SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVISTS
NEWSLETTER

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High School Archives and Their Role in Championing Diversity

The Kennedy High cheerleading team poses for the yearbook, 1976. Photography by unknown photographer(s). John F. Kennedy High School Archive.

ChromaDiverse is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that typically creates digital archives for underserved dance companies, but in 2025 it is stepping in to help John F. Kennedy High School in Richmond, California save its archives and tell its powerful story.

When the school first opened in 1967, it was one of the most diverse high schools in the nation. With this progressive vision came challenges, including rioters who would protest at the school's gates. Thanks to enthusiastic and educated teachers, an extensive list of clubs and programs, and a scheduling system that allowed students time to interact with each other and pursue independent work, Kennedy nonetheless became one of the top public schools in the country. Notably, the school's forensics team won three state championships and numerous additional awards, with many students attending elite universities or joining the workforce through vocational training. These collective achievements testify to the change, creativity, and prosperity that are inspired by learning and growing in a diverse environment.

Now, nearly 60 years later, two former teachers—David Dansky, who spent 25 years leading the forensics team, and Mike Peritz, who has dedicated himself to stewarding the school's archives—are enlisting ChromaDiverse to secure the school's legacy. The original building is being torn down and rebuilt, and initially, the archives that Peritz has protected for years were to be demolished along with it. These archival materials—from yearbooks and trophies to choir robes, awards, and pom-poms—reflect the school's unique and impressive legacy from its founding during the civil rights era to the present day. Recognizing the importance of preserving these snapshots of youth, education, and culture in California, as well as the school's unique role in implementing diversity initiatives when they were first introduced, these impassioned former faculty sprang into action.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm delighted to be writing my first message as President of Society of California Archivists (SCA) and thrilled to take on the challenge of helming this vibrant organization for the next year. I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of outgoing Board members Lisa Mix (Immediate Past-President) and Stefani Baldivia (Member-at-Large), who both completed their terms in May. It was an immense pleasure working with both of you over the past year, and I thank you for being so welcoming to me as I took on the role of Vice President. I also want to welcome our new and incoming Board members, Azalea Camacho (Vice-President/President Elect), Stella Castillo (Member-at-Large), and Jessica Gambling (Membership Director); our returning Board Members Charla Dela Cuadra (Member at-Large) and Nicole Shibata (transitioning into Immediate Past-President); and our reelected Board members, Alex Post (Treasurer) and Joanna Black (Secretary). I know that I will be ably assisted by our fabulous new (and returning) Board.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the 2025 Society of California Archivists Annual General Meeting (AGM), "The Future of Memory: Archival Innovation and Sustainability," held in North Hollywood at the fabulous Garland Hotel. The AGM saw excellent attendance—225 registered attendees, which was higher than it's been in a number of years. The program included one pre-conference workshop, 13 sessions (including a poster session), seven repository tours, and two "Release Valve" sessions—safe spaces where we could come together to reflect on recent events, both environmental and political, and share concerns, stories and advice. For me, the release valves were a real highlight of the conference, and I hope we can find ways to continue them in the future.

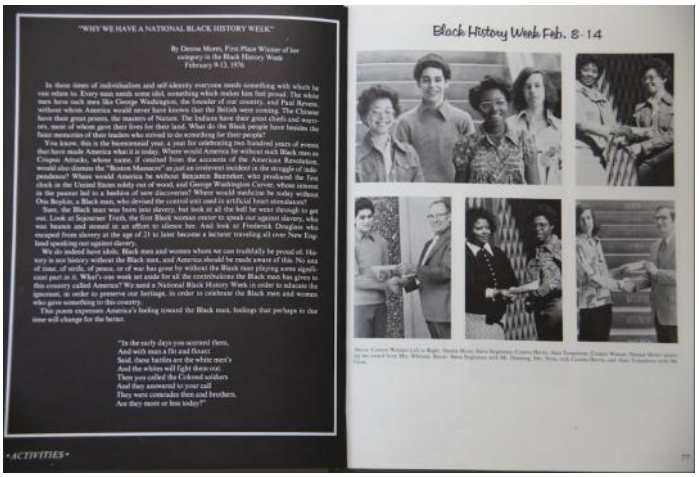
A big shoutout to our intrepid Local Arrangements chair, Alanna Quan, who almost single-handedly made this in-person meeting a huge success. Alanna was ably assisted by outgoing Advisory Chair Kelsey Knox. Between the two of them, the AGM ran like a well-oiled machine. I want to thank all the rest of the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) for their exceptionally hard work to make this AGM a real success. As a reminder, SCA is always looking for volunteers for this committee. It may seem like a lot of work, but as they say, teamwork makes the dream work! Serving on LAC is incredibly rewarding and lots of fun. I highly encourage anyone who wants to get involved to do so.

I also want to thank my Program Committee Co-Chair, outgoing SCA Board Member-at-Large Stefani Baldivia, for her incredibly hard work to make the program for the AGM a big success. I'm biased, but I think the program we put together, with help from a great group of Program Committee volunteers (shout out to all of you!), was at least partially responsible for the registration numbers.

The theme for this AGM, which focused on memory work and sustainability, is one that is on a lot of people's minds these days. All of us have, in one way or another, been confronted with situations that are taxing our rapidly dwindling resources. SCA is committed to ensuring that we support our members as best we can in the face of changing environmental conditions, uncertain political landscapes, and seemingly universal budget challenges. I encourage the membership to reach out to anyone on the Board with any questions, thoughts, or concerns they may have.

I'm looking forward to a productive year!

Sue Luftschein
SCA President



A yearbook spread celebrates Black History Week at Kennedy, 1976. Photos by unknown photographer(s). John F. Kennedy High School Archive.

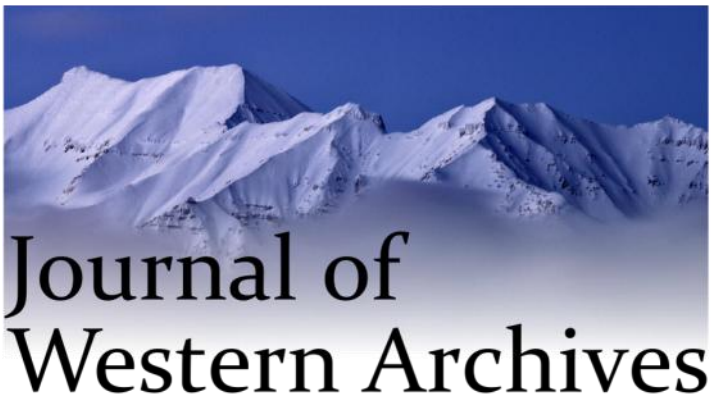
Because Dansky remained in contact with many former students, he knew Judy Tyrus, CEO of ChromaDiverse and an alumna of John F. Kennedy High School, could potentially help rescue Kennedy's collective memories. Tyrus embraced the opportunity, and efforts are now underway to raise funds for digitization and the construction of a digital archive where these artifacts will see new life and inspire current and future generations of students.

With plans to rally alumni from across the decades and generate excitement for the potential that Kennedy's archives hold to enrich California history, ChromaDiverse hopes to assemble an energetic team of volunteers and donors to fund, contribute to, curate, and maintain the archive. While ChromaDiverse specializes in overlooked or underrepresented dance archives, preserving and protecting the legacy of a crucial actor in California's trajectory of racial and socioeconomic progress aligns with its mission of filling the gaps in history that are often subject to erasure.

Dansky and Peritz witnessed firsthand how a diverse student body fostered a bright and dynamic environment where progress could flourish. Now, as diversity initiatives nationwide are halted and funding to education is slashed, they hope that the establishment of this archive will help cement the validity of diversity as a positive and evolving force.

Rather than losing this record of solidarity and collective strength, ChromaDiverse and Kennedy alumni will collaborate to create a publicly accessible digital archive that upholds Kennedy as a beacon of positive and forward-thinking community endeavors. The archive will not only inspire the local East Bay community but also act as a resource for current teachers, students, and scholars to produce holistic research about pedagogy, public education, and diversity and inclusion.

The John F. Kennedy High School senior class gathers for a panoramic photo, 1976. Photography by unknown photographer(s). John F. Kennedy High School Archive.



Journal of Western Archives

The *Journal of Western Archives* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal sponsored by Western regional archival organizations. The journal focuses on contemporary issues and developments in the archival and curatorial fields, particularly as they affect Western archives and manuscript repositories.

Journal Contents

The *Journal of Western Archives* gives archivists, manuscript curators, and graduate students in the American West a place to publish on topics of particular interest and relevance to them. The journal features research articles, case studies, and review essays on regional topics. These include:

- Important Western regional issues in archives and manuscript repositories;
- Unique archival developments in the western United States;
- Technological innovations and their effect on archival theory and practice;
- The history and development of the archival and curatorial professions in the American West;
- Collaborative efforts and projects between various cultural institutions.

Contributing to the Journal

If you are interested in contributing to the journal or serving as a peer reviewer for journal content, please contact the managing editor at jwa.editor@gmail.com. Article submissions may also be made online at the journal website.

JWA

http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/westernarchives/

The Society of California Archivists, Inc.

The Society of California Archivists, Inc. exists to support and develop those who collect, care for, and provide access to the documentary heritage of California and adjoining areas. To this end it:

1. acts as a vehicle for dissemination of information about archival collections, issues, and methodology to the profession and the public;

2. provides a forum for the discussion of matters related to the creation, preservation, and use of historical documents;

3. develops, offers, and supports archival education programs;

4. cooperates with individuals and organizations on matters of common concern; and

5. advocates for the identification, collection, preservation, use, and appreciation of historical records and manuscripts.

The SCA Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. All submissions and advertisements for the newsletter should be sent via email to:

Newsletter Editors
newsletter@calarchivists.org

Copy deadlines: February 25, May 25, August 25, and November 25.

For more information on article submissions and advertisements, visit www.calarchivists.org/Publications/SCANewsletter.

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Collections Spotlight

Cal Poly Pomona's Fairplex Records Celebrates Los Angeles County Fair

Andrew Kopp (left) and David Castro (right) processed the Fairplex Records. The collection provides important primary sources about the Los Angeles County Fair, Fairplex, and local history.

In June 2021, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona) announced a partnership with the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Fair to donate a substantial collection of archival material to the university's Special Collections and Archives (SC&A). Known as the Fairplex Records, the collection spans over 275 linear feet and is the largest archival acquisition in Cal Poly Pomona's history. It documents the social, economic, cultural, and historical impact of the Los Angeles County Fair and the evolution of Fairplex from its founding in 1922 through its 100th anniversary in 2022.

The Fairplex Records includes administrative records, photographs, negatives, slides, newspaper clippings, original artwork, audiovisual materials, and realia detailing the Fair's rich transformation and significance in Southern California. The collection is organized into seven series and 38 sub-series; the finding aid is publicly accessible on the Online Archive of California (OAC).

Processing such an expansive and complex collection required careful planning, dedication, and an appreciation for the materials. In May 2022, Cal Poly Pomona alumnus Andrew Kopp (BA History, '17) was hired as Project Archivist on a 14-month appointment. Kopp's work involved arranging, describing, and preserving over a century's worth of diverse materials in varying formats and conditions. During the project, additional materials were discovered at Fairplex that they wished to include in the collection. Originally estimated at 30 linear feet, the collection grew to over 300 linear feet with the addition of these materials, which greatly expanded the scope of work. As a result, Kopp completed approximately 75% of processing by the end of his appointment in June 2023.

Kopp's preservation efforts included attending professional webinars, consulting with experts, and successfully nominating over 270 audiovisual items for digitization through California Revealed. His work laid a strong foundation for the collection's accessibility and long-term care.

In July 2023, David Castro joined SC&A as the full-time Processing Specialist and completed the remaining 25% of the project. He finalized the finding aid in January 2024 and curated an exhibition of nearly 100 items drawn from the collection. That exhibition, presented to Fairplex personnel and university administrators, highlighted the breadth and

Table Tennis finished first place at the Los Angeles County Fair horse racing track in 1959.

richness of the Fairplex Records. The presentation left Fairplex staff deeply satisfied with their decision to donate the records to Cal Poly Pomona and inspired them to financially support digitization work on a portion of the collection. Their contribution is helping fund the ongoing digitization of approximately 1,500 selected acetate negatives—images of winning horses from fairground races between 1949 and 1959—carefully assessed and prepared by Castro. These

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Patrons toured the 487-acre fairground aboard the monorail, which began operations in 1962. The monorail was renovated in 1990 but was removed in 1996 due to maintenance and vehicle issues.

digitized images and their associated metadata will be made publicly accessible upon completion.

The Fairplex Records is a valuable resource for researchers and the broader community. Its materials support academic inquiry across all eight colleges at Cal Poly Pomona, from Agriculture and Environmental Design to History, Business, and beyond. The collection is also used in special collections instruction sessions, helping students develop archival research skills and primary source literacy while learning about the archives profession.

Beyond its scholarly value, the Fairplex Records holds deep personal meaning for those who contributed to processing. Kopp described his time as Project Archivist as "the greatest professional maturation in archives" of his career and credited the project with deepening his appreciation for the fairgrounds' enduring legacy. For Castro, who grew up attending the fair with his family, working with the collection has been a nostalgic and personal experience—connecting his professional life with cherished memories from his youth.

The Fairplex Records not only preserves a century of fair history but also connects Cal Poly Pomona to its regional heritage in a tangible, enduring way. The collection is a testament to the importance of community partnerships, historical stewardship, and access to shared memory.

Select digitized items are already available for research, and the full collection can be explored via the OAC finding aid. Researchers interested in viewing materials in person are encouraged to make an appointment with Special Collections and Archives at speccollections@cpp.edu.

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Dianne Feinstein Papers Project Underway at Stanford

Dianne Feinstein and Queen Elizabeth walking in San Francisco in March 1983.

The Dianne Feinstein Papers Project has officially kicked off in the Manuscripts Division of Stanford University's Department of Special Collections and University Archives. Given the longevity of Feinstein's career from San Francisco city politics to the United States Senate, the papers have been split into two collections: one focused on her early career in San Francisco and the other on her time in the Senate.

The early career materials, the Dianne Feinstein papers (M1549), have been processed and are open to researchers. The collection covers Feinstein's time on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in the 1970s, as the city's mayor during the 1980s, and her campaigns for California Governor in 1990 and the U.S. Senate in 1992. The earliest material in the collection dates from Feinstein's time as a student at Stanford during the 1950s. This includes reports written while serving as a fellow with the Coro Foundation in 1955, addressing city planning and modernizing downtown San Francisco, as well as editorials she wrote in the 1960s, prior to entering city politics.

One of the highlights of the early papers are Feinstein's daybooks and the day-to-day schedules from her time as mayor. As a City Supervisor, she maintained her own schedule in handwritten planners. Following the assassinations of fellow Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone at the hands of former Supervisor Dan White on November 27, 1978, Feinstein's career changed abruptly. On the page for the day

Dianne Feinstein at the Senate Committee on the Judiciary Nomination Hearing of Eric H. Holder, Jr., to be Attorney General of the United States in January 2009.

of the assassination, you can see that she crossed out the press conference where Moscone planned to announce Dan White's replacement on the Board of Supervisors. On the pages for the following days, you can see where she has crossed out or erased all of her previously scheduled

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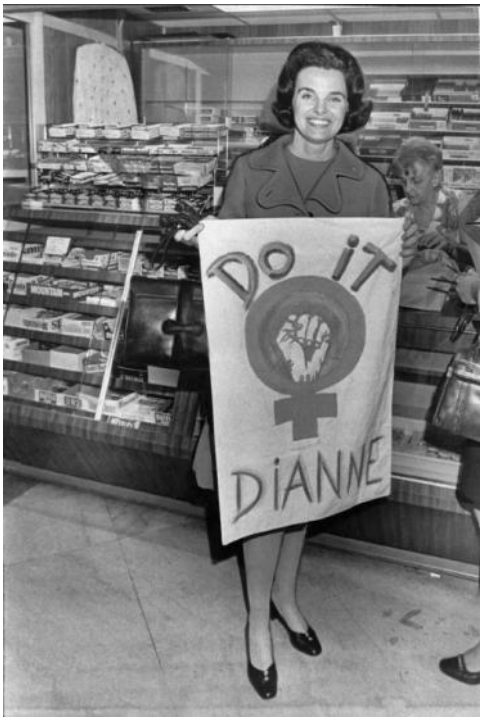

Dianne Feinstein campaigning in San Francisco during the 1970s.

commitments and replaced them with interviews, phone calls, and memorial services as she stepped into the role of mayor.

Staff at Stanford Libraries began working with Senator Feinstein's office in earnest to receive her papers following the announcement of her retirement. This included coordinating the transfers from National Archives and Records Administration facilities on both coasts; Feinstein's office in Washington, DC; and her four offices in California. In 2024, Stanford University Libraries hired five archivists to process the materials. The collection consists of 6,700 linear feet of analog records, 3,000 memorabilia items, and roughly seven terabytes of digital material pertaining to her career as a United States Senator. Some of the collection highlights include: decision memos, also known as "back from DF's"; constituent mail; daily schedules; photographs; press interviews; and personal correspondence. Thus far, about 16,000 photos from the Senate Photo Studio are available to view in the Stanford Digital Repository. The physical materials and the remainder of digital materials in the Dianne Feinstein Senatorial papers (M2973) are closed as the collection is processed.

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News and Announcements

NEDCC's "Ready – Or Not" Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project

NEDCC's "Ready – Or Not" Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project is a statewide initiative funded by the State of California to assess emergency preparedness at California organizations that care for cultural and historic resources (*e.g.*, archives, libraries, museums, and tribal nations). The team has conducted over 400 consultations and consists of Lead Consultant Hillary Ellis; Outreach and Travel Coordinator Celeste Knight; and Consultants Jason Partida, Caroline Whyler, Mario Anthony Gallardo, Julie DeVere, and Liz Holbrook. Emergency Preparedness Consultants provide free on-site visits for participating organizations and deliver a free summary report that documents the organization's current state of emergency preparedness. The report includes recommendations to guide the organization through a process of identifying and mitigating risks, taking emergency preparedness actions, and completing a disaster response plan.

Taking these steps ensures each organization is better prepared to protect its unique collections in the face of a range of emergencies such as wildfire, earthquake, flood or mudslide, pipe break, extended power outage, pest infestation, terrorism, unexpected closure, and public health emergency. Organizations can demonstrate preparedness actions and a commitment to preservation that can be used to support applications for grants and other funding that strengthen collections care and emergency preparedness.

Organizations can schedule a free consultation for an emergency preparedness assessment with "Ready – Or Not"

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at CAready@nedcc.org, by phone at 855-501-3020, or by Google Form on nedcc.org.

Join California cultural heritage organizations for one of our hands-on workshops on emergency response and wet salvage!

San Diego California
Friday, July 25, 2025
9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Eureka, CA
Thursday, August 14, 2025
9:00 am – 4:30 pm

We are also excited to announce the first of 14 free workshops, funded by a grant from the California State Library, that will be presented in cities across the state to address the need for hands-on disaster training. These in-person workshops will supplement participating institutions' internal disaster planning activities and "Ready – Or Not" emergency preparedness assessments; they also include opportunities for kinetic learning.

Participants will:

- Receive training in risk assessment and mitigation, emergency preparedness and response, and related emergency planning topics
- Build relationships with nearby institutions to facilitate collaboration, *e.g.*, on policy building and supply purchases
- Walk through an instructor-facilitated scenario (table-top exercise) to simulate the experience of responding to a disaster
- Acquire hands-on experience with salvage techniques for water emergencies, focusing on formats commonly found in cultural collections, including books, documents, photographs, and audiovisual materials
- Gain an understanding of how disasters can physically impact their collections and how they can be "first responders" for collections salvage

These workshops are open to individuals in California associated with cultural heritage organizations, such as libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies; government departments; state historic parks; cultural centers; tribal nations; county clerks; and others who work with historic and cultural resources.

Register here.

Advance registration is required.

There is no registration fee – the workshops are **free** to participants.

No more than two participants from one organization may register. Others will be placed on a waiting list.

Registration can be transferred to another person if necessary.

Participants must be from California.

Celeste Knight
"Ready — Or Not" Cultural Heritage
Disaster Preparedness Project
NEDCC
CAready@nedcc.org

Digital Revolution Completes UC Berkeley Department of Linguistics Project

Digital Revolution has digitized 312 audio tapes for the Department of Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley). The department's California Language Archive, Survey of California and Other Indian Languages delivered audio cassettes, ¼" reel to reel, DAT, micro cassettes, and DA-88 tapes for digitizing to uncompressed .WAV files. Languages spoken in the recordings included: Miwok, Pomo, Sikuani, Kukama-Kukamiria, and Katukina. "It was a challenging project because there were many speed changes on the recordings, so we had to find the right speeds and edit together the audio," said Paul Grippaldi of Digital Revolution.
www.digitalrevolution.tv

Members of the California Valley Miwok Tribe, undated. Photographer unidentified.

SCA Business

The Future of Memory amid a Shifting Landscape

My attendance at the Society of California Archivists (SCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in North Hollywood was a transformative experience that underscored how archivists navigate the inherent uncertainties of our field. Through the generous support of the *James V. Mink Scholarship*, I was able to attend the 2025 conference and reconnect with former classmates, longtime colleagues, seasoned SCA attendees, and new acquaintances.

The theme for this year's meeting, "The Future of Memory: Archival Innovation and Sustainability," brought together an impressive lineup of sessions reflecting the ever-evolving nature of archival work. This forward-looking agenda set a hopeful tone for the three-day conference. However, it quickly became clear that even the most future-oriented vision could not insulate us from the real and present challenges facing our profession. The backdrop to the meeting was dominated by a sudden and destabilizing development: an executive order defunding the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

In fiscal year 2024, IMLS disbursed $296.5 million, supporting 633 grants to museums and libraries across the United States. As the conference unfolded, attendees began receiving alerts that previously awarded grants, many administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), had been cancelled. As an early-career archivist and librarian, witnessing this disruption firsthand while attending my first-ever SCA AGM felt like I was running through a faulty building amidst an earthquake.

The first workshop I attended, "Demystifying Digitization: Planning a Digitization Project from Start to Finish," was led by California Revealed, an organization funded by IMLS. Having participated in California Revealed's Digitization and Preservation Assistance Program through my internship at Visual Communication, I was acutely aware of the value of such initiatives. The workshop brought into sharp focus the fragility of the monumental institutions that make local and national history accessible, not only to practitioners, but to the broader public as well.

A particularly timely and uplifting session, "Sustainable Support: The L.A. as Subject at Risk Committee," was facilitated by Mallory Furnier, Hilary Swett, Olivia Radbill, and Stella Castillo. The session offered a much-needed dose of inspiration, showcasing how archivists can show up for one another while still fulfilling the demands of their primary roles.

The committee acknowledged the limitations of volunteer labor while emphasizing the importance of resource management, community care, and collective action as vital strategies for long-term sustainability in the field. Their approach centered on building capacity without overburdening individuals, a message that resonated deeply with me given the prevailing uncertainty within our profession.

This session, and the conference as a whole, was pivotal for me. It reaffirmed my belief that community care, mutual support, and equitable resource distribution are what will ultimately sustain the archival field in turbulent times. As we continue to navigate these uncertain waters, it is our collective resilience, not just institutional frameworks, that will carry us forward.

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Preserving Stories, Defending Memory: A Scholarship Recipient's Reflections

Attending the 2025 Society of California Archivists (SCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was a significant experience that affirmed my place in the archival field and helped me envision the kind of archivist I hope to become. Thanks to the *Advancing Equity: Graduate Education Scholarship*, I had the opportunity to attend in person; connect with inspiring colleagues across the state; and contribute my voice to conversations around equity, memory, and cultural preservation.

As a Master of Library and Information Science student at San José State University, and the current Print Digitization and Preservation Intern with California Revealed, I've spent the past year immersed in preserving California's diverse cultural heritage. My lightning talk, "From Ofrendas to Archives: Lessons from Día de los Muertos for Sustainable Memory-Keeping," explored how ofrendas, or altars created for Día de los Muertos, can serve as models for participatory, relational, and culturally grounded archival practices. These collective

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spaces of remembrance challenge institutional boundaries and invite us to imagine more inclusive ways of holding memory.

What made the AGM especially meaningful was the opportunity to learn from others navigating the realities of archival work in challenging and rapidly shifting environments. I attended sessions that addressed the vulnerabilities of community-based archives, the importance of public access to digitization tools through memory labs, and the work being done to prepare collections for natural disasters and climate risks. Many of these discussions pointed to archives' political and economic pressures of today, from rising censorship to federal funding cuts threatening the preservation of marginalized histories. In the face of these challenges, archivists across California are finding ways to collaborate, sustain their work, and defend the right to remember. These sessions reminded me that archival practice is not just about protecting the past. It is about protecting the future of truth, representation, and access.

Much of what I brought to my talk and what I carried home from the conference has been shaped by my experience with California Revealed. As an intern, I've worked directly with print collections from across the state, preparing materials for digitization, standardizing metadata, and helping make records more discoverable for researchers and the public. This work taught me that preservation is not just technical labor. It is a form of care and advocacy, especially when it comes to ensuring that historically excluded communities are seen, heard, and remembered.

I am incredibly grateful to the California Revealed team for creating a supportive and thoughtful learning environment. I especially want to thank my manager, Liz Seeley, and Outreach Coordinator, Guadalupe Martinez, for their mentorship and encouragement. Their guidance helped me feel confident in presenting work that bridges cultural tradition and archival theory, and their leadership continues to shape how I approach community-centered memory work with care and intention.

This kind of hands-on experience and mentorship should not be rare. Programs like California Revealed play a vital role in training emerging professionals, supporting under-resourced institutions, and expanding access to local histories across the state. Their impact reaches far beyond digitization; it creates opportunities for collaboration, empowers community memory-keepers, and strengthens public access to stories that deserve to be told. In a time when so many institutions are being forced to scale back or silence their work, continued funding for initiatives like California Revealed is not only necessary—it is urgent. Supporting this work is an investment in a more inclusive archival future where preservation is guided by equity, participation, and collective care.

Reflecting on my experience at the AGM and the support I've received throughout my journey, I've come to see how vital it is to be surrounded by a community that teaches you skills and affirms your values. The *Advancing Equity: Graduate Education Scholarship* offered more than access; it provided validation. It showed me that there is room in this profession for those committed to justice, care, and cultural memory. I am truly thankful to the Society of California Archivists for making this experience possible and to those who continue to demonstrate that archives can be spaces where meaningful change begins.

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2025 AGM Awards Ceremony Recap

The 2025 Society of California Archivists (SCA) Awards Luncheon Ceremony was held on Friday, April 4, at the Garland Hotel in North Hollywood. The Awards Committee presented scholarships to outstanding graduate students and honored the work and contributions of committed colleagues.

Before presenting the 2025 Awards, award recipients from the **2024 Virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM)** in attendance at the luncheon were recognized: **Blair Black**, *Advancing Equity: Graduate Education Scholarship*; **Tanya Hollis**, *Sustained Service Award*; and **Charla Dela Cuadra**, representing the **Orange County & Southeast Asian Archive Center**, *Archives Appreciation Award*.

The *Mink Scholarship* supports graduate students (or recent graduates) wishing to attend the AGM and a pre-conference workshop. This year's recipient was **Esperanza Bey**, a graduate of UCLA's Master of Library & Information Studies (MLIS) program in Fall 2024. She is currently an Associate Librarian at Inglewood Public Library and was the Community Archivist for the Library Foundation of Los Angeles between August-December 2024.

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2024 and 2025 SCA Awards & Scholarships winners (left to right): Leilani Marshall, James Eason, Frances Kaplan, Esperanza Bey, Blair Black, Mayra Garza, Charla Dela Cuadra, and Tanya Hollis.

Mayra Garza was this year's recipient of SCA's *Advancing Equity: Graduate Education Scholarship*. This scholarship promotes the diversification of the larger archival community by providing financial support to students of color pursuing graduate archival education. Mayra is in the MLIS program at San José State University and currently works as a Print Digitization and Preservation Intern for California Revealed.

Frances Kaplan was presented with a special *Archival Award of Excellence*. This award is a revival of the former SCA and California Historical Records Advisory Board (CHRAB) co-sponsored award of the same name, last awarded in 2017 before CHRAB's dissolution. This award honors individuals who have made a noteworthy contribution to the archives profession by accomplishing significant archival work or preserving historical records in California. These contributions may include: contributing innovative or creative ideas to the profession, preserving at-risk archival materials, improving the profession's effectiveness through advocacy or services, or promoting greater public awareness of archives and the archival profession.

Because of her tireless advocacy for the preservation, integrity, and accessibility of the California Historical Society collection and her steadfast leadership in finding a new, permanent home for the collection on the occasion of the 153-year-old historical society's closure, the Awards Committee unanimously agreed to resurrect the *Archival Award of Excellence* and present it to Kaplan.

Leilani Marshall, a member of SCA since 2003, was the recipient of SCA's *Sustained Service Award*, recognizing her substantial contributions over 12 years to the Society through her work on the SCA Board in the following capacities: Treasurer (2012-2016, two terms), Vice-President/President Elect (2020-2021), President (2021-2022), and Immediate Past-President (2022-2023). Additionally, Leilani also served on the following committees: Awards, Education, Finance & Investment, Local Arrangements, and Program. She continues to serve SCA in a leadership capacity as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Task Force.

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The *Career Achievement Award* was presented to **James Eason**. With over 30 years of experience in libraries and archives, he has consistently demonstrated creativity, technical expertise, and a deep sense of stewardship. He has been instrumental in advancing archival practices, particularly in the area of pictorial archives, where his innovative systems for organization, description, and access have helped set new practices in the field.

Eason's nomination included four letters of recommendation, all of which extolled the professional expertise exemplified in his work, the quality of his character and generosity, and his impact on the archival profession and the people they serve. Quoted from his 2025 Career Achievement nomination form, a colleague attests, "In all of his work, James exemplifies the criteria for the Career Achievement Award. His outstanding career in a major California archive, his significant contributions to the profession, his teaching and writing in the archival field, his creativity and innovative approaches to his professional work, and his commitment to the advancement of the archival enterprise and professional knowledge, have all had an enduring impact on the field."

There were no nominations for SCA's *Archives Appreciation Award* this year.

The following scholarships were also awarded this past year:

Garrett Fritz, Walter P. Gray III Scholarship, February 2025

Judy Tyrus, Advancing Equity: Continuing Education Funding, January 2025

Emilie Ducourneau, Lynn A. Bonfield Professional Development Scholarship, July 2025

Leah Sylva, Walter P. Gray III Scholarship, June 2025

See the Awards & Scholarships page on the SCA website for educational and professional development funding opportunities.

Lisa Crane, Outgoing Chair
SCA Awards Committee
awards@calarchivists.org

2025 SCA Election Results

The Society of California Archivists is pleased to announce the results of the 2025 election. Congratulations to the following newly elected Board and committee member(s)!

A complete list of the Board members can be found on the SCA website.

Vice-President / President Elect: Azalea Camacho
Secretary: Joanna Black
Membership Director: Jessica Gambling
Director-at-Large: Stella Castillo
Nominating Committee member: Marlayna Christensen

In addition, the measure to increase membership dues for Individual (current: $45 / proposed: $65), Institutional (current: $75 / proposed: $120), and Retiree (current: $20 / proposed: $30) categories passed with 90% approval.

Thank you to everyone who voted!

You do all of this with one primary goal—to increase visibility of, and access to, your collection.

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Labor Notes

For this issue's *Labor Notes* column, the Society of California Archivists (SCA) Labor, Advocacy, and Public Policy (LAPP) Committee is pleased to announce some new projects in the works. Back in 2021, SCA launched its First Friday online programming series as a way to bring membership together during the isolating days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting this summer, LAPP is working with the Membership Committee to launch a new iteration of the First Fridays Brown Bag Lunch series on Zoom. All SCA members are welcome to attend.

These sessions will provide a place for members to connect and commiserate in these turbulent times; to learn from speakers and organizers about a variety of labor and advocacy topics; and to provide a forum for SCA LAPP Committee members to hear directly from membership about what advocacy means to them and how the committee—and SCA as an organization—can best advocate for its members in this moment.

Inspired by the Archival Workers Collective's ongoing story-sharing project, LAPP wants to hear from our colleagues about how federal funding cuts and political turbulence under the current federal administration have impacted their workplaces and day-to-day work. Our goal is to use these stories to craft an impact statement that can be a helpful advocacy tool for members seeking to demonstrate the value of archives and archival workers. The project also provides an opportunity to collect firsthand testimony of this time from our members. We hope that this work will document the challenges and the responses of California's archival workers to increased job precarity, shrinking budgets, and the undermining of archival institutions and workers across the United States.

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Stay tuned for forthcoming announcements on the First Fridays programming series and calls to submit your stories. As always, feel free to contact the LAPP Committee at advocacypublicpolicy@calarchivists.org with any questions or suggestions.

Calendar

Workshops and Trainings:

History House Studio with Preserve This - Intro to Community Archiving
Begins July 14, 2025
Learn more at https://preservethis.org/p/community-archiving-summer

AMIA's Community Archiving Workshop at SAA Conference
August 24, 2025, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Anaheim
Registration Fee: $35.00 (Lunch will be provided to participants) https://mysaa.archivists.org/nc__event?id=a0IUV000002zai9YAA

Speaker Events:

California Preservation Foundations's "Learning California History Through Landmarks"
July 31, 2025, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
https://californiapreservation.org/events/ca-historic-landmarks-etandoesla/

California History Speaker Series, California State Library
"Myth Making, Myth Breaking: California at 175" (panel discussion)
September 18, 2025, 4:00 - 5:00 pm, via Zoom
Sign up for California Corner to be notified when registration opens

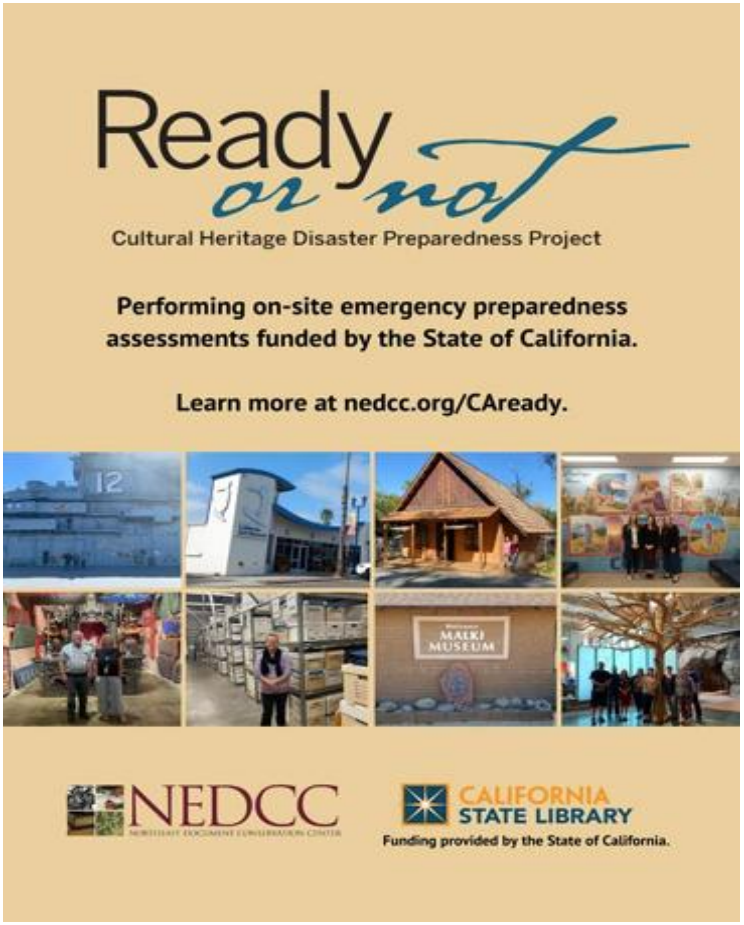
Exhibitions:

***Archiving with Scissors: FCCW 10-Year Exhibit Curated by LACA* (on-going exhibition)**
May 31 - August 9, 2025
Feminist Center for Creative Work
3053 Rosslyn Street, Los Angeles 90065
https://www.lacarchive.com/archiving-scissors

Resources:

Emergency Preparedness Resources
Ongoing/Asynchronous
https://calpreservation.org/information_resources/emergency-prep-and-response/

California Preservation and Disaster Networks
Ongoing
https://calpreservation.org/information_resources/california-preservation-and-disaster-networks/



SCA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

Board of Directors 2025-2026

President:
Sue Luftschein
Head of Special Collections
University of Southern California
president@calarchivists.org

Vice-President/President Elect:
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Head of Special Collections and Archives
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Secretary:
Joanna Black
Senior Archivist
William E. Colby Library
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Treasurer:
Alex Post
Special Collections Research Assistance, Outreach, and Instruction Team Lead
J. Paul Leonard Library Special Collections and Archives
San Francisco State University
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Membership Director:
Jessica Gambling
University Archivist and Records Manager
University of Southern California
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At-Large Board Members:
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Manuscripts Processor
California State University, Irvine
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Stella Castillo
Processing Archivist
University of Southern California
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Immediate Past-President:
Nicole Shibata
Metadata Librarian
California State University, Northridge
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Committee Chairs

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Communications and Outreach:
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April Feldman, 2022-2025
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Emily Homolka, 2022-2025
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Allura Hays (Southern California),
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Lizeth Zepeda, 2023-2026
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Melissa Haley, 2022-2025
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Kelsey Knox, 2022-2025
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Nominating:
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California State University, Northridge
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Publications:
Shaula Stephenson, 2024-2027
Susanne Kester Archives
Skirball Cultural Center
publications@calarchivists.org