

#ARCSchat Explores: Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion

March 2 at 1pm ET

[ARCS YouTube Channel](#)

Diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion - DEAI - are fundamental principles that have only recently been prioritized in any earnest, effectual way within the museum field and its affiliated professional organizations.

ARCS recognizes that it is our duty not only to promote discussions around DEAI initiatives, but to practice those tenets within the organization itself. It was with this understanding that we created the IDEA task force. In an effort to focus on inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility, we've turned the lens inward. Composed of both ARCS members and non-members, the task force is charged with conducting a review of our internal structures, priorities, and guiding principles, and how they align with our commitment to DEAI values.

Join us for the March #ARCSchat with guest co-host Samantha Forsko, Vice President of the ARCS Board, and four of the eight members of the IDEA task force as we discuss the groups creation, their work to date, and the future of the IDEA group.

Panelists:

[TF Co-Chair] Renee S. Anderson, Ph.D. (she/her)

Dr. Anderson is a Collections Manager at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). She focuses on special projects which include media interactions, Council collections support, VIP visitor experiences, special collections projects, and the NMAAHC Treasures Program supporting critical community interaction. Dr. Anderson serves as the NMAAHC Conservation Internship for Broadening Access (CIBA) representative for the Mellon Foundation Smithsonian Institution Pan-Institutional Undergraduate Conservation Internship Program for Underrepresented Groups. Dr. Anderson holds degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA; Ph.D. (2000) and M.S. (1997) in Clothing and Textiles and Textile Science, and a B.F.A. (1983) Fashion Design from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Shiori Oki (she/her)

Shiori is a recent graduate of the George Washington M.A. Museum Studies Program and received a B.A. in Classical Languages and Literature from Pacific Lutheran University. Her emphasis in both degrees focuses on understanding and challenging systemic power hierarchies that have become inherent practices in social and cultural institutions. She currently works as a Technical Associate with Wendy Jessup and Associates, Inc., a small woman owned business that provides preventive conservation services to a variety of cultural heritage institutions.

Janet Chen (she/her)

Janet is the Senior Assistant Registrar at the Harvard Art Museums within the division of Collections Management. She manages all Campus Lending projects and the University Loan Collection, Harvard Portrait and Clock Collection, and the Student Print Rental program. Janet graduated from the University

of Glasgow with a Master's in Art History. During her undergraduate years at Wellesley College, she double majored in Art History and English. Janet was President of the Taiwanese Cultural Organization and co-chair of Asian Awareness Month.

Tiffany Charles (she/her)

Tiffany has worked in collections management and registration for over 15 years. She holds a BA in History from DePaul University in Chicago and an MA in Maritime Archaeology from the University of Bristol in the UK. Tiffany has been an active member of the LGBTQIA+ communities in Chicago and New Orleans and previously served as Board Vice President of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. She currently heads Exhibitions Registration at the Field Museum in Chicago.

Chat Feature Attendees:

[TF Co-Chair] Adriane Tafoya (she/her)

Adriane is a California native (Tejon Indian Tribe) and has been a Registrar/Collections Manager since 2003. She earned a BA in art history from Chico State and an MA in museum studies from John F. Kennedy University. Her graduate thesis was on caring for sacred Native American objects in museums. She has held registrar positions in art and history museums, university museums, and private collections. She is currently the Senior Collections Manager at the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and serves on UT's NAGPRA Committee.

Dottie Teraberry (she/her)

Dottie has worked in the registration field since 1997. She earned her BA in Liberal Arts with a concentration in art history from Sarah Lawrence College. She has worked as a registrar for outward loans and exhibitions. She has held registrar positions in art museums, a traveling exhibitions organization and currently works at the New-York Historical Society where she has been Registrar for Exhibitions since 2011. She is interested in creating opportunities and spaces to actively support and mentor new and emerging professionals of color.

Unable to Attend:

Amy Cao (she/her)

Amy has been the Curatorial Assistant at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO since 2018. Fort Lewis is a majority-minority, Native-serving institution (situated on the ancestral homeland of the Nuchu (Ute), Apache, the Pueblos, Hopi, Zuni, and the Diné Nation). Amy received her BA from Wesleyan University with a double major in anthropology and archaeology and is remotely pursuing a Masters in Museum Studies at Southern University at New Orleans. She is a member for Fort Lewis College's Staff and Faculty of Color group and the Diversity Collaborative.

Candace Thomas (she/her)

Candace is a Museum Registrar at Crozier Fine Arts and oversees registration and artifact inventory activities on a major museum collection relocation project. She earned a B.A. in History with a minor in

Classical Studies from Georgetown University and a M.A. in Museum Studies from New York University. She believes in the need for diverse voices within both the ARCS organization and the museum field.