



Materials Selection & Specifications WG (MWG)

The Materials Selection and Specification Working Group (MWG) is a community of collection care, conservation, analytical science, and allied professionals united in developing guidelines and best practices for selecting, evaluating, and disseminating information about materials used in collection care.

Origin

The initial structure and goals for the MWG were laid out during a February 8-9, 2018 hosted meeting by the Smithsonian Institution. The MWG proposal for an exploratory group under the Collection Care Network was approved by the AIC Board in May 2018 with a two-year exploratory charge.

MWG Structure:

- **Materials Selection & Specifications**

Develop an approach (decision-making process) to help end-users in the selection of appropriate materials, including specifications and/or guidelines.

- **Materials Testing & Standards**

Identify and refine methods for evaluating materials and improve means for their implementation and interpretation, for end-users within the collections care community.

- **Resources & Dissemination**

Gather, package, and disseminate data, information, and best practices to aid in choosing materials for storage, exhibition, and transport, for the benefit of collecting institutions and cultural heritage communities.

Goals

- Survey to identify need, parallel initiatives or projects, and potential partnerships
- Develop an initial online presence on the AIC wiki
- Develop standardized protocols for materials testing, coordinate research between labs, evaluate test methods
- Plan for a web presence/resource; define its profile, architecture, costs, potential funders
- Produce content (case studies, fact sheets, practical guide for end users)
- Determine best methods for obtaining community feedback
- Identify areas where crucial research is needed and create collaborative relationships
- Broaden outreach to the international collection care community

Future Work

- Annual working meeting to be held: November 1st and 2nd in New York City, co-hosted by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History
- Continued work includes virtual meetings, conference calls and group effort throughout the year

Please let us know if you are interested in participating by contacting Rebecca Kaczowski (kaczkowskir@si.edu).

MWG Current Members

Rebecca Kaczkowski, MWG Chair, Preventive Conservator, Museum Conservation Institute, Smithsonian Institution

Materials Selection & Specification

- Vincent Beltran, Assistant Scientist, Getty Conservation Institute
- Jennifer Bosworth, Exhibits Conservator, Freer/Sackler
- Luci Ciperá, Conservator, Canadian Museum of Nature
- Chris Emo, Fabrication Supervisor, Smithsonian Exhibits
- James Gleason, Associate Preventive Conservator, National Gallery of Art
- Bethann Heinbaugh, Head of Preventive Conservation, National Gallery of Art
- Chris Kirages, Cost Estimator, Smithsonian Exhibits
- Carolyn Leckie, Conservator, Canadian Museum of Nature
- Nancy Lev-Alexander, Head, Preventive Conservation, Library of Congress
- T. Ashley McGrew, Preparator, Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University & PACCIN liaison
- Antje Neumann, Supervisory Conservator, National Museum for African American History and Culture
- Andrew Robb, Head, Special Format Conservation, Conservation Division, Library of Congress
- Patricia Silence, Director of Conservation Operations, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Michael Skalka, Conservation Administrator, National Gallery of Art

Materials Testing & Standards

- Eric Breitung, Senior Research Scientist, Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Daniel Burge, Senior Research Scientist, Photographic Arts & Sciences, Rochester Institute of Technology
- John Dunphy, Vice President & General Manager, University Products Inc.
- Pamela Hatchfield, Head of Objects Conservation, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- Catharine Hawks, Museum Conservator, National Museum of Natural History
- Susan Heald, Textile Conservator, National Museum of the American Indian
- Emily Kaplan, Objects Conservator, National Museum of the American Indian
- Gwénaëlle Kavich, Conservation Scientist, Museum Conservation Institute
- Chris Maines, Conservation Scientist, National Gallery of Art
- G. Asher Newsome, Research Physical Scientist, Museum Conservation Institute
- Greg Smith, Senior Conservation Scientist, Indianapolis Museum of Art
- Jean Tetreault, Senior Conservation Scientist, Preservation Services Division, Canadian Conservation Institute

Resources & Dissemination

- Rachael Arenstein, Conservator, A.M. Art Conservation, LLC & e-Editor, American Institute for Conservation
- Mary Coughlin, Assistant Professor and Director of Museum Studies Distance Education, George Washington University.
- Lisa Elkin, Chief Registrar and Director of Conservation, American Museum of Natural History
- Linda Ford, Director of Collections Operations, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University & President, Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
- Lisa Goldberg, Conservator, Goldberg Preservation Services, LLC & Editor, AIC News
- Joelle Wickens, Preventive Conservator, Winterthur Museum & Associate Director, WUDPAC