

Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC)- February 8, 2019

Attendees

Columbia University Library Staff: Michelle Chesner, Robert Cartolano, Chris Cronin, Roberto Ferrari, Kae Kratcha, Abbey Lovell, Jeremiah Mecurio, Anice Mills, Barbara Rockenbach, Francie Mrkich, Breck Witte

Students: Ashritha Eadara (Biomedical Engineering), Arlena McClenton (Barnard), Christopher Zheng (Columbia College), Aimee Toner (Barnard), Hannah Lundberg (Union Theological Seminary), Ashritha Eadara (Engineering), Molly Boord (General Studies), Anna Jastrzembki (School of the Arts), Alex Cuadrado (Italian), Noemy Santos (Social Work), Monique Harmon (Columbia College), Darold Cuba (Oral History), Drazen Medina (Columbia College)

For committee membership and previous meeting notes, please see our [Student Library Advisory Committee site](#).

Notes

*The next SLAC meeting will be held on **April 12, 12:30-1:30 in Butler 523**.

I. Updates and Questions

Ashritha Eadara - Engineering Council, offered feedback about the future of Watson Library in Uris based on conversations with the Engineering Council. Cafés continue to be important for that building and students would like to see camping (leaving materials unattended to save a seat) addressed in the new space.

2. Art Properties

In our first SLAC meeting this fall we talked about art in the libraries introducing the Library's Strategic directions, <https://strategicdirections.library.columbia.edu>, especially Commit to Inclusion. This direction includes embedding support and welcome in all our library spaces.

Roberto Ferrari, Curator of Art Properties introduced [Art Properties](#) and offered two proposals for student review. Christopher Zheng, student on the Art Properties Committee, was also in attendance.

Art Properties cares for and organizes the 250 years of art at Columbia with the goal of finding new and innovative ways to bring art to students. The art collection is an educational resource for research and study. The core curriculum was established in early 20th century and the notion was to distribute the University's art collection around campus, rather than in a museum, to immerse students in art from around the world. Like with all our library special collections, students can make appointments to see art objects for research and study. Students also curate exhibitions in the cases in Avery Library. Art works are also loaned to major exhibitions around the world.

Student suggestions:

Create an app to showcase art on campus

Guided tour for public sculpture or podcast

Proposal 1: Hang two portraits outside Butler 301

Dr Hu Shin 1891-1962 - first Chinese born student to graduate from Columbia

Portrait painted by Grace Annette DuPre in the mid-20th century

Winifred Edgerton Merrill (1862-1951) - first woman who graduated from Columbia

Portrait by Helena Eastman Ogden Campbell in the mid-20th century

Educator and mathematician, BA from Wellesley College. Received PhD from Columbia in 1886

Proposal to hang portraits outside Reference room (Butler 301)

Questions:

1) Will these portraits be integrated into current artwork of Butler or replace currently hanging works? Answer - The portraits will not replace any current artwork.

2) Will existing large portraits in Butler dwarf these new smaller portraits? Answer - No, the walls help provide scale.

Installation #2: Public Outdoor Sculpture

Paul Manship *The Cycle of Life (Armillary Sphere)* 1924 bronze with gliding

Art deco sculptor

Proposal to put this on the Weston lawn, east of Butler Library, surrounded by benches outside of John Jay

Installation during the summer 2019

Well-Head from Venice, Italy

Possibly 15th-16th century, installed 1913 currently installed in courtyard between Avery and Fayerweather and St. Paul's. Move to small lawn in front of Earl Hall.

Well-Head would move over spring break

Suggestion: Descriptive text for sculptures to provide context.

Questions:

1) Disciplinary connotations – should we consider placing art in disciplinary spaces that match the content of the art? For example, putting the Paul Manship *The Cycle of Life* that relates to science and astronomy in front of a science building. Answer – Departments change buildings and logistics of installation are also a consideration.

2) Does Art Properties worry about birds perching and pooping on public art? Answer - Bronzes are safer for outdoors and sculptures are cleaned often such as the Hamilton and Washington sculptures

3) This lawn is a popular area outside of John Jay for first years in nice weather. Will this installation change that space for hanging out or events held there? Answer - Facilities has assured Art Properties that they can accommodate and work around any potential planned events in that area. The Manship sculpture will be on a pedestal to minimize the amount of space it will take up on the lawn itself.