



Society of California Archivists

Candidate's Statement for 2021 Election

Candidate for: Membership Director

Years: 2021-2023 (2-year term)

Name: Alix Norton

Institution: University of California, Santa Cruz

Professional Background (begin with current position and areas of responsibility, and briefly summarize experience):

University of California, Santa Cruz (2015-present)

Archivist, Center for Archival Research and Training (CART)

- Oversee the Center for Archival Research and Training: train 5 graduate students per year in archival processing techniques, supervise processing work, guide curation of exhibits
- Process over 300 linear feet of archival material each year
- Provide reference services

University of Michigan (2013-2015)

University Library Associate, University Library; Master's degree student, School of Information

- Provided reference services and information literacy instruction sessions to the campus community
- Managed content creation and maintenance on the library's internal Public Services Wiki
- Performed collection development and management of career resources materials
- SAA student chapter board member, 2014-2015

University of California, Irvine (2011-2013)

Archives and Public Services Assistant, Special Collections & Archives

- Processed archival collections of various levels of complexity
- Managed reproduction and digitization requests
- Provided reference services in person, over the phone, and by email
- Supervised undergraduate student staff members
- Led training workshops and instruction sessions for undergraduate and graduate students

Educational Background (degrees and other applicable training):

University of Michigan School of Information

Master of Science in Information, 2015

Specializations in Archives & Records Management, Library & Information Science

University of Washington

Bachelor of Science in Psychology, 2009

Professional Affiliations (list organizations, dates and extent of your involvement, e.g., SCA activities, memberships, committee work):

Society of California Archivists (2016-present)

- Membership Director (2019-present)
- Member, Governmental Affairs committee (2017-2019)

Society of American Archivists (2012-present)

- Key contact for California (2020-present)

What initiatives would you like to pursue as Membership Director to improve the member experience and engagement with the Society?

As the current Membership Director, I have pursued solutions for improving the member experience in SCA, especially when we are unable to meet in person. When I started in this position, I was interested in promoting the Member Initiated Events to more members, and especially students, but the pandemic put any in-person event planning on hold. In lieu of these in-person meetings, I've co-created a monthly meeting on the first Fridays of each month, where members and non-members alike can convene for an hour over lunchtime to discuss various topics, meet one another, and get updates about SCA's work. I would like to continue to hold these monthly meetings, and I look forward to promoting the member-initiated events and their new structure as soon as we're able to gather in-person. I am especially interested in engaging students at California schools and determining how best to serve them as they embark on their archives careers.

Please detail your efforts to integrate equity and inclusion practices into your work and any plans you may have for this as Membership Director and Board Member.

At my place of work, I am looking forward to being a co-lead on the newly-formed team focused on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice related work across my library. As a white, cisgender woman, I recognize the importance of listening and understanding my role in practices that uphold white supremacy and privilege, and I plan to continue seeking out ways that SCA can serve all of its membership, through examining labor practices and advocating for those in precarious labor positions, and creating scholarships and other opportunities for those in BIPOC communities especially to succeed in archives work. I am proud that the Society has decreased barriers to membership and activities in the past year, including opening up First Friday meetings to all interested folks regardless of membership, and implementing a Pay What You Can membership model for the year.