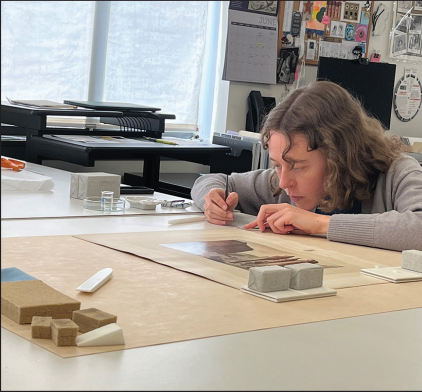


CONSERVATION
CENTER
for Art & Historic Artifacts



▶ *CCAHA ARCHIVE:*

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2023

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Nylah Byrd / *NEA Book Conservation Fellow*

Jason Henn / *Editor* Danielle L. Lyons / *Designer*

All photos courtesy of the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts unless otherwise noted

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

In April of last year, I was pleased to accept the role of Executive Director of the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA). In this position I have benefited from a nearly 50-year legacy of leaders who have sustained CCAHA and helped it grow in new ways. In 2023, we embarked on projects to engage new audiences, and expanded our expertise by welcoming many new colleagues to our team. We launched programming in Puerto Rico and opened a new public space at our Philadelphia facility. As you will read in these pages, we have continued to provide innovative conservation solutions and tackle topics that are important for the future of our field and our clients.

I have been truly heartened by the engagement of our community. If you've attended a webinar, brought us a treatment project, shared our social media posts, or visited our Open House, you understand that art and documentary heritage are an important force for honoring identity and fostering mutual understanding.

Thank you again for being part of our community of advocates for cultural heritage preservation.

Sincerely,



Michelle Eisenberg / *Executive Director*

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

In 2023, CCAHA had a remarkable year that showcased its resilience during a period of change. Michelle Eisenberg was chosen as the new Executive Director by the Board, in collaboration with CCAHA staff.

Michelle and the team navigated the transition with great care and dedication, and this pivotal year demonstrated the team's strength and Michelle's leadership as they expanded CCAHA's offerings. Throughout 2023, CCAHA continued to fulfill its mission of preserving the world's cultural heritage, and looking ahead, I am confident CCAHA will continue to be a leader in its field.

Sincerely,



Derek Jones / *Board Chair*

The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) is a nonprofit, full-service facility with experts in a range of disciplines. We have been providing conservation and preservation services since 1977. Our mission is to provide expertise and leadership in the preservation of cultural heritage. Our conservators repair and stabilize works of art, books, photographs, and documents. Our preservation services staff works in the field, providing education programs and helping institutions plan for the future of their collections. We offer a wide range of digitization and reproduction services, as well as housing and framing, fundraising assistance, and more.

 **Learn more at www.ccaha.org/membership.**

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WORK IN THE FIELD AND IN THE LAB



CCAHA'S EXPERTISE HELPS CLIENT RECOVER FROM ACT OF VANDALISM

When employees at Philadelphia's **Shofuso Japanese Cultural Center** arrived at work on the morning of June 15, 2022, they discovered someone had broken in and damaged the iconic Japanese fusuma murals adorning several interior sliding screen doors.

Caretakers of the *Waterfall* fusuma documented that two of the ten doors of artist **Hiroshi Senju's** creation had sustained damage. But, since the panels were uniquely created for Shofuso in a traditional Japanese painting technique involving numerous layers of paper stretched over a wooden frame, treatment could only be undertaken by specially trained conservators. Enter CCAHA.

After a referral from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Shofuso connected with CCAHA **Senior Paper Conservator Heather Hendry**, who evaluated the damage and determined that CCAHA could repair the screens in its Philadelphia lab rather than having the six-by-four-foot panels shipped to Japan.



READ MORE

TRUST THE PROCESS TO FIND YOUR WAY TO FUNDING

CCAHA's work goes way beyond conservation treatment. For institutions across the country, we also offer fundraising assistance and comprehensive preservation planning services. And it's that focus on preservation that often paves the way for organizations to receive grant funding for their projects.

One of CCAHA's partners – the **Wharton Esherick Museum** – was recently awarded a **Save America's Treasure (SAT)** grant thanks in part to the organization's prior focus on assessing and caring for its collections. **The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** awarded the \$130,000 grant through the National Park Service's SAT program.

The grant will fund the conservation treatment of recently unearthed treasures in the artist's collection, including prints, drawings, watercolors, and ephemera on paper that will grow his artistic legacy once stabilized and prepared for exhibition.

BOTTOM LEFT

Courtesy of the Wharton Esherick Museum

BOTTOM RIGHT

Senior Conservation Assistant Jillian Herrick Wilcox



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IN THE LAB



CCAHA Associate Paper Conservator Basia Nosek recently treated this 1924 series of cubist studies by American modernist painter Blanche Lazzell (1878-1956), from the collections of the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts. The drawings were washed to reduce overall discoloration, as well as mended with a lightweight paper. Before mending, Basia carefully examined the drawings under a microscope.

FAIC SHARES *HELD IN TRUST* REPORT

In June, the **Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC)**, in cooperation with the NEH, released a report entitled *Held in Trust: Transforming Cultural Heritage Conservation for a More Resilient Future*. The report makes a clarion call at the national level, declaring that, “A vibrant and resilient future for conservation and preservation depends upon the development of new, highly collaborative paradigms and structures grounded in social justice, equity, and environmental action.” This call to action has inspired the staff of CCAHA, and we have already begun using the report to inform the scope of our education programs.

We appreciate the leadership of CCAHA’s former Executive Director, Laura Hartz Stanton, CCAHA Board members Debra Hess Norris and Alison Gilchrest, as well as other CCAHA staff and board members, on this strategic planning endeavor for our field. We encourage everyone to read it and share it with your stakeholders, including elected representatives, who can support increased funding.



READ MORE



For many years, the **CCAHA OPEN HOUSE** has been an annual highlight for staff, giving us an opportunity to welcome the public into our lab for an up-close look at the facility and some of our favorite projects. In 2023, for the first time, we hosted two Open House events—one in the spring and one in the fall—allowing us to showcase our work to even more of our friends and neighbors. The pilot **SPRING OPEN HOUSE** was an intimate gathering, with objects including a 1512 print by German Renaissance master Albrecht Dürer and a suite of woodblock prints by trailblazing indigenous artist T.C. Cannon. The **FALL OPEN HOUSE** included objects from artists such as John T. Biggers, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Wharton Esherick, and Andy Warhol, as well as interactive, educational stations where guests were invited to get hands-on with some of the tools and materials we use in the lab. Visitors loved our Preservation Services department’s photo booth, where they posed with props representing the Agents of Deterioration (pictured).



1 On August 9, we welcomed **Pennsylvania State Representative Ben Waxman** for a meeting with members of CCAHA’s staff and board, followed by a tour of the CCAHA lab. We were grateful for the opportunity to thank Mr. Waxman for his support of arts funding in the state budget that had just been passed. The meeting gave us the chance to make a case for the value and importance of conservation and preservation work and the need for the Commonwealth’s continued support. We described some of the issues facing our field, from the impact of climate change on collections care to the imperative to train the next generation of conservators. We also spent time discussing Philadelphia’s plans for the upcoming Semiquincentennial—the 250th anniversary of the nation’s founding—and how arts and culture organizations can fit into that celebration.

2 Every spring, the **National Humanities Alliance** hosts **Humanities Advocacy Day** on Capitol Hill, which connects professionals from the field with members of congress to make a case for federal humanities funding. In March, CCAHA **Director of Preservation Services Dyani Feige** participated, visiting Washington, D.C., to meet with Senator Bob Casey, Representative Brendan Boyle (PA-2), Representative Chris Deluzio (PA-17), and Representative Dwight Evans (PA-3). We’re grateful to the National Humanities Alliance for organizing this important opportunity!

CCAHA PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION SERVICES

For collections stewards—those responsible for keeping their institution’s collections safe, stable, and accessible for generations into the future—CCAHA’s expert Preservation Services staff are a welcome part of the team. After a site visit from our team, clients have commented that they feel they can relax knowing they are not alone in their collections care journey.

Throughout 2023, our Preservation Services department supported more than 20 organizations and institutions with onsite collections surveys, preservation needs and risk assessments, space and renovation planning, and mold remediation guidance. The consultations and resulting reports

provided clients with the recommendations and tools they needed to meet their collections care goals.

Since 2016, CCAHA has administered the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) program in partnership with the New York State Archives and New York State Library. The program assists archives, libraries, historical societies, museums, and other collecting organizations in New York State with preservation planning and education services.

HIGHLIGHTS & MILESTONES



Together, CCAHA’s Preservation Services and DHPSNY educational programs **reached nearly 5000 individuals** in **33 countries** in 2023



We welcomed four new Preservation Services and DHPSNY team members:

Preservation Specialist Katie Lowe, Education Program Manager Greg Stuart, Preservation Services Administrator Camilla Dawson, and DHPSNY Preservation Specialist Kate Jacus



CCAHA and DHPSNY delivered collections planning and assessment services to **67 institutions**



Director of Development **Lee Price** **celebrated 15 years** working with the HBCU Library Alliance



In 2023, the Preservation Services department delivered **eight free public programs** on topics ranging from artifact handling to dew point, wet treatment, budgeting, and other collections care topics. The Preservation Services department also offers privately-contracted programs, presented by request to collecting organizations across the country. In 2023, CCAHA presented **18 programs** on topics ranging from **Building Maintenance to Disaster Planning, Digitization, Archival Description, Mold Detection, and much more.**

In January 2023, the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** announced \$28.1 million in funding for more than 200 humanities projects nationwide. Among those awarded were CCAHA and our partners at **Centro de Conservación y Restauración de Puerto Rico (CENCOR)**. CENCOR is a nonprofit institution that promotes the conservation and study of cultural heritage in Puerto Rico. This funding supports the development of a program in the region modeled on CCAHA's own Regional Heritage Stewardship Program (RHSP). The two-year initiative includes a series of workshops and webinars, preventive conservation internships for pre-program students, and the development of preventive conservation resources.

An advisory committee of key experts in Puerto Rico and the diaspora was assembled, and in June 2023, CCAHA staff made an initial weeklong visit to Puerto Rico. Dyani Feige and Maddie Cooper spent the week meeting with partners from CENCOR and touring various sites to share information about the collaboration and learn firsthand about the needs of collecting institutions. Nine sites were visited in total, and the CCAHA and CENCOR teams are well-positioned to enact next steps of the project.



TOP Detail from a collection survey conducted by CCAHA and CENCOR

BOTTOM CCAHA Associate Preventive Conservator Maddie Cooper and Director of Preservation Services Dyani Feige (second and third from left) visit CENCOR staff to help survey collecting institutions in Puerto Rico



CCAHA's **COLLECTIONS STEWARDSHIP SUCCESSION PLANNING INITIATIVE** is a two-year project of CCAHA, in partnership with Lyrasis, created to actively address the need for leadership development and knowledge transfer in the cultural heritage workforce. Funded by a National Leadership Grant from the **INSTITUTE FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)**, this project remains in the information gathering phase with several additional listening sessions currently being planned with help from our advisory committee members and professional partners throughout the country. Eight sessions have been held to date with a total of 165 participants. An additional four sessions have been scheduled through September 2024.



LEARN MORE



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATORS & CULTURAL HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS

For decades, CCAHA has connected emerging conservators with a highly skilled staff deeply committed to their education and success. In the past 46 years, CCAHA staff has hosted more than 70 fellows and dozens of interns, in partnership with several graduate programs.

CONSERVATION FELLOWS



SANDRINE BLAIS



Mellon Paper Conservation Fellow (2023-24), graduate of Queen's University, Ontario, Canada



NYLAH BYRD



NEA Book Conservation Fellow (2022-23), graduate of Winterthur/University of Delaware, Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC)

CONSERVATION INTERNS



EMMA HARTMAN



Photograph Conservation Intern, Institute of Fine Arts, New York



BRITTANY MURRAY



Book Conservation Intern, Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC)

FUNDERS



CCAHA thanks the following partners and donors for their generous support.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



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Gold
Transparency
2023

Candid.

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