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Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

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Vice President's Column: MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Erik Moore, University of Minnesota

This past August, the Society of American Archivists held its annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. I usually attend, but due to a busy calendar, I was unable to make it to Atlanta and became one of many tweeting with the hash tag #SAALeftBehind.

While many tweets were humorous and provided a reminder that not everyone knew what conference attendees were referring to, even with the hashtag of the session number, they demonstrated that not all archivists are able to attend our professional gatherings for a variety of reasons. Some missed for happy events, like the birth of a child, while others wished to attend but could not afford the time away from work, travel costs, and registration fees. It is a great reminder as to why we have professional gatherings and that the focus remains on you, the MAC membership, in our meeting planning and budgeting. Your elected MAC leadership is always interested in hearing your perspective on what works, and what doesn't; what keeps you coming to our meetings, and what prevents you from attending.

So that no one is #MACLeftBehind, here are a few updates on the who, what, where, and when of MAC's upcoming meetings and symposia.

Fall Symposium, Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 7–8, 2016

As you read this, time is short before this fall's Symposium, "Archivists and Copyright." There may still be spaces left! Details are on the MAC website and the front page of this newsletter.

Annual Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska, April 5–8, 2017

Known as the "Gateway to the West," home of the Reuben sandwich (really), and birthplace of Warren Buffett, Gerald Ford, and Malcolm X, join us in Omaha as Nebraska celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2017. While there, you can enjoy the Old Market area, a fantastic selection of restaurants, and a vibrant art and music scene. It will also be an opportune time to celebrate MAC's 45th anniversary! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2017 Annual Meeting hosted by our Local Arrangements Committee cochaired by Mary Ellen Ducey, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and Amy Schindler, University of

Nebraska–Omaha. The Program Committee, cochaired by Sasha Griffin, Denison University, and Harrison Inefuku, Iowa State University, is currently evaluating the responses to the call for proposals and is planning on an incredible slate of sessions. In addition, look for an upcoming call for the poster session.

Fall Symposium, "Transitioning from Good to Great Exhibits," Columbus, Ohio, October 12–13, 2017

Most archivists are faced with creating exhibits, from one-case displays to multilayered exhibits, but often do not have the necessary training to build them efficiently and effectively. Join MAC in Columbus, Ohio, to learn exhibit planning and development, engagement, learning opportunities, assessment, and outreach. Our hosts are Lisa Carter, associate director for Special Collections and Area Studies, and Tamar Chute, university archivist, both at The Ohio State University. The instructors will include Jenny Robb, curator of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum.

Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, dates and place TBA

MAC's birthplace is Chicago, and we have been away from home since 2010. The Chicago Local Arrangements Committee, headed by Andrea Bainbridge, DePaul University, and Andy Steadham, Rotary International, in cooperation with the Chicago Area Archivists, is working with Debbie Nolan of AMC Source to identify a MAC-friendly location. Watch this column as well as future announcements from MAC for more information.

Where to next? MAC's 2018 Symposium and future meetings are waiting to come to you! If you have ideas or would like to consider hosting a meeting, please feel free to contact me at moore144@umn.edu. I would welcome the opportunity to help you plan out a proposal and to make sure no one is left behind.