

Conservation News

Updates from the Getty Conservation Institute

June 2026



ANNOUNCEMENT

Next Director Appointed

We are very pleased to share that Francesca Casadio has been appointed the next John E. and Louise Bryson Director of the Getty Conservation Institute. She currently serves as vice president and Grainger Executive Director of Conservation and Science at The Art Institute of Chicago.

She will be responsible for the Institute's strategic vision, initiating and implementing key initiatives and research to continue to improve cultural heritage conservation practice globally.



Photo: Clare Britt

Casadio will assume the directorship in early fall at which time Tim Whalen will move full-time into his role as Vice President of Institutional Planning at Getty.

[Read the press release](#)

PROJECT UPDATES

New Artist Dialogues Film, Ofelia and Rosanna Esparza: Made to Remember

Long recognized for their role in helping establish and sustain Día de los Muertos traditions in Los Angeles, Ofelia Esparza and her daughter, Rosanna Esparza Ahrens, have shaped the practice of creating *ofrendas*, or altars, as both a communal ritual and a contemporary art form.

In the short film *Ofelia and Rosanna Esparza: Made to Remember* they reflect on the ofrenda as both cultural obligation and an ephemeral art form whose persistence depends on documentation, intergenerational transmission, and cross-cultural adoption.



[Watch the film on YouTube](#)

Conservation Guest Scholar 2026–27 Cohort Announced

This fall the Conservation Institute will welcome nine new residents to our Conservation Guest Scholars program.

Recipients are in residence at the Conservation Institute for a three-month or six-month term, in which they pursue their own projects free from work-related obligations, make use of research collections at the Getty Center and Getty Villa, and participate with other Getty scholars, fellows, and interns in the intellectual life of Getty.

[Learn more about 2026–27 cohort and their research](#)

The application period for 2027–28 residencies will open in August.



RECENT ACTIVITIES

Designing Digital Preservation Strategies Across Contexts

Last month, Getty brought together twenty-eight professionals from Australia, Chile, Ireland, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Mexico, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Puerto Rico, the Cherokee Nation, and the United States to advance digital preservation practice.

Over several days, these invited experts explored how institutional, geographic, and socio-technical contexts shape digital



Participants during a small-group brainstorming activity

preservation practice, and examined how digital preservation knowledge and skills are currently developed across academic programs, professional training pathways, and self-guided learning opportunities.

The final day focused on bridging theory with practice. Building on identified challenges and educational gaps, participants discussed actionable solutions for digital preservation practitioners working across varying contexts.

Through collaborative brainstorming and discussions, the group identified priority action areas and key audiences, emphasizing that advocacy and awareness are central to the long-term preservation of digital heritage.

Conserving Black Modernism Initiative Grantee Workshop

In April the Conservation Institute co-hosted with the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund team at National Trust for Historic Preservation a workshop for grantees in the Getty Foundation's Conserving Black Modernism funding initiative.

The workshop brought dedicated stewards, community leaders, architects, preservationists, and scholars together to deepen their understanding of Black modernist architecture and values-based conservation practices. Participants explored the contributions of Black architects and communities, addressed the challenges of conserving 20th-century modern sites, and learned through case studies, including the Nina Simone Childhood Home, Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument,



Workshop attendees

Photo: Morgan Forde, Courtesy African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund at the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Morehouse College, and the A.G. Gaston Motel.

The workshop culminated in site visits to Carson City Hall and Founder's Church in Los Angeles, reinforcing how community engagement, research, and planning can guide conservation strategies to sustain cultural significance for years to come.

Treatment Strategies for Painted Outdoor Sculpture Workshop

In April, twenty-four conservation professionals gathered in Melbourne for a five-day workshop on treating outdoor painted sculpture presented with the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and the University of Melbourne. Now in its third iteration, the course brought together an international cohort and instructors from the US and across Australia to tackle the complex challenges of painted outdoor sculpture, combining technical expertise with critical observation.

Through a program of cross-disciplinary lectures, hands-on sessions, and site visits to works in the NGV's collection and installed throughout Melbourne, participants refined their ability to identify paint applications, assess patterns of deterioration, and evaluate treatment approaches.

The workshop concluded with a public panel at the University of Melbourne, featuring Indonesian-Australian artist Jumaadi and Melbourne-based artist Ling, both of whom have created painted outdoor sculpture. Centering artists' voices enriched the conversation and opened it to a wider community, highlighting the vital role of



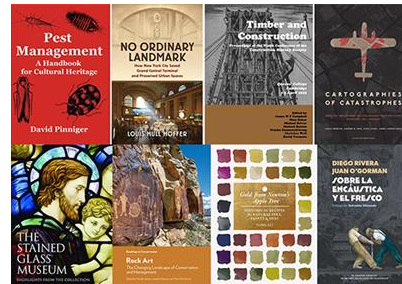
Conservator Abigail Mack (left) works with GCI's Head of Collections, Stavroula Golfomitsou (right), on a sample panel in the graffiti removal exercise

long-term care and maintenance in sustaining outdoor sculpture.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

New in the Conservation Collection

Recent additions include books on the history of timber in construction, recipes for natural inks and dyes, pest management for cultural heritage, the preservation of New York's Grand Central Station, material research on plasters and stucco, disaster documentation, highlights from the stained glass museum, conservation and management of rock art sites, and Mexican muralism.

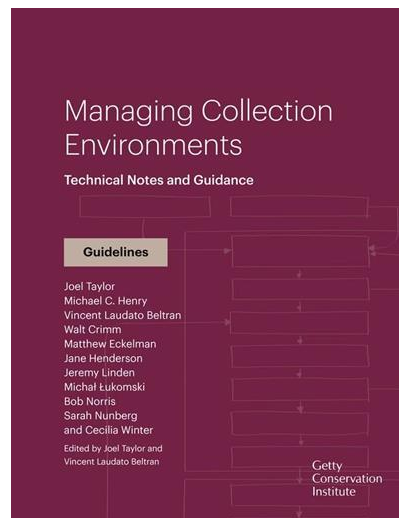


[Read the full list of new titles](#)

Award-Winning Publication

Managing Collection Environments: Technical Notes and Guidance was awarded the American Institute for Conservation's 2026 Publication Award, which recognizes excellence in a conservation publication.

This volume brings together sixteen technical notes by eleven authors, providing a holistic perspective on the sustainable environmental management of collections in museums, galleries, archives, and libraries.



Originally developed for the course “Preserving Collections in the Age of Sustainability,” the publication presents fundamental concepts such as climate physics and data collection/analysis, approaches to managing the indoor environment, and broad-scale topics such as historical/organizational contexts and consensus building.

[Download the free PDF edition](#)

NEWS AND STORIES

If Walls Could Talk

Conserving sites tied to African American history helps tell a fuller, more honest American story. Why, then, do so many sites central to Black built heritage remain overlooked, their stories under-told and preservation uncertain? Only about 3 percent of sites on the National Register of Historic Places were designated for their importance to Black history, despite the abundance of Black heritage sites nationwide.

Conserving Black built heritage requires more inclusive and just approaches that value both people and places. This means centering the personal histories as well as neighborhoods, businesses, homes, and gathering spaces that defined everyday Black life, locations where community, culture, and survival converged.

[Read the article](#)



Bill Sampson (left) performs with a band at Jack’s Basket Room, the famed South Central after-hours jazz club known as “the place where everyone comes to play.” Courtesy of the Tom & Ethel Bradley Center at California State University, Northridge

EXHIBITION

Alta / A Human Atlas of A City of Angels

On view at ReflectSpace at the Glendale Central Library now through July 12, 2026

This exhibition, initially created for PST ART: Art & Science Collide, weaves together portraiture, personal narratives, and ancestral DNA data to map L.A.'s layered identities through the lives of 100 Angelenos who have made significant contributions to the city.

[Read more about the exhibit and view parking, public transit, and open hours information](#)



Photos by Marcus Lyon. Left: Scarlett Paulina De Leon & Ocean De Leon-Edwards, Housing Justice Activist; right: James M. Lawson Jr., Pastor

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Head, Arches Initiative

The Head, Arches Initiative is accountable for the maintenance and development priorities of Arches software, the governance efforts of the Arches open-source community, and the dissemination of Arches publications and community resources.

This position will not only direct the Arches team but also liaise with the global and interdisciplinary heritage open-source community, including representatives from various leading heritage organizations, software developers and service providers, funding groups, and individual heritage professionals such as IT staff, archaeologists,



architects, conservators, researchers,
scientists, and educators.

Getty has partnered with Bridge Partners LLC for this search. Read the full job description and see information on how to apply through Bridge Partners LLC on the [Getty Job Opportunities site](#).

Nominations or expressions of interest should be sent to Bridge Partners LLC directly.

Only individuals who express interest in this way will be considered as part of this search.

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New books from Getty Publications.

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Latest resources from the Getty Research Institute, such as publications, lecture series, and digitized collections.

Foundation News

Highlights of current initiatives and recent grants from the Getty Foundation.

Villa News

Exhibitions and events at the Getty Villa Museum that explore the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean.

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Mission Statement

The Getty Conservation Institute works internationally to advance conservation practice in the visual arts - broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture, and sites. The Institute serves the conservation community through scientific research, education and training, field projects, and the dissemination of information. In all its endeavors, we create and deliver knowledge that contributes to the conservation of the world's cultural heritage.

About Conservation News

Conservation News is published six times a year with updates on our activities and timely information for conservation professionals.