



Chest of Drawers (detail) (83.DA.282)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Image: © 2016 J. Paul Getty Trust

Managing Collection Environments: Preserving Collections in the Age of Sustainability

Intensive Workshop June 5 – 16, 2017
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts,
Philadelphia

Online material from March 2017
Distance mentoring from July 2017

The Getty Conservation Institute **Managing Collection Environments Initiative**

Managing collection environments while providing long-term access to cultural materials requires a complex set of technical, analytical, and social skills. The preservation of collections has evolved into a discipline that has acknowledged the complexities and uncertainties that are present at all stages of environmental management. Recent and on-going debate about appropriate climates has eroded the certainty of prescriptive approaches to reveal that no single field of study holds the solution and no one solution can be applied universally.

The GCI's Managing Collection Environments initiative is offering an innovative course that brings together different disciplines, emerging knowledge, and the skills required to communicate and build consensus on the most appropriate approaches for climate control. The course will provide up-to-date information that puts theory into practice and connects with participants' own working contexts by drawing on their experiences and by fostering continued learning through distance mentoring.

AIM

The course aims to disseminate recent research and thinking on technical aspects of environmental management while enhancing participants' critical thinking and analysis to different kinds of information, and enhance their decision-making and influence within institutional frameworks.

More specific objectives are to:

- Update and refresh technical knowledge in order to analyze and communicate collection risks
- Discuss the management of collection climates from the perspectives of architects, conservators, curators, facilities managers, scientists, and institutional administrators by blending the experience and knowledge of experts with your own situation
- Set problems and solutions into institutional frameworks while exploring decision-making that balances all issues and stakeholders and builds towards institutional consensus
- Help develop holistic, sustainable solutions that are based on the needs and capacities of your institution
- Develop a network of professionals dedicated to sustainable preservation of historic materials



The Getty Conservation Institute

Course Announcement cont'd

TOPICS

The course will cover a range of topics – from analysis of the situation to implementation of decisions. Topics include, but are not limited to: climates and building envelopes, material response to climate, causes and concepts of 'damage', monitoring and data analysis, risk-based approaches, sustainable options for control and management practices, long-term strategies, program briefing, strategies for communication and leadership.

COURSE LEARNING STRATEGY

In order to support informative classroom discussion and to embed learning in practice, the course will commence online with tasks, readings and discussion. All participants will be required to complete a number of assignments during this initial phase of the course; some assignments will require information-gathering and consultation with other institutional colleagues. Participants may require 2-3 hours per week to complete work assigned during this initial 10 week phase. The second phase will be an intensive two-week interdisciplinary on site workshop that will take place at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, PA, USA. The third and final phase of the course will be a six-month distance mentoring program (individual to each participant).

A commitment to participate actively in all three phases of the course is required. The working language of the course is English

Benefits to participants

The course design...

- Provides up-to-date knowledge on technical advances, practical implementation, and decision-making skills for collection preservation
- Blends learning with your own experience through the use of case-based learning and in-practice mentoring
- Helps develop your personal skills to communicate, justify ideas, and to understand and respond collaboratively to other perspectives and needs
- Provides insight into perspectives and activities of other disciplines connected to collection preservation
- Enhances your ability to manage and facilitate change
- Develops new contacts, and strengthens your existing contacts within and beyond your institution

Benefits to participants' institutions

Activities to be pursued by participants throughout the course will engage other institutional personnel that may...

- Foster cooperation, communication, and understanding within the institution
- Improve personal and professional competence of staff to achieve institution's mission and manage change
- Contributes to organizational commitments to sustainable environmental practice
- Strengthen internal and external networks
- Help develop current staff for future roles

INSTRUCTORS

Vincent Beltran, Getty Conservation Institute
Foekje Boersma, Getty Conservation Institute
Walt Crimm, Walt Crimm Associates
Pamela Hatchfield, Boston Museum of Fine Arts
Michael C. Henry, Watson & Henry Associates
Wendy Jessup, Wendy Jessup Associates

Jeremy Linden, Image Permanence Institute
Michal Lukomski, Getty Conservation Institute
Bob Norris, Magic Hat Consulting
Patricia Silence, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Joel Taylor, Getty Conservation Institute

Course Announcement cont'd

ELIGIBILITY

This course is open to 18 mid- to senior-career professionals whose responsibilities include conservation-, collection- or facility management for collections in cultural institutions, such as museums, libraries and archives. Participants will either be based in an institution or directly contribute to an institution's mission through long-term consultancy or support. Participants may act as a focal point for an internal network in their institution or project, especially during the mentoring phase.

Participants should have the ability to understand and discuss technical and scientific literature dealing with the collection environments.

COST

The total cost of the course is \$750, including the pre-course online activities and the six-month mentoring period. This does not include travel to Philadelphia, accommodation and meals during the two-week workshop.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application materials available mid-September at: http://bit.ly/MCE_Education

DEADLINE

The deadline for applications is 30 November 2016, including permission from head of department/director of institution.

NOTIFICATION

Applicants will be notified of the status of their application via e-mail on January 13, 2017.

If you have questions about the application process or require additional information, please contact mce@getty.edu.