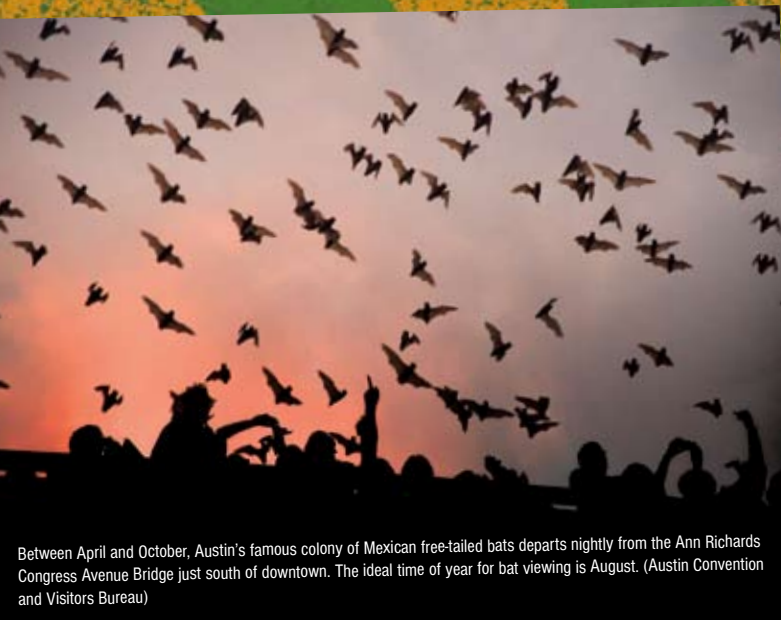


COME AND GO BATTERY IN AUSTIN '09



Between April and October, Austin's famous colony of Mexican free-tailed bats departs nightly from the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge just south of downtown. The ideal time of year for bat viewing is August. (Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau)

Little did any of us know how profoundly different the landscape would look only a few months after the issue of the *Sustainable Archives: AUSTIN 2009* call for proposals last summer. *Sustainable Archives* has taken a more remarkable turn of meaning in these days of dramatic economic downturn. Many of us find ourselves preparing for a timely message about how important archives and records programs are to maintaining the continuity of mission and operations. Fortunately, the profession as a whole has positioned itself in recent years to argue convincingly for the value of solid archival approaches and practices. We have managed the shifting undercurrent of new materials, tools, and expertise. Now, more than ever, program sustainability is on our minds.

Imagine the changed world that informs the preparation of this year's program participants! Although the Program Committee anticipated an impact on the archival community as a result of the 2008 presidential election, few expected management of archival records to be President Obama's initial priority on his first day in office! With the rescinding of Executive Order 13233 on presidential records, something real and symbolic has been achieved concerning the fundamental importance of access to public documents and the role of the archivist (in this case of the United States) as a fair and impartial arbiter against the claims of privilege and power.

All of this heady change – a collapsing economy and a political realignment – is occasion to pause for considering the state of our profession. For these reasons, the 2009 meeting theme – Sustainable Archives – and the fact that this is a joint meeting with the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) has relevancy. We have to be ready to exploit our resources fully, adapt and integrate ready-to-apply solutions, raise our profile in the organizational mix, and tell our story broadly and convincingly to our stakeholders.

What a response we have received! As in anticipation of the exciting changes and challenges we now face, members submitted a record number of program proposals. Abstracts spanned traditional and provocative topics, including online communities and culture shock, documenting under-represented communities, videogame archiving, whistle blower ethics, cultural privacy, replevin, social networking, the evolving perspectives on records and non-records, as well as “The Light, Literary, and Lascivious Side of Archives”!

Many sessions combine the meeting theme and sponsoring organizations' strategic priorities, specifically SAA's Technology, Diversity, and Public Awareness/Advocacy and CoSA's goals to Ensure Ongoing Viability, Secure Funding, and Provide Service:

✦ **Technology** sessions feature digitization workflows to build sustainable models that focus on access and “do it once” approaches; sustainable information management strategies; Web 2.0 to build collections and donor relationships; and digital delivery of traditional visual collections.

✦ **Public Awareness / Advocacy** themes are found throughout the program and are especially highlighted by “SAA Fellows Speak Out on Advocating for Archives Programs” and “How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Electronic Records Preservation.” The SAA Fellows session will solicit topics prior to the Annual Meeting and promises to be an interactive session with audience participation.

✦ **Diversity** is evident in the variety of topics, projects, and participants featured at the Annual Meeting. Diversity enters into an area that we claim as a specialty in “Appraising the Archives Profession,” but also provokes us to acknowledge our role in marginalizing others in “Strategies for Accommodating People with Physical Impairments and Disabilities.” Both sessions draw upon market research data, including a 2008 survey conducted by a joint working group of the Archives Management and Records Management roundtables.

✦ **Ensuring Ongoing Viability** – sustainability – is a broad, workplace concept addressed by multiple sessions. Many of us will relate to the need to enhance internal relationships by engaging our chief information officer, learning the IT language and motivations, and expanding organizational relationships through collaboration among libraries, archives, and museums to increase efficiency and to better serve users.

✦ **Securing Funding** is a pressing need for every archives manager. The 2009 meeting offers sessions on how to secure funding and how to make use of *free* resources. Two sessions highlight cooperative initiatives between SHRABs and repositories to obtain federal grants for archival work, training, and outreach



A cannon sits in front of the Texas Capitol Building. Architect Elijah Myers designed the Renaissance Revival-style, built of sunset red granite from Marble Falls. Completed in 1888, it is the third capitol building in Texas history and stands 310 feet tall. (Lower Colorado River Authority)

COSA AND SAA ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE AUSTIN 2009 PROGRAM COMMITTEE!

Mark J. Duffy (Co-Chair)

The Archives of the Episcopal Church

Aimee M. Felker (Co-Chair)

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National Archives and Records Administration

Susan von Salis

Harvard Art Museum

Jelain Chubb

(*Ex officio* - 2010 Co-Chair)

Ben Primer

(*Ex officio* - 2010 Co-Chair)

activities, such as Archives Month. Other sessions describe and demonstrate open-source tools that support social tagging, blogging, user-contributed content, and Web 2.0 functions to enhance the value and cost effectiveness of online digital content. *Innovation anyone?*

✦ **Providing Service** through the management of local government archives projects is a specialty that all of us appreciate not only as archivists but as citizens. Attendees will find sessions that explore ways to sustain new and existing local government archives – or, for that matter, any archives – through business plans, outreach initiatives, and non-competitive collection development collaborations.

What else can you expect to find at *Sustainable Archives: AUSTIN 2009*? Beginning April 15, you can check out the full-text Preliminary Program at www.archivists.org/conference (another first!) for scheduled events, including pre-conference workshops, the Research Forum, Section and Roundtable programs, expanded poster sessions, the Native American Protocols Forum, special activities, the ever-popular and not-to-be-missed *Archives in the Movies*, and much more!

Come and go batty in Austin! Reconnect with old friends, make some new ones, and celebrate our professional milestones, including the Academy of Certified Archivists' 20th anniversary and NARA's and NHPRC's 75th anniversary. Enjoy the tastes and especially the blazing sounds of America's Live Music Capital. And most of all – sustain *yourself* professionally by participating in the Joint Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists and the Council of State Archivists in Austin. See y'all there!

✦ 2009 Program Committee Co-Chairs, Aimee M. Felker and Mark J. Duffy

