

ANNOUNCEMENT

I am very pleased to announce two new funding initiatives from the VRA Foundation.

1. VRAF Sponsored Workshop at the VRA Conference The VRAF is providing full support for the workshop, "Strategic Planning: Who, What, Why, and How," at the 2010 VRA conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 17. The workshop, organized by Elizabeth Schaub and the VRA Education Committee, focuses on mission, goals and objectives of visual resources collections that will complement the vision of the larger organization within which the visual resources unit resides. The workshop sponsorship is part of the Foundation's mission to strengthen the visual resources field by increasing public and professional awareness of visual information management, while advocating for the value of images in the teaching and learning environment.

2. VRAF Professional Development Grant.

The VRAF has created its first grant devoted to Professional Development. The purpose of the grant is to support professional development, including attendance or enrollment at an educational conference, or research activities in the field of visual resources and image management. This year's grant for \$850. will help support attendance at the VRA Annual Conference in Atlanta, March 2010. In subsequent years the grant will be open to support attendance at a variety of professional development venues such as other association conferences, symposia and workshops.

The grant is open to professionals, including retirees and those currently unemployed, and students seeking educational, training, and research opportunities in support of broad access to cultural information. Membership in the Visual Resources Association is not required. The applicant's stated financial need will be considered and other applications for funding for the same event or project must be disclosed by the applicant. Award monies may be used for: transportation, registration, lodging accommodations, meals, and approved research expenses.

The VRAF Professional Development Grant is part of the Foundation's mission to advance awareness of important issues for digital information management; encourage the application of professional standards, innovative technology, and metadata cataloging protocols; facilitate workplace training; and promote awareness of intellectual property rights and copyright issues. The VRAF supports a range of educational offerings to help ensure that such information reaches a diverse and global audience.

The application form and grant guidelines for the VRAF Professional Development Grant will be available on the VRAF web site on November 4.

Applications for the 2010 grant will be due by Nov. 25, 2009.

Warm Regards,
Elisa Lanzi
VRA Foundation, chair
Director, Imaging Center
Smith College Dept. of Art
Hillyer Hall, 22 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063
VOICE: 413.585.3106
elanzi@smith.edu

FAX: 413.585.3119

<http://www.smith.edu/imaging>

<http://www.vrafoundation.org>