

Arizona Historical Records Advisory Board

(AHRAB)

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

During the September 2007 meeting, the Board reviewed 12 grant applications and awarded funds totaling \$20,000 to: the Town of Quartzsite for re-housing their collections; the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson for a consultant to access their photo and film collections; the Powell Museum for a consultant to help them draft an Archives Collection Management Plan; the Jewish Historical Society, Phoenix, to help them process their photo collections; the Show Low Historical Society for inventorying and re-housing their collections; the Museum of Northern Arizona to access, re-house, and create finding aids; the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff to clean and re-house glass plate negatives; the Black Canyon Historical Society for supplies to house their collections; the Pueblo Grande Museum to provide access to 1400 aerial photo images; and the Mohave Museum of History and Arts, Kingman for supplies to re-house their photo and paper collections.

AHRAB met January 28, 2008 and April 7, 2008 in Phoenix and June 5, 2008 in Flagstaff. The June meeting was held in conjunction with the Arizona Association of County Administrators. The Board spent several months revising and updating the Strategic/Action Plan. Four members of Board attended the March Arizona Convocation, a yearly meeting sponsored by Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, that brings together approximately 300 museum people, archivists, librarians, historians, records managers, and genealogists from around the state. They used this as an opportunity to promote the work AHRAB does and to meet new contacts.

On behalf of AHRAB, between July 2007 and June 30, 2008, Archives staff provided Archives 101 workshops in Sierra Vista (17 attendees), Show Low (15 attendees) and Black Canyon City (16 attendees). These workshops are aimed at small archival repositories whose staffs are often volunteers and who have few opportunities for archival education. Archives staff found that 80% of the attendees at these three workshops knew very little about archives before the workshop, in spite of the fact that they work in archival collections held by their repositories. Each attendee also received an Archivist toolkit consisting of a Hollinger box and various archival tools that the participants took back to use in their institutions. Archives staff also worked with the San Pedro Historical Society, the Powell Museum, the Winslow Historical Society, the Black Canyon City Historical Society and the Show Low Historical Society to help them develop emergency/disaster preparedness plans and policies.

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In the September 2008 meeting the Board reviewed twelve grants that came in as part of the AHRAB/NHPRC re-grants program and awarded \$20,000 in funds to ten of the applicants including: the Bead Museum, Glendale, to purchase archival storage materials for preservation of an archival collection of late 19th century bead cards and related materials and to create a finding aid for the collection.; the Apache County Recorder to inventory and preserve 354 volumes, 540 plat maps and 3,800 survey maps; the Lowell Observatory, the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, to re-house 217 linear feet of unpublished anthropology and archeology collections; the Cave Creek Museum to house and preserve their photograph collections; the Clarkdale Heritage Museum to house and house and preserve their city records from the 1920s through the 1950s; collections; the Labriola American Indian Data Center to preserve, then digitize 17 videotapes containing research done in the early 1980s involving the San Carlos and Tonto Apache Tribes; the Phoenix Museum of History to flatten, preserve and microfilm their architectural collections; the Northern Gila County Historical Society to bring in a consultant to access their archival collections, train staff to evaluate and inventory materials and help staff create finding aids; and the Pueblo Grande Museum Auxiliary to assess and preserve pre-and post WWII archaeological maps and over-size documents.

In September 2008, the Board completed the new Strategic Plan. One of the desired outcomes of the new plan is a high level of commitment of Board members, including increased attendance at public events sponsored by historical records and cultural preservation communities. *Protecting Arizona's Documentary Heritage, Action Plan 2008-2012* is now published and the Board has begun distributing it to cultural institutions, archives and libraries throughout the state. The new plan is also on the AHRAB website.

In January 2009 AHRAB sponsored a two-day statewide Arizona Archives Summit held in the new Polly Rosenbaum State Archives Building. The goal was to create cooperation among archives across Arizona in order to preserve the state's historical record. Approximately 25 people from the state's rural and urban areas attended the Summit. There is a need for greater cooperation between the state's archives because all are facing budget cuts, backlogs, gaps and split collections. At the same time, even as archivists cope with these difficulties, they want to provide improved access. Among the topics discussed were: the ethics of collecting; the need to update and share collections policies; the relationships between the scope of collecting, the ethical and material costs of inefficient preservation and processing and the need to align our programs with the resources available.

The May 2009 AHRAB meeting was held in conjunction with the 2009 Convocation. A number of the archivists who had attended the Archival Summit met with several AHRAB members during the Convocation to continue the discussion that began at the Summit.