

COSTEP MA Executive Meeting

Massachusetts Archives
220 Morrissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02125
10:00am – 11:00am

Attendance:

Evan Knight (co-chair), Alejandra Dean (co-chair), John Hannigan, Kathy Griffin, Lori Foley, Priscilla Anderson, Jessica Bitely, Ben Hiltunen

Discussions and Updates

Communications updates and content development

Alejandra Dean and Evan Knight provided an update on the status of blog posts published and emails sent out to the listserv during October. The group then discussed a potential post for November on winterizing collections. The post will crowdsource tips from the COSTEP MA listserv that will then be curated into a blog post and an email listing recommendations for protecting collections and infrastructure during the winter months. Alejandra and Evan will draft an email template and will send to the group before posting. Evan then provided the group with a brief update on COSTEP MA website traffic, mentioning that there has been a slight decrease in overall sessions, but that the individual average session time on the site has increased.

Review of unpublished climate change resources section on website

The group then discussed a new section on the COSTEP MA website dedicated to resources on mitigating climate change. The page is currently located under Cultural Institutions -> Mitigation -> Addressing climate change. The group agreed to publish the page and to continue developing the resource section. Resources from a recent NEMA meeting which also focused on climate change will be incorporated into the resource section. Based on feedback from the NEMA meeting, the group identified a need for a resource toolkit that communities can turn to on mitigating the impacts of climate change, and the potential for COSTEP to develop content to support community planning. Ben Hiltunen suggested crafting a blog post highlighting the climate change section that would also link to the resources from the Resilience Symposium.

Outreach updates

Evan and Alejandra provided updates on outreach from the previous month, which included a phone conversation with Jennifer Erickson and other representatives from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and attending a subsequent networking lunch sponsored by MAPC to kickstart their study on arts and culture staff capacity in city and town governments. Alejandra and Evan mentioned that THIRA planning came up during the call, and the group discussed how COSTEP MA might help municipalities and government agencies during the planning process. Ben and Lori provided an overview of THIRA planning at the federal, state, and municipal levels. The group agreed to further explore how COSTEP MA can contribute subject expertise and insight into assessing capabilities in arts and culture.

Setting up working groups/task forces

Lastly, the group explored the idea of establishing small task forces or working groups of 2 or more Executive Committee members to take the lead on planning for projects in 2020. These would be a task force to plan and coordinate 2 disaster plan workshops leading up to a fall 2020 tabletop exercise, a taskforce to restart the in-person COSTEP MA network meetings for 2020, and a task force to develop a

Resilience guidebook with chapters focusing on different audiences, such as public libraries. Since a number of Executive Members were unable to attend the meeting, the group did not reach a decision on whether to establish these task forces and agreed to arrive at a decision by the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

December 12, 2019

10:00am

Massachusetts Archives and online