

COSTEP MA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 15, 2021

10:00 – 11:00am

Zoom meeting

Attendance

Evan Knight, Alejandra Dean, Becky Geller, Kathy Griffin, Stephanie Garafolo, Molly Ogrodnik, Matt Kearney, Jessica Bitely, Elizabeth Morse, Catherine Perrault

Welcome to new members

The group welcomed new member, Stephanie Garafolo, NEDCC Preservation Specialist, to the Executive Committee.

Communications updates: blog posts, website, and social media

The COSTEP website received 140 page views in June, with visitors spending an average of 2 minutes on the site. The most popular page this month was the blog post, “What is a Tabletop Exercise?” and 3 new posts were published to the blog since the June meeting. 4 weather alert emails were sent in the past month, which sustained a 45-55% open rate. Molly Ogrodnik and Kathy Griffin provided an update on the COSTEP Twitter account: the focus has been to retweet hurricane awareness posts, NWS/FEMA alerts, and posts reporting on extreme weather such as flash flooding. Molly tweeted 2 webinar announcements that were forwarded to the group by Lori Foley: Pandemic Preparedness and Experiences: Joint AFR/TRA Meeting on July 19th and American Rescue Plan Funding for Arts and Culture Organizations from the NEA. The Twitter account received 3 new followers in June and had 3,000 Tweet impressions.

Outreach updates

Evan Knight provided an update on a recent meeting between MBLC and CREW (Communities Responding to Extreme Weather) regarding CREW’s project to facilitate libraries and other organizations becoming climate resilience hubs. The COSTEP Executive Committee will consider reaching out to CREW for potential collaborations on climate-related programming in the future. Evan also reported to the group that COSTEP MA will be represented on a new advisory committee established by FAIC that will convene all of the AFR groups. Alejandra Dean and Evan will report back to the Executive Committee following the inaugural AFR meeting.

Task Force updates

Alejandra provided a status update on the GIS mapping project: Evan and Alejandra met with Desiree Kocis at MEMA to discuss next steps in drafting a template form for soliciting location data for cultural institutions. Desiree is currently working on developing the form, which will be sent to the COSTEP Executive Committee for review and is working with a tentative deadline of August or September.

Jessica Bitely reported on a follow-up conversation with the Boston Green Ribbon Commission to move forward collaborative programming on climate resilience. The Executive Committee approved a plan to co-sponsor two webinars with the GRC, with COSTEP organizing the first webinar in October and the GRC hosting the second webinar in early 2022. Evan recommended including a state-wide perspective so that talking points are broadly applicable to many types of institutions throughout the state and are not solely specific to the Boston area. The COSTEP-hosted webinar description draft is below:

Title: TBD

Date: October (after the 11th)

Format: 45 minutes webinar, 15 minutes Q&A

Audience: Town clerks, cultural heritage professionals and students in museum or library studies programs, particularly those responsible for or interested in collections care.

Platform: COSTEP hosted - presented in partnership with GRC

Questions to be answered by program:

1. What is the cultural heritage landscape in Massachusetts?
2. How are these organizations affected by climate change?
3. How do emergency preparedness and climate resiliency intersect?
4. What is a climate action plan?

Description:

Massachusetts is rich in organizations that steward cultural heritage materials. From our Town Clerk's offices to local historical societies to museums, to major academic institutions, we hold collections with unique and enduring value. Ensuring lasting access to these materials is a core element of stewardship. The importance of planning for emergencies to protect our collections is widely accepted, but the effect of climate change on collections care activities requires new thinking and new approaches.

This program will: explore current efforts to understand the cultural heritage landscape in Massachusetts through COSTEP's mapping efforts; compare older risk models to climate change forecast models and discuss emerging and changing risk levels; explain climate resiliency and how it aligns with or differs from emergency preparedness work; and explain climate action planning so that you can leave with the foundational knowledge needed to begin working towards climate resiliency.

Next meeting

Thursday, August 12, 2021 via Zoom