

# Registrar's Quarterly

Winter 2026



A Bold New Year



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Since 1979, the RC-WR has advocated for the profession of Registrars and Collections Managers across the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington, and promoted high standards and best practices in registration.



**Linked in**

COVER:  
View of the Whitsell Family Gallery in the new Mark Rothko Pavilion of the Portland Art Museum. The pavilion, which added 100,000 square feet of new or upgraded public and gallery space, is named in honor of the renowned artist who grew up in Portland.  
[\(More information here.\)](#)

*Photograph credit: Jeremy Bittermann*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



### HELLO RC-WR,

While 2025 was a bit of a mess as a whole, I think 2025 was a really good year for RC-WR and 2026 is looking to be even better.

We launched our Grants (which continue into this year, so keep your eyes peeled), we're already scheduling webinars for the year, and mini CSIs are coming!

Thank you to all who pour your hearts into these jobs and fought so hard over the last year. I fear the fight isn't over, but we've stood our ground and I think we can do it again this year.

Stay strong, Melanie Deer

Chair Melanie Deer | RC-WR Chair | [chair@rcwr.org](mailto:chair@rcwr.org)  
Collections Manager and Assistant NAGPRA Coordinator  
for Cultural Items at the Center for Archaeology and  
Society Repository, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

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**WMA**

**2026**

**SEPT 23–26**

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With the theme of ASPIRE, WMA partners with the Utah Museums Association for the 2026 Annual Meeting and invites museum professionals to imagine boldly, reaching beyond inherited boundaries to shape futures not yet written. To ASPIRE is not simply to dream; it is to take intentional steps toward transformation. In museums, this means embracing innovation, confronting historical silences, and cultivating practices that reflect the diverse realities of the publics we serve. Whether expanding community engagement, rethinking stewardship, or exploring new interpretive strategies, to ASPIRE requires us to hold space for possibility—and to take action!

**RFP for sessions  
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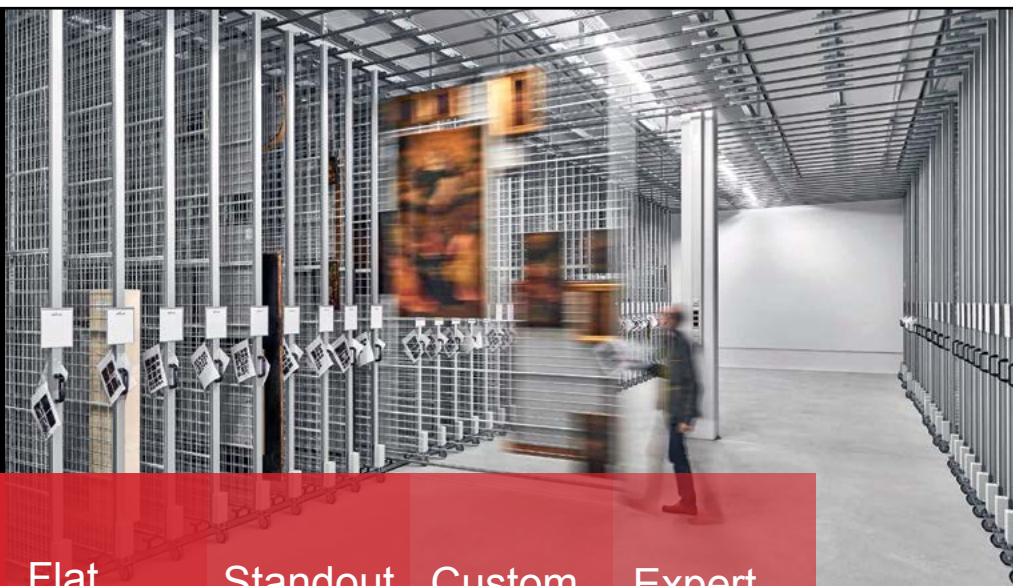
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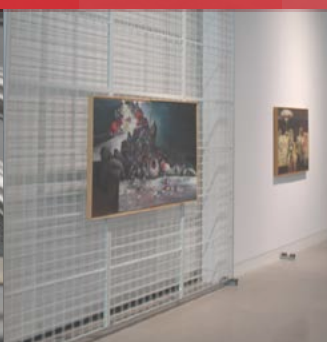
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## ARIZONA

—*Lindsey Vogel-Teeter and Pat Evans*

On December 10, 2025 **Arizona State University (ASU) Center for Archaeology and Society Repository** did a team building activity helping S'edav Va'aki Museum "mud-sling" repairs to stabilize adobe walls on their archaeological structures after heavy rains in Arizona. What better way to do team building than to help your neighbors?!

*See photograph above.*

The **Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation** is focusing on the uniqueness of the Taliesin West site, in Scottsdale, Arizona, and its ability to inspire artists through a program called the Exhibitions Artist-in-Residence program. Working with artists living in the region, or staying onsite for a dedicated period of time, these exhibitions are created exclusively for our space. They are inspired by our site's history, architecture, and natural setting,



and they confront topics we explore in our work at Taliesin West.

In our newest exhibition by local artist Erika Lynne Hanson,

*Desert Mirror*, one artist's response to Taliesin West becomes a mirror for your own.

On display through May 31, 2026, Erika Lynne Hanson (*pictured above*) reflects the layered experience of being in the desert of Taliesin West—its history, materials, beauty, and questions. Her work challenges you to look inward, outward, and homeward.

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## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

—Carrie Cohen

The **Miwuk Museum and Cultural Center** in Angel's Camp, California recently had their grand opening. The Museum and Cultural Center features exhibits, a language center, and a library focused on educating the public about the living legacy of the Miwuk people.

The **California Museum** in Sacramento, California announced the return of *Kokoro: The Story of Sacramento's Lost Japantown*. First exhibited at the Museum in 2017, the current exhibit, opened January in 2026, provides a powerful reflection on WWII Japanese American incarceration. From survivor testimonies at January's Behind Barbed Wire event to the February installation of the *Ireichō: Book of Names*, these programs provide a deep dive into the injustice and enduring resilience of the community.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

—Brooke Garcia

Los Angeles is experiencing an expansion in its museum landscape. Multiple institutions have announced opening or reopening dates for this year:

- **Los Angeles Museum of Art's** David Geffen Galleries: April 2026
- **Lucas Museum of Narrative Art**: September 22, 2026
- **Armenian American Museum and Cultural Center of California**: late 2026
- **DATALAND, the "World's First Museum of AI Arts"**: 2026 (TBD)
- **Museum of Ice Cream** (permanent location): 2026 (TBD)

On January 4, the **San Diego Museum of Art** (SDMA) announced plans for its 100th anniversary celebration. SDMA first opened its doors as the Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego on February 28, 1926. The year-long celebration will feature four major exhibitions, an all-day public birthday party, and the expansion of community-focused programming. "For a century, The San Diego

Museum of Art has served as a cultural anchor, inspiring generations through the power of art," said Roxana Velásquez, Maruja Baldwin Executive Director and CEO of SDMA.



## NEVADA

—Cynthia Sanford

The **Mob Museum** in Las Vegas has opened a new exhibition, *Digital Underworld*, which explores the history and impact of cybercrime from its earliest days to the present. Opened October 21, 2025, this long-term exhibit in the museum's Organized Crime Today gallery delves into the technology and stories behind crime in the digital age. Highlights include tools once used by phone phreakers, a 5¼-inch floppy disk containing the FORM.A computer virus (one of the most widespread viruses of the early 1990s, famous for causing a clicking noise when typing on the keyboard), and equipment used by a reformed hacker who later collaborated with law enforcement to expose vulnerabilities in vehicle Bluetooth systems. The exhibition also examines the rise of ransomware, featuring the 2023 attacks on Caesars Palace and MGM Resorts, and even includes a live threat map that visualizes cyberattacks occurring in real time around the world.

In honor of America 250, the **Nevada Arts Council** and the **Nevada Division of Museums and History** have created a joint initiative to collect the stories of Nevadans around the state. *Our Nevada Stories: Oral History Project for America250*—Nevada will be an archive of the stories, some of which will be shared in a podcast throughout the year.

The **Lilley Museum of Art** will be exhibiting some of their new acquisitions in *This Just In: Recent Additions to the Lilley Museum of Art Collection*. The exhibit will run through May 23, 2026.

The **Clark County Museum Guild** has kicked off "Heritage in Motion," a fundraising initiative to preserve a house once owned by Howard Hughes, which includes relocat-

ing the house to the Clark County Museum. Howard Hughes bought the house in 1953, used it for about a year, and then had the house physically sealed with tape and plywood. It wasn't opened again until after Hughes's death. It has been privately owned but little used since then. The Guild needs to raise the remaining \$1.6 million to fund the \$4 million preservation project. This will cover moving the house from its current location near the Las Vegas Strip and restoring it so it can be used for exhibits and education space.



# OREGON

—Meg Glazier-Anderson

A new museum, **Northwest Museum of Cartoon Arts**, opened in Portland in early November, 2025. The project had been in development since 2001. Its inaugural exhibition was *Foundations of Northwest Cartooning*, curated by Dr. Kate Kelp-Stebbins, Co-Director of the University of Oregon Comics and Cartoons Studies Program.



Ceremonial ribbon cutting at the opening of Northwest Museum of Cartoon Arts, November 3, 2025.  
Photograph credit: Steven Tonthat / OPB

Storm damage forced the closure of an historic WWII blimp hangar at the **Tillamook Air Museum** in Tillamook. As one of the few surviving naval blimp hangars in the United States, the historic structure faces a complex restoration process. The museum launched

the SAVE Hangar B campaign to raise awareness and funds necessary to stabilize and restore the structure.



Interior view of the damaged roof, approximately 160 to 180 feet in length and up to 30 feet wide.  
Photograph credit: Port of Tillamook Bay

The Portland Art Museum's new Rothko Pavilion and campus transformation officially opened to the public on November 20. The grand opening included free admission and a variety of activities over multiple days. The space includes a new glass-enclosed pavilion that connects the museum's historic buildings, offering new gallery spaces, improved accessibility, and public plaza. (See newsletter cover for photograph.)





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## UTAH

—Hannah Barrett

The Utah Historical Society is gearing up for the opening of the new **Museum of Utah** in June of 2026. We recently acquired the Mormon Meteor III, a historic, custom-built racecar with an airplane engine that set several land speed records in the 1930s and 1940s. The car has also been fully scanned (*see image*) and the digital 3D model along with the car will be featured in the museum. Other preparations have included the hiring of many new positions, most recently assistant guest experience managers, part-time museum hosts, and a volunteer services manager. Installation of display cases and wall graphics is underway, and the collection items that will be on display will be moved to the new building in January.

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The **Utah Museum of Fine Arts** (UMFA) opened *salt 17: Adama Delphine Fawundu and Relative Truths* this past August, marking the debut of this season's special exhibitions. Looking ahead, staff are preparing for next season's feature exhibition, *Storywork: The Prints of Marie Watt, from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation*. In conjunction with the exhibition, the UMFA will install the newly accessioned *Telegraph* by Marie Watt in the Global Contemporary gallery. In October, the UMFA unveiled its reimagined Mexican and Central and South American art galleries following three years of collaboration with Artes de México en Utah and a workgroup of community activists, artists, and educators. The Museum has also acquired Robert Indiana's iconic *LOVE* sculpture, which will be installed on the south lawn in early February. In the vault, the Collections team has launched a comprehensive textile inventory project encompassing more than 270 works. As part of the broader reinstall initiative, approximately 70% of the Museum's permanent collection galleries were refreshed or reinstalled.

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## WASHINGTON

—Kathrine Browne and Sarah Frederick

The **Museum of Flight** would like to thank the Registrars Committee and Hollinger Metal Edge for the \$100 Hollinger Metal Edge gift certificate we won during the raffle at the RC-WR annual meeting during the Western Museums Conference. We were able to use the funds to purchase a supply of water absorbing socks (sometimes called water pigs) to use around some of our occasionally leaky door frames. If you don't have any water absorbing socks in your emergency supply kits, consider adding some. They can take on an amazing amount of water and come in handy during minor water emergencies. ●