



Wikipedia Saves Public Art



Museum Studies @ IUPUI



Sasson Soffer East Gate/West Gate

Museum studies students and faculty have developed and launched the nation's first organized effort to document public art information in [Wikipedia](#). Participants in the Fall 2009 & 2010 "Collections Care and Management" course wrote and edited Wikipedia articles about public art works located on the IUPUI campus and the Indiana Statehouse.

The project was developed by Jennifer Geigel Mikulay, a jointly-appointed faculty member based in Museum

Studies and Herron School of Art and Design, and Richard McCoy, Associate Conservator of Objects and Variable Art at the [Indianapolis Museum of Art](#). Mikulay and McCoy continue to lead what they hope will become a global initiative: Wikipedia Saves Public Art.

Students researched, catalogued, photographed and prepared articles, accessible on Wikipedia. Students wrote entries for about 40 public artworks on the IUPUI campus and 38 artworks in and around the Indiana Statehouse. The project has gained national attention. Entries were highlighted on the Wikipedia front page and featured in a [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) article (April 4, 2010). Locally, Mikulay was interviewed for WFYI's "Art of the Matter" program (April 9, 2010). Several students have remained involved with the project to contribute additional articles on artworks throughout Indianapolis and the artists who created them.



Indiana Statehouse

In November 2010 Lori Phillips, along with Richard McCoy, coordinated a lecture and workshop, *Wikipedia and the Cultural Sector*, sponsored by the IMA, the IUPUI Museum Studies program, and the [School of Library and Information Sciences](#).

The lecture took place at the IMA, featured Liam Wyatt who spoke about Wikipedia's role in museums and the cultural sector. Adrienne Wadewitz discussed Wikipedia as a teaching tool. The lecture ended with a workshop that allowed participants to learn the basics of Wikipedia editing. A video of the event will soon be available on [ArtBabble](#).



L to R: Richard McCoy, Stephanie Herrick, Lori Phillips, Representative Tom Saunders, Mandy Charles, Chelsea Libby, and Amy Patterson

Please follow these links to learn more:
[Wikipedia Saves Public Art](#),
[IUPUI Public Art Collection](#),
[Indiana Statehouse Public Art Collection](#)
 IMA Blog posts:
[The Bird Flies In Denver](#)
[Wikipedia & the Cultural Sector](#)

Museum Studies @ IUPUI

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SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
 INDIANA UNIVERSITY
 IUPUI

Upcoming events:

World Archaeological Congress (WAC)
 Indigenous People and Museums
 Unraveling the Tensions
 June 22-25, 2011

Dr. James Cuno, Director of Art Institute of Chicago, and author of *Who Owns Antiquity*
 March 23-24, 2011

Please let [Becky Ellis](#) know if you have any upcoming events!

Urban Garden at IUPUI by [Matt Groshek](#)



Raised garden bed overview

For those of you trying to hold onto an image of your summer garden while walking the snowy landscapes around campus, you now have a place to ponder your field of green. An urban garden is now solidly place on our campus. Some of you may have noticed a series of wooden box-like frames filled with dirt just south of the science building. Just take a short walk from the library toward North Blackford street and you'll see it tucked up against the building.

The raised beds you see will become lush garden plots once spring comes and plants are put in place for a vigorous season of growing. Filled with a rich mixture of organic compost, topsoil and other soil amendments, these plots will become IUPUI's first experiment in on-campus civic agriculture.

Of course none of this happens without people as stewards. First initiated nearly 4 years ago through conversations with IUPUI staff and administrators it reached its first phase culmination on October 6th. On that day, and in the weeks and months proceeding, staff from the Environmental Health and safety Office, the recently formed DIGS! (Developing IUPUI Gardens Sustainably!) student group and the IUPUI Garden Committee and Campus Facility Services installed 18 raised beds.

Lending a hand that day were hard-working IUPUI staff and

students. Many people showed up for work through the Common Theme project work-day, and others simply stopped by while walking to class to join in with shovels and tools to complete the work. Others from the community donated lumber, hardware, soil, soil amendments and tools.

Since that time bulbs of garlic and walking onions, crocus, daffodil and tulips have been planted. A cover crop of winter rye and hairy vetch to turn into the soil when spring arrives has already grown. A trellis for climbing plants is now in place and three compost bins are already churning with microbes, earth worms, food scraps, leaves and grass clippings.

At this point the real work is just beginning. The DIGS! student group continues to meet and maintain the gardens through volunteer work and a strong commitment to service. Please contact coordinator Rachel Bennett for more information at: digs@iupui.edu.

You might wonder what all of this has to do with Museum Studies? I believe that gardens have a unique capacity to serve as "living collections" that bring people together to share and build stories of place and culture. At the same time they also work as sites of life-long learning, where people can gain survival skills and cultivate a culture of care and stewardship that extends to community. In this manner many things that museums offer can be put forward in a space such as a garden. Intergenerational learning, contextualizing

science and economics, appreciating beauty, caring for a collection that lives, and learning how to make something useful are all aspects of gardens that easily line up with how museums function.

In a place such as IUPUI we can realize the value of this work as a civic one as well - where we look at coming together in a community of stewardship to make growth happen. The IUPUI Urban Garden will



hopefully do this in many ways, growing not just tangible (and good!) foodstuffs, but skills, relationships, community, beauty, and knowledge. Not such a bad thing for a bit of dirt, sweat, brains, brawn, and especially life. Please join us if you can.

If faculty, staff or students are interested in utilizing the garden for research, teaching or training, please contact Matt Groshek directly at mgroshek@iupui.edu. We'll be meeting early in the next semester through the IUPUI Garden Committee to plan next steps and begin reviewing proposals for integrating the garden into IUPUI's community and civic life.



Matt Groshek (fourth from the right) pictured with a group of devoted volunteers.

New View: Justin Ellis, First Year Master's Student



My name is Justin Ellis and I recently moved from Des Moines, Iowa for the Master's Degree in Liberal Arts program in Museum Studies at IUPUI. I came to the program with experience in development, collections management and fine art installation

through the Des Moines Art Center. My first semester in Indianapolis has been exciting academically and socially as I have tried to explore this new place I call home.

My commute to school takes me on a quick bike ride along the gorgeous canal past some of Indianapolis's finest museums. Every week I have strived to visit a new museum in the Indianapolis area for purely personal and entertainment reasons. Thus far, I have visited nearly every museum and every major museum minus the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. So far my favorites are the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indiana Historical Society and the Medical History Museum which I recently visited with my wife.

Part of exploring Indianapolis has also been studying on the IUPUI campus, usually in the philanthropy library or at the new Campus Center. I find both locations abundant in resources (coffee and books). In between studying at these places I enjoy the many student and faculty led art galleries offered on campus in the Herron School for the Arts and at the Campus Center building.

Next semester brings exciting challenges as will be working toward creating more professional connections, keeping up with course work and continuing researching for a project I developed in my first semester. I am excited to face the challenges and gain essential experience this program brings day in and day out.

Featured Alumni: [Anna Musun-Miller](#), Curator, [Johnson Co. Museum of History](#)

When I started in the Museum Studies program (Fall 2008), I wanted to try a little bit of everything. As the museum field becomes increasingly specialized, it's easy to focus on one aspect of museum work exclusively. If you are interested in being a specialist, large museums will give you that opportunity, but small museums like mine still need generalists. I think there's a tendency in graduate school to believe you have to choose an aspect of museum work and stick with it 'til death do you part—but if you don't feel drawn to a single corner of the museum universe, don't be afraid to meander. The diversity of the work I did in this program (and showed in my portfolio) is undoubtedly why I have a job. I did internships in programs and exhibits,

and now I'm in a job where I do those things, but also collections, administration, and community liaison work. Is it mildly terrifying to do so many things? Yes. Am I ever bored? No.

My advice to current students would be to try every aspect of museum work once, but only pursue what excites you. Use [AAM's JobHQ](#) to find out which job descriptions include what excites you. Get as much internship experience under people in those jobs as you can. Finally, treat every community partner project as an opportunity to build your portfolio; those real projects are what will distinguish you from other fresh Museum Studies MAs on the job market.



WAC Inter-Congress on Indigenous Peoples and Museums

Indigenous People and Museums: Unraveling the Tensions, 22-25 June 2011



[Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis](#) (IUPUI) Museum Studies Program and the [Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art](#) will host an Inter-Congress of the World Archaeological Congress (WAC) on the topic *Indigenous Peoples and Museums: Unraveling the Tensions*. The Inter-Congress will take place in Indianapolis in conjunction with the Eiteljorg's Indian Market and Festival (25-26 June).

The organizers are inviting proposals for sessions, workshops, demonstrations, poster papers, and contributed papers on topics related to the relationships between

museums and Indigenous peoples. All proposals will be evaluated for their relevance to the theme by the Inter-Congress Academic Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Julie Hollowell of the Intellectual Property in Cultural Heritage project at Simon Fraser University. The committee includes scholars and Indigenous people from all over the world. The organizers are especially encouraging participation by students, and there will be a student session with awards for best student papers and posters. Several IUPUI Museum Studies students have prepared resource materials for the conference web site and will be presenting papers and posters for the meeting. For additional information and resources, see the Inter-Congress web site at <http://wacmuseums.info>.

For other questions e-mail Larry Zimmerman at organizers@wacmuseums.info or by post at:

Prof. Larry Zimmerman
WAC Inter-Congress
IUPUI Museums Studies 433 Cavanaugh
425 University Boulevard
Indianapolis Indiana 46202-5140
USA

[Call for paper, sessions, etc.](#) deadline: May 1, 2011, however, early submissions are encouraged!



Three Perspectives: [Association of Midwest Museums](#) Conference

This past October several Museum Studies students and alumni attended the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The opportunity to meet other professionals in the field, learn about new programs and projects, and see local museums is always one of the benefits of attending a conference. Some of the highlights for this year's conference included a trips to the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#), the [Great Lakes Science Center](#), [Cleveland Museum of Art](#), [Cleveland Museum of Natural History](#) and many more! Students who participate in the conference, whether as attendees or presenters always gain valuable perspectives and insights into their future careers in the field, as well as what they can do now to support museum practice. One of the more influential experiences for students was learning about museum advocacy. Several students are currently working with members of [Association of Indiana Museums](#), as well as AMM on [Advocacy Day](#) efforts. Stay tuned for more details on this opportunity.

- [Elee Wood](#), Assistant Professor of Museum Studies and Teacher Education Public Scholar of Museums, Families, and Learning, [The Children's Museum of Indianapolis](#)



Rosie Arnold and Chrissy Gregg at the AMM Conference

I was one of five IUPUI Museum Studies students to attend the Association of Midwest Museums conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The theme of the conference was *Museums Making Connections*. Marsha Semmel of the IMLS gave the keynote address, speaking about the 21st Century Museum. She emphasized the need for critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication in the field for museums that want to be relevant in a global society.

Over three days, I attended workshops on leadership, advocacy, education, collaboration, and technology. I made connections with other museum professionals and acquired resources for coursework and professional work.

By night, I toured the museums of Cleveland at evening receptions. Through formal and informal conversation, we all emerged as leaders. I felt our voices were heard and respected among current museum professionals. I felt equipped with the knowledge to participate in the discourse about the future of museums and in some ways offered new insights.

The next AMM conference: [Museumpalooza!](#) will take place July 24-27, 2011 in Chicago, Illinois. Students are encouraged to participate and continue to advocate for the both for the MSTD program and for the 21st Century Museum. [Scholarships are available through AMM](#) to attend future conferences.



Erin Hetrick

In early October I traveled to my hometown, Cleveland, Ohio to attend the Association of Midwest Museums Conference "Museums Making Connections". When walking in the reception hall on this first morning of the conference, I heard the familiar voice of Elee Wood handing out the annual AMM awards, and knew it was going to be a fun experience and great opportunity to learn, exchange ideas, and network.

The conference kicked off with a keynote speech by Marsha Semmel, the Acting Director of IMLS who spoke on "The 21st Century Leadership Challenge." The conference contained many helpful info sessions, and I always had a hard time choosing which to attend. These sessions really demonstrated the many innovative and creative endeavors museums across our region are spearheading.

I experienced distance learning firsthand at the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, by beaming in other local museums and schools to see how this tool is used in fun and imaginative ways. Another session featured the collaboration between the Cleveland Museum of Art and the [Cleveland Clinic Arts & Medicine Institute](#). One of the most rewarding sessions was "Engaging Public Leaders: Relationships Building Ideas" discussing the basics and benefits of museum advocacy.

I left the conference feeling invigorated, and now am part of planning a local advocacy event in Indianapolis for the national Museum Advocacy Day in 2011.



Chrissy Gregg

The Association of Midwest Museums conference in Cleveland was an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with other museums in our region and to begin building my professional network. I attended sessions on a variety of topics, including revitalizing a historic house museum, connecting with teenage audiences, and received guidance on my own professional development during the first five years of my career.

During the conference we visited the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Cleveland Museum of Art. The conference was a great chance to immerse myself in the issues surrounding the museum field and take part in insightful discussions about the direction the field is headed. I left feeling confident about my education in the IUPUI program because I feel like I am being prepared for the challenges and opportunities I will encounter as I start my career.



Rosie Arnold

Upcoming Professional Organizations Conferences

for a full conference listing please visit our website: <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/mstd/index.php/resources/links>

[American Association of Museums](#): May 22-25, 2011, Houston, Texas

[Association of Midwest Museums](#): July 24-27, 2011, Chicago, Illinois

[Association of Indian Museums](#): September 18-19, 2011, Richmond, Indiana

Student Experience: Lori B. Philips

From October 28-30, 2010 I had the opportunity to represent the IUPUI Museum Studies program at the [Museum Computer Network](#) (MCN) conference in Austin, Texas where I presented the Wikipedia Saves Public Art project alongside adjunct instructor Richard McCoy. MCN brought together a group of international leaders in the museum technology field, including staff from the [Smithsonian](#), the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), the [Victoria and Albert Museum](#), as well as the [IMA](#). The conference is unique in that it combines people from a range of museum fields, from education and marketing to collections management and conservation, who collectively discuss issues and provide solutions through the scope of museum technology. Sessions included everything from conservation technology to mobile apps.

[Wikipedia Saves Public Art \(WSPA\)](#) brought national attention to the [IUPUI Museum Studies](#) program last year when our Collections Care and Management course documented the [IUPUI Public Art Collection within Wikipedia](#). In Austin, we had the opportunity to share our experiences with WSPA. Richard presented the background of the project and discussed how Wikipedia can help us advocate for public art. I presented the latest iteration of our project, the [IMA E-Volunteer Program](#).

Our session, titled Collaborating with Audiences, included presentations on the role of Wikipedia in online museum collaboration. Also presenting in our session was Liam Wyatt, Wikimedia volunteer and Wikipedian-in-Residence at the [British Museum](#). Liam likes to ask museums, "You have a volunteer program,



Richard McCoy, Lori Philips, and Liam Wyatt presenting at MCN

but do you have an E-Volunteer program?" In my portion of our presentation I unveiled the IMA's new E-Volunteer Program, which uses the tools within WSPA to help volunteers share research on notable IMA artworks in Wikipedia. Our presentation about WSPA and the E-Volunteer Program provided a solution to the main question that came out of the conference: What does an E-Volunteer program look like... and how do you start one?

Welcome to the Program Incoming 2010 Class

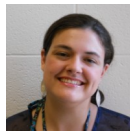
We welcomed one of our largest entering class. Students from 10 states joined the program with diverse backgrounds including: Archaeology, Anthropology, Art History, Astronomy, English, History, International Studies Philosophy, Photography, Political Science, Sociology, and Visual Art.



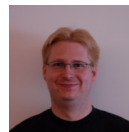
Alex Carrier
Katie Chattin
Julianna Class
Deanna Cundiff



Julia Dick
Justin Ellis
Megan Geurts
Stephanie Herrick



Chelsea Libby
Kate Massman
Amy Patterson
Lauren Pollien



Don Riefler
Maggie Schmidt
Sandra Schmidt
Genny Stotler



Annie Surber
Claire Thoma
Nichole Tramel
Lisa Watt



Abby Wolf
Rachael Zimmerman
Not Pictured:
Erik Peterson



Congratulations Graduating Museum Studies Students

Graduate Students

December 2009
Jennifer McDermott

May 2010
[Jamia Alexander](#)
Christa Barleben
[Stefanie Clark](#)
[Sarah A. Cole](#)

[Charles Fox](#)
Rachael Mathews
Mary Monical
[Anna Musun-Miller](#)
[Shelley Orlowski](#)
[Catherine Page](#)
[Eric Todd](#)

December 2010
Elizabeth S. Basile
Lori Philips (Cert.)
Nichole Tramel (Cert.)



Undergraduate Students

May 2010

Christina Denny
Christina Gentry
Anna Lake
Rebecca Lambert
Amber Taylor
Amanda York
Sarah Stierch

December 2010

Brandy Cook
Andrew Mankus
Carly Miller
Angie Vinci-Booher
Anna Yu