**Collecting COVID-19**

June 4, 2020 3:00-4:00CST

**Great Client Partnerships**

• Lucidea is the largest provider of market-leading knowledge management, collections management and library automation solutions used by the world’s leading corporations, government agencies, nonprofits, professional services firms, archives, and museums, with more than 3,000 active clients in over 50 countries. **The Argus Museum CMS**

• Argus is Lucidea’s web-based, highly configurable collections management system purpose-built to satisfy diverse curatorial and visitor engagement requirements, ensuring collections are accessible, visible and relevant. **Delighted Visitors**

• Museums of all sizes and budgets use Argus to provide virtual access (all browsers, all devices) to objects and exhibits via a web portal, and provide in-depth documentation—delivering content in context and offering the absorbing and inspiring experience visitors deserve. **Imaginative, innovative, immersive**

• With Argus, Lucidea delivers unrivaled collections management to museums of all sizes and budgets—and, through its archival CMS, ArchivEra, to archives—enabling Imaginative, innovative, immersive visitor engagement.

Thank You to Our Sponsor:

National Museum of African American History and Culture Releases “Talking About Race” Web Portal Portal Helps People Explore Issues Of Race, Racism And Racial Identity May 31, 2020

Website: https://s.si.edu/2Mu7Y38

**Collecting COVID-19**

Rapid Response Collecting

*Collecting in response to current events*

2014: V&A Museum in London “scour the streets—in a global sense—for items of interest and get them into the museum as quickly as possible.”

• Safety

• Emotional

• Capacity

**Rapid Response Collecting**

● April 15, 2013: Boston Marathon Bombing

● August 9, 2014: Protests and aftermath following the death of Michael Brown by a police officer in Ferguson, MO

● June 12, 2016: Pulse Night Club shooting in Orlando, FL

● January 21, 2017: Women’s March on Washington in opposition to the presidential inauguration of #45

2020

● COVID-19

● Protests and aftermath of the Death of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, MN

Curator’s Committee - CurCom

Continue the Conversation / Get Involved

E-mail aamcurcom@gmail.com

Follow on social media!

Speakers

• Thomas R. Lonnberg, Curator of History Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science Evansville, IN

• Tory Schendel Cox, The Virginia G. Schroeder Curator of Art Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science Evansville, IN

• Juilee Decker, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Museum Studies/ College of Liberal Arts /Rochester Institute of Technology Rochester, NY

• Redmond J. Barnett, Historian, Museum Consultant Tacoma, WA

• Stacey A. Swigart, Collections Management, Atwater Kent Collection @Drexel / Lenfest Center for Cultural Partnerships

**Thomas R. Lonnberg**, Curator of History Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science Evansville, IN

*Who we are*

• Multi-Disciplinary

• 40,000 Objects

• 13 Full-Time Staff

Rapid Response Collecting (RRC) & Output

• Interviews in the Creative Sector

• Online Exhibition

• Upcoming Physical Exhibition

• Ongoing Contribution to Permanent Repository

• An Inter-disciplinary Effort

Signs of the Time

• Motivations from the Past

RRC Signs of the Time

• Photographed with a “more is better” approach

RRC Signs of the Time

• Wanted to illustrate change

RRC Signs of the Time

• Wanted to “collect” non- intrusively

RRC Signs of the Time

• Wanted to “collect” ubiquitous experiences

RRC

• Physical Material

• Collecting is an ongoing Effort

**Tory Schendel Cox**, The Virginia G. Schroeder Curator of Art Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science Evansville, IN

Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science

COVID-19 and Rapid Response Toolkit Examples

• http://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness

• https://sr.ithaka.org/blog/documenting-the-covid-19-pandemic/

• http://digitalcollecting.lib.virginia.edu/toolkit/docs/getting-started/

• https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/13/smarter-living/why-you- should-start-a-coronavirus-diary.html

Home “Office” Museum Closure

A Kenyan doctor’s insight Salvation Army, National Guard, and other organizations pack food

at Lucas Oil Stadium

A nurse quits her job in North Carolina to help overwhelmed hospitals in Detroit, Michigan

The testimony of a COVID-19 survivor

Watch at emuseum.org

Cultural Insights: Interviews in the Creative Sector, Episode #15

Marie Angel, Curatorial Assistant I, Geology, California Academy of Sciences

Surgical Gowns by Indiana Fashion Foundation

Discarded PPE in a vitrine lid.

*Note: these nitrate gloves were not field collected, these act as a visual representation. These were used by Tory during gallery installations.*

Physical Exhibition Objects Examples

Works to Reflect On:

• Abungu, G. H. (2001). Museums: Arenas for Dialogue or Confrontation. *ICOM News*,15-18. Retrieved August 2, 2019.

• Barnes, M., & Schmitz, P. (2016). Community Engagement Matters (Now More Than Ever). *Stanford Social Innovation Review*,32-39. Retrieved August 6, 2019.

• Born, P. (2006). Community Collaboration: A New Conversation. *The Journal of Museum Education*,31(1), 7-13. Retrieved August 2, 2019.

• Dees, J. G. (2001). The Meaning of "Social Entrepreneurship", 1–5.

• Museums Change Lives: The MA's Vision for the Impact of Museums. (2013). *Museums Associations*,1-15.

**Juilee Decker, Ph.D**., Associate Professor, Museum Studies/ College of Liberal Arts /Rochester Institute of Technology Rochester, NY

Crowdsourcing, Contextualizing, and Curating COVID-19

Presentation at American Alliance of Museums June 4, 2020

Juilee Decker, Associate Professor

Rochester Institute of Technology Museums lead for *Journal of the Plague Year* Editor, *Collections* journal Email: jdgsh@rit.edu Twitter: @RITmuse

Curatorial Context: Micro & macro narratives

Curatorial Context: Project Zero

Crowdsourcing a (digital) collection: *A Journal of the Plague Year* https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/page/Share

*A Journal of the Plague Year* https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/page/Share

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A Journal of the Plague Year (JOTPY) -- handout tab in the conference viewing window

*We are seeking first-person accounts of the impact of CoVid-19 on your life and/or the life of your institution. Contact me: jdgsh@rit.edu*

•Provides a way to document your institution’s closure to the public.

•Provides a way to document the new normal once your institution re-opens to the public.

• Provides a home for content otherwise not online and/or not aggregated in one location by you or your institution, the archive becomes the repository for your content.

• Provides a snapshot of content that lives on your or your institution’s website.

Journal Article – Call for Papers abstracts for papers “Collections & COVID-19” due 6/30/20 -- handout tab in the conference viewing window

Journal Article – Call for Papers abstracts for papers “Collections & COVID-19” due 6/30/20 -- handout tab in the conference viewing window for contact details/information

• institutional efforts at rapid response collecting;

• the intrinsic value of building collections during this historic time;

• the role and messaging of collections during the pandemic;

• the shift to online collection display as a way of providing opportunities for online engagement while institutions are not permitting visitors;

• the role of “essential staff” and their duties as related to collections;

• the financial impact of COVID-19 on collections; and

• other topics within the scope of “Collections and COVID-19”

Thank you! jdgsh@rit.edu https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/page/Share

**Redmond J. Barnett**, Historian, Museum Consultant Tacoma, WA

“Deciding What Will Make History”

For the session “Collecting COVID-19” American Alliance of Museums virtual conference June 4, 2020

Redmond J. Barnett 6225 North Park Way, Apt. A Tacoma, WA 98407-2261 redmondbarnett@nventure.com

Museums prompt the public: freeform

*Birmingham Civil Rights Institute*

• WHEN RESILIENCE SPEAKS *The community response to COVID-19*

• In the dawn of a new decade, the rapidly widening scope of COVID-19 (coronavirus), has upended life as we know it in North America and across the planet.

• In the midst of an unusual presidential election season, unprecedented economic success in the financial markets and increasing racial and social disparities among our diverse population, a battle to save the world’s population from unspeakable devastation is currently underway. Issues related to human and civil rights are being tested in a crucible as never seen before in the history of the world.

• Capturing memory in such a time as this may help the community to examine and cope with the unimaginable reality facing people throughout the nation and across the world.

• The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, which has a tradition of collecting oral histories about the experiences of activists and eyewitnesses to history here, is launching this intergenerational dialogue about our current circumstances to and the implications for our collective future. The stories and data to be collected will be selectively shared with the community in real time and may form the nucleus of an exhibition to be curated and exhibited in the BCRI and beyond at a future date. *HOW IS THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC CHANGING OUR COMMUNITY?*

Museums prompt the public: with many suggestions

*Washington State Historical Society*

HOME > RESEARCH > COLLECTIONS > COLLECTING THE COVID-19 EXPERIENCE

Share Print **We want to hear from you. You are living through a historic event and we want to capture your stories.** The COVID-19 pandemic is generating world-wide impacts and will have enduring repercussions. Help capture this event as it unfolds. Each person's story adds a unique thread in recording this global event.

Do you wonder what it may have been like to live through the Spanish Flu or the Civil War? Future Washingtonians are going to want to know what happened during this pandemic. They're going to wonder how we coped with the suddenly vacated office buildings, closed restaurants, and curtailed services. They'll want to know stories of personal consequences such as canceled graduations, postponed weddings, and school closures. They'll be curious about what we did during the Stay Home/Stay Healthy orders, and how we managed to come together to help one another.

**You can play a part in documenting COVID-19 history for the future.** Washington State Historical Society is a collecting institution. We collect and preserve artifacts and stories - cultural "data points" - to reveal how history connects us all. What we collect today will inform generations to come. **Would you like to contribute to WSHS's collections? Some ideas of what we're looking for...**

•digital content, for example screen shots of COVID-19 related web pages, emails, memes on social media

•audio recordings

•videos (click **here** for an example)

•photos

•written anecdotes or observations

•anything related to the coronavirus pandemic and your experience that you think would be interesting to someone ten, twenty, or one hundred years from now **Send your content to: digitalarchive@wshs.wa.gov** If you have questions regarding how to send files, or file sizes, please email and we'll assist!

We will reach out to you for additional information about your content such as when/where photos were taken, who is speaking in an audio recorded conversation, etc., and for your permission to add it to our collections.

We would be grateful for **physical objects** too. Please consider setting those aside and contact collections staff when WSHS is able to re-open the Research Center. You can email us at digitalarchive@wshs.wa.gov and we'll arrange a method for delivery. Some examples of objects (by no means a complete list!):

•homemade face masks

•diaries, journals, letters

•signs posting park closures, "do not gather" notices, or other social distancing directives

•direct mail pieces related to coronavirus

•Zoom university t-shirt

•objects made at home during the Stay Home/Stay Healthy order **Questions?** Please send us an email at digitalarchive@wshs.wa.gov and we'll get back to you. **Thank you!**

Museums prompt the public: with precise directions

*Maryland Historical Society*

Margaret Mehring Diary, MS 1860, H. Furlong Baldwin Library, Maryland Historical Society

Photo by Leslie Eames, 2020

Collecting in Quarantine Right now, Marylanders are living through a unique moment in history, and our stories need to be captured. Future generations may look back and wonder what life was like in Maryland during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. The Maryland Historical Society has launched a new initiative called *Collecting in Quarantine* and we invite you to participate. How is the novel coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic impacting your life? Follow the instructions below to submit your stories and photographs, and help us document history in the making. **LETTERS FROM THE HOMEFRONT:** Personal accounts are some of the most powerful tools we have in understanding historic events in Maryland. Letters, diaries, and photographs of important moments in Maryland history, including the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Spanish flu of 1918 and the Annapolis yellow fever epidemics of 1793 and 1800, help to provide glimpses of life during these times. Now, MdHS is calling on Marylanders to send their personal stories of how the pandemic is impacting their lives. Whether you are staying at home in self-quarantine or working through the crisis – your story is unique and important. Marylanders abroad and our healthcare workers are also encouraged to submit. Submit photos and stories here or **email submissions to lettersfromthehomefront@mdhs.org.**

**Stories will be shared on our *underbelly* blog** and on our social media pages using the hashtags #LettersFromtheHomeFrontMD and #CollectingInQuarantineMD.

**BUSINESS UNUSUAL:** With current mandates for all non-essential businesses to close, business is anything but usual in Maryland. MdHS is asking business employees, owners, customers, passers-by and neighborhood residents to visually share their experiences so far. MdHS will create a photo essay illustrating the industrial spirit of Marylanders during this critical time. **Submit photos and stories here or email submissions to businessunusual@mdhs.org. Submissions will be shared on our *underbelly* blog** and on our social media pages using the hashtags #BusinessUnusualMD and #CollectingInQuarantineMD.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Some of MdHS’s submissions to the *Collecting in Quarantine* initiative will become part of future collections. One hundred years from now, present-day essays and photographs will grant historical perspective for the next challenge to the nation. MdHS invites you to be a champion of history and participate in this collective work to preserve the Maryland experience. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* **Thinking of Contributing? Things to Know:**

•Please only submit your own original content.

•If you don’t use the contribution form and instead submit your material by email, MdHS staff will follow up regarding permissions.

•We hope to collect and share contributions from Marylanders of all ages. If you are under 18, please know that we will need permission from your parent/guardian.

•We are very excited to be partnering with the Baltimore Sun to share a selection of materials collected through this project. By contributing, your materials may be shared and published by the Sun, online or in print. The Sun is also contributing a selection of its own pandemic-related submissions back to us. Please note that the Sun will only consider contributions accompanied by a first and last name.

•Because this is a public health crisis, there may be personal health information conveyed in your contributions. Please be aware of the privacy concerns of others and don’t share their names without their written consent. Health information such as diagnoses, treatment information, and medical test results are considered protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). If you do provide any such information, your submission must be made anonymous.

Why not accession everything? • Physical limitations

• Information retrieval

• Staff limitations

• Highlight wider context

(Consider keeping some digital material without accessioning it??)

Who decides? • Many groups have relevant expertise:

• Curators -- with special responsibility

• Other museum staff *What we collect will make history!*

• Other stakeholders

• Community members in general

• Specific community members:

Demographic? Occupational?

• People in foreign countries?

*Does the museum’s mission affect who gets to decide?*

What to look for? • **Eloquence**

Powerful words, especially if combined with objects

• **Patterns**Recurring themes (crowd-sourcing) from the public

• **Private and Public**

Do private comments mirror, or diverge from, public discourse?

• **Origins**Who donates material? Who is left out?

• **What’s missing?** What will people in 2120 wish we had collected?

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• Tory Schendel Cox, The Virginia G. Schroeder Curator of Art Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science Evansville, IN artcurator@emuseum.org

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