



## HENTF MEMBERS BRIEFING

### Navigating Multiple Disasters While Keeping Our Distance from Each Other

21 May 2020 • 2:00 – 3:30 pm EDT • via Zoom

Convened by HENTF's co-sponsors:

FEMA's Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation and the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative

## AGENDA

2:00

### Welcome

Lori Foley, Coordinator, Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF), FEMA  
Corine Wegener, Director, Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI)

- June all day in-person meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19; doing this briefing in its place.
- Going to talk about two facets of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery: COVID-19 response and preparing for next disaster(s).
- FEMA has been busy preparing for future disasters that will be overlaid on the pandemic. FEMA has already been actively managing multiple disasters:
  - There are currently 46 open non-COVID related disasters. 56 states and territories and 72 tribal territories (working directly with FEMA as sovereign entity or under state emergency declaration) under major declaration for COVID-19. Total of 99 emergency and disaster declarations for COVID-19.
- Tropical Storm Arthur demonstrated Mother Nature doesn't adhere to a tidy window.
- Dams in east central Michigan are a scary reminder that disasters are going to happen regardless of the pandemic.
- Will hear from a sampling of HENTF members on COVID-19 work and from HENTF working groups co-chairs on preparedness work.
- Welcome to newest HENTF member, International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection, bringing us to 60 members!

### Navigating Zoom

Colleen Carroll, SCRI Project Coordinator

- Mute and video buttons in lower left of screen.
- Participants button opens a panel with option to raise your hand for Q & A. Chat box is also an option.

### HENTF Updates

Katelynn Averyt, SCRI Cultural Heritage Disaster Response Specialist  
Lori Foley

Cori:

- SCRI staff on call: Dr. Richard Kurin, Liz Kirby, Stacy Bowe, Colleen Carroll, Ella Weiner, Katelynn Averyt, Nana Kaneko

- Katelynn has been working with us at SCRI for several years, but tomorrow is her last day and she'll be moving on to becoming the Deputy Director of the Helen Day Arts Center in Stowe, VT.
- Katelynn: US Virgin Islands Legislative Archives Recovery Project  
Began after 2017 hurricane season. Work with USVI Legislature started in 2018 to get 20 volumes off the islands following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Took them to BELFOR in TX to freeze dry and to the Smithsonian Libraries conservation lab to conserve them. Volumes have been fully digitized and are ready to go back to the territories once the current pandemic allows for it.  
(Short promo video played)  
Journals are archived here: <https://archive.org/details/@legvi>
- Katelynn: Dept. of the Interior Mission Assignment: Puerto Rico  
Sent 2 SI conservators from Smithsonian American Art Museum to PR working with DOI and FEMA in 2019. Visited 6 institutions, conducted damage assessments on dozens of paintings and outdoor sculptures dating back to Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Good reminder that even though we're in the middle of a pandemic, other events will continue to happen.
- Lori: Heritage Emergency and Response Training (HEART) and follow-up webinars  
Been conducting this program since 2017. Prepare 25 cultural stewards and emergency managers at a time to work across sectors to address disasters. Conducted week-long program in DC in December 2019 to another cohort of students who now join a growing network of graduates. Training followed by a series of webinars offered to all HEART graduates. This year's webinars included Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage taught by Nana Kaneko, Introduction to Grant Writing taught by Liz Kirby, and a Zoom discussion featuring Stacy Bowe and fellow subject matter experts in addressing challenges of reopening in the midst of a pandemic. Want to thank National Endowment for the Humanities, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for their generous support.
- Lori: HEART Maine, August 27–29  
At the request of Maine's Emergency Management Agency, we conducted a 3-day mini-HEART in Augusta last August.
- Katelynn: Virtual Student Federal Service (VSFS) intern disaster mapping project  
Ongoing for 2 years now, just concluded our second round of interns. Slide shows work done in our first year following Hurricane Florence. Interns gather info about cultural organizations across various states and when a disaster impacts an area, they're able to turn GIS coordinates into an impact priority zone and then conduct outreach to orgs in highest areas of

impact. So far the interns have gathered datasets for 5 states: NC, SC, FL, TX, NE and Puerto Rico. Next year's interns will work on AK, UT, TN, LA. We'd also like to extend this opportunity to HENTF members. If you have recommendations or ideas for collaboration, and what your priorities are, that will allow us to properly account for them.

- Katelynn: Saving Your Family Treasures Facebook Live event after the Easter tornadoes  
April 23, 2020, SCRI put on its first-ever Facebook live workshop. This program typically brings Smithsonian experts to disaster-affected communities to demonstrate easy salvage techniques using readily available materials. Took that info and made it available online. We worked with our SI Affiliate museums in affected states, the Southeastern Museums Conference, and state library associations to help spread the word. Hoping to replicate this event for the future. If you're able to provide us with outreach support, help us get in touch with your membership; it will help increase the viewership and benefits of the program.
- Lori: HENTF Dashboard  
FEMA platform where HENTF shares information on disasters in which HENTF will be active. Serves as basis for HENTF coordination calls with states and you, HENTF members, in recovery and response activities. It's always up, so please check it out whenever you'd like.
- Lori: HENTF COVID-19 Resource Hub webpage  
Updated almost daily. Newest section is about reopening. Even today, we added FEMA's latest guidance, *COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for 2020 Hurricane Season*.

2:15

### HENTF Member Spotlights

- *Small Business Administration – Jack Camp*
  - 2 programs underway.
  - SBA started out with making disaster declarations available. Activated Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program. Also started Paycheck Protection Program.
  - Paycheck Protection Program is a forgivable loan. Up to 75% of funds have to be for payroll and remainder for specified operating expenses.
  - Economic Injury Disaster Loans are for financial obligations and operating expenses that could've been met had the disaster not occurred.
  - Paycheck Protection loans go up to \$10M at 1% interest. Economic Injury loans go up to \$2M at 3.75% for businesses, 2.75% for nonprofits.
  - Paycheck Protection is 2-year loan, Economic Injury could go up to 30 years, first payment not due for 1 year.
  - Criteria for Eligibility: small businesses and nonprofits of any size affected by COVID-19. Any business with 500 or fewer employees is eligible; if over 500 employees but meets SBA size standard, they're eligible. Info available on SBA website.

- There are 2 parts under the Economic Injury program: advance forgivable loan and loan where first payment is due 1 year from approval date. Apply once for both programs and qualification will be determined. Emergency advance can be up to \$10,000, based on number of employees, \$1000 per employee up to \$10,000.
  - Collateral not required for loans under \$25,000.
  - Those with existing SBA loan: SBA has suspended payment on those loans through end of the year, but interest continues.
  - Application for EIDL is quite simple. Streamlined, go to our electronic loan application ([covid19relief.sba.gov](https://covid19relief.sba.gov)). Open to religious orgs and agricultural enterprises as well as independent contractors, Chambers of Commerce.
  - Ineligible: businesses that are not a “small business concern,” gambling concerns, speculative real estate, orgs owned by a government entity.
  - Assistance from partners SBDCs, SCORE, WBC, Veteran’s Business Outreach Centers, local Chambers of Commerce.
- *National Endowment for the Humanities* – Tatiana Ausema
    - Contact info provided in slide.
    - NEH was named in the most recent CARES Act funding, received line item of \$75M for relief to distribute to humanities-serving organizations.
    - \$30M is going through our state humanities councils; most of those funds have been distributed, keep an eye out for those state-level councils.
    - \$45M is going to be distributed through a competitive grant process, NEH CARES, deadline May 15; goal is primarily job retention, decided that was the most important. Received overwhelming number of applications. Reviewed more grants in 3 weeks than over 8 months at the agency. Awards will range from \$30,000–\$300,000 based on institution size. Will announce awards mid-June. Will only be able to assist a very small amount of our applicants. Given us a sense of how dire this is for the humanities and arts. Going to be a slow-burn disaster. \$45M and even the larger \$75M, though a huge amount, is just a drop in the bucket to help meet needs.
    - For current grantees, NEH is trying to be as flexible as possible. Many of our partners are adjusting report deadlines, modifying budgets. If you or your member orgs or affiliates have a current NEH grant, please encourage them to reach out and explore the possibility of reallocating those funds.
    - NEH is working to disseminate info, trying to gather info, and serve as a reliable source, using social media to get the word out, started #covidcollectionscare
    - Keep an eye on mid-June for announcements about our CARES funding.
  - *Institute of Museum and Library Services* – Chris Reich and Anthony Smith
    - May 8, IMLS released 2 notices of funding opportunities made available through CARES Act. Designated to use to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID with fairly specific legislative language to expand digital network access, purchase internet-accessible devices, provide technical support services – for the benefit of communities impacted.

- \$13.8M will be distributed through IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries in responding to the pandemic in ways that meet immediate and future COVID-19 needs of communities and audiences they serve. This grant program invites project proposals for preserving jobs, training staff, addressing digital divide, planning for reopening, and providing technical support and capacity building for digital inclusion and engagement with emphasis on high-needs communities.
  - Due Friday June 12, awards range from \$25,000–\$500,000; projects can be up to 2 years, no cost share required. Fielding 40 inquiries a day, anticipating robust response.
  - IMLS CARES Act Grants for Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum and Library Services: \$1.2M with goal to assist Indian tribes and orgs that serve and represent Native Hawaiians to respond to pandemic to meet the needs of their communities. Deadline is also June 12, \$10,000–\$150,000 with no cost share required for up to 2 years.
  - Offering a number of flexible options to our grantees with open grants.
  - COVID-19 research partnership: Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM) to better understand safe handling of collections and reopening practices. Partnership with OCLC, global library cooperative, and Battelle Memorial Institute, nonprofit research and development org, to develop science-based info to help orgs plan for operations in the midst of COVID-19. Want to understand how long virus survives on surfaces, how to handle materials to mitigate exposure through objects.
  - 3 phases scheduled to run through Sept 2021. Phase 1 preparing for reopened libraries running through August 2020, goal is to produce a toolkit for more common materials. Phase 2, additional research to support operations of archives and museums through October 2020, will produce a toolkit for other materials not addressed in Phase 1. Phase 3 runs through Sept 2021, monitoring updated communication phase, project team will continue to monitor and review any emerging research and updates.
  - Phase 1 focusing on commonly found and frequently circulated materials, particularly those found in public libraries. Focused on reviewing published scientific research, will be released to the public soon. Trying to address very specific research questions, how might the virus spread through public library general operations, how long does the virus survive on materials, how effective are decontamination measures currently available to libraries. Technical testing plan detailing how materials will be tested in their lab expected to be released this month, May 29. Five items commonly found in public libraries selected for this round, materials provided to Battelle from operational public libraries. Will determine length of time virus lives on materials. Results expected to be released mid-June.
  - Library community waiting for these toolkits, hope to provide this info to HENTF resource page as well.
- *Americans for the Arts* – Ruby Harper
    - On March 12 launched first wave of their resource center to aggregate relief funds to support individual artists losing work and subsequent income. They

started collecting info from arts agencies and their resources for their communities. Got 150,000 page views, which shows that people are using resource center as a hub for finding information. Have begun compiling federal relief packages.

- Nina Ozlu Tunceli, Chief Counsel of Government and Public Affairs at Americans for the Arts and Executive Director of the [Arts Action Fund](#) is hosting office hours five days a week. Launched a 2.0 version of resource center with reorganized information that is more directed. Section for relief funding for organizations and section for individuals that also lists relief funding.
- Both sections have federal relief programs. They are continuing to compile resources. Added reopening section with state-by-state organization. Building out equity and mental health section of the website. Resources also include creative outlet information and anti-racism tools.
- They estimate \$5.5 billion in losses to the arts and culture sector. Lot of opportunity to tell the story and to advocate.

2:40

#### **Q&A**

*Dropped due to time constraints*

2:50

#### **HENTF Working Groups**

Nana Kaneko, SCRI Program Manager for Cultural Disaster Analysis

WG co-chairs and SI backbone staff have convened meetings to discuss recruitment and goals for 2020. Information about working groups available on HENTF website. Working on pre-COVID preparedness and post-COVID strategies.

#### ***Communications***

Samantha Snell, Smithsonian Institution National Collections Program

Members should take survey – feedback is very important! Fourteen members have responded thus far. The slides with the finds thus far will be shared. The survey is part of goals for Year One. Want to know what is working and what is not and what is out there. From the feedback thus far it seems that two-way communication is ideal for HENTF to pursue. Want more folks to take survey, especially in context of exploring what direction HENTF communications should take. Will share PPT afterwards so members can more carefully review information. If interested in joining working group, please reach out to Sam.

#### ***Resource Development***

Tatiana Ausema, National Endowment for the Humanities

Less active than Communications WG – lots of opportunity for new people to join! Want to get right resources to the right audiences at the right time. Looking at what information is shared and what is needed. Thinking about how we can make that easier for our audiences and HENTF members. Looking for a mix of federal and non-federal partners on this. Apparent that there isn't a lack of resources; the issue is organizing and communicating the information. Constituents struggling to find the information they need. Communications WG will think about how to convey

information more broadly. Over the next year group hoping to evaluate existing resources for COVID and disasters more generally. Will assess gaps in content and delivery.

Ann Hitchcock comments that she cannot take SurveyMonkey at NPS, and that might be true for more of DOI.

Working group formed out of a need for grant writing support before and after disasters occur. John Nelson agreed to help participate in putting together grant writing resources, which is new goal for this year.

### ***Asset Mapping***

Andrew Robb, Library of Congress

The Asset Mapping WG has been more technical and procedural in its focus. Reaching out to folks and figuring out what is happening on the ground after disasters. Needed to assess situation and have current addresses of locations. Doing this at a state level. Supporting response work now and goal is to have SHPOs or another state agency of some kind maintain this list for use in our response and recovery. Better lists support preparedness. WG is a small group now. Welcome interests and questions from HENTF membership. Want to understand what HENTF members want to do with these tools so we're all better prepared for the emergencies to come.

**3:15**

### **Preparedness Discussion, Comments, and Q&A**

Cori

Prompting questions:

- What do you want HENTF to provide in the preparedness space?
- What challenges do you see in encouraging your constituents to prepare for the inevitable next disaster?

The group is encouraged to think on above two questions. Please email Lori with suggestions and recommendations to consider for our next meeting.

**3:25**

### **Wrap-up**

Lori

- Confirm the contact information of your org/agency's delegate – plus provide the names and contact info for at least 1 back-up, preferably 2
- Volunteer to participate in a HENTF WG – or even to be a co-chair
- Other to-do items to be included in follow-up email

**3:30**

### **Adjourn**