

## **SEATTLE HERITAGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK (SHERN)**

Date: 06-05-2020, 9:30 – 10:30am

Location: Virtual meeting (Zoom, recorded)

Present: Leslie Anderson (National Nordic Museum), Clara Berg (MOHAI), Danielle Boucher (King County), Camille Davidson (Archdiocese of Seattle), Sarah Frederick (Museum of Flight), Geneva Griswold (SAM), Cory Gooch (Frye Museum), Kathryn Leonard (UW Libraries), Jennifer Martin (City of Lake Forest Park), Gary Menges (UW Libraries, retired), Jen Peters (King County Archives), Laura Phillips (Burke Museum), Peter Schmid (Providence Archives), Jennifer Winkler (City of Seattle), Kaia Wahmanholm (National Nordic Museum), Andrew Walsh (Bellevue Arts Museum).

### **MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Virtual welcome and introduction to Zoom. Attendees introduced themselves in the chat function.

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

Official welcome to Leslie and Kaia at the National Nordic Museum! Welcome Jen Peters at King County Archives! Peter will reach out to members who haven't attended in a while, such as the Wing Luke Museum and Seattle Public Library. Should we invite Seattle Pacific University to join? The Computer Museum has been closed for at least one year.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The 4-3-2020 minutes were approved with one correction. Bellevue Arts Museum lacked as "s".

### **INVOICES FOR DUES**

Dues notices will be sent out this month (June) with a relaxed due date due to Covid-related closures.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Current balances:

Checking \$1,926.98

Savings \$25.00

### **RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE**

Everyone received a proposed retention schedule for review. Jennifer will make the following changes and bring a final copy for approval to the next meeting: a) indefinitely retain final grant reports and proposals because they can be helpful for future reference, b) only retain handouts and accessory documents that were action items.

### **SUPPLY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Jennifer W., Stephanie, Jennifer M., and Peter propose spending \$500 for new supply cache materials. This motion was approved and seconded. They plan to inventory materials at both locations; some items listed on the inventories are reportedly not present in the Jobox. Sarah at MOF offered to receive shipments of new supplies, or be a contact for local drop off.

### **SHERN INFO SHEET**

Peter created a one-page summary of SHERN's accomplishments. He will make the following edit: add "member" so it is clear that SHERN provides services to member organizations only and does not help individuals in an emergency. All agreed that no dates were necessary except for SHERN's founding date. Should we have a presence/booth at fairs, and if so, what is our public message?

### **PreP UPDATE**

The PreP will be updated with Bellevue Arts Museum, National Nordic Museum, and King County Archives representatives. Does anyone have contacts for Data Recovery Services or Industrial Hygienist / Mold Testing Labs? No members report having these on their PrePs. Cory noted that some insurance policies cover cyber security which would include their own data recovery service.

### **OPEN DISCUSSION –**

- Effects of protests in our region on member institutions
- How are we all doing with our work in quarantine
- Reopening plans

The Frye (Cory) will not resume full-time staffing until the end of summer, and may open in late September or early Fall. Providence Archives (Peter) is collecting documentation of their response to Covid-19; they are looking for web archiving software to enable collection of web-based documentation. MOHAI (Clara) is collecting ephemera and artifacts related to Covid-19 and to the marches following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery by police and to protests calling to defund the police. The NNM (Leslie) is collecting oral histories and stories from Nordic countries about Covid-19. Bellevue Arts (Andrew) reports that outdoor sculpture was tagged during the protests and that they are planning for the possibility of a security breach; The Bellevue Collection next door was broken into, but the National Guard is staying in an adjacent hotel. Is protest an act of domestic terrorism or civil disobedience? If the former, damages could be covered by insurance. Bellevue Arts might reopen in July but there is anxiety about a second wave of Covid-19 infections, so these plans may change. The Burke (Laura) has collected pandemic-related artworks from Native artists, such as beaded masks. Thus far, WA state's return-to-work document for museums does not address collections specifically. Here is an excerpt from a draft of the document:

*In May, ArtsWA (the Washington State Arts Commission) began a dialogue with the Office of the Governor to determine what steps were needed to re-open museums, art galleries and other cultural (non-performing arts) spaces in Washington State. Their guidance led us to convene a group of museum / art gallery and cultural leaders from across Washington from a variety of disciplines. They represented institutions large and small. Over the past month, this group has worked together to develop a set of shared protocols that this part of the cultural sector would implement to ensure we collectively meet public health and safety requirements. The final plan will be submitted to the Governor's office for review and approval... The protocols spelled out here are based on guidelines distributed by the Centers for Disease Control, WA State Department of Health, and WA State Labor and Industries... The Washington State Historical Society and 4Culture have committed to developing a "toolkit" for museums that provides more detailed information and ideas about how small and large museums, of different disciplines, can meet the public health requirements outlined here.*

See the Canadian Conservation Institute's Note "[Caring for Heritage Collections During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)" for using collections upon reopening.

UW Libraries (Kathryn) do not have a return date but it will be in Phase 3 of the Governor's plan. Drive by pickup of library materials might begin in Phase 2. Every person who steps on the campus must attest in writing to being symptom-free. Gradual return to campus because all instruction is remote until the

Fall. Making plans for highly enhanced EDI (electronic data interchange) at the personal and institutional level.

Archdiocese of Seattle (Camille) is opening the chancery to employees in June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Health screening for everyone entering the building. Archivists will stagger their days onsite. There is no parking and taking public transit is worrisome because of the proximity to other riders and racist threats. Lake Forest Park (Jennifer) pushed back their opening date, but some staff have returned and they are staggering days onsite. Court sessions are now held on Zoom. Sneeze guards have been placed at cubicles. Struggling with how to bring passport services back.

Museum of Flight (Sarah) hopes to reopen in July (though this may not be realistic), and collections staff are developing their own reopening plan.

Is SHERN interested in (virtually) meeting with other response networks, such as neighboring [BC HERN](#) or DIRG: Disaster Response Group/Oregon Library Association? Each network could present a few slides about how they got started, if they've ever activated, what services they provide to the community, etc. Response groups have always been based on sharing, not reinventing the wheel, so we would all learn something! Laura remembers that Cory and Gary gave a presentation at the American Alliance for Museums (AAM) meeting in Seattle with other groups. Gary provided these slides and they are now accessible on the "Workshops" page of the SHERN website. People like the idea to meet but we will table the idea until we can meet in person; a working group could form to move the idea forward. Networks are listed by region on the American Institute for Conservation's Alliance for Response page: <https://www.culturalheritage.org/resources/emergencies/alliance-for-response/networks>

#### **NEXT MEETINGS:**

August 7: Zoom

October 2: Burke Museum

Meeting adjourned by Peter Schmid.