

Fall Symposium Recap

The first MAC-sponsored event held in North Dakota did not disappoint. The 2019 Fall Symposium, “I’m Alone, No You’re Not: Solo and Small Shop Archivists Retreat,” offered a unique, uplifting experience for 37 archivists. Inspired by research professor Brené Brown’s work on vulnerability, the retreat-style Symposium offered attendees a chance to get to know each other on a deeper and more meaningful level while creating space to share the challenges and opportunities unique to working alone or with a small staff.

Dayna Del Val, CEO and president of The Arts Partnership, kicked off the Symposium with an inspiring message on the value of the “unusual suspects.” She encouraged the audience to own their own value by considering how archivists can stimulate new ways of thinking when they are invited to engage with other decision-makers. Del Val noted that solo and small-shop archivists are doing warriors’ work in preserving that which makes us human.

Participants, who were divided into small cohorts, participated in the same four sessions together on the first day of the Symposium. Each session provided opportunities to connect concepts and ideas from Brené Brown’s book, *Dare to Lead*, with various aspects of archival work. These sessions focused on creating “Mastermind” groups, professional growth, advocacy and development, and project management. Hands-on activities and group discussions helped build connections within each cohort. The second day of the Symposium offered participants a chance to attend additional sessions on digital preservation, online access, and arrangement and description.

Life coach and career counselor Kelly Meyer opened and closed each day of the Symposium. She set the stage by describing the power of participating in a Mastermind group. These groups are encouraged to meet about once a week to give members a chance to brainstorm ideas, provide peer accountability, and offer assistance as members sharpen and enhance their work skills. The small groups formed during the Symposium were encouraged to continue working together as Mastermind groups to provide the much-needed support that solo and small-shop archivists need from their peers.

The Local Arrangement Committee is pleased that so many archivists traveled to Fargo to participate in in the 2019 Fall Symposium, and we hope that everyone went home with new skills, connections, and ideas.

All photos courtesy of Anita Taylor Doering, archives manager, La Crosse Public Library



Dayna Del Val, CEO and president of The Arts Partnership, gives the opening plenary session. She focused on the value artists and cultural heritage organizations bring to their communities.



Kelly Meyer, life coach, career counselor, and Mastermind facilitator, led Symposium attendees in the principles of Masterminds: networking groups that offer encouragement and support.

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Alexis Braun Marks, university archivist at Eastern Michigan University, who also served on the Symposium Committee, led a break-out session on digital preservation.



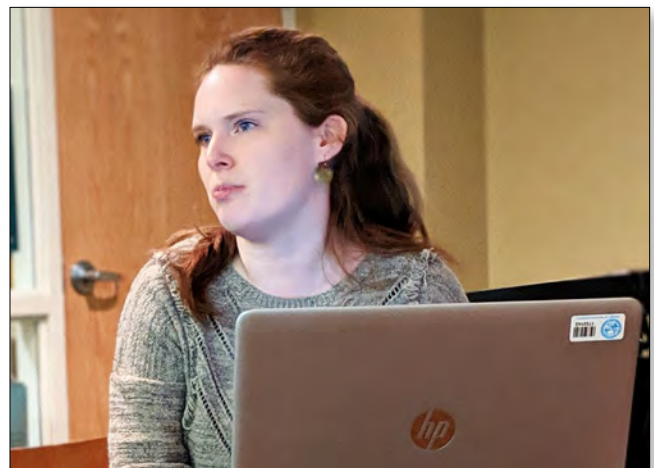
Colleen McFarland Rademaker, archivist at the Corning Museum of Glass, came back to the Midwest to lead a break-out session on advocacy and development.



Lisa Sjoberg, registrar at Concordia College, who also served on the Symposium Committee, returned to her roots in the archival profession to lead a break-out session on professional growth.



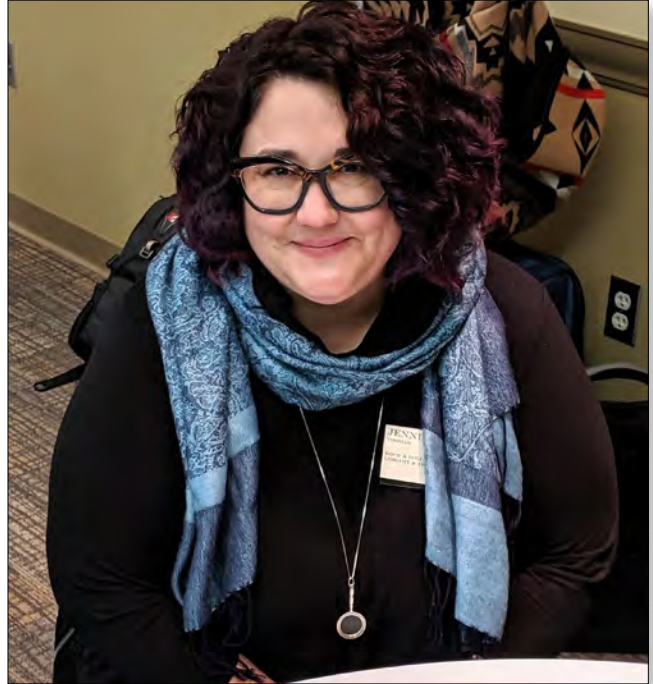
David McCartney, university archivist at the University of Iowa, led a break-out session on arrangement and description.



Trista Raezer-Stursa, university archivist at Minnesota State University Moorhead, who also served on the Symposium Committee, coled a break-out session on access online and on-site.



Josh Ranger, university archivist at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, coleads a break-out session on access online and on-site.



Jennie Thomas, director of archives at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, led a break-out session on project management.



Stephanie Baltzer Kom, State Historical Society of North Dakota, coleads a break-out session on access online and on-site.



Kelly Meyer addresses Symposium attendees from all over the MAC region.



Some attendees chose to network over dinner at Rhombus Guys, a pizza restaurant in downtown Fargo.