

# Preventive Conservation for Museums, Libraries, and Archives: A Three-Day Workshop

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## **Description**

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Preventive Conservation for Museums, Libraries, and Archives is a three-day workshop that focuses on empowering those who care for collections

## **Audience**

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This workshop is geared towards two groups:

- *Public*- Morning sessions on days 1 & 2: lectures that are open to the public, and cover material that would be interesting to museum professionals, students, and private collectors
- *Small group*- A small group (~21) of professionals who work directly with museum, library, and archive collections and students of museum studies or other related fields will participate the entire 3-days of activities

## **Day 1: Introduction to Art Conservation (April 1, 2020)**

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Day 1 focuses on the building blocks of art conservation from the ethics of caring for collections to the physical and environmental factors that cause damage to material culture. Participants in the afternoon small group session will come away with an understanding of how the topics covered in the morning lectures relate to Puerto Rican collections.

- *Morning Session (public)*
  - The morning session is the presentation of two complimentary lectures. The first lecture provides a brief introduction to art conservation and covers the code of ethics that guides conservation practice. The second lecture covers the 10 agents of deterioration, which are the physical and environmental factors that cause damage to collections.
- *Afternoon Session (small group)*
  - The afternoon session will begin with the presentation of several case studies highlighting common condition issues in collections. There will then be discussion amongst participants and workshop leaders connecting the case studies and information presented in the morning session to the experience of participants.

## **Day 2: Housing, Housekeeping, and Personal Safety (April 2, 2020)**

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Day 2 focuses on strategies in collections care both in theory and in practice. Information on safely handling, storing, and maintaining museum collections will be presented in the morning. Participants in the pm small group session will come away with hands-on practice in the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), surface cleaning a variety of materials, and the remediation of dormant mold.

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- *Morning Session (public)*
  - The morning session is the presentation of three short, complimentary lectures. The first lecture will cover hazards present in museum, library, and archive collections, and strategies for mitigating risk. The second lecture will cover storage strategies and materials that are appropriate for collections. The third lecture will cover housekeeping in collections storage and display spaces.
- *Afternoon Session (small group)*
  - The afternoon session is a hands-on workshop covering three aspects of collections care. Small groups will work through three stations covering: the proper use of personal protective equipment, surface cleaning of a variety of materials, and the safe removal of dormant mold from collection objects. It is possible that respirator fit-testing services will be provided during this time.

### **Day 3: Assessing Risk in Collections (April 3, 2020)**

Day 3 focuses on the identification of risks in museum, library, and archive collections spaces. Participants will come away from day 3 with practical experience in assessing collections spaces, identifying agents of deterioration, and brainstorming strategies for risk mitigation.

- *Morning Session (small group)*
  - The morning session is a walkthrough of one or more collections spaces with workshop leader(s). Throughout the walkthrough, participants will be asked to point out and document potential risks to the collection and opportunities for collections care.
- *Afternoon Session (small group)*
  - The afternoon session is a group discussion of the morning walkthrough. Participants will be asked to present their findings from the morning's risk assessment and brainstorm interventions that would better protect collections from damage.

### **Workshop Details**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Audience</b>
Day 1 / AM (lecture)	-Conservation ethics -Ten agents of deterioration	Museum, library, and archives professionals (open to the public)
Day 1 / PM (presentation and discussion)	-Issues in collections care	Collections care professionals (21)
Day 2 / AM (lecture)	-Collections Hazards -Housing -Housekeeping	Museum, library, and archives professionals (open to the public)
Day 2 / PM (hands-on workshop)	-surface cleaning -mold remediation -PPE	Collections care professionals (21)
Day 3 / AM (walkthrough)	-Risk assessment	Collections care professionals (21)
Day 3 / PM (discussion)	-Risk assessment	Collections care professionals (21)