friday, December 2, CMA hosted a wonderful reception at the Cultural Resources Center of the National Museum of the American Indian. NMAI generously offered the use of the facility at no cost to CMA, and over a dozen NMAI staff members attended providing tours and information to the attendees. The reception was handled as an "open house" with attendees being able to walk freely around the collections storage facility.

We are pleased to announce that Deana Dartt-Newton, Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology, University of Oregon, received a \$500 "Emerging Scholar" travel grant from the Ford Foundation. This was part of the AAA's Understanding Race and Human Variation public education project.

Present at the Board meeting on 12-1-05 were: Mari Lyn Salvador (President) mlsalvador@museumofman.org, Alex Barker (Vice-President) barker@mpm.edu, Rebecca Dobkins (Secretary) rdobkins@Willamette.edu, Nancy Rosoff (Treasurer) nancy.rosoff@brooklynmuseum.org, and board members Rachel Griffin, griffin@nmaicrc.si.edu, and Tony Chavarria, achavarria@miaclab.org, Jason Jackson, jbj@indiana.edu, *Museum Anthropology* editor (ex officio), was also present. Absent were Joe Kinsella, jkinsella@depaul.edu, Sherri Smith-Ferri, sherrie@gracehudsonmuseum.org, Peter Welsh, peter.welsh@asu.edu and Yoshiko Yamamoto, yamamoto@sfsu.edu.

Spring Meeting Activities/ AAM

CMA President, Mari Lyn Salvador, hosted a reception at the American Association of Museums conference this past May in order to promote membership in the CMA. When possible, development events will continue to be organized at other meetings with the goal of increasing membership and interest in the journal.

Website

CMA is planning to move it's website. Tony Chavarria is exploring options at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico to host the site.

Outreach

Vice President Alex Barker continues to represent CMA at the SAA meetings as part of an ongoing effort to restore funding for collections preservation and restoration projects.

CMA Board members continue to collaborate with Peggy Overbey and Yolanda Moses on The AAA Race Initiative.

FUTURE PLANS

Long Range Planning and Executive Committee

Issues such as cultural property, indigenous rights, intellectual property, have been of central concern for museum professionals for decades. Many museum staff members have long-term interest in making insights drawn from Anthropology and results of scholarly research accessible to the general public. Given this experience, CMA board members offer to work with AAA leadership in framing issues for the membership and in developing a common voice when these issues are discussed in other contexts.