

Fran Ritchie, Michelle Sullivan, Elyse Driscoll, Jessica Walthew, Anne Schaffer, Kimi Taira, Alexa Beller, and Rebecca Gridley

INTRODUCTION

This collaborative poster from AIC's Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN) highlights ongoing work aimed to foster local conservation communities led by designated **Regional Liaisons**. Founded in 2008, ECPN focuses on providing resources and programming that enhance the professional development of pre-program candidates, graduate students, and early-career conservators. ECPN Regional Liaisons are volunteers who have committed to organizing events with the goal of building local communities that provide support to conservators in the beginning stages of their careers. Regional Liaisons also act as links between ECPN officers and local networks, distributing announcements and other information. By creating this community, Liaisons bring conservators together, facilitate learning, and promote awareness of the larger preservation field.

ECPN is currently represented by Liaisons in nineteen cities across the United States: from Seattle to Atlanta, and Chicago to Houston. This poster highlights a few of the events organized by our motivated and enthusiastic Regional Liaisons, demonstrating the impact of building these communities and the important role ECPN can play in supporting early career conservators.

Find Your Regional Liaison

Want to get involved with your local ECPN group? Many of our regional liaisons have a Facebook group you can join or you can contact any of the current ECPN Officers. For more information, please visit the "Emerging Conservation Professionals" section on the official American Institute for Conservation website.

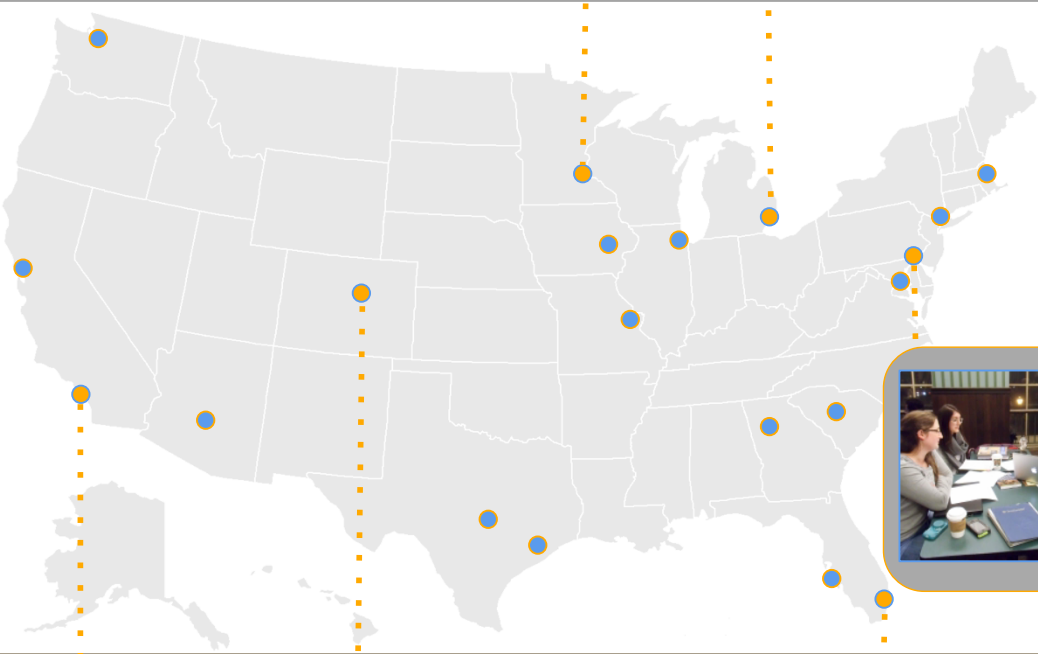


One of the social events we hosted was a behind-the-scenes tour of a 'public' or 'in the gallery' conservation treatment at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. The viewing gallery was titled "Restoring a Masterwork III: Max Beckmann's Blind Man's Buff." It was the third paintings treatment project carried out in their galleries by the Midwest Art Conservation Center. A paintings conservator led a private tour for the ECPN group to discuss the painting and the treatment project. The tour was attended by one Buffalo graduate, two pre-program students, two art history graduates, and one curious writer doing research. After the tour, four of us went to dinner and discussed art history and conservation over some fabulous food and wine.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

In southeast Michigan, we started a potluck game night that generally happens once every month or so. A few of us emerging conservators or younger conservators had moved to the area but we didn't all know each other. We knew, however, that probably all of us could use a friend(s) in a new place, so we started a game night. It was mainly because my coworker and I like board games, but it was also an excuse to bring people together and take some of the social pressure off by having an activity. We found very quickly that an activity wasn't necessary. We usually never get to a game because we are too busy chatting and eating. Our group is made up of emerging professionals, pre-programmers, professionals later in their career, and the children and partners of all.

Detroit, Michigan



Participate in an Event

Liaison-initiated events have included:

- application and resume review sessions
- digital, online, and hard copy portfolio review sessions
- conservation lab tours
- informal social gatherings
- museum field trips
- attendance at relevant lectures
- participation in initiatives (e.g. Artist Research Project lead by Voices in Contemporary Art)

Most events are open to conservators at all levels, and welcome established conservators who can help build a broader conservation community and may serve as mentors.

Become a Regional Liaison

We want you! If you would like to volunteer to become a Regional Liaison for your area, email any ECPN officer (see instructions above) with your CV and a brief Statement of Interest. ECPN provides official Liaisons with a toolkit of tips and ideas on how to develop a local community. We ask you to commit to hosting at least two events per year, keep tabs on your region's membership, and submit short summaries to ECPN Outreach officers. There are no requirements for the type of event, nor the number of participants. Photographs and social media posts are encouraged! Liaison terms usually begin in the spring and last for one year, although initiating or taking over a new region can begin at any time, and the role may be extended to two or more years. No conservation experience is necessary to become a liaison, only a desire to build a conservation network!



In November before graduate school applications were due, we held a successful Write/Edit-A-Thon event. A good mix of people from different stages/years of applying to the graduate programs were able to attend. We provided a checklist for the application and essay prompt information for the programs at Buffalo State, NYU and WILDPAIC, as well as an example of a conservation portfolio. Those who were in the process of writing their essays (or had already written a first draft) were able to have their peers review and provide constructive criticism. Hosting the event in a Barnes & Noble worked out beautifully. People were able to purchase coffees or other beverages but were still able to spread-out their work and speak at a normal volume.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



In response to Voices of Contemporary Art's call to participate with the Artist Research Project, we assembled a team of pre-program and professional conservators to document the outdoor sculpture, Playground 3/3, by Tony Smith, in the Beverly Gardens Park in Beverly Hills. Using a digital SLR and the ArtStudio app on an iPad, we completed photodocumentation and condition diagrams of the sculpture. Notes and research were compiled in a Wikipedia article.



Los Angeles, California

I collaborated with the University of Denver to have a Portfolio Review day for ECPs in the area. Because DU has an undergraduate program in art conservation, many of the Colorado ECPN members are also enrolled in the DU program. Faculty from DU as well as conservators from the Denver Art Museum, Clifford Still Museum, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, as well as conservators in private practice in Denver were able to attend to provide feedback on CVs and portfolios for pre-program students.

Denver, Colorado

While acting as regional liaison for ECPN in Florida, I planned monthly discussion group events for emerging and established conservators. We would select a conservation topic and read related short articles to discuss in person. The discussions incorporated guest speakers, which was a great way to network with other conservators in an area where they can be very hard to find. Topics we covered included: Disaster Response and Preparedness, Ethical Considerations for treatment of Native American Artifacts, Authenticity and Interpretation of Historic Restoration Approaches, Approaches to Conservation of Contemporary Art, Methods for Loss Compensation in Paintings, and RTI Imaging for Art and Archaeology. Our events proved very successful and I think this was a good way to generate discussion when there were not a lot of outside art exhibits or possible labs or archives to visit, etc. We have also made a point of doing some more social activities such as film screenings, Art Basel Miami, and attending the AIC conference in Miami.

Miami, Florida

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our past and current Regional Liaisons -- keep up the good work! We would especially like to thank those who shared their experiences with us: Brittany Dolph Dinneen, Lily Doan, Kimberly Frost, Amber Kehoe, Jacinta Johnson, Jen Munch, Courtney Murray, Marysara Naczi, Erin Stephenson, Keara Teeter, Maggie Wessling, and Aisha Wahab.