

MINUTES
Midwest Chapter, Visual Resources Association
Summer Meeting
August 25, 2000

Art Institute of Chicago

In attendance:

Leigh Gates - Art Institute of Chicago
Rebecca Moss - University of Minnesota
Jane Darcovich - University of Illinois at Chicago
Betha Whitlow - Washington University at St. Louis
Julie Marchenko - Northwestern University
Allen T. Kohl - Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Norika Ebersole - Nelson Atkins Museum of Art
Alma Koppedraje - Art Institute of Chicago
Virginia Kerr - Northwestern University

Called to order 3:10

Agenda Items:

Tours - Seven in all. They are a combination of walking and bus tours. We have contracted with the Chicago Architectural Foundation for docents to conduct some of the tours. Some include the Farnsworth House, Newberry Library, Northwestern University (exhibition of "Manuscripts in the Modern Age"), Glessner House and Historic Pullman (which provides a picture of early Chicago). We need to call the convention bureau to get more information on other tours, activities, etc. Betha will call them. We discussed what to do if the tours are under subscribed. Will we have a cut-off point at which they will be canceled? There are 40 slots per bus tour, and Frank Lloyd Wright is always popular, so perhaps this won't be an issue. Leigh will be in charge of the tours as a whole, like dealing with the bus company. Shepherds will be needed but they must pay for the tour as well.

Registration desk - (Betha is in charge). Leigh said there are some supplies already available from past conferences. We will need volunteers to help staff the desk. Perhaps student assistants, or ask for help on the VRA listserv. We need to provide local materials at the desk. There is a local newspaper called "The Reader" which has lists of local nightlife, etc. Perhaps they will give us a stack to have at the desk. We could also have sign-up sheets for restaurant outings, blues club and theater trips. We should also have a "message board" for people to use to connect with others.

Local guidebook - will be based on one made for a Chicago ARLIS conference. Alma will be editing it and it will include films, theater, bookstores, libraries, etc.

The Congress Hotel - has been chosen and booked. It is currently being renovated. It is in a good location and is only one block from the CAA hotel.

Website for VRA Midwest - (run by Julie) we can link to many sites, especially weather information (always a popular request). Should we ask for a link from the VRA main site to this site (beyond the link already provided under area chapters)? We also need to provide a link to the CAA website so that VRA members will know what sessions they are having. Joint session information will be in the conference proposal. Rebecca will investigate the CAA listserv to see if it would be feasible to post the info on our conference there.

Tansey dinner - Café Baba Reeba! Lots of tapas and sangria for everyone. The restaurant is located on Halsted St., so we will have to provide transportation. We have a private dining room and the limit is set at 110. We can arrange to have a flamenco guitar player or dancer for entertainment, but we will have to have this part underwritten. They are available for \$150.00.

Raffle tickets to the Oprah Winfrey show -Calling and requesting tickets may not work because they can't tell us when the tickets will be for. Virginia will investigate further.

Souvenirs - Leigh suggested we get Agfa loupes and hang them on straps that say VRA Chicago 2001 or something like that. We could make them available for less than \$10. Other possibilities included snowballs with the skyline of Chicago, or magnets with our logo. Maybe have a special "Golden Loupe Award"?

Logo - This is due September 1 so that the printers can start using it. Leigh had worked up several samples using stained glass images reminiscent of Sullivan and Wright, and the font was art deco inspired. Julie will have her graphic designer friend work on finalizing the design.

The Media Lab at the library of the University of Illinois at Chicago has been secured for the Digital Imaging workshop. It seats 20 and there was some discussion if this was enough. Finding other locations would not be easy as they will likely already be booked.

Member's art exhibition - Jane and Leigh had discussed the possibility of having it at an exhibition gallery at University of Illinois, Chicago. The space is locked at night so is secure. Should we have a reception? Can we provide alcohol? Should we have the exhibition at the hotel instead? If we have a reception, how can we underwrite the cost? Maybe combine it with something else? Have a cash bar? Is this allowed at UIC? Jane will investigate these questions. Tuesday night is clear, so it would be ideal for the opening. Shipping costs would have to be paid for by

the exhibitors. Leigh volunteered to receive and store the works. Perhaps we should have a theme - perhaps make all the works limited in size? Betha reminded us that at the 2002 conference with ARLIS, there is scheduled to be a member's art exhibition.

New Technology Roundup - Leigh informed Rebecca that there wouldn't be the traditional roundup this year because CAA will already have an extensive exhibitor's hall. The VRA badge will get you into the exhibit. Rebecca needs to call Susan Jane Williams to find out the details of how to proceed. There was some discussion of setting up an area for VRA members to demonstrate their own projects. Perhaps there could be an Access discussion scheduled. There are no plans to provide an internet access area.

Deadlines - September 1: deadline for call to papers Late October/early November: Registration Material January 30: copy of local guide to printers

The meeting was adjourned (informally) at 4:30.

Submitted by Rebecca A. Moss