Preview of 2011 NAASA Conference
Ottawa, Ontario, Oct. 26-29

The 17th biennial meeting of the Native American Art Studies Association will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on October 26-29. The conference marks NAASA’s 30th anniversary. The program will open with a welcoming reception on Wednesday evening and conclude with a banquet on Saturday night, offering three full days of conference sessions, evening activities, and one late-night session. Our local hosts from the Canadian Museum of Civilization and Carleton University are making arrangements for us to experience the Indigenous art and culture in the Ottawa region, including visits to art galleries and museums, and the engagement of a distinguished keynote speaker. Additionally, the Local Organizing Committee is partnering with the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective (ACC) on the plenary session. Optional pre- and post-conference tours will facilitate visits to museums and tribal cultural centers around the area.

The conference will be based at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ottawa – a great facility that meets our needs for meeting spaces, meals, accommodations, and budget (see www.cpottawa.com). It is centrally-located in the heart of the downtown area, with many nearby attractions and restaurants within walking distance. The room-rate will include high-speed internet access.

Ottawa is served by the Ottawa MacDonald-Cartier Airport (YOW) in Ottawa. You can get to the Crowne Plaza by cab, Airport Shuttle (YOW Airporter), or municipal bus (OC Transpo).

Registration materials and information on hotel booking and airport transportation will be available in the next newsletter.
Pre- and Post-Conference Tours

The pre-conference tour will occur on Wednesday, October 25, 2011 and the post-conference tour will occur on Sunday, October 30, 2011. The tours will allow those with extra time to visit local museums and tribal cultural resources. The Local Organizing Committee is arranging a number of options as described below. Further details and registration information for both of the trips will appear in the next newsletter.

The Kitigan Zibi Cultural Centre (www.qza.qc.ca).

Pre- and Post-conference tours will take NAASA guests to the Kitigan Zibi Cultural Centre, an Algonquin First Nation located two hours north of Ottawa. Guests will return through the picturesque Gatineau Hills in Eastern Quebec to Ottawa and receive a rare, behind the scenes tour of Canada's national collections of First Nations contemporary and historic arts at the Canadian Museum of Civilization and National Gallery of Canada.

A separate tour will take NAASA guests southeast to Kahnawake, a Mohawk community on the shores of the St. Lawrence River. The history of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy will be told through the Kanien'kehá:ka Museum Welcoming Centre, followed by a visit to the St. Francis Xavier Mission, Shrine of the blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, and then a stop at the Kahnawa:ke Art Gallery, and visits to local arts and crafts shops for a chance to see (and buy!) the works of Kahnawake's many active artists and artisans.

Robin Wright to be Honored

At each conference NAASA honors an outstanding individual in recognition of his or her contribution to the study of Native American Art. As we celebrate NAASA’s 30th anniversary, we are pleased to announce that this year’s Honor Award will be presented to Robin K. Wright.

Robin Wright holds a Gagiid mask by Reg Davidson, Haida. (courtesy the University of Washington).

A dedicated scholar, teacher and mentor, and curator at the University of Washington’s Burke Museum, Robin has organized over two dozen significant exhibitions and currently serves as Director of the Bill Holm Center as well as the University of Washington’s doctoral program in Native American art studies. She has authored numerous articles and books on Northwest Coast Art, both historic and contemporary.

Moreover, Robin has been involved with NAASA since its founding. She served as a member of the Board for two terms (from 1989-1997) and was elected President for two more terms (1999-2003). We are pleased to be able to honor her many achievements and contributions to NAASA and the field of Native American art at this conference.
Call for Session Proposals

The NAASA Program Committee (Kathleen Ash-Milby, chair; Kate Morris, Michele McGeough) invites formal proposals for organized sessions at the 2011 conference. The call for individual papers will appear in the April newsletter.

Proposed sessions should focus on a particular body of material, and present perspectives for further understanding of the topic. We are open to receiving proposals that reflect on changes in the field over the last 30 years; contemporary and traditional art; and interdisciplinary panels that encourage dialogue among artists, anthropologists, collectors, museum professionals and art historians.

Session abstracts should not exceed 200 words in length. Each session will include 3-4 papers, each of no more than twenty minutes in length. We are also interested in alternative format sessions, including roundtable discussions, workshops, interviews, film screenings, etc. Session abstracts must clearly define the central issue and intellectual focus (theoretical, descriptive, historical, etc.) of the session, and indicate its organization (papers only, papers with discussant, roundtable, workshop, etc.).

Session Organizers are responsible for soliciting a core group of speakers for their sessions and must be open to considering additional papers from an open call. Organizers should provide, or arrange for, opening remarks to the session. Although it is not necessary to have presenters confirmed at this time, please send the names of potential speakers under consideration and their topics. We assume that speakers will be using presentation software such as Powerpoint unless special equipment is requested. Slide presentations can no longer be accommodated.

Session proposal abstracts must be received by March 15, 2011 by email to: AshMilbyK@si.edu

Accepted session proposals will be announced in the April newsletter, along with a call for individual papers for these and for open sessions. The Program Committee will organize individually volunteered papers into sessions related by topic, region, or methodology.

In Celebration of NAASA’S 30th!
Call for Photos, Memorabilia, and Anecdotes

The 17th biennial conference in Ottawa next year will mark the 30th Anniversary of NAASA’s first meeting in 1980. The NAASA Board will produce a short visual tribute to the history of our organization, to be shown as part of the banquet program. Do you have memories to share? We are seeking contributions of photographs and digitized images of memorabilia of past conferences, as well as of pre- and post-conference tours. If you have a story to tell us about your favorite experiences with NAASA, we want to hear that too! Please contact Kate Morris at klmorris@scu.edu.
2011 Elections: Call for Nominations

At each conference, the membership-at-large elects new officers and several new board members during our business meeting. Our by-laws specify an executive board of ten members. Five Board positions expire in 2011: three positions for Board members who serve four-year terms and two officer positions, Vice-President and President, with two-year terms.

The Nominations Committee (Carolyn Kastner, chair; Bill Anthes, Deana Dartt-Newton, and Emil Her Many Horses) invites NAASA members to submit suggestions for potential candidates. Please send a short biographical sketch of the nominee (75-100 words). Include nominee’s name, address, phone and email, along with a brief statement about why you believe the individual would be a good candidate for the NAASA Board.

To qualify, nominees must be members of NAASA, have attended at least one prior NAASA conference, and be present at the conference business meeting in which the election is held. Nominees for President and Vice-President must have current or previous Board experience. For more information, please see our web site at: www.nativearts.org/about-naasa/nominations/

Send nominations to Carolyn Kastner (by 15 June 2011) at ckastner@okeeffemuseum.org

Report on 2010 Board Meeting
by Karen Kramer Russell

The NAASA board meeting was held at the beautiful Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) on October 15-16, 2010. The major business was planning for the 2011 conference. The local organizers, Norman Vorano (CMC) and Ruth Phillips and Allan Ryan (Carleton University) proposed an exciting array of tours, speakers, and museum visits that celebrate the dynamic and rich aboriginal art production in the region, past and present.

Incorporation and taxes:

Our legal incorporation status remains current in the state of Arizona, where we are registered with the Corporate Commission as a not-for-profit entity. Legal incorporation is necessary for donations to NAASA to be tax deductible. As well, we successfully filed our 2009 Federal IRS taxes reflecting the previously established fiscal year 7/1/2008 - 6/30/2009. Going forward, we will change our fiscal year with the IRS to be 11/1 - 10/31 which makes better sense with our conference cycles, and file taxes each year accordingly.

Local host Norman Vorano gives Board members a tour of the CMC facilities.
Banking and financial transactions:

Members have increasingly been asking for the option of using credit card transactions to pay membership dues and conference fees, rather than checks or cash. We are currently working on setting up a Paypal account that should make this possible. This will be especially useful as our Canadian conference draws near, as it should make it easier for our members who do not have a US bank to make payments without having to deal with international banking procedures and service fees. In addition, we are currently seeking a new bank that we hope will allow us to handle transactions in both US and Canadian currencies and provide a stable financial home. (NAASA accounts have traditionally moved to a new bank with every new president.) Canadian and US currency have been at or near parity for an extended period of time, but we will keep an eye on the exchange rates and be certain to take them into account when planning the conference.

Conference finances & planning:

Among financial issues discussed by the board were registration fees, membership dues, and conference finances. In particular, we are concerned about the increasing financial cost of the NAASA conferences. Ideally, the conferences are supported entirely through registration fees, leaving membership dues to go to organizational costs, awards, and scholarships. The past three conferences have run at modest deficits. This is due in part to organizational issues that make planning difficult--in particular, last minute registrations that require conference planning based on speculative attendance numbers, even late in the planning process. Fortunately, we have always been able to cover any deficit by drawing on NAASA's reserve funds. Nevertheless, we need to be thinking about the organization's long-term financial stability.

The board discussed several different strategies to reduce the financial risk of conferences. We have decided to use a three-tiered approach to conference registration fees; an early-bird “discount” rate in July and August; a regular rate in September; and a third, higher rate in October. Membership dues will remain unchanged. We hope that the tiered registration fees will help encourage members to register for the conference no later than September.

Pre-registration is critical because it provides a realistic estimate of attendance. These numbers are required for catering plans and other space considerations. Pre-registration is invaluable when it comes to cost-effective conference planning and cash flow.

In addition to pre-registering, we also encourage members to stay at the conference hotel. This is important because our contract with the hotel guarantees that NAASA guests will meet a certain number of bookings, or room-nights, over the span of the conference. In exchange, the hotel provides us with free or lower-cost conference space and other amenities--but only if we live up to our contract.

Call for 2013 Hosts

The NAASA Board invites proposals to host the 2013 conference, and is happy to receive proposals for 2015 as well. Once we learn of your interest in potentially hosting the conference, we can discuss host obligations in greater detail.

Please send an e-mail expressing your institution’s interest to: Karen_Kramer_Russell@pem.org
O Canada!

Fall is a lovely time of year in Ottawa, and there's lots to explore before, during, and after the conference.

Just remember that most travel between Canada and the United States now requires a valid passport. There are a few exceptions, including special driver's licenses issued in Michigan, New York, Vermont and Washington that may be used to enter Canada by land (but not by air). See www.getyouhome.gov for more information.
Anyone interested in Native North American art (north of the Rio Grande and including the First Nations of Canada) is invited to become a member of the Native American Art Studies Association (NAASA). The Association publishes a periodic newsletter, hosts national conferences, and serves as a clearinghouse for information relating to Native American art studies.

**Dues:** All amounts are for two years, from conference to conference

Enclosed is my check for:

- [ ] Regular Member........$35
- [ ] Sustaining Member......$50
- [ ] Patron.........................$100

*Support beyond regular membership goes toward travel awards to increase student and artist attendance at the conference.*

**Checks payable to:** Native American Art Studies Association or NAASA

*U.S. currency only, please* (Canadian currency transactions coming soon)

**Send dues and this form to:**
Native American Art Studies Association
c/o Karen Kramer Russell
Peabody Essex Museum
East India Square
Salem, MA 01970

Date_______________

Name _________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip __________________________________________________________________

E-mail _______________________________________________________________________

*Please print clearly; email is our primary means of communication.*

- [ ] New Member    - [ ] Renewal