

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 10, 2009
Austin, Texas**

**Report: 2009 Host Committee
(Prepared by Brenda Gunn, Chair)**

BACKGROUND

The 2009 Host Committee included members representing the diversity of repositories in Austin. The members of the Committee are:

Daniel Alonzo	Austin History Center, City of Austin
Ellen Kuniyuki Brown	Baylor University
Stephen Cooper	The University of Texas at Austin
Melinda Curley	Lower Colorado River Authority
Mat Darby	The University of Texas at Austin
Susan Eason	Catholic Archives of Texas
David B. Gracy II	School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin
Brenda Gunn	The University of Texas at Austin
Chris LaPlante	Texas State Library and Archives Commission
Stephanie Malmros	The University of Texas at Austin
Ben Rogers	Baylor University
Rebecca Romanchuk	Texas State Library and Archives Commission
Laura Saegert	Texas State Library and Archives Commission
Katharine Salzmann	Texas State University
Mark Shelstad	The University of Texas at San Antonio
Susan Soy	Austin History Center, City of Austin

As the list indicates, the 2009 Host Committee members represented academic, corporate, religious, government, and public library repositories, as well as a graduate archives education program.

The Committee also received support from the following departments of the University of Texas for three Pre-conference workshops requiring computer labs and wireless connections: the Learning Technology Laboratory, School of Education; Chemistry Computer Lab, Department of Chemistry; and University of Texas libraries.

DISCUSSION

The Host Committee's charge included determining the format and venues for repository tours and open houses. These 14 repositories represent the diversity of holdings within the Austin archives community:

- Archives of the Episcopal Church
- Austin History Center
- LCRA Corporate Archives
- Lyndon Baines Johnson President Library and Museum
- Texas General Land Office (Archives and Records)
- Texas State Capitol and Visitors Center
- Texas State Library and Archives Commission
- The University of Texas at Austin
 - Alexander Architectural Archive
 - Dolph Briscoe Center for American History
 - Alexander Architectural Archive
 - Harry Ransom Center
 - The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection
 - Tarlton Law Library, Jamail Center for Legal Research, School of Law
 - The Kilgarlin Center for Preservation of the Cultural Record, School of Information

Archival Outlook articles written by the Committee promoted both the meeting's sustainability theme and the diverse natural treasures, attractions, and people of Austin. Committee members were mindful of diversity when culling images from their repositories' collections, and those photographs submitted for use in *Archival Outlook*, the *Preliminary Program*, the *Onsite Program*, and the SAA website represented diverse themes.

The Austin Host Committee went beyond the usual charge for committee work. The committee created an "Austin Ambassador" program to assist local efforts in getting the word out to the SAA and CoSA about the host city. The Austin Ambassador group consists of 44 individuals representing 13 states and the District of Columbia. The majority of the Austin Ambassadors are employed in archives at academic institutions; however, public libraries, museum archives, corporate archives, state archives, and NARA are represented as well. In addition, several students and a few faculty round out the membership. The Host Committee employed the Austin Ambassador group as an extension of the Host Committee's promotional efforts. The Committee solicited input - on favorite places to eat, things to do, places to visit - and used that information in building the "All About Austin" materials for the SAA website and for the "Austin is for Archivists" blog. By drawing on the diversity of interests and tastes of this ambassador group, the Host Committee could more effectively present the best of Austin.

The Host Committee also created a blog that it very specifically used to promote the city, not the program or meeting itself. The School of Information, the University of Texas at Austin, provided server space for the blog, Committee members, and, in a few instances, the Austin Ambassadors provided content. "Austin is for Archivists" (<http://www.archives2009.org/>) features posts on diverse topics ranging from architecture, good eats, food, recreation, tourism, history, housing, and music, among others. By using video clips from a local Austin public

television show, *Downtown Austin*, the Committee provided evidence of the diverse neighborhoods, cultures, and interests of the city that greatly enhanced the text posts.

With the sustainability theme in mind, the Host Committee recommended a venue for the All-Attendee reception that is an excellent example of sustainability in architecture: The Long Center for the Performing Arts. The deconstruction of Austin's old civic facility, Palmer Auditorium, resulted in 44 million pounds of construction material, more than 95 percent of which has been recycled, reused in other projects throughout the region, or repurposed for The Long Center itself. The reception will be held on the City Terrace where attendees will enjoy the wonderful view of the Austin nighttime skyline.