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## Preserving Washington's Cultural Heritage: Conference Wrap-up

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Connecting to Collections Conference  
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### Working Groups

- Sustainable Institutional Preservation Programs, or “What Every Cultural Organization Should Know”
- Building Sustainable Statewide Preservation Programs, or “Increasing Statewide Momentum for Preservation”
- Collaborative Disaster Response Networks, or “Blanket Disaster Assistance in Washington State”
- Advocacy or “Promoting Preservation”

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### Key Points – Institutional

- Different program model emphases for different institutions, but similar core activities
- WPI successful; “see a similar effort continued and marketed more widely”
- Component 1 – Assess: resources or funding for preservation assessments to evaluate or provide blueprint for institutional preservation activities
- Component 2 – Training: Notification or offering preservation workshops

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### Institutional, cont.

- Component 3 – Models: sharing information on differing preservation program models by institution type/size
- Component 4 – Disaster Planning & Grants: institutional disaster plans, collaborative disaster plans, continue grants
- Component 5 – Inform: listserv & website
- All of these components help build individual programs, but *all boats rise statewide!*

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### Key Points – Statewide Program

- Learn from other states’ successes and problems
- Need for dedicated funding (state, legislative, etc.) – possible in future
- Create independent, non-profit organization now; first activities include workshops, disaster preparedness
- People issue: Paid staff? Volunteers? Board/Committee? Succession?
- Involve others: outreach to all types of cultural heritage organizations and to nearby states (?)

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### Key Points – Statewide Program (Disc.)

- “Even minimally preparing institutions for disasters would mean success for the initiative”
- Consortial buying – BCR?
- Contribute to a fiscal agent? (CPP model)
- Create information for Board members and other decision-makers
- “Haven’t drilled down to specifics, assume groups will continue to work”

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### Key Points – Disaster Networks

- Organize at the county level (some multi-county, others partial-county)
- Assist with institutional planning
- Financial commitment assumed; adjunct membership possible
- Model Mission Statement, Mutual Aid Agreement, Group Cache Supply List
- Include Continuity of Operations Planning
- More Alliance for Response Workshops
- Libraries as Community Centers (Mass. Prog.)

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### Disaster Networks, cont.

- Statewide Services
  - Website provided by Secretary of State
  - Washington Collections Emergency Response Team and focused activities
  - Statewide Agreement with Emergency Recovery Vendor Service
  - Stay apprised of COSTEP (the IMLS Statewide Disaster Planning Program Model)
- County “compliance” and monitoring?

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### Key Points – Advocacy

- Training, surveying, budgeting, staffing for preservation at your institution
- Outreach to donors, key audiences, general public through partnering, info
- Strategies to broaden preservation constituency, web pages with photos, student interns, highlight economic and tourism development

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### Advocacy, cont.

- Partners: Who? What can they provide? Strengths and weaknesses?
- Sponsorships: types (naming, etc.) and benefits
- Show the benefit of preservation to Federal, State, and Local economies
- DOCUMENT! Brochure or Statewide Web Page with place to submit success stories
- Start doing these activities right now!

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### Reactor Panel: Introductory Ideas

- Critical nature of working collaboratively
- CPP kept beyond normal LSTA lifespan; can we do that with this initiative?
- Including all types of collections-holding institutions
- Keep the cross-cultural conversations going

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### Reactor Panel: Intriguing Ideas

- Aggregating Information Resources
- Web 2.0 for “virtual preservation advocacy”
- “Volunteer Boomers doing advocacy
- Blending L/A/Ms
- Regional approach to disaster networks?
- Funding – be in adaptive mode

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### Reactor Panel:

#### Moving the Plan Forward

- Identify who or what organizations can be lead agency – in state, in region (BCR?)
- Assign responsibility in job description?
- Be careful in pinning outcome on specific organizations – maintainable resources as important?
- State Library, Historical Society, Archives apply together for future grants
- Discernment + Discourse = Consensus

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### Reactor Panel:

#### Moving the Plan Forward

- Presentation to Legislative Heritage Caucus
- Joint conference with WLA, WMA, NW Archivists
- House Bill 1386 “Repurposing”
- Bringing rich collections together & being “institution-agnostic”
- Have a work plan even if don’t get IMLS Implementation Grant

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### Initial Final Thoughts

- With the Washington Preservation Initiative, you have:
  - An Established Brand (State *and* National!) – develop branded materials
  - An Established Track Record (workshops, onsite assessments, grants)
  - Regular Program Evaluation
- “See a similar effort continued and marketed more widely”
- Maintain this stellar effort!

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### Initial Final Thoughts

- Focused future efforts on:
  - Enhancing/improving institutional preservation capacity (assessments, education, information, and models)
  - Collaborative disaster planning
  - Awareness-raising and advocacy
- Now: set up dues-based membership organization, continue funding research
- Institutional support of statewide activities via “volunteer staffing,” succession planning

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### Initial Final Thoughts

- Steering Committee or special Task Force to research “alternative funding methods” and develop IMLS Implementation Grant plans
- Web information (models, advocacy) and continued training as baseline activities
- Continued evaluation of progress
- Face-to-Face once a year or more often
- *Keep being a model!*

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## Questions and Discussion

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