

Vice President's Column

By Benn Joseph, Northwestern University

Well, I just got back from the MAC Fall Symposium in Indianapolis! This was actually my first Symposium, and it was such a great experience. I was surprised at how few attendees I knew—but that actually worked out great since the smaller nature of the Symposium is such that you have plenty of opportunities to speak one-on-one with new folks. Plus, you don't have to worry about getting overwhelmed by sheer numbers or by needing to figure out where your next session is going to be. I am definitely planning to attend the Symposium next year—maybe I'll see you there? Thanks once again to presenters Carey Champion, Carrie Schwier, and Carol Street, and cochairs Bethany Fiechter and Jackie Shalberg.

2023 Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

I hope you're looking forward to the Annual Meeting in Chicago as much as I am. Among other things, I have to say that I'm incredibly excited about the plenary speaker the Program Committee (PC) was able to bring on board. Not sure if there's officially a contract yet though, so I won't say more at this point (other than: get excited!). There is one big change in the works that is something of a departure from the norm over past years, which is that Thursday evening's all-attendee reception will be held IN THE HOTEL. Why, you ask? The reason is cost, like anything else, and, as inflation unfortunately continues to be a component of each aspect of event planning, the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) and I agreed that, since the main benefit of the all-attendee reception is the opportunity to connect with colleagues, we'd be able to have a much nicer event in the hotel than we would breaking the bank contracting with an external organization. We hope you'll still have time to explore the city while you're there.

I'd also like to add that the LAC, PC, and I are very excited to be in contact with the Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC) to host an event during the upcoming Annual Meeting as part of the conference itself. The MAC Education Committee is also hard at work soliciting workshop proposals and planning for a

DEIA Unconference to be held in connection with the Annual Meeting at a separate location. Look for news about this shortly if you haven't heard about it already. And, as I always like to point out, you won't be reading this until January, so who knows what new developments will have taken place by then?

One less exciting piece of news to report is that the number of session proposals received this year did not break any records, and I would wager this is due in part to the elevated amount of work many of us are grappling with and possibly even some level of burnout. This certainly isn't unique to the archives field, as I've been reading about how widespread this has become for a while now. I hope everyone reading this is able to take some time for self-care. Might this be something to submit a pop-up session about soon?

2023 Fall Symposium, Louisville, Kentucky

The theme for 2023's Fall Symposium will focus on disaster preparedness and recovery. I actually hadn't realized that disaster recovery is a training topic until recently—it sounded kind of like a training session where you toss some boxes of records into a pool and then "retrieve" them. As I later discovered, that's not too far off the mark. If this is indeed one of the components of the workshop for the 2023 Symposium, it will certainly be a very "hands-on" approach!

2024 Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa

The site and date for the Des Moines Annual Meeting are under negotiation as I type this, but I can say that the plan is to aim once again for having the reception at the World Food Prize Hall of Fame (as was the plan for the cancelled 2020 Annual Meeting), which honestly you just can't top as far as names for food establishments go. I don't even know what they have there, but it doesn't matter!

Future Meetings

Meeting sites beyond Des Moines are in your hands. If you want to make a case, send me a message!