



Utah Alliance for Response Kick-off Forum

November 2, 2011

Salt Lake City State Office Building Auditorium, Salt Lake City, Utah

On November 2, 2011, Heritage Preservation sponsored the Utah Alliance for Response Forum in Salt Lake City. More than 80 participants joined distinguished speakers in an effort to launch the formation of a regional network that will raise the profile of cultural heritage in the world of emergency response.

Participants discussed how cultural institutions could maximize their effectiveness in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery endeavors. The day-long event focused on building partnerships to prepare for "the Big One," a seismic event along the Wasatch Front.

The day began with a welcome from Patricia Smith-Mansfield, State Archivist and Director of the Utah State Archives and Records Service, and Randy Silverman, Preservation Librarian at the University of Utah's Marriott Library. Both Randy and Patricia stressed the importance of this groundbreaking forum and its long-term impact on the state's cultural institutions. The forum's facilitator, Barclay Ogden,

Director of Library Preservation at UC Berkeley, outlined forum goals of not only inspiring participants to think more seriously about emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, but also creating actionable goals for moving Utah Alliance for Response forward.

At the conclusion of the day, the group agreed that the Utah Alliance for Response planning committee would take on a coordinating role, which included the creation of a group listserv. Participants were encouraged to join the committee if they were interested in taking a more hands-on role. Randy Silverman ended the forum by thanking presenters and participants, noting how wonderful it was to see such a sizeable turnout. He announced a follow-up forum would likely be conducted in the next quarter. In the meantime, Randy asked participants to think of themes for the next gathering and to continue feeding information into their listserv to keep the process rolling.