



## The Foundation and YOU

At the November 2013 IAG meeting, a great deal of discussion revolved around AIC's Foundation and how valuable donations are to fulfilling its mission. This is a quick primer on some of FAIC's initiatives, contrasted with dues-supported AIC initiatives. AIC and FAIC have a symbiotic relationship. They support each other and, each in their own way, support conservation professionals and advance the field of conservation both nationally and internationally.

### Major Foundation Initiatives

Professional Development – FAIC's educational programs have reached over 8,000 people with over 270 events since 2000. Events range from one-day workshops held at the AIC Annual Meeting to week-long, laboratory-based practical sessions. Distance learning courses offer ways for conservators in remote areas to continue to develop their skills.

Grants and Scholarships – In 2013 alone, FAIC awarded 93 scholarships and grants totaling nearly \$400,000. 16 different programs include support for students attending professional meetings, conservation internships, and scholarships for mid-career conservators.

Emergency Response – Since 2007, AIC-CERT has assisted dozens of museums, libraries, and historic sites across the nation. Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, FAIC supported 35 volunteers, providing over 360 days of conservation and instruction services, to save Haitian art and preserve it for future generations. In 2012, AIC-CERT assisted not only organizations, but many artists in the New York City metropolitan area whose work had been damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

Publications – Recent grants secured by FAIC have provided support for the publication of the *AIC Guide to Digital Photography and Conservation Documentation*, as well as Specialty Group catalogs. FAIC's Kress Conservation Publication Fellowships have supported 40 manuscripts, most of which result in new publications in the field.

Conservation OnLine and the Conservation DistList (CoOL) – FAIC stepped in when, in 2009, Stanford announced they could no longer support this important international resource. CoOL functions as a full text library of conservation and preservation information that covers a wide spectrum of topics and is a growing resource for conservators, collection care specialists, and other conservation professionals.

Hermitage Museum Project – Funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this project fulfills an international mandate by helping to establish best practices for photograph conservation and documentation in Russia in partnership with the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg. (No AIC dues or other AIC funds are used to support this project).

Outreach – FAIC Regional Angels grants and Lecture grants support projects that expose conservation to wider audiences, as do FAIC online and print publications, CoOL, and other special initiatives.

Oral History – The FAIC Oral History Project, housed at the Winterthur Museum, Library, and Archives, contains interviews with over 220 conservation professionals. FAIC funds transcription and annotation services.

## **How can you donate and encourage others to do so?**

In 2012, of the roughly 2600 Associate, Professional Associate, and Fellow members of AIC, only 7% made a gift of any size (from \$1 to \$2,500). Greater participation by AIC members would help us demonstrate the importance of FAIC's work.

To make a donation by credit card, go to the AIC/FAIC website ([www.conservation-us.org](http://www.conservation-us.org)) and click on the purple "DONATE" button at the left of the page, or go directly to [www.conservation-us.org/donate](http://www.conservation-us.org/donate).

To make a donation by check, payable to "FAIC," mail to:

Eryl P. Wentworth, Executive Director  
Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation  
1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 320  
Washington, DC 20005-1714

## **Where do my AIC dues go?**

With only one exception, AIC dues are not used to fund any FAIC initiatives. Each year, the AIC Specialty Groups each approve donations (which vary by SG and by year) in support of Stout scholarships, Professional Development programming, and CoOL. Of critical importance, support of FAIC is also provided by a great many AIC members, who share their expertise through leadership roles in FAIC initiatives.

AIC membership dues provide funds for:

### **Innovative Print and Online Publications**

AIC produces 6 issues of *AIC News*, 4 issues of the *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*, Your Online Directory, the AIC wiki, the AIC website, and books such as the recent *Ethics and Critical Thinking in Conservation*.

### **Leading Professional Development Opportunities**

AIC supplements the FAIC Professional Development Program by:

- Organizing the AIC Annual Meeting and related programming.
- Offering members discounted registration rates at the Annual Meeting.
- Offering members access to FAIC scholarships and grant funds obtained by FAIC.

In addition, AIC Specialty Groups (SGs) provide professional development opportunities through SG programs and publications.

### **Useful Tools for Your Business**

AIC offers member benefits, such as:

- Find a Conservator (If you are a professional associate or fellow member)
- Access to Liability Insurance
- Discounted hotel rates at Club Quarters
- Access to Group Health Insurance

### **A National Voice**

Armed with a variety of outreach material, AIC has a dedicated team of staff and volunteers working on your behalf. Partnering with allied professional organizations on the national, state, and local levels, AIC promotes public understanding of all aspects of the conservation profession and its role in preserving our cultural heritage.