



American  
Alliance of  
Museums

# Collecting COVID-19

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

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- 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.



# 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>



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# 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](mailto: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





# EVANSVILLE MUSEUM

ARTS | HISTORY | SCIENCE

## *Who we are*



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EVANSVILLE MUSEUM

ARTS | HISTORY | SCIENCE

- Multi-Disciplinary
- 40,000 Objects
- 13 Full-Time Staff



A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN



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## Rapid Response Collecting (RRC) & Output

- Interviews in the Creative Sector
- Online Exhibition
- Upcoming Physical Exhibition
- Ongoing Contribution to Permanent Repository
- An Inter-disciplinary Effort



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LIFE IN ISOLATION: THE CORONAVIRUS





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## Signs of the Time



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- Motivations from the Past



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## RRC

### Signs of the Time

- Photographed with a “more is better” approach



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# RRC

## Signs of the Time

- Wanted to illustrate change



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## RRC

### Signs of the Time

- Wanted to “collect” non-intrusively



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## RRC

### Signs of the Time

- Wanted to “collect” ubiquitous experiences



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## RRC

- Physical Material
- Collecting is an ongoing Effort



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



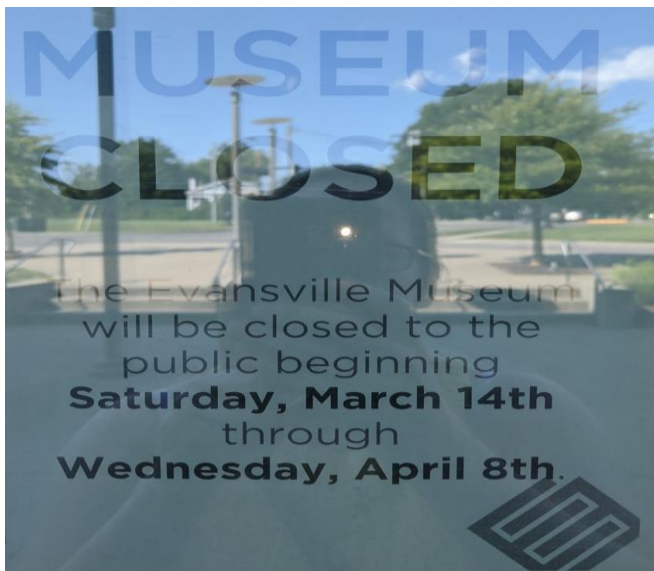




Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science

## 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>



Museum Closure



Home "Office"



#### **MOSES MEINGATI**

Isaiah 26:20 encourages us to stay in our houses for a little moment until the indignation is past. But as we do that during this COVID-19, CHP/ CMF and a 100 Humanitarian International visited Kotolian area of Narok south today reaching over 400 people with preventive measures and supplying food stuffs, sanitary towels, hand washing soaps and containers to the most vulnerable families.



A Kenyan doctor's insight



#### **SAM HYDE**

Packing 10,000 food boxes for Hoosier families in need. Each food box is intended to feed a family of four for four to five days.

Salvation Army, National Guard, and other organizations pack food at Lucas Oil Stadium





**AMBER NICOLE SMITH**

Big life changes here.

I'm doing something a little scary.

As of this weekend, I will be moving back home to work in the COVID crisis in Detroit for up to 13 weeks. My heart is a little heavy to be temporarily leaving my awesome jobs, apartment, and sunshine. But I am excited to spend time with my family (and friends if this ban gets lifted). Please pray for me as I'm experiencing a mix of emotions leaving this place for a time. Pray for my health and safety working in this hospital. Pray for the risk of the situation and the risk I am taking.

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



**LARRY HANSON**

COVID-19 Patient

Part 1 of 4

I'd been in IU Health Bloomington hospital for almost two weeks. On April 17, a nurse came to pick me up in a wheelchair so I could be discharged. As we left my hospital room to enter the COVID-19 Isolation Unit lobby, it was a bit surreal.

Everything was draped in large, translucent plastic sheets, taped shut with dark blue duct tape, and it was very loud due to negative airflow blowers blasting away. As I neared the counter to sign my release form, the nurse picked up a bell and started ringing it loudly. Suddenly, ghost-like figures draped in protective gear came out from behind the plastic and began cheering and applauding me. It was an emotional moment for all of us, because we realized I was one of the few to actually leave the hospital alive after having had COVID-19. It's not an exciting story, but I know many are curious what it's like to be sick with the coronavirus.

I'd started working from home selling Brown County Democrat ads around March 15, when the owners OK'd any employee who could work from home to do so. As each day in quarantine passed, I felt very safe, especially since I was having no contact with anyone. I only ventured out twice, once to pick up some takeout food and then to buy some groceries. My girlfriend Deadra got sick first, and on a Friday, March 20, called in to her workplace to take a sick day.  
[continued]

The testimony of a COVID-19 survivor





# **CULTURAL INSIGHTS:**

## **INTERVIEWS IN THE CREATIVE SECTOR**

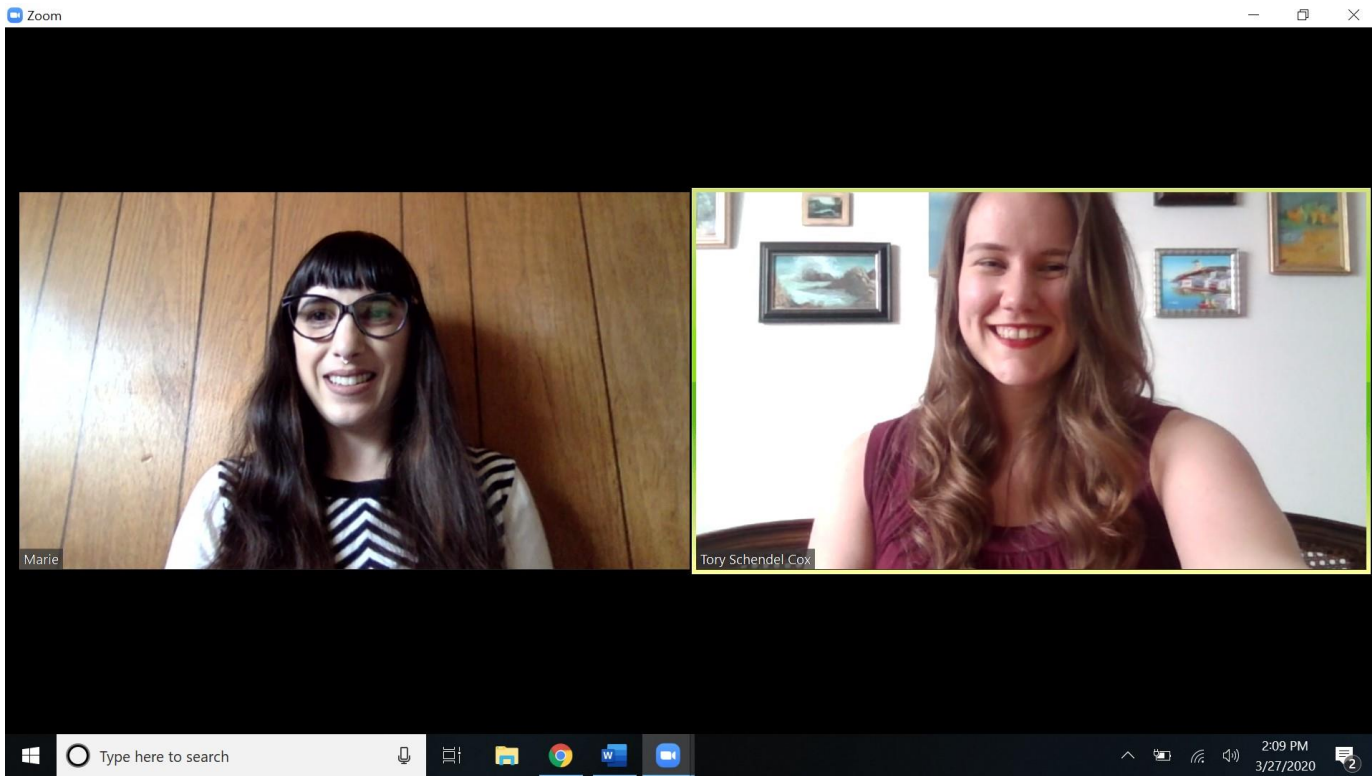


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Watch at [emuseum.org](https://emuseum.org)



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

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



## Physical Exhibition Objects Examples



Surgical Gowns by Indiana Fashion  
Foundation



Discarded PPE in a vitrine lid.

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

## 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](mailto:jdgsh@rit.edu) Twitter: @RITmuse



# Curatorial Context: Micro & macro narratives

## Museums Scramble to Document the Pandemic, Even as It Unfolds

With photographs, field interviews and mass surveys, institutions are trying to preserve information about everyday life during the crisis for future study.



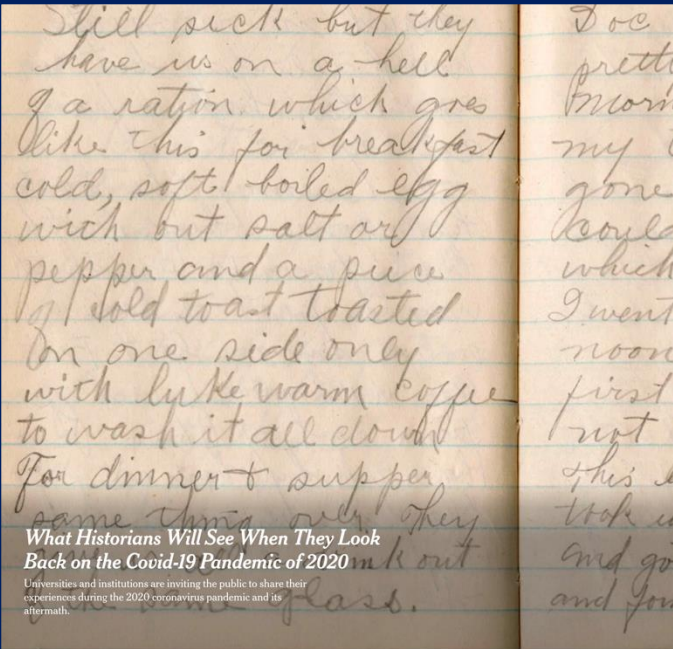
A photograph taken by the Finnish Heritage Agency showing residents of a Helsinki retirement home stinging together from their balconies on March 28. Source: Wikimedia/The Finnish Heritage Agency

By Lisa Abend  
March 31, 2020



Late Friday evening, Finland's most populous region cut itself off from the rest of the country. By the time residents of Uusimaa, which includes the capital, Helsinki, and is home to more than half of Finland's more than 1,300 coronavirus cases, awoke on March 28, roadblocks had been erected along its highways, and the police were out in force to prevent anyone from entering or exiting.

This week, those police officers may notice a few observers tracking their efforts. The photographers and interviewers will not necessarily be journalists, but rather employees of the National Museum of Finland, attempting to capture the historic moment in



## What Historians Will See When They Look Back on the Covid-19 Pandemic of 2020

Universities and institutions are inviting the public to share their experiences during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath.

Pages from the diary of Donald McGinney, a farmer who kept a diary of his illness during the 1918 influenza epidemic. Wright State University

By Astria D. S. Burch

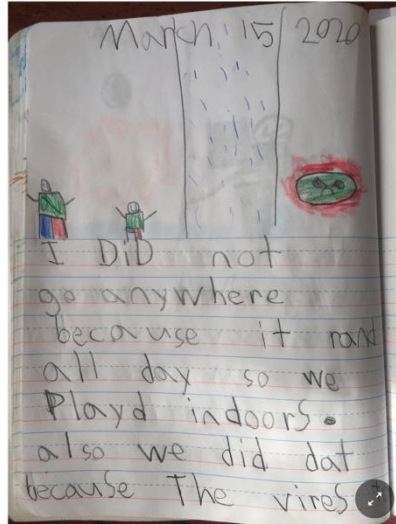
Published April 13, 2020 Updated April 17, 2020



American Alliance of Museums

## How Will We Remember the Pandemic? Museums Are Already Deciding

Wanted: Artifacts that show how Americans navigated the Covid-19 crisis. The trick is determining what's historically valuable.



Six-year-old Franklin Wong's journal entry was the first assignment he completed when the Los Angeles Unified School district began its remote learning program. It is in the collection of Covid artifacts gathered by the Autry Museum of the American West. Franklin Wong, Via Autry Museum of the American West

By Adam Popescu

Published May 25, 2020 Updated May 26, 2020



LOS ANGELES — Six-year-old Franklin Wong captured the simple frustration of being a student in this city's Unified School District in

# Curatorial Context: Project Zero

A THINKING ROUTINE FROM PROJECT ZERO, HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

## The 3 Y's

*A routine for nurturing a disposition to discern the significance of a situation, topic, or issue keeping global, local, and personal connections in mind.*

1. Why might this [topic, question] matter to me?
2. Why might it matter to people around me [family, friends, city, nation]?
3. Why might it matter to the world?



# 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>

The screenshot displays the website's header with the title "A JOURNAL OF THE Plague Year" and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with options: "SHARE YOUR STORY", "WELCOME", "BROWSE THE STORIES", "MAPPING THE PANDEMIC", "CALLS", and "JOIN US".

The main content area features a "World Map" section with a social sharing toolbar (Share, Tweet, Save, Post, Email, Embed code). The map shows global case counts as follows:

Region	Case Count
North America	12
South America	92
South America	10
Europe	96
Europe	29
Europe	5
Europe	11
Europe	43
Europe	69
Asia	8
Asia	4
Asia	216
Asia	7
Africa	2
Africa	8
Africa	4
Oceania	4
Oceania	1691
Oceania	916

The map includes a zoom control on the left and a Leaflet logo with "© OpenStreetMap contributors" at the bottom right.

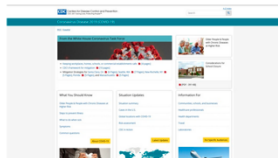
# Items

1 OF 92 < > 1-50 OF 4561 ADVANCED SEARCH Created Ascending SORT

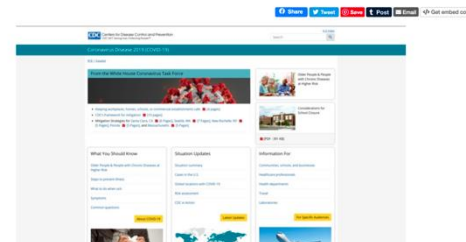
MARCH 13, 2020

## CDC Website

A screenshot of the Center's for Disease Control Website.



ITEM  
CDC Website



TITLE (DUBLIN CORE)  
CDC Website

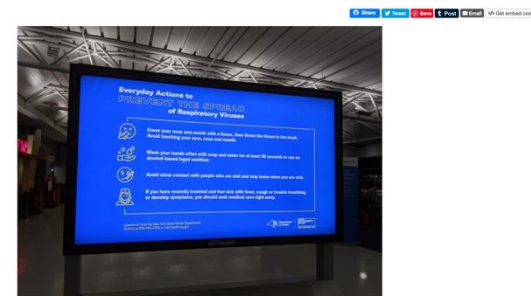
MARCH 13, 2020

## Safety Sign at JFK

A sign (in English) at JFK International Airport documents safety measures that you can take to protect yourself from the Corona Virus.



Safety Sign at JFK



TITLE (DUBLIN CORE)  
Safety Sign at JFK

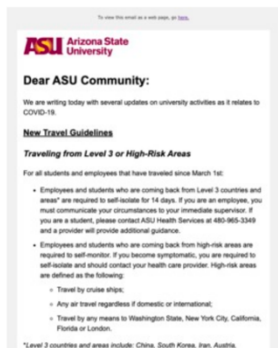
DESCRIPTION (DUBLIN CORE)  
A sign (in English) at JFK International Airport documents safety measures that you can take to protect yourself from the Corona Virus.

CREATOR (DUBLIN CORE)  
Krisin Mickelson

MARCH 13, 2020

## ASU Travel Advisory

ASU distributed this email, from the provost, to employees on March 13, 2020.



ITEM

## Bare shelves at the supermarket

[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Save](#) [Post](#) [Email](#) [Get embed code](#)



**TITLE (DUBLIN CORE)**

Bare shelves at the supermarket

**DESCRIPTION (DUBLIN CORE)**

Shoppers have been stocking up in preparation for uncertain days ahead.

**DATE (DUBLIN CORE)**

Friday, March 13, 7:43 p.m.

# A Journal of the Plague Year (JOTPY)

-- handout tab in the conference viewing window



**Is your institution collecting materials related to CoVid-19? How is your museum addressing closure? In what ways are you pivoting toward re-opening?**

You are invited to contribute to *Journal of the Plague Year (JOTPY): An Archive of CoVid-19*, a crowdsourced public archive developed and run by a consortium of faculty, students, practitioners, and professionals across a number of fields who are interested in collecting digital artifacts of the CoVid-19 pandemic. Artifacts include the following submission formats such as photographs, textual personal accounts, video and audio recordings, screenshots of born-digital content including social media posts, emails, news stories, and memes. We are particularly seeking submissions related to museums, and we invite you to contribute items in any number of ways!

We are seeking first-person accounts of the impact of CoVid-19 on your life and/or the life of your institution. What are the images of your institution's closure to the public? What will be the new normal once your institution re-opens to the public? We are also seeking submissions related to materials in your collection that relate to CoVid-19. Are you actively collecting items related to CoVid-19? Are you undertaking rapid-response collecting? Do you have a home for these items online?

You are invited to contribute your collections to the archive and have the *Journal of the Plague Year (JOTPY): An Archive of CoVid-19* host your items, with full credit and attribution to you and/or your institution as the Contributor. Or, we invite you to share your already-hosted content with the *Journal of the Plague Year (JOTPY): An Archive of CoVid-19*, with full credit and attribution to you and/or your institution as the Contributor.

The *Journal of the Plague Year (JOTPY): An Archive of CoVid-19* is a crowdsourced initiative that was launched on March 13, 2020. We hope that you will consider joining our archival journey to document CoVid-19. You are welcome to upload your submission on the [Share Your Story](#) page. Or, reach out to me, and I will be glad to help facilitate a single submission or multiple submissions from you or your institution. We also have some support to provide an intern who may be able to help with uploading your items to the JOTPY site.

Finally, we want to send a word of hope and promise. There is no question that the coronavirus emergency is deeply affecting all our lives. How will these times be remembered? We are hoping to build an archive that provides glimpses of what the crisis means to individuals, and we want to be sure that museums and their communities are represented. We hope you can join us!

Thank you for your consideration.

Juilee Decker, [jdgsh@rit.edu](mailto:jdgsh@rit.edu)  
Curatorial Team <https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/page/Share>  
Associate Professor, Museum Studies, Rochester Institute of Technology  
Presentation at #AAMVirtual, June 4, 2020  
<https://aamvirtual.elevate.commpartners.com/june-4>



*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](mailto: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



Call for papers  
**Collections:**  
A Journal for  
Museum and  
Archives  
Professionals

Editor-in-Chief:  
**Julie Decker**  
Rochester Institute of Technology, USA

[journals.sagepub.com/home/cjx](http://journals.sagepub.com/home/cjx)

*Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals* invites articles on the subject of collections in the areas of scholarly research, case studies, guidelines, and discussions and interviews. In addition, proposals are invited for focus issues of the journal that seek to present a range of perspectives on a single topic.

Manuscripts submitted to *Collections* should not be under consideration by any other publishers, nor may the manuscript have been previously published elsewhere. If a manuscript is based on a lecture, reading, or talk, specific details should accompany the submission.

A complete manuscript submission shall include the following:

- An abstract of no more than 150 words
- Manuscript (At the head of your submission, please include appropriate contact details that will appear in print. Contact details should include name, title, institutional affiliation, and email.)
- Notes, References (Bibliographies and references should conform to Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition, Notes and Bibliography)
- Illustrations (up to five figures or tables may be included with your submission). Captions should include appropriate credits. Authors are responsible for observing the laws of copyright when quoting or reproducing material and for any reproduction fees incurred.
- Journal Contributor Agreement

Entire issues of the journal may be developed around a single topic, such as provenance research. A proposal for a focus issue of the journal shall include the following:

- 300-word proposal as to the timeliness and relevance of this topic
- Draft Call for Papers to be used for solicitation of manuscripts OR a list of authors to be approached about writing on this topic. When appropriate, make specific reference to current work in this field, previously published scholarship, or the absence of such work.
- CV of proposer(s) who will serve as Guest Editors and will work with the Editor to develop the issue of the Journal.

Submit your manuscripts online at  
[mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cjx](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cjx)


 SAGE  
Publishing



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abstracts for papers “Collections & COVID-19” due 6/30/20

-- handout tab in the conference viewing window for contact details/information



Call for papers

**Collections:  
A Journal for  
Museum and  
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Editor-in-Chief:  
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Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals invites articles on the subject of collections in the areas of scholarly research, case studies, guidelines, and discussions and interviews. In addition, proposals are invited for focus issues of the journal that seek to present a range of perspectives on a single topic.

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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?

*What we collect  
will make history!*

- Many groups have relevant expertise:
  - Curators -- with special responsibility
  - Other museum staff
  - 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?

- **Thomas R. Lonnborg**, Curator of History  
Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science Evansville, IN  
[lonnborg@emuseum.org](mailto:lonnborg@emuseum.org)
- **Tory Schendel Cox**, The Virginia G. Schroeder Curator of Art  
Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science Evansville, IN  
[artcurator@emuseum.org](mailto:artcurator@emuseum.org)
- **Juilee Decker, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Museum Studies/ College of Liberal Arts /Rochester Institute of Technology  
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