

Vice President's Column MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Michelle Sweetser, Bowling Green State University



Flexibility has certainly been my personal byword over the past year, both at home and in my professional life. And it probably has been for many of you as well. Last summer, I wrote that, as an organization, MAC would be flexible in its approaches and try new things while continuing to serve the needs of our members in a changing world.

And flexible we have been. In early February, the Education Committee (EC) announced its first virtual webinar for both MAC members and the profession at large. Over 600 people attended the session with Robin M. Katz—in fact, so many registered that we had to increase our Zoom license less than a week after we announced the event! Initial feedback about this offering has been positive: kudos to EC cochair Amy Bishop and committee member Carrie Schwier on a successful event. The EC held a second webinar on April 6 with Scott Pitol.

Not only did the webinar provide a fabulous learning opportunity for the archival community, it gave MAC volunteers (including me) some vital virtual meeting experience. How do you estimate the expected number of attendees? How do you set up a registration page? How do you send out a follow-up email to attendees? Are there any unanticipated costs? We now better understand the Zoom webinar platform itself, are better able to estimate and anticipate the amount of time and activities that contribute to a successful virtual event,

and recognize the ways in which AMC Source can help to set up and manage Zoom events. I think of this webinar as MAC's training wheels toward a successful virtual Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Program Committee cochairs Cara Bertram and Kayla Harris reported that the committee received 24 session proposals, 15 poster proposals, and 4 virtual tour proposals by their January 31 deadline. We have the makings of a great conference, though we're still exploring the best ways to create opportunities for interactions around posters, to allow vendors to present their services, to facilitate interaction among attendees, and more. Don't forget to block off your calendar on May 13–14 to join us for "Archivists Respond." You'll receive comprehensive details about the virtual Annual Meeting and how to sign into Zoom, but given the virtual environment, this will be later than for an in-person meeting. Just as MAC leaders and volunteers are being flexible, I'm sure you'll understand and appreciate the alternate planning timeline we are all operating under.

And one final thing: our Fall Symposium—"Local Collections in the Digital Age"—will be held on November 4–5, 2021, one way or another. We'll either meet in person in Kansas City or online via Zoom! How's that for flexibility?

Fall Symposium November 4–5, 2021

On November 4 and 5, 2021, we look forward to welcoming you to experience Kansas City jazz, BBQ, history, and the 2021 MAC Fall Symposium "Local Collections in the Digital Age." If it is possible to do so safely, the Symposium will be held at the University of Missouri–Kansas City. If not, it will be held virtually. Program details, lodging, and registration information will be forthcoming. Watch for details in the July issue of the *MAC Newsletter*.