



LAMcon 2019
Conference &
Annual Meeting

September 8–10, 2019
Natchitoches, LA

Disaster Recovery: Museums Working Together

The Louisiana Association of Museums is pleased to announce this year's LAMcon Keynote Speaker as Samantha Forsko, Preservation Specialist at the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts. The address will detail the benefits of museums working in a cooperative disaster network to help assist in emergency planning while exploring how the Incident Command System can be applied to cultural heritage disaster response.

In addition to her keynote, Forsko will also lead a disaster recovery and response workshop that will increase practical knowledge of hands-on salvage of a simulated disaster, allowing participants to practice salvaging a variety of materials. Personal safety, initial site assessment, object triage and tracking, and post-disaster debriefing will be addressed.

Biography:

Samantha Forsko is the Preservation Specialist at the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), where she primarily works with institutions and their collections. She conducts on-site preservation needs and risk assessments and assists with preservation and emergency planning. She also develops and presents educational programs and provides technical information to libraries, archives, museums, historic sites, and other cultural institutions. Since starting at the Center in 2015, Samantha has also been the project manager of the Pennsylvania Cultural Resilience Network (PaCRN), aiming to improve emergency response and preparedness for cultural institutions across the state.

Before joining CCAHA, Samantha worked at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art as a collections manager. In addition to providing long-term care for permanent collection, she also served on the Emergency Preparedness Committee, responsible for writing, updating, and training the 300 member staff on the implementation of the institution's Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. She has previously worked as a conservation technician for the Regional Arts and Culture Council and Cascadia Art Conservation Center, both in Portland, Oregon, primarily providing preventive maintenance and care for outdoor public art collections. Samantha received her MA in Arts Management with a focus on Archival and Museum Studies from Claremont Graduate University, in Claremont, California, writing her master's thesis on Emergency Preparedness in Cultural Institutions.

