



www.ArtConservatorsAlliance.com



Creative Solutions for Collections Care

Small organizations are faced with complicated challenges in identifying problems, creating strategically planned projects, and finding the funds to support the administration of collection.

Institutional resources, such as staffing and staff capabilities, access to professional consultants, and funding, will influence preservation planning, project implementation, and institutional management.

It is important to strive towards ideal professional standards and best practices for art, historic, and archival collections of all sizes. There are many steps that can be done with small budgets. Making progressive improvements, no matter how small, will help accomplish preservation and access of collections.

Take advantage of the local professional community:

<http://beta.dvarchivists.org>

<http://philadelphiamuseumcouncil.com>

<http://hsp.org/resources-for-small-archives>

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Understand the priority order of
archives management & preservation goals:
Funds are often awarded with the same priority order.



- 1st - Mission Statements, Policies, Procedures, Planning
- 2nd - Building & Climate Control
- 3rd - Storage & Exhibition Facilities
- 4th - Collections Maintenance
- 5th - Single-Item Conservation Treatment



Fundraising



Seek local, state and federal donations & funds:

- Private individuals for collections and cash donations
- Businesses for money, services, supplies, and publicity
- Local and state political representatives
- Fire and Police for assessments and disaster training

www.heritagepreservation.org

www.imls.gov/

<http://www.neh.gov/grants>



Planning



Strategic planning includes:

- Short-term goals (projects that can be done within resources)
- Long-term goals (large-scale projects)
- Fundraising milestones



Institutional Assessments



- Mission and Institutional Goals
- Policies and Procedures
- Buildings and Systems
- Collections Conditions and Needs

Grants for professional assessments are available with minimum requirements:

American Alliance of Museums/Museum Assessment Program

[www.aam--us.org/](http://www.aam-us.org/)

Heritage Preservation Conservation Assessment Program

<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/cap>



Use templates from professional organizations and similar archives, library, and museum collections.



Mission Statements, Policies, Procedures, and Strategic Planning:

<http://www2.archivists.org>

<http://www.aam-us.org/resources/professional-resources>

<http://www.archives.gov/preservation/>

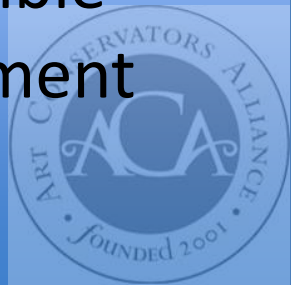
<http://www.ala.org/tools/guidelines>



The Building



- Understand and move towards ideal museum standards
- Make progressive improvements
- Balance environmental conditions as much as possible
- Secure funds for equipment upgrades and replacement



Environmental Control Equipment



- Undertake regular inspections, maintenance, and repairs
- Run all equipment 24/7
- Invest in hygrothermographs to read humidity and temperature levels



Light Exposure



Light damage is cumulative:

- The resulting damage of low light levels for long durations is the same as intense light levels for short durations.
- Light damage can be limited using thoughtfully chosen light sources and use of UV filtering.

Collections Assessments



Review:

- Storage facilities, furnishings, housings
- Collections accessibility, inventory, and cataloging
- Collections conditions and needs
- Explore available grants for collections assessments



Preservation and Access



If you make things look precious, people will treat them as precious.

- Collections control and organization stabilizes collections, and makes them easier to find and replace.
- Quality housing and storage provides chemical and physical support for collections.



Build on Your Successes



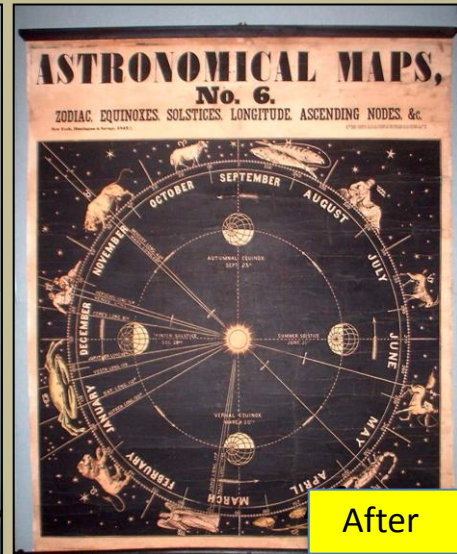
Before



After



Before



After

- Do projects in priority order increases eligibility for grants
- Use “before” and “after” photos for press releases, newsletters, and fundraising
- Make progressive improvements
- Any small step is a step forward
- Think creatively

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The ACA is a group of qualified art conservators offering their clients a wide variety of museum-quality services based on their specialized expertise in the care of paintings, three-dimensional objects, textiles, works of art and archival materials on paper. Each ACA associate holds a master's degree in art conservation, is a professional member of the American Institute for Conservation, and works out of an independent and fully-insured studio based in the Philadelphia region.



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