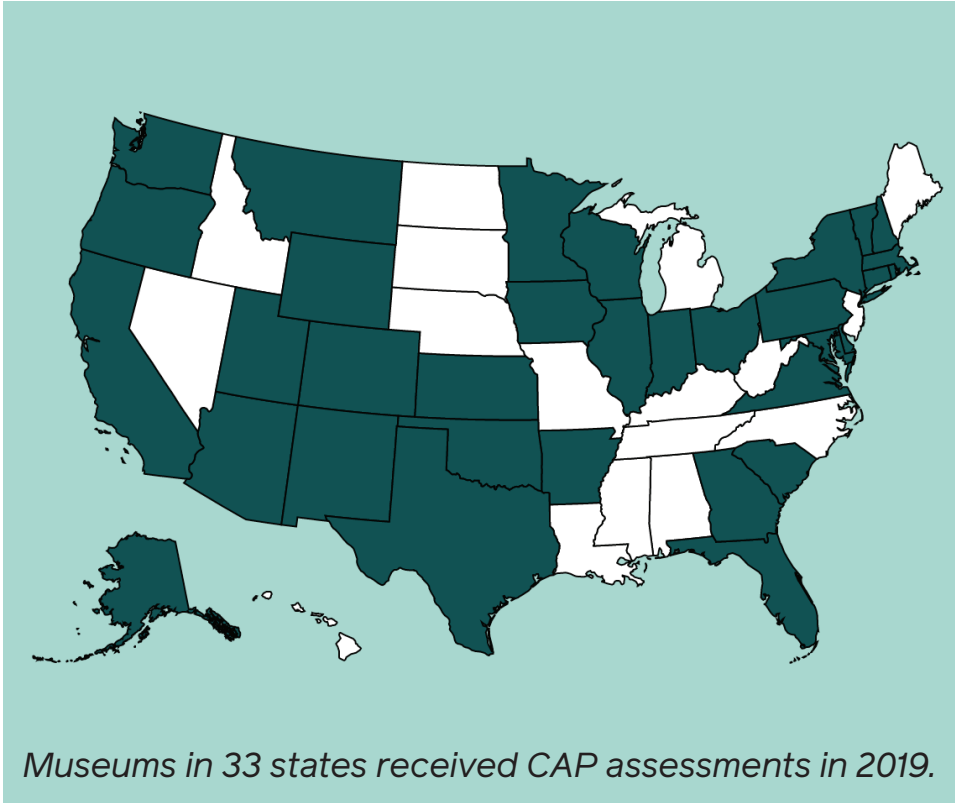




What Does Being a Friend Accomplish?

Your support as a Friend of Conservation helps make the preservation of our shared cultural heritage possible. Look inside to learn what your support helped to protect...

FAIC By the Numbers



In 2019:

➤ Our Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program supported **75 museums in 33 states**, giving small museums an opportunity to grow and improve care.

➤ We received **15 calls** to our 24-hour collections emergency hotline, which helps libraries, archives, and museums when they need assistance the most. In the last ten years, we've answered **323 calls**.

- We gave out **\$328,850** in professional development scholarships—supporting preservation professionals to learn, grow, and protect our cultural heritage.
- We launched a new Alliance for Response network in Oklahoma City, connecting the cultural heritage and emergency response communities. This brings us to **31 networks** across the country, ensuring that when emergencies strike, our heritage is cared for.
- Over **766 preservation professionals** attended workshops we created, helping them develop skills, learn new techniques, and further the field.
- We provided **12 free webinars** through our Connection to Collections Care program, supporting small museums that don't have a conservator on staff. On our online community, we answered over **140 questions**, making sure that regardless of budget, our cultural heritage is receiving the best care possible.



FAIC's subsidized professional development courses move the field forward.

The Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program helps small museums get the support they need to care for the objects in their trust, providing a total picture of the condition of the building, collections, policies, and systems. An assessment is an important tool to prioritize resources and seek additional funding. The Hermosa Arts and History Association described their CAP experience for us:

“What did a CAP Grant mean to a small museum in rural South Dakota? In three words it meant **knowledge, focus and courage**. The visit from professional building and collections assessors to the Hermosa Arts and History Association (HAHA) helped educate an all-volunteer staff on museum needs that might not have been recognized. The final report defined short, mid and long-term goals which assisted the membership in prioritizing and focusing on future financial and physical possibilities for the 1889 building and collections. From knowledge and focus came courage. Participation in the CAP Program qualified HAHA to apply for national and local grants.

Since 2017 CAP participation, HAHA has received a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, South Dakota State Outside of Deadwood Fund Grant, and a Mary Chilton Daughter of the American Revolution Grant. With a solid plan to improve the building and provide community programs/events, HAHA was successful in approaching the Custer County Commissioners with requests for funding from undesignated county funds. In addition, HAHA requested to be included in future annual county budgets. Our rural Eastern Custer County community has benefitted from Hermosa Arts and History Association’s participation in the CAP Program.”



Working with HAHA staff during the CAP assessment.

Staying up-to-date with the latest techniques is an essential part of a conservator's work. However, there is often limited funding to support professional development opportunities. FAIC provides grants and scholarships to conservators to help bridge that gap.

The **George Stout Memorial Fund**, named for the famed conservator and Monuments Man, supports emerging practitioners in the field like Elizabeth Robson. Elizabeth is a graduate student at the Buffalo State Patricia H. and Richard E. Garman Art Conservation Department, who specializes in paintings conservation. With support from the Stout Fund, Elizabeth attended AIC's 47th Annual Meeting in Connecticut.

While at the meeting, she participated in a local philanthropic project, rehousing collections at the New London Maritime Society, presented a poster about her research, and had the opportunity to make important connections with colleagues. She described her experience, saying, "I am extremely grateful to the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation for making this opportunity possible for me through the George Stout Grant Program. As a graduate student, conference attendance can be an expensive endeavor, but it is an extremely valuable part of obtaining a well-rounded conservation education. There are many ways to get involved, learn more about the field, and expand your knowledge. I can't wait for next year in Salt Lake City!"




Elizabeth with her poster at the Annual Meeting.

The National Heritage Responders (NHR) help cultural institutions during emergencies and disasters. They work with first responders, state agencies, vendors, and the public, both through a 24-hour hotline and through deployments in the wake of emergencies like the 2010 Haiti earthquake, Superstorm Sandy, and Hurricane Maria. The NHR is staffed by volunteers including conservators, archivists, collection managers, and other preservation professionals.

Rebecca Elder, a Professional Associate of the American Institute for Conservation, serves as the NHR Coordinator. She describes the work the NHR does, explaining, “We deal with any kind of disaster, from flooding to furnace puffbacks—although most disasters do involve water. One of our most important initiatives is our **24-hour emergency hotline**. On the hotline, we provide quick advice after collections emergencies, and triage the calls to determine if more help is needed than just phone advice. Our team members take turns answering the phones and providing advice.

Because collecting institutions hold so many types of materials, if the team member on call doesn't have the necessary knowledge, they can reach out to colleagues with the required specialty. While our deployments are covered more often in the press, the bulk of the assistance we provide is through the hotline. The speed with which we can respond via phone makes a huge difference in effective salvage of collections.”





FAIC has been very successful at securing grants to fund its programs. But most grants do little to keep the lights on, to pay for accounting services, or to provide the technology that keeps everything running. Without support from individuals such as you, all those grant-funded initiatives would come to a halt.

Your support as a Friend of Conservation helps us continue this essential work. If you would like to further support FAIC, you can make your donation online at our secure portal:

culturalheritage.org/donate

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