Don't Be a Shark: Lending and Borrowing Objects to Further Your Mission

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Loaning Your Objects

Melissa Shaw National Museum of the USAF Collection Management 6 Oct 2023 Melissa.shaw@us.af.mil



Loaning Your Objects



- Why have loans?
 - Furthers your mission
 - Gets the word out
 - Shares your collection







- Who can you loan to and who should you loan to?
 - Museum ethics dictates that you will loan to organizations that fit your mission
 - Not-for-profits?
 - Historical organizations?
 - Schools display VS consumptive use?
 - For profit businesses?
 - Private individual?







- What requirements will you have for borrowers?
 - Clear loan terms
 - Security, mounts, cleaning, environmental
 - Timeline how much lead time do you need?
 - Administrative costs
 - Insurance
 - Traveling exhibits





- What should you loan?
 - Stable objects
 - Items with clear ownership
 - Objects you do not have a use for during the loan period
 - Suggest non-hazardous items
 - No asbestos, mercury, radiation, explosives, etc. . .







- Institutional Loan Program Is it for you?
 - Ad hoc or programmed?
 - Identify responsible party to manage loans and document, document, document!







- Object Transportation
 - Who is allowed to transport the object?
 - Commercial shippers?
 - Couriers?
 - Staff?
 - Volunteers?
 - Have the appropriate people at your organization been notified that the object is leaving?
 - Have the appropriate people at the receiving end been notified that the object is arriving?





- When it all goes wrong
 - Loss of item due to bad recordkeeping or 'lt's 10pm. Do you know where your children are?'
 - Loss of item due to theft or disaster
 - Insurance
 - Damage to item due to mishandling, vandalism, or inappropriate cleaning
 - Insurance

Don't Be a Shark: Lending, and Borrowing Objects to Further Your Mission

Part II: The Borrowing

Jason Crabill, Executive Director Decorative Arts Center of Ohio October 6, 2023

DECORATIVE ARTS CENTER OF OHIO Reese-Peters House

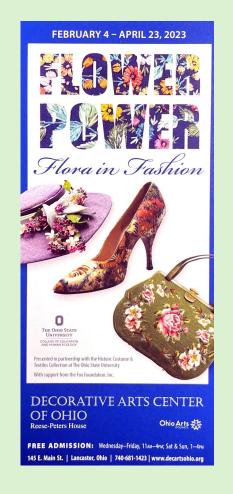
crabill@decartsohio.org



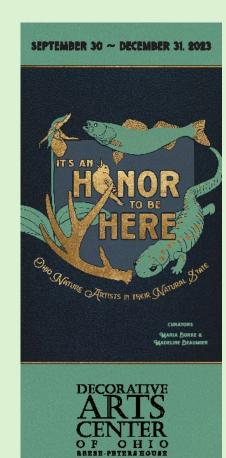
Mission and Vision

- Vision: To enrich the human experience through the arts with inspiration, passion and imagination.
- Mission: To engage our community through innovative, stimulating exhibitions; to deliver an arts education curriculum that unleashes possibility and imagination; to preserve and showcase the architecture and collection entrusted to our care.

Exhibitions







Exhibitions

















June 3 Tellockie August 2023 Ross Les Control













- Types of Lenders
 - Large Institutions
 - Small Institutions
 - Businesses
 - Creators
 - Collectors

- Lender Expectations
 - Facilities Report
 - Security Status
 - Insurance Coverage
 - Etc.
 - Loan Fee
 - Loan Agreement
 - Condition Reports
 - Shipping
 - Reasonable timeline
 - Communication











• Facilities Report

- The AAM Standard Facility Report provides the opportunity to record the latest information about an institution's physical specifications and staff practices. The streamlined standard form expedites the exchange of information critical to lenders and insurers.
- TL;DR it lets the lender know you meet the requirements to take care of their objects while in your space. COMPREHENSIVE.
- Covers:
 - General Info
 - Building and Construction
 - Environment
 - Fire protection
 - Security

- Handling and Packing
- Insurance
- Loan History
- Legal and Signatures



• Insurance Coverage

- Covered in Facilities Report
- Talk to your insurance agent



- Loan Fees
 - Not there to make it harder to borrow objects
 - Covers staff time, object prep, needed conservation, care of objects
 - Can vary wildly by lender, but MOST lenders are pretty reasonable





- Loan Agreement
 - Legal document that sets the terms of the loan
 - Like a temporary deed of gift
 - Lists objects and details
 - Dimensions, description, insurance value, etc.
 - May be supplied by lender or borrower
- Condition Reports
 - Done during install and deinstall
- Shipping
 - Varies depending on lender and situation

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- Reasonable timeline
 - Most lending institutions request several months' lead time
 - 6-8 months
 - Allows lending institution to
 - Assess suitability of loan for objects
 - Conservation needs-object prep
 - Paperwork
 - Coordinate logistics
 - Manage unexpected issues
- Communication
 - Be communicative throughout the process
 - Be responsive

• Other Considerations:

- Know what you are asking for
 - Best to have a sense of what the potential lender has that meets your needs
 - Talk to the curator, use the catalog
 - Be prepared to do the work to make the ask
- Try to be consistent
 - Once you make your ask, and the process begins, try to limit your "change orders"
- Communicate, communicate, communicate

And...

- Don't be intimidated to ask!
- Reach out and have the conversation (you don't get if you don't ask!)
- Most lenders want to make it happen!



Thank You!

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