
ACRA's February Monthly Member Update



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The ACRAsphere: Are You Clued in Yet?

The ACRAsphere has officially launched - have you been clued into the fascinating discussions generated by its posts?

In last month's member update, we gave you an exclusive first look at the newest source for CRM news, and so much has happened since then! In the month since launch, we have featured posts on:

- [Reexamining the 50-Year Rule](#)
- [Academic-CRM Industry Synergy: Education and Training](#)
- [A Paperless Future? Digital Methods in CRM](#)
- [A Different Kind of Day Off](#)



- and much more!

Focusing on more than just the technical aspects of CRM, the ACRAsphere will provide you with tips on running your business, engaging with other employees, and expanding the visibility of your firm (don't worry - there will still be plenty of CRM-specific technical analyses!) From opportunities to engage with legislators to exclusive benefits, you will hear about it on the ACRAsphere first.

The blog is updated multiple times per week - be sure to [subscribe](#) so you never miss a post!

SAVE THE DATE: CRM Day on the Hill May 16-17

Join ACRA in Washington, D.C. on May 16-17 for CRM Day on Capitol Hill! We'll be meeting with Senators and Representatives to discuss the CRM industry. There are 100 new members of Congress, and lots of new staffers too. We need to introduce ACRA, and our priorities, to the new leaders on the Hill! We'll also be visiting our champions in Congress to ask them for their continued support of our work.

ACRA will arrange the meetings and provide training beforehand. Together with fellow ACRA members, you will talk with Members of Congress and their staff about our most pressing CRM concerns.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to influence preservation policy at the national level. Help make a difference for CRM businesses across America - join us!

Government Relations Update: Avoiding a Second Shutdown and More

Avoiding a Second Partial Government Shutdown

Congress passed a bill to fund the government through fiscal year 2019, which ends on September 30th. In this bill, the Historic Preservation Fund receives a record-high funding level -- \$102,660,000 million total, including \$13 million for Save America's Treasures, \$14.5 million for the Civil Rights Movement Network, and \$8 million for Historically Black College and Universities.

The deal includes almost \$1.4 billion for border barriers – far less than the \$5.7 billion the President demanded for a border wall. In response, the President has declared a national emergency to secure border wall funds.

ACRA Supports New Bill to Preserve African American Burial Grounds

ACRA is pleased to support the African American Burial Grounds Network Act, which was introduced in Congress yesterday by Rep. Don McEachin (D-VA) and Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC). This legislation is consistent with our commitment to providing accurate information about historic resources to communities, developers and government officials. [Read more](#) about this bill on the ACRAsphere.

New Secretary of the Interior Nominated

President Trump nominated David Bernhardt as Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Bernhardt was Deputy Secretary of the Interior under Ryan Zinke, and he has been serving as Acting Secretary since Zinke left the department. He also held a top job in the department during the presidency of George W. Bush. During the Obama Administration, Mr. Bernhardt worked as a lobbyist for oil, mining, agricultural interests.

Leadership Change in the U.S. Senate

[Senator Shelly Moore Capito](#) (R-WV) will Chair the Senate Transportation and Environment's Subcommittee on Environment and Public Works, which will take the lead in negotiating the next major surface transportation bill, and possibly an infrastructure package.

As Congress works to develop legislation, ACRA will continue reminding Congressional leaders that any effort to streamline regulations must be accompanied by careful consideration of the need to protect cultural resources.

New Leaders in the U.S. House

Chairman [Raul Grijalva](#) (D-AZ) announced the new leadership of the [House Natural Resources Committee](#). These subcommittee chairs will be key voices on preservation issues.

- [Rep. Deb Haaland](#) (D-NM), who is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, was named as chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest, and Public Lands.
- [Rep. Jared Huffman](#) (D-CA) will chair the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife.
- [Rep. Alan Lowenthal](#) (D-CA) will chair the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.
- [Rep. TJ Cox](#) (D-CA) will chair the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.
- [Rep. Ruben Gallego](#) (D-AZ) will chair the Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples.

Senate Votes on Bipartisan Public Lands Bill

The Senate passed S 47, a broad, bipartisan bill that includes permanent authorization of the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) (LWCF). Authorization for the LWCF, which uses royalties from offshore energy development to acquire and develop outdoor recreation opportunities, expired in September 2018. The bill also protects 1.3 million acres of public land through wilderness designation in New Mexico and Utah.

Rep. Grijalva, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, says he plans to offer a very similar public lands bill in the near future. If the House bill passes, a conference committee of House and Senate negotiators will produce compromise legislation that must pass in both chambers before going to the President for his signature.

Watch "Advocacy Skills for All" Webinar

Policymakers in Washington are working to undermine the Section 106 process in the name of efficient project delivery. In this webinar, Marion Werkheiser, American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) Chief Lobbyist, and Amanda Stratton, ACRA Executive Director, discuss:

- upcoming changes to Army Corps and National Register regulations,
- expediting the permitting process without sacrificing preservation values, and
- methods for effectively communicating with policymakers.

Watch a pre-recorded training seminar on how to advocate on issues that matter to you. (Note: the webinar is free to ACRA members and \$25 for non-members.)



2019 Conference Call for Sessions OPEN

Do you have a topic that you think would be perfect for a presentation to fellow CRMers? Is there a discussion the industry should be having? If so, we want to hear from you!

The [Call for Sessions](#) for the 2019 ACRA Conference is open!

The ACRA annual meeting is a prime venue to exchange ideas and meet new colleagues. It is through member participation that our conference program can expand each year, bringing new ideas and evoking teamwork as we strive to make our industry stronger. Only with your ideas and participation can we craft a well-rounded program that provides value to attendees!



Consider submitting a session proposal for our 2019 event. Sessions can reflect a variety of CRM topics, including business operations, reaching out to the academy, continued education, technological advances, advocacy, and best practices. Sessions can involve an individual speaker, a suite of presenters, or a panel (maximum of four panelists); they can also revolve around a presentation or an interactive activity. Each session will last between 45 minutes and two hours, depending on the topic.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the submission requirements, and hurry - **proposals are due March 15!** If you would like sample proposals from previous years, email [Kerri Barile](#), the Conference Committee Chair.

Board Approves Communication Strategy to Foster Collaboration with Academia

A task force consisting of CRM and academic professionals has interacted regularly through teleconferences and email communications during the past year to develop

courses of action that will foster collaboration between our industry and academic professionals. The results of this discourse were presented at the 2018 Annual Conference in Cincinnati. The Task Force chose to focus on two areas of concern: education/training of professionals and research/data sharing. The 2018 conference session and the board meeting indicated that there is a strong desire for collaboration regarding the training of professionals; however, the subject of data sharing and synthesis efforts revealed some skepticism on the part of CRM professionals. There was obvious concern regarding the logistics of data sharing and synthesis studies. Nevertheless, the ACRA board realizes that increased communication between our industry and the academy is essential for the future of our profession and our ability to address the grand questions. Therefore, ACRA has agreed to become a partner of the Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis (CfAS) and is moving forward with the communication strategy presented [here](#).

ACRA also supports the curation of digital data in responsible repositories that will enable synthetic research well into the future. Please see a white paper, [Digital Data Curation and Access: Why You and Your Organization Should be Actively Involved](#) (Peter et al. 2019), that addresses the need and requirements for proper long-term digital curation. The Task Force encourages everyone to become part of the conversation so that meaningful collaboration is the result. Collaboration between our industry and the academy can be achieved at many different levels: working with a local university to provide meaningful internships, collaborating with academic professionals on a local or regional research issue, participating in a group competing for funding from the CfAS, or supporting a scholarship at your favorite university. **Please use the [ACRASphere](#) to share other ideas on how we can foster collaboration between our industry and the academy.**

You can view the full communication strategy approved by the board [here](#).

Register NOW: The Art of Negotiation and Conflict Management



Whether you are negotiating with a potential client, your project team, or embarking on the Section 106 consultation process, CRM success requires agreement and collaboration with other people. The [first webinar in ACRA's 2019 series](#) will help CRM practitioners of all levels potentially improve their business outcomes through the art of negotiation.

Join us on **March 21, 2019 at 2:00 pm Eastern** to gain more insight into this

skill that is vital to the business world (and beyond!). [The Art of the Negotiation and Conflict Management](#) will equip you with strategies and frameworks that will help you become a better negotiator. Expert provider Anna Schneider of Heritage Business International, a social enterprise venture that works to strengthen the value, sustainability, and impact of heritage organizations, holds both an M.A. in anthropology and an M.B.A. in business administration. Anna is passionate about

using this unique degree combination to bring both archaeological expertise and business know-how to the CRM industry.

Whether you are new to the industry or consider negotiation an integral part of your daily tasks, the Art of Negotiation and Conflict Management will give you fresh ideas for improving your skill base. [Register today!](#)

ACRA's remaining webinar in the 2019 series will be announced in the coming weeks. [Subscribe to the ACRAsphere](#) to make sure you are the first to see the slate of sessions.

Send Us Your Website Ideas

Do you have a suggestion as to how the ACRA website can work better for members, or even for clients looking for CRM services? We want to hear them! The Communications Committee is going to be looking at how to make the website more functional for both members and non-members alike. **[Send us your ideas for improvements today!](#)**

Upcoming activities for the Communications Committee will include the first monthly committee call (new members always welcome!) and the review of our social media strategy and branding programs. Our first monthly call is set for **February 20 at 1:30 CST** – please reach out to Ellen if you would like to join in. 2019 will be an exciting year for Communications so please contact [Ellen Brady](#) if you'd like to join us!

New RFP Posted: Preservation Maryland

Did you know that one ACRA member benefit is getting exclusive access to RFPs submitted to the organization? Our RFP page is updated as they are received. The latest one comes from Preservation Maryland to inventory the historic resources and cultural landscape of Fort Tonoloway.

More information and the scope of work is available on our [RFP page](#). **Proposals submitted for this Request for Proposals must be received by 6:00 PM EST on March 15, 2019.** Proposals that arrive after this date and time will not be considered and will be returned to the sender. Notification of final selection and award of the project will occur on or about April 26, 2019.

Best Practices for No-Collection Projects and In-field Analysis

Many agencies have turned to no collection field strategies in recent years. Unfortunately, these strategies vary widely and are implemented with very little data, so we don't know if they are effective. Several members of the Collection and Curation Committee have been working with SHA and SAA to develop some [best practices to consider](#) if you are developing a scope or preparing a proposal that includes no collection.

This guidance was drafted by experienced practitioners at the Archaeological Collections Consortium, which is comprised of representatives from ACRA, SHA, and SAA, and was reviewed and approved by their respective boards. Because an increasing number of agencies are moving towards no-collection field strategies regardless, the ACC felt its concerns warranted issuing a best practices guidance for these situations as no such guidance has been available previously: "In drafting these initial best practices, the ACC is making an effort to fill an informational void for those who undertake such projects while trying to preserve a breadth of archaeological collections available for present and future research, interpretation, and education." As such, this is meant to act as **interim** guidance while further research into the legality, legitimacy, and cost-effectiveness of these archaeological field strategies is completed.

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ACRA HEADQUARTERS

2101 L Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20037

tel: (202) 367-9094 | fax: (866) 875-6492

email: info@acra-crm.org | web: www.acra-crm.org

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