

Society of Southwest Archivists 2023 Annual Meeting Program for Thursday, April 27

Welcome and Plenary Address 8:30 am - 9:30 am



Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez

Anthropologist, historian, and cultural consultant, Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez has served as the former Senior Vice President at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, executive director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center and as the state historian of New Mexico. He is currently the Executive Director of [*Native Bound Unbound: Archive of the Indigenous Enslaved*](#), a digital initiative supported by the Mellon Foundation. A native son of New Mexico, he received his BA in English Literature and Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and his MA and Ph.D. in

American Cultures from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he completed his dissertation, "Identifying Captivity and Capturing Identity," the basis of a book project.

Coffee with Vendors 9:30 am - 10:00 am

Educational Session #1 10:00 am - 11:30 am

A Case for Community Engagement

Four archival staff members with differing institutional missions, job descriptions, and geographic locale, will discuss how they've integrated community outreach and engagement into their work. This work has enriched their archival collections and services, as well as their institutional relationships with diverse groups, student-scholars, and new users. Danielle will discuss how the creation of her community outreach specific position has benefited the public library's relationship with underrepresented community groups as well as how specific outreach initiatives have been successful in her first year in the position. Vina will discuss how Labriola's programming and archival operations help urban Indigenous students to reconnect with their culture and their Indigenous community. Patrick will discuss his program's monthly podcast as an extension of both their outreach with community groups and their engagement with broader public audiences. Dylan will present on how staff at the NMSU archives are partnering with community institutions to create exhibits and events that showcase local history.

Presenters:

- Danielle Afsordeh, CALS Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
- Vina Beay, Labriola National American Indian Data Center, Arizona State University
- Patrick Daglaris, Oklahoma Oral History Research Program, Oklahoma State University
- Dylan McDonald, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces

Archiving Latinxs on the U.S. Great Plains

This panel examines the intricacies of archiving Latinxs in the US Great Plains. Latinx communities comprise a significant portion of the area's population, yet regional archival holdings often under-represent these groups' experiences and historical contributions. This panel will describe three universities' approaches toward addressing this disparity, beginning with bilingual oral history projects "Voces of a Pandemic", which explores the impact of COVID-19 on Latinx communities near Omaha, and "Coming to the Plains", which examines immigration experiences of Latinx people in central Nebraska, conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Nebraska at Kearney respectively. The panel also recounts efforts by the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University to archive the legacy of Latinx communities on Texas's South Plains, namely through its "Recuerdos del Ayer" project that centers on building relationships with South Plains Latinx communities, incorporating translation of archival materials, creation of online and interactive exhibits, and expanding Latinx outreach efforts.

Presenters:

- Robert Weaver, Texas Tech University
- Zach Hernández, Texas Tech University
- Wendy Guerra, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Laurinda Weisse, University of Nebraska at Kearney

FAQ (Frequently Asked Archivemata Questions)

Are you a long-time Archivemata user with a deep understanding of digital preservation? This session is for you! Have you heard of Archivemata but don't really understand what it does and why? This session is also for you!

Each panelist will spend 15 minutes reviewing their experiences and highlights of the tool. We will be discussing all phases of Archivemata from choosing to use the system in the first place through active implementation and the challenges we faced along the way. We will also leave plenty of time for questions. Our hope is that the session will be interactive and promise to answer any and all questions, big and small. Digital preservation is complex at all levels of engagement, and we encourage participation from those who don't identify as digital archivists, or who don't typically do this type of work. This panel is intended to provide a safe and inclusive space for attendees as every archivist's area of expertise is valuable. We welcome all archivists to join us in digital preservation discussions.

Please feel free to send in questions ahead of time to cbanuelos@rice.edu, and we hope to see you there!

Presenters:

- Chris Banuelos, Rice University, Houston, TX
- Bethany Scott, University of Houston, Houston TX
- Lauren Goodley, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Lunch on Your Own 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

TARO Brown Bag lunchtime session 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Join members of the Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) Steering Committee and Subcommittees to learn about the work the group has done this past year. The agenda includes an overview of ongoing work, subcommittee work report(s), communication among TARO members, and an opportunity to share feedback and ask questions. This brown bag meeting is open to all TARO members and anyone interested in becoming a member.

Presenters:

- Maristell Feustle, University of North Texas
- Matthew Richardson, McGovern Historical Center, Texas Medical Center Library, Houston, TX
- Kristi Nedderman, Dallas Municipal Archives

Educational Session #2 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Diversifying the Archives: Archival Projects Delivered through a Diverse Lens

As archivists strive to provide accurate representations of their communities, it is imperative to seek collections and deliver programs through a diverse lens. This session will present case studies of archival programs and projects specifically focusing on documenting diverse groups of people. The first project involves bolstering representation of Acadiana's LGBTQ+ community through collections, lectures, and oral histories. The second involves Marshallese archives and the lesbian separatist movement in the Ozarks—divergent collecting areas pursued in the midst of institutional changes such as revising collecting scope and implementing reparative description standards. The third project is a collaborative effort at California State University, San Bernardino to document the stories, experiences, and history of the Black community in the Inland Empire region of Southern California.

Presenters:

- Zachary G. Stein, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- Joshua C. Youngblood, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville AK
- Eric Milenkiewicz, California State University, San Bernadino

Wrapping Up Before Moving On

This panel discussion addresses the impact of professional transition on archivists and archival institutions. When archival professionals are starting

new positions or retiring, how can they facilitate the transition for themselves and their soon-to-be former colleagues? How are they preparing to exit the old institution and start in a new place/ role? How do archival institutions deal with an employee's departure? The panelists will talk about different types of archival career transitions from the perspective of both the persons who are departing and of those who are left behind. They will focus on issues such as project wrap-up and handoff; workflow modifications and reassignment of duties; stepping down from leadership roles; preparing to start fresh in a new place; communication, transparency and privacy; and staying on top of human resources requirements and forms. The session will include examples and practical tips, as well as one panelist's doctoral studies research dealing with workforce transitions in the archival profession.

Presenters:

- Ada Negraru, New Mexico History Museum, Santa Fe, NM
- J.J. Compton, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond OK
- Joe Lueck, Union College, Schenectady, NY
- Amanda Fisher, Baylor University, Waco, TX
- Max Prud'homme, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK

Hybrid Archives: Expanding Access While Building Our Skills

Can we meet hybrid – or 100% virtual – user expectations by integrating new technologies into archival practice? Dynamic digital interactives and virtual reference services can expand access to fragile or underused collections, promote collection accessibility for those unable to visit in-

person, complement curricula and in-person research, create ancillary archival files, and build staff skills.

NM Holocaust Museum & Gellert Center for Education staff discuss utilizing emerging digital platforms to integrate Holocaust related material into interactive, virtual programs. They will address using digital interaction to solicit conversations with the community, clarify archival description, crowd source knowledge, and develop relationships with survivors of genocide. Staff from the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona, will discuss how adding an overhead camera to online meetings cultivates useful virtual engagement with archival materials; how this fits within the reference ecosystem; benefits and limitations for users, staff, and collections; and opportunities for new professional colleagues.

Presenters:

- Emily Una Weirich, Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- Ashley Swinford, Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- Elias Larralde, Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- Carmelia Caton-Garcia, NM Holocaust Museum & Gellert Center for Education
- Lewis Twite, NM Holocaust Museum & Gellert Center for Education

Break with Vendors 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Educational Session #3 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Who Penned This? Unboxing Hybrids

What to do when one finds non-manuscript items “boxed in” in with the personal papers of a donor? Our panelists, an art curator and archivist, will host a roundtable discussion on the complexities of working collaboratively to manage “hybrid” archival collections—manuscript collections that are embedded with fine art objects.

Panelists will invite participants to: discuss ways to create interdisciplinary practices that recognize and value the materiality and archival worth of hybrid collections. They will do so in part by focusing on the commonalities between archival and curatorial practices. Archivists and curators both strive to preserve original, often irreplaceable objects, materials and documents. They are also equally proficient in their conceptualization of “broad, deep knowledge” about records (i.e., provenance, history, arrangement, interpretation, and research).

What should one do when an art object is discovered “boxed in” with the personal papers of a donor? Our panelists suggest that curators should appeal to their archival colleagues’ intellectual—not aesthetic sensibilities in order to affect proportionate handling of fine art objects. Lastly, our panelists close their session by “unpacking” cross-disciplinary approaches to working with hybrid collections. They emphasize stewardship and collaboration, during acquisitions, processing, cataloging, and collections management.

Presenters:

- Paula Allen, Visual Arts Curator, Amistad Research Center
- Rebecca Hankins, Texas A&M University

Shining a Light on the Opioid Industry Using Digital Archives

The opioid epidemic is the worst drug epidemic in our nation's history. In the name of transparency, the Opioid Industry Documents Archive (OIDA) consolidates publicly released litigation documents into a digital archive for the benefit of individuals and communities, researchers, journalists, policymakers and other stakeholders affected by the opioid crisis. This presentation will explore the archive's work to enhance access to documents with the goal of improving and safeguarding public health. In addition, the presentation will describe the many collaborations that make OIDA possible, as a joint effort between libraries and health programs at the University of California, San Francisco, and Johns Hopkins University, and staff working on-site and remotely across the globe.

Presenters:

- Amanda Norman, John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- Rachel Taketa, University of California, San Francisco

Through a Community-Driven Archives Lens: Arizona State University's Community-Driven Archives Initiative

Arizona State University's Community-Driven Archives (CDA) Initiative centers the lives and voices of historically marginalized communities in the

southwest region, including Latinx, Black, Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Islander, and LGBTQ+ communities. CDA initiatives cultivate intersectionality that enhances and diversifies the historical record, and also empowers community members to preserve and manage their own histories. CDA and community members are dismantling white power structures, challenging the way historical records are created and redefining what an archive is, what should be included in their archive, and who should have access to these archives.

CDA now oversees both new and legacy archival collections, including Black Collections, University Archives, and the Greater Arizona Collection. Presentations will highlight the newly established Black Collections that implements CDA practices; K-12 programming which centers and uplifts BIPOC and Queer Knowledge in schools by introducing students to community archives; and reenvisioning Greater Arizona Collections and associated community-centered initiatives.

Presenters:

- Renee D. James, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
- Jessica Salow, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
- Jasmine Torrez, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ

Society of Southwest Archivists 2023 Annual Meeting Program for Friday, April 28

Past, Present & Future: Breakfast with SSA Leadership 8:00 am -
9:00 am

Educational Session #4 9:15 am - 10:30 am

Creating More Inclusive Minimum Description: Implementing
Inclusive Practices at Accessioning

In addition to looking backwards and repairing legacy description, archivists must also look forwards towards creating more inclusive archival description for newly acquired collections. With backlogs as the norm and MPLP as standard practice, archivists must reckon with how descriptive practices have traditionally obfuscated the existence of or excluded entirely the experiences of marginalized communities. In a minimal or extensible processing framework, archivists must adopt more inclusive descriptive practices at the point of accessioning to ensure that unprocessed (or minimally processed) collections are accessible and discoverable. This presentation will discuss how archivists at Penn State are adopting practices from the reparative archival description literature to create more ethical descriptions from the point of accessioning to ensure that even minimally described, unprocessed collections are respectfully accessible.

Presenters:

- Alexandra deGraffenreid, Penn State University, State College, PA
- Mae Casey, Penn State University, State College, PA
- Gideon Goodrich, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Persevering the Times

Members of the SSA Diversity and Outreach Committee will lead a discussion with attendees on what Perseverance means to them.

Committee members will introduce the topic and talk briefly about their experiences. Then the session will break out into smaller groups – (both virtual and in person) and have committee members lead discussions that hopefully will lead to suggestions on coping with an issue. Topics can include persevering in the face of – poor management at work, micro aggressions, bumpy career paths, and managing life and work at the same time.

Presenters:

- Gerianne Schaad, Florida Southern College
- Jeremy Brett, Texas A&M University
- Marikit Schwartz, John Brown University
- Heather Green, The Historic New Orleans
- Anita Mechler, Anita Mechler Consulting
- Joy Oria, University of North Texas

Management, What Management!: Addressing Collections Management for Accessibility Needs

From processing backlogs and deaccessioning to organizational changes and relocations, collections management offers many opportunities to improve on archival holdings, while also presenting many challenges for smaller institutional archives. Implementing effective collections management programs under time and staff crunches can be done with proper planning, focused methods, and addressing critical needs first. In this session, presenters will share some of the unique collections management issues presented to their smaller academic archives and the solutions they have and are developing to install better long-term collections management strategies and improve access for collections. The individual presentations will focus on conducting an inventory to gain control over collections, creating and implementing new policies for collections management and access, and discussing the many steps of establishing offsite storage with the view of increasing access. This session will be especially useful for archivists who work in small shop departments with limited staff.

Presenters:

- Sawyer Magnus, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX
- Matthew Peek, University of Houston-Clear Lake, Houston, TX
- Brittany Rodriguez, University of Houston- Victoria, Victoria, TX

Coffee with Vendors 10:30 am - 11:00 am

Educational Session #5 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

How Do We Balance Access to Collections with Ethical Considerations for Privacy?

We are hosting a Roundtable discussion on the overlap between diversity initiatives and privacy within archival collections. Our Roundtable presenters include Jennifer Follen, who will discuss drafting policies for a university digital archive, using the trauma-informed framework as a guide in access and description; and Samantha Schafer, who will discuss creating policies for working both personal and cultural privacy in museum archival collections. We invite participation from attendees interested in discussing ways in which archivists can maintain best professional practices while respecting different cultural perspectives on privacy. We hope to have active engagement from attendees, so that we may learn from one another by brainstorming techniques for balancing access to collections with ethical considerations for the individuals and groups connected to the material.

Presenters:

- Jennifer Follen, University of Rhode Island Libraries
- Samantha Schafer, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

Data Everywhere: How to Collect, Share, and Reuse Data with the SAA Dataverse

The Society of American Archivists' Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment (CORDA) supports research on archives through a variety of

initiatives, including the SAA Dataverse repository and educational offerings. CORDA launched the SAA Dataverse in 2021, a new open-source data repository aimed at fostering knowledge, insights, and a deeper understanding of archival organizations, the status of archivists, and the impact of archives and archival work on the broader society. This roundtable discussion will introduce the SAA Dataverse, its guiding principles, its policies and procedures, datasets that are available for reuse, and how archivists can contribute their data. The presenters will also share what is being done to support archivists engaging in data driven research through CORDA's online resources and educational workshops. Group discussion will center around ideas, needs, and potential for data-driven research on archives.

Presenters:

- Lulu Zilinskas, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
- Emily Lapworth, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Jane Fiegel, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Raising Her Voice: Collecting, Digitizing, and Teaching with Diverse Archival Collections

This panel discussion will center on the collections of two African American women: Dr. Carolyn Jefferson Jenkins and Jennie Elder Suel. Dr. Jefferson Jenkins is an educator and voting rights activist, who was the first woman of color to become the National President of the League of Women Voters. Her collection is currently the subject of a digitization project that will allow for her materials to be shared more widely. Jennie Elder Suel donated freedom papers kept in her family, as well as other historical materials

documenting Black life in the early nineteenth and twentieth century. Suel's collection showcases what Dr. Sutton has termed descendant archival practices—a method that reveals new ways of writing histories of 19th-century Black women in the rural Midwest—and acknowledges the preservation and memory work of Black women elders as an alternative to mainstream archives.

The presenters will discuss these women and how the Miami University Libraries has and plans to use collections such as these to promote equity, diversity and inclusion in their archives, and in the classroom.

Presenters:

- Jacqueline Johnson, Miami University (Ohio)
- Candace Pine, Miami University (Ohio)
- Jazma Sutton, Miami University (Ohio)

Lunch on Your Own 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

How to Run a LAC: Everything You Need to Know About Meeting Planning, lunchtime brown bag session 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

SSA is an all-volunteer organization that holds a meeting for members once a year. There is a need for members to volunteer to host meetings. Topics will include information on how sites for the conference are chosen; annual meeting planning and what activities you can include; how to put together a Local Arrangements Committee and what each position is responsible for; and budgeting.

Presenters:

- Gerianne Schaad, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida
- Traci Patterson, Woodson Research Center, Rice University

Educational Session #6 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

D.I.Y. Feminism: Utilizing Special Collections as Spaces for Creative Activism

DIY feminism is a term used by scholars to define ways in which feminists communicate and elevate ideas through independent cultural production that resists mainstream representations. DIY feminist material culture takes many forms, including zines, blogs, protest signs, art installations, craftwork, tarot and oracle decks, posters, collage, etc. This 90-minute workshop will focus on how DIY Feminism has and can be used to enrich student and community experiences. Attendees will explore various ways to engage students and the community by identifying and using DIY feminist materials in special collections to inspire and encapsulate/synthesize individual learning experiences. Examples of curriculum and assignments/projects where these materials have been used as alternative platforms for self-expression and to present research will be discussed. Crafting supplies will be provided and attendees will learn the basics of collage and zine making as well as how to create access using digital publishing tools.

This 90-minute hybrid workshop will focus on DIY Feminism and how it has and can be used to enrich the student and community experience. Crafting supplies for about twenty in-person attendees will be made available during

the workshop. Both virtual and in-person attendees can choose to create a zine or poster using collage techniques and are encouraged to craft during the presentation. To serve the needs of those not attending in person, the presentation will be live via Zoom and all workshop resources will be provided digitally including how-to links, templates, digital clip art, and any handouts. All attendees will be introduced to tools such as Canva, Conceptboard, and Adobe Spark to help design, share, and publish their creations. Facilitators will be available in person and virtually to answer questions and help virtual attendees navigate all resources provided.

Presenters:

- Bernadette Floresca, Newcomb Institute Archives and Vorhoff Collection and Tulane University
- Jacquelyne T. Howard, Newcomb Institute at Tulane University
- Chloe Raub, Newcomb Institute Archives and Vorhoff Collection at Tulane University

Challenges to Faculty Status & Academic Freedom II: The Texas A&M University System

On September 29, 2022, SSA hosted the webinar “Challenges to Faculty Status & Academic Freedom,” that featured a moderated discussion on the experiences of librarians and archivists whose faculty status was transitioned under protest. This session continues that discussion but focuses on the changing employment status of librarians and archivists in the Texas A&M University System. The presenters will describe how their employers at the Corpus Christi and College Station campuses degraded their professionalism and work achievements, disregarded past academic

policies, and ultimately reneged on the promises awarded through the tenure process. This discussion will include thoughts on the genesis of this radical change, the resulting effect on the library's culture and its place within the university, and the impact this decision has had on their careers. The session will close with a conversation on how to resist this coordinated attack by university governing bodies, administrators, and library managers on core academic freedoms and the profession itself. Because of the nature of this topic, it will not be streamed or recorded.

Presenters:

- Dylan McDonald, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces NM
- Rebecca Hankins, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- Sierra Laddusaw, University of Arkansas-Forth Smith
- Thomas H. Kreneck, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Community Archiving Workshop and Audiovisual Collections Care in Tribal Archives

Community Archiving Workshop (CAW), a project of the Association of Moving Image Archivists, originated as a one-day workshop to help community groups learn to identify and preserve their legacy recordings. In 2020 CAW received NEH funding for the Audiovisual Collections Care in Tribal Archives project and partnered with the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums to conduct a series of regional workshops for tribal archives. The project aims to support efforts to preserve and improve access to these collections by training tribal archivists and librarians to assess their collections and prioritize them for digitization. When the pandemic hit, CAW adapted the hands-on workshop

into the virtual world, creating a cohort in the Southwest region to deliver virtual training and mentorship in audiovisual preservation. This session explores the growing regional network for AV preservation in the Southwest. Panelists will discuss the Audiovisual Collections Care in Tribal Archives project and its impact on their audiovisual collections.

Presenters:

- Sandra Yates, McGovern Historical Center, Teas Medical Center Library, Houston, TX
- Jonna C. Paden, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Library & Archives, Albuquerque, NM
- Mindy Bird, Poeh Cultural Center Archives, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Santa Fe, NM
- Macario Gutierrez, Poeh Cultural Center Archives, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Santa Fe, NM
- Curtis Quam, Zuni Tribal Archives, A:shiwí A:Wan Museum and Heritage Center
- Carvanna Westika, Zuni Tribal Archives A:shiwí A:Wan Museum and Heritage Center
- Beci Wright, The Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum

**Break with Vendors and Student Posters 2:30 pm -
3:00 pm**

Tours 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

**All Attendee Reception at the Indian Pueblo Cultural
Center 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**