

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
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Chicago, Illinois**

**Discussion: Strategic Priority Activities Assigned to
Cultural Property Working Group**

(Prepared by Jennifer O’Neal, Co-Chair and Kelvin White, Co-Chair)

The SAA Cultural Property Working Group met on August, 8, 2012, at the annual SAA meeting in San Diego, California. Attendees included Liz Banks, Robert Leopold, Donna McCrea (Council liaison), Jennifer O’ Neal, Lisa Nguyen, Marisol Ramos (Chair), Sharon Thibodeau, and Kelvin White.

BACKGROUND

This report is being submitted because the SAA Council tasked the Cultural Property Working Group (CPWG) to address specific Strategic Plan activities related to the Diversity Strategic Priorities. Thus, this report addresses each measurable activity assigned to the CPWG and provides updates regarding how these initiatives are being addressed and prioritized. In addition, it also details questions that require clarification by the Council.

DISCUSSION

Detailed below are the specific Measurable Activities assigned to the CPWG by the SAA Council taken directly from the “Strategic Priority Outcomes and Activities Update, FY2010-FY2014.” Below each activity is a description (*in italics*) of how the CPWG is addressing this activity and whether or not it is reasonable and feasible for the group to accomplish. Then, for those that are feasible, specific details are included regarding how the group is addressing and prioritizing the activity. Also noted is what fiscal year the measurable activities will be accomplished; however, many of these tasks will be on-going each year.

Strategic Priority #2: Diversity

Desired Outcome #3: In cooperation with appropriate communities, develop SAA guidelines and resources on managing cultural property that will assist the broader archives community in dealing with cultural property issues.

[As the Cultural Property Working Group's work progresses following its appointment in 2010, measurable activities may change.]

Measurable Activities:

a. Identify allied professions/professionals and others whose practices could be considered. (FY 2011)

[ASSIGNED TO CULTURAL PROPERTY WORKING GROUP.]

The CPWG has considered this activity; however the group has questions about exactly what the Council envisioned for this activity. The CPWG can identify allied professions/professionals and others whose practice could be considered. However, we need to know what specifically the Council wants them to be considered for? Would this be for eventual development of guidelines and resources on managing cultural property or would this just be to have a list of individuals and professions to call on when expertise is required under specific circumstances? (FY 2013)

b. Appoint an individual or group to work with the American Library Association on its Traditional Cultural Expressions initiatives and make recommendations regarding additional tasks that SAA might undertake to advance this outcome. (FY 2010 – FY 2011)

- Engage in review of ALA's Traditional Cultural Expressions document (draft 6), and provide comments as appropriate. (Gottlieb, SAA groups [Diversity Committee, Intellectual Property Working Group, Native American Archives Roundtable, LACCHA Roundtable, Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable, Archivists of Religious Collections Section] and general membership; Staff; November 2010 – February 2011)

- Monitor development of ALA document and comment as appropriate. (Tibbo, SAA groups [as above, and including Cultural Property Working Group], Staff; ongoing)

The CPWG recognizes that the ALA TCE initiative has been completed (still in draft form); however, we will continue to monitor whether ALA continues with this effort in any way. The CPWG seeks clarification on whether or not the Council wants the CPWG to develop a similar statement/guidelines to what ALA developed regarding Traditional Cultural Expressions? And/or does the Council want the CPWG to propose for approval to the SAA Standards Committee a statement developed by the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in 2002 titled "IFLA Statement on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge" (see, <http://www.ifla.org/publications/ifla-statement-on-indigenous-traditional-knowledge>)? The CPWG would suggest creating our own statement and guidelines, rather than simply approving ones developed by other organizations. See also measurable activity (e) below. (FY 2013)

c. Identify major national/international initiatives taking place within the archives and allied professions that pertain to the management of cultural property. (FY 2011)

[ASSIGNED TO CULTURAL PROPERTY WORKING GROUP.]

The CPWG has added this task to its current ongoing activities. The focus will be not only identifying and gathering this information, but disseminating information to the SAA membership through our website and future blog. CPWG members will highlight various initiatives, as well as conferences and similar gatherings that deal specifically with archives and cultural heritage issues and related conferences in allied disciplines. (FY 2013)

d. Establish an online clearinghouse resource page of information about managing cultural property, gathered from multiple sources. (FY 2012) [Revised by the SAA Council in January 2012.]

[ASSIGNED TO CULTURAL PROPERTY WORKING GROUP.]

The CPWG has added this task to its current ongoing activities. The group will be developing our website as a Resource Page as a go-to place for resource information for SAA members and non-members about archives and cultural heritage issues. The following information and sections will be added (please note that this initiative relates to measurable activities below as well): current and upcoming conferences, major national/international initiatives within the archives and other allied professions, blog on recent conferences or initiatives, links to resources (ie. WIPO, UNESCO, established guidelines by other professions, etc.), and a bibliography. (FY 2013)

e. Enter into proactive communication with communities that have created cultural property to share views and, if possible, develop protocols that define mutually acceptable standards for care, access, and use of cultural material. (FY 2012 – FY 2014)

[ASSIGNED TO CULTURAL PROPERTY WORKING GROUP.]

The CPWG wants to address this issue; however, the group is currently focusing our efforts on setting a strong foundation of communication and dissemination of information with SAA members through the development of our website and blog. Therefore, this initiative is a lower priority and will have to wait to the next fiscal year (FY2014).

See also measurable activity (a) for further details and clarification. For example, the CPWG members are actively engaged with various communities creating cultural property, but does the Council want the CPWG to develop specific guidelines and protocols regarding standards for care, access, and use of cultural material? Or simply develop a statement similar to what ALA created? This effort will be on hold until FY2014 or until we receive clarification from the Council on how to proceed.

f. Identify key cultural property texts and submit proposal(s) to the Publications Board for their addition to the SAA online bookstore. (FY 2012)

All members of the CPWG are identifying cultural heritage publications appropriate for sale in the SAA online bookstore. Many of these titles will come from the bibliography list currently under development. (FY 2013)

g. Develop and implement a strategy for the creation of resources and tools, such as case studies and model policies, that could assist archivists in collecting and developing access policies for property from other cultures. (FY 2012 – FY 2014)

The CPWG has added this task to its current ongoing activities. A list of titles is currently being reviewed and will be added to the website. In addition, specific case studies are being gathered from members, which will be part of the main bibliography assessable through the main CPWG website. (FY2013)

h. Identify, develop, and submit proposal(s) to the Publications Board for the addition of appropriate terminology on cultural property issues to SAA's *A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology*. (FY 2012 – FY 2013)

The CPWG has added this task to its current ongoing activities. Members are currently identifying possible additions related to cultural heritage which will be formally submitted through the established process outlined on the SAA Glossary website. (FY2013)

i. Promote cultural property issues through the development of annual meeting sessions and articles in *American Archivist* and *Archival Outlook*. (FY 2012 – FY 2014)

The CPWG has added this task to its current ongoing activities. Members developed a specific session for the next annual meeting, entitled "To Protect and Connect: Strategic Stewardship of Cultural Heritage Material in the Archives," which has recently been approved by the Program Committee. This will be an ongoing effort each year. The CPWG members would also like to promote and develop articles for The American Archivist and Archival Outlook; however, due to other priorities currently undertaken, this activity will have to wait until FY2014. In the meantime the co-chairs will investigate the process for working with the publication editors to submit and solicit articles on this topic.