

Virtual Curatorial Committee Meeting
Monday, March 29th 5pm

The Curatorial Department informs the committee about action steps taken toward the museum's goals determined during Strategic Planning. The curatorial department is comprised of the Curator who supervises the Collections Manager, Restoration Specialist, and Collections Assistant.

Staff:

Anne Mahoney, Curator – curator@bayouvermiliondistrict.org

Elizabeth Daspit, Collections Manager

Not present - Kayla Guidry, Restoration Specialist

Not present - Deborah Smith, Collections Assistant

Boards:

Don McConnell, Bayou Vermilion District Board (BVD) Commissioner – docmac39@gmail.com

Kristie Cornell, BVD Board Commissioner – kristiecornell@hotmail.com

Michael Martin, Vermilionville Living History Museum Foundation Board – docmartin@louisiana.edu

Marissa Petrou, Vermilionville Living History Museum Foundation Board – marissa.petrou@louisiana.edu

Agenda 2020 – 2025 Goals

• **Museum Excellence**

1) Exhibits, outgoing and incoming

- a. The Curator explained how we use exhibit loans as an alternative to creating our own exhibits from scratch. The Curator explained that outgoing loans are part of our outreach and branding strategy. We reviewed the current and upcoming exhibits we have. The Curator talked about the service she provides to the museum community by offering her expertise to small museums.

2) Collections Manager

- a. Our Collections Manager, Elizabeth Daspit introduced herself and her reasons for applying to this job, including her interested in object-based learning.

3) Interpretive Training

- a. The Curator reviewed current interpretive training practices for the new museum front line staff. We talked about the upcoming premiere of our specialty tour “Age of Steam.”

4) Collaboration – Watershed Exhibit

a. We discussed the collaborative Watershed Exhibit Project and the current project status. Dr. Martin suggested other quotes for panel printing from Lowrys Printing and Signs.

- **Broaden Community Support**

The Curator mentioned that she includes links to sign up for memberships in her emails if she thinks the person would be interested.

- **Organizational Effectiveness**

Below is a summary of the recommendations that the Curator has for the BVD Board prior to revising their MOU. We briefly discussed how the final report of the taskforce will be sent and my role in that.

1) Collections Summary for use in the MOU

2) We are preparing a museum best practices report for appraising and insuring our collections. We could finish our recommendations to both boards by the end of April.

3) The Curatorial Department can present you with a report on ownership summary and steps by May 2021. This will be a summary of how collections work in institutions with Parent Organizations and nonprofit collaborators.

4) Once the Curatorial Department has finished both the report on ownership and insurance, we will be in a more informed place to update the MOU.

5) Collecting Plan and recent potential acquisitions summary.

- a. The Collections Manager presented a summary of our potential acquisitions and staff recommendations for those objects.

The Curator concluded the meeting by summarizing in laymen's terms how the collections process works and what our next steps are.