ARLIS/NA Group or Appointment: Urban & Regional Planning SIG

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Date: 04/07/2020

Leadership Update (incoming officers names and roles): N/A

Membership (current and incoming members): Current email list of membership: New members are emailed with instructions on how to subscribe or unsubscribe to the ARLIS listserve for the SIG:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cTIEYysXYTlnGaDfRnkKBv3lNH7JcTHONmrNKaMo5uQ/edit?usp=sharing

Activities during the past year:
  - We had a successful joint meeting with the Architecture Section in Salt Lake City at the 2019 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference. 5 members were in attendance at the meeting, all of whom belonged to both the Architecture Section and the URP SIG.
  - The dialogue about potentially merging the Architecture Section and the URP SIG had begun prior to the conference, was touched on at the 2019 conference, and continued afterwards between Rachel Castro (Moderator of the Architecture Section), Kai Alexis Smith (Incoming Moderator of the Architecture Section), and myself. Together, we looked ahead to the 2020 Annual conference in St. Louis, where we were able to schedule an official Joint Meeting between the two groups. At this meeting, we had been planning to broach the topic of merger with members, as well as a number of other items on the agenda, such as Avery Index updates.
  - We also organized a panel for the St. Louis conference, “Preserve, Enhance, Reimagine: Examining architecture and urban planning through a social justice...”
lens,” reaching out to local architecture and planning experts in St. Louis to participate on the panel.

- **Ongoing projects:**
  - Because the St. Louis conference was cancelled, we are moving ahead with joint collaboration virtually.
  - For example, we are looking to schedule a joint virtual meeting between the two groups. In order to do this seamlessly, Rachel Castro and I are comparing membership rosters for our two groups to determine the percentage of overlap between members that indicate interest in the Architecture Section, and members who indicate interest in the URP SIG. Anecdotally, we know there is overlap. Also anecdotally, we know that few members are able to attend either meeting at annual conferences, and we know that there are often conflicts for our members, many of whom do not feel they should have to choose between the two because their job duties require that they liaise with both fields.
  - We feel we will be able to better represent our members’ interests as a unified Architecture and Urban Planning group and are moving ahead with planning for this.
    - The recent updates to the ARLIS/NA Information Competences in the design fields, architecture, architecture history, and urban and regional planning. This reflects recent trends and updates in these fields, as well as the changing nature of librarianship.
    - Accreditation standards often mix these fields of study (architecture/urbanism/community and regional planning/design), and new collection guidelines (regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, and community protocols) compel us to present a unified and strengthened voice from which to present future programming for conferences and the needs of our members.
    - We will be able to better support our members switching to remote instruction.
    - We are looking at co-authoring reports geared toward DEISJ issues unique to the architecture and urban planning fields that will support librarians in their outreach, collection, and instruction efforts. Moving forward, we have already delegated roles for the three leaders of this group, as well as identified potential funding, and expanded resource lists for our members (such as accreditation bodies globally).
  - We are also investigating turning our panel presentation into a virtual one, and are in the process of contacting our panelists, who were local to the St. Louis area. We may also broaden the scope of the panel, since it will be a virtual meeting.

- **Preliminary goals** for next year:
Merged group that represents the Architecture Section members as well as the Urban and Regional Planning SIG members.

Draft(s) of reports or resources mentioned above

- Articulate how your activities, projects and goals relate to the ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions:
  - Leadership & Advocacy/Organizational Advancement/Art Information Professionals: The Architecture Section and the Urban and Regional Planning SIG members have the opportunity to join forces, improving our ability to plan programming at future conferences, voice concerns and needs of our members, and represent the evolving role of the art information professional. Even as we have started the planning process for a potential merger, it has become clearer how we might better advocate for and validate the unique needs of those art librarians who work with architecture and urban planning in their daily work. The merging of the two fields (while still unique) has already occurred in schools and programs over the last 5 years or so, as accreditation standards and protocols reflect increased interdisciplinarity and international/transnational influences. Through dialogue and collaboration, ARLIS/NA can better support its members. The leaders of the two groups are planning to create lists of resources and reports that will allow the two groups (or one merged group) to advocate for themselves within their individual contexts. These goals reflect what it means to be a member of ARLIS/NA - to not only be able to find community among your peers with similar interests and job duties, but also to be able to advocate for oneself within one’s career through professional development opportunities and tools made available through ARLIS/NA.

  - Diversity and Inclusion/Collections and Access/Innovation and Technology: We are forging ahead with planning and preparing Diversity Equity and Inclusion resources that represent underrepresented people, firms, and collections within the fields of architecture, urban, and community planning. MIT and Harvard have begun collection development guidelines particular to these concerns, and specifically reflecting African American practitioners. The University of New Mexico (UNM) has distinguished itself as a leader for Native American distinctive collections, in tandem with its Indigenous Design + Planning Institute. UNM also has a long history of Latin American distinctive collections, reaching back to at least the 1920s, with a wealth of resources we can draw upon. Finally, the University of Arizona also has ample resources surrounding Native American and Indigenous resources, womxn and female-identifying architects and planners, and borderlands collections. Through this initial compilation, we look forward to collaborating with Architecture Section and URP SIG members on diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, and access issues. We have identified potential sources for funding and are in the process of planning where such a publication would live, how it might develop, and who will be involved (including stakeholders). Such a report and lists of resources will be collaborative in nature, spanning organizations and institutions, and will promote enhanced collection management, and discovery and access to collections and resources. Similar to the Information Competencies document, we have discussed an open acces, creative-commons licensed report. An updated list of resources might live on the current Architecture Section website.

- Other (please share anything else you want the membership to know about your group or your role):