Travel Awards Committee Annual Report – 2004
Submitted by: Kitty Chibnik and Nensi Brailo, TAC Co-Chairs

2004-2005 TAC Co-chairs: Nensi Brailo & Kitty Chibnik
2004-2005 TAC members: Janice Chadbourne, K.C. Elhard, Barbara Rockenbach, Tricia Rose

ARLIS/NA Awards Committee Chair: Clayton Kirking
Executive Board liaison: Suzy Frechette

Leadership update:
2005-2006 Co-chairs: Nensi Brailo, Kitty Chibnik

Activities:
Membership met at the ARLIS/NA Conference in New York; discussion focused on the Awards Committee roster and awards committee procedures. Barbara Rockenbach, continuing member, shared her insights on the process, the award review timelines, and procedures. Timelines for award announcements, submission deadlines, review deadlines, and award notification dates were discussed.

The Committee worked with AWS web master Nedda Ahmed to update the Travel Awards announcements web page and the online application form http://www.arlisna.org/travel05.html.

The one-time Getty Latin American Awards were also listed on the Travel Award AWS page, but a separate online application form was created. These Awards were handled through Ted Goodman of the Development Committee.

The online application form was used by almost all applicants, insuring complete and standardized applicant information.

Award announcements were sent by the Co-Chairs via e-mail with the exception of the RLG and Karno award announcements which were sent via Vicky Roper at Headquarters. Vicky Roper also did the mailings via snail mail to the individual and organizational addresses supplied to her by TAC.

Donor-funded Awards
The Development Committee was able to secure donor commitments for the following 4 awards:
Andrew Cahan Photography Award
Howard and Beverly Joy Karno Award
RLG Oceania/Asia Award
Puvill Libros European Travel Award

The Research Libraries Group decreased their level of sponsorship by eliminating the RLG Conference Award ($2000). Funding was not secured from Salander O’Reilly who previously sponsored the Salander O’Reilly Student Travel Award.

Nensi Brailo updated the distribution lists for European awards. The domestic distribution list for library school contacts needs to be updated in the up coming year and Kitty Chibnik has volunteered to work jointly on this with Jeff Ross, Chair of the Gerd Muesham Committee.

Howard and Beverly Joy Karno Award
When the Karno Award announced the first time there was only one domestic applicant. TAC decided that the applicant pool was insufficient. After consultation with the Development Committee and the sponsor, the Award was re-announced and the deadline extended. Domestic applicants working with significant Latin American art/architecture research collections or researching subjects or topics related to Latin American art/architecture were encouraged to apply. The applicant pool significantly increased when the award was re-announced and the deadline extended. Only one applicant from Latin America applied for the award whose application was referred to the Getty Latin American Travel Awards (which had higher funding levels) to increase the pool for the Getty awards.

ARLIS/NA funded Awards
Conference Travel Award
Student Travel Award for Conference Attendance
Student Diversity Award for Conference Attendance

Student Diversity Award
In August 2004, in lieu of funding a second Conference Attendance Award, the Board decided to fund one Student Diversity Award ($500) for a student from an under-represented minority group, enrolled in an accredited Library School within the Conference region (the South), to attend the Conference. TAC was asked to draft wording and eligibility requirements for the Award, in consultation with the Diversity Committee (chairs Miguel Juarez and Shannon van Kirk), which was done based on the model of the ARLIS/NA DC/MD/VA chapter’s Diversity Committee Award. A detailed description of the Award was drafted for distribution to library schools and for posting on the AWS.

The Award was announced via email to all the library schools in the South region and, at the deadline, the Committee had received only 1 application, from an international student. In January 2005, the Committee had received only 1 application, from an international student. In January 2005, the Committee decided to offer the Award to the applicant who turned it down due to prior school commitments. TAC, in consultation with the Chair of the Awards Committee and others, decided to re-post the Award, extending the deadline until February 11, 2005 and removing the ‘South region” requirement. An email announcement of the Award was sent to schools throughout North America and to all the Student Travel applicants urging them to apply, if qualified. The 2nd round yielded 3 applicants (plus 1 applicant who withdrew before the Committee rated applications, due to lack of funding to attend conference even if awarded).

Student Travel Award
In early November 2004, when the 2005 Awards were posted to the AWS, the Committee received inquiries about the availability of a Student Travel Award. The ARLIS/NA President secured approval from the Board to offer one Student Travel Award ($500) funded by the Society.

Award Winners:
The Committee reviewed 35 applicants for seven awards as follows:

ARLIS/NA Conference Travel Award (3 applicants)
   Katherine Cowan
   Maryland Institute College of Art

Andrew Cahan Photography Award (1 applicant)
   Jane Devine Mejia
   Freelance Librarian
Vancouver, Canada

Howard and Beverly Joy Karno Award (7 applicants)
   Taína B. Caragol
   Museum of Modern Art Library

Puvill Libros Travel Award (4 applicants)
   Claudio Di Benedetto
   Biblioteca degli Uffizi
   Florence, Italy

RLG Asia/Oceania Award (1 applicant)
   Janet Blake
   Architecture and Design Library
   Unitec New Zealand
   Auckland, New Zealand

ARLIS/NA Student Diversity Award (4 applicants)
   Juan Wang
   University of North Texas, School of Library and Information Science
   Denton, Texas

ARLIS/NA Student Travel Award (16 applicants)
   Katherine O'Dell
   University of Texas, School of Information
   Austin, Texas

ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan Action Items 2005-2010
Develop awards and possibly increase funding for additional student and student diversity travel awards as well as conference attendance award (see Strategic Plan 2000-2005-Goal IC). ARLIS/NA supported the Conference Attendance Award for the third sequential year and absorbed the cost of the Student Travel and Student Diversity Awards.

Executive Board issues:
1. The Committee would like clarification of its role in “developing” as opposed to “administering” the Travel Awards (see Strategic Plan 2000-2005 Ad Hoc Committee action items).

   a. The 2003 annual report stated “Specifically, direction is needed regarding responsibility for securing ongoing commitments for existing Travel awards through external sponsors under the ARLIS/NA comprehensive committee structure” and went on to state “Timely attention to sponsorship commitments is essential to TAC success in maintaining a workable timetable for announcement, application, review and notification.” This is especially important for international Awards due to the impact of obtaining visas within our short timeframe. As suggested by the previous TAC, the current TAC would like to institute two timetables for the Travel Awards, with an earlier cycle for the international awards. Crucial to the success of this plan would be the securing of funding by August so that earlier submission dates and review period could take place, with Award notification taking place in October, six months prior to the Conference.
We are pleased to report that having Co-Chairs for the Committee worked quite effectively. It allowed one chair to oversee the domestic awards and the other the international awards. Both the domestic and the international applicants and awardees have thus far benefited from more TAC attention in the application process.

b. The process for the “development” of the Awards themselves needs to be reviewed, with responsibilities clarified.

TAC has noted this year low applicant response for the RLG Asia/Oceania Award, the Andrew Cahan Photography Award and, initially, for the Karno Award. Potential causes may include: the timetable, procurement of travel visas, conference costs, as well as, for the Karno Award, the impact of the one-time Getty Latin American Travel Awards. When the Karno Award was re-announced to include domestic applicants working with significant Latin American art/architecture research collections or researching subjects or themes related to Latin American art/architecture, the applicant pool significantly increased.

2. The Board needs to decide whether it will continue to support a Student Diversity Award, either as an ongoing Award or on a yearly basis, or whether sponsor funding can be obtained. The Co-Chairs of TAC urge the Board to support the continuation of the Award. However, if this Award is to continue, there are issues which need to be ironed out such as: What is the Award to be named (this year’s name was somewhat ad hoc)? Is the Award to be restricted to the conference area or open? Should it be restricted to residents of North America from underrepresented groups? Or is the intent to increase diversity within the profession so that it should be eligible to international students studying within North America?

Potential causes for the low number of applicants in the first round may include the late timetable, little publicity, and insufficient funding. Removing the location requirement increased application pool, but, given the amount of the Award, may lead to situations in which the awardee is unable to attend due to financial constraints.

3. The Board needs to decide whether to continue offering a Student Travel Award and to work toward a steady funding model. The student applicant pool was healthy, as it has been in past years and many of the applicants were worthy. The Co-Chairs of TAC hope that this Award will continue to be offered, as it fulfills part of the Society’s educational mission.

4. If the Society wishes to support Travel Awards for members or students, the funding issue for these should be taken up at the Conference Board meeting, rather than the Mid-year Board meeting, so that the funds can be allocated for the upcoming year’s budget.

5. Lastly, at some point, the Board might want to re-consider whether mechanisms could be devised so that Award funds were advanced to awardees prior to the conference, while, at the same time, ensuring awardees’ conference attendance. This policy did not negatively affect any of this year’s awardees, but the need for winners to register and advance their own expenses is one that TAC must emphasize to each winner.