Supports the conservation professionals who preserve our cultural heritage

Upholds professional standards

Provides educational opportunities

Promotes research and publications

Fosters the exchange of knowledge among conservators, allied professionals, and the public
To elevate the vital role of cultural heritage conservation by applying its expertise to urgent global preservation initiatives while

- empowering conservation professionals
- motivating collecting institutions
- engaging the public

- Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP)
- Connecting to Collections Care (C2C Care)
- Conservation Online (CoOL)/Digital Strategies
- Emergency Programs
- National Heritage Responders (NHR)
- Professional Development Programs
- Scholarships & Grants
Publications & Resources

Health & Safety

Individuals should consider their own health and safety to be equally as important as the health and safety of the collections in their care. The Health & Safety Committee provides educational and technical information to the AIC membership to increase knowledge of safety hazards and general health issues related to the conservation profession. It offers information through lectures, workshops, displays, AIC publications, AIC’s website, and other electronic and print media. It also addresses health and safety issues of concern to the AIC membership by maintaining current information through research, by collaboration with health and safety professionals and with other health and safety organizations, and, periodically, by statistically valid surveys, the results of which facilitate establishing priorities. Read more about the committee and its members by going to the Health & Safety Committee.

Health & Safety Wiki

AIC members, specialty groups and committees contribute to a conservation-related knowledge base funded through a grant from the National Park Service and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. Placing this content on the AIC wiki platform allows for easy and timely collaborative editing and also provides much broader access to these resources, ensuring that innovative methods and materials are documented and widely disseminated to the conservation community. AIC’s Health & Safety Committee maintains a section of AIC’s Conservation Wiki on health and safety topics relevant to conservation and collection professionals.

Visit the Health & Safety Wiki >>

AIC News Articles

Committee members, along with consulting safety and healthcare professionals, regularly write articles and guides that are published in AIC News on topics relevant to the conservation community. These publications are offered for information purposes only. Some of the information included in old articles may be out of date, particularly with regard to toxicological data and regulatory standards. More recent publications may include more up-to-date information, but there has been no attempt by the committee to review and update previously published articles in the AIC News or to exhaustively catalogue current legal requirements and standards applicable to the profession.

Articles and Guides published in AIC News >>
Fit-test Program

1. Medical Evaluation
2. Lecture
3. Fit Test
Fit Test at AIC Annual Meeting

James R. Smith, Jr., ASP; Program Manager, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History Museum Support Center Suitland, MD
Consolidating Paint
Mask from Papua, New Guinea

Mold Growth

A water-damaged painting brought to the FAIC Cultural Recovery Center following Hurricane Sandy, 2012

Outreach

• American Library Association, serving over 13,700 public, academic, and government libraries in the U.S.

• Society of American Archivists, representing more than 6,200 professional archivists

• American Alliance of Museums, with 30,000 members across the U.S.
FAIC Outreach Programs

• Connecting to Collections Care (C2C Care) Online Community offering free webinars, a forum, and resources to over 7,200 subscribers from small- and medium-sized museums across the nation.

• Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) offering assessments and resources to small- to mid-sized museums to assist in providing long-term care for their collections, buildings, and infrastructure.
Top Four Information Requests from Conservators

1. Air quality and personal exposure monitoring

2. Local exhaust ventilation design and performance evaluations; filter change-out schedules for ductless extractors
Top Four Information Requests from Conservators

3. Laser and radiation safety training; design and safety evaluation of new or renovated X-radiography facilities; resources for Geiger counters and dosimetry badges

4. Local training in respiratory protection, safe chemical storage, handling, and GHS labeling
Information Exchange

• Part 1
  Principles of Safety & Health

• Part 2
  Specific Hazards

• Part 3
  Museum Work
FAIC Cultural Emergency Response following Hurricane Sandy
Exposure Data Collection & Control Assessment

Examples of conservation and collection care workforce tasks to be studied:

• Arsenic and mercury treatments in ethnographic and specimen collections
• Silica exposures in fossil preparations
• Solvent exposures from conservation treatments
THANK YOU!