Association of Western States Folklorists
Annual Meeting
April 10-12, 2014
Utah State University
University Inn & Conference Center
5005 Old Main Hill | Logan, Utah 84322
Phone: 435.797.0423

Thursday, April 10

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Graze
Bear River Heritage Area

This year's Graze will include a visit to the site of the Bear River Massacre, in which upwards of 300 Northwestern Shoshone were murdered by the U.S. Army in 1863. It will also include a visit to at least one historic barn as featured in the Bear River Heritage Area's two driving tours of barns in northern Utah and southeastern Idaho and at least one folk artist visit. The graze visits are free of charge with an optional boxed lunch for $11.00.

6:00 p.m. WESTAF Dinner
- Welcome & Update, Anthony Radich, Executive Director
- Introduction of Bea Roeder awardee

Sportsman's Paradise
750 West 8700
South Paradise, Utah

9:00 p.m. Media presentations
Hospitality Suite
University Inn, 302

Friday, April 11
Meeting Location: Room 307/309, Utah State Univ., University Inn & Conference Center

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Continental breakfast at hotel

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Welcome, Introductions, Bea Roeder awardee
- Elaine Thatcher
- Amy Mills

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. New Models for Public Folklore
- Benjamin Hunter, Community Arts Create
- Elena Martinez, City Lore
- Anthony Radich, WESTAF, Facilitator

As the field of folklore evolves over time, what avenues, aside from state agency-sponsored folklife and traditional arts programs, are folklorists exploring that have enabled them to thrive outside of traditional models? How have the DIY movement, crowdsourcing and

community-based approaches impacted the field, if at all? WESTAF Executive Director Anthony Radich facilitates a conversation with Benjamin Hunter of Seattle-based Community Arts Create and Elena Martinez of City Lore in New York City who share their reflections on new structural models and address the challenges and opportunities inherent in the shifting landscape.

Benjamin Hunter *is a musician, educator, and community activist. From a very young age, he was surrounded by music, with his mother providing many opportunities to explore different places and cultures. This helped guide his passions towards working for his community through the arts. In 2011, he founded Community Arts Create, a Seattle based not-for-profit that uses the arts as a vehicle for community development and social engagement. Through CAC, Benjamin is able to affect change through music workshops and concerts, collective art projects, community arts events, cooking classes, and gardening projects. Benjamin is also a professional violinist/fiddler, playing locally and nationally in genres of folk, blues, jazz, classical, and various world styles. He plays in NW bluegrass band, The Renegade Stringband, has played at Wintergrass Bluegrass Festival, and is currently joining a project with Grammy Award winning artist, Dom Flemons. In 2013, Ben was named Best South Seattle Artist of the Year, by the Rainier Valley Post.*

Elena Martínez *received an M.A. in Anthropology and an M.A. in Folklore at the University of Oregon. Since 1997, she has been a Folklorist at City Lore. She also recently became the Co-Artistic Director for the Bronx Music Heritage Center, sponsored by the Women's Housing & Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco) and co-curates the Bronx Rising! series there. She co-produced the documentary, From Mambo to Hip Hop: A South Bronx Tale, which aired on PBS in September 2006 and won the NCLR's (National Council of La Raza) 2007 ALMA Award for Best TV Documentary. Elena curated the exhibition, "¡Que bonita bandera!: The Puerto Rican Flag as Folk Art," and was the Assistant Curator for the exhibit, "Nueva York: 1613-1945" at El Museo del Barrio (2010). She has been a contributor to Latinas in the United States: An Historical Encyclopedia by historians Virginia Sánchez Korrol and Vicki L. Ruíz (Indiana University Press 2006); Women's Folklore & Folklife: An Encyclopedia of Beliefs, Customs, Tales, Music, and Art (ABC-CLIO 2008); and the forthcoming New York State Folklife Reader: Diverse Voices. She is currently on the Advisory Boards for Casita Maria/Dancing in the Streets' South Bronx Culture Trail, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies Archive at Hunter College, the Bronx Children's Museum and Los Pleneros de la 21. She has been awarded a 2013 BOROMIX Puerto Rican Heritage Award and Comité Noviembre's Lo Mejor de Nuestra Comunidad 2013.*

Anthony Radich *has served as the executive director of WESTAF since August of 1996. In that capacity he is responsible for providing leadership to the thirteen-state regional arts organizations' programs and special initiatives. He oversees WESTAF's work in the areas of research, advocacy, and online systems development designed to benefit the cultural community. Prior to accepting his position at WESTAF, Radich served as the executive director of the Missouri Arts Council for eight years. There he led the successful effort to create a state cultural trust fund supported by a stream of dedicated state funding. Preceding his work in Missouri, Radich was the senior project manager for the Arts, Tourism, and Cultural Resources Committee of the National Conference of State legislatures (NCSL). As senior project manager, he worked with state legislators from across the country to develop state-level legislation and policy concerned with the arts, tourism, and historic preservation. While working for the NCSL, Radich was appointed by Denver Mayor Federico Peña to chair the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs, the city's arts agency. Radich earned a bachelor's degree in physical anthropology and a master's degree in art education from the University of Oregon. He also earned a doctorate from the Graduate School of Public Affairs of the University of Colorado Denver.*

11:00 - 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 - Noon Rivers & Headwaters Project Follow-Up

- Elaine Thatcher

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. "Moving Toward a Sustainable Future" Report Review & AWSF Action Planning Session

- Amy Mills
- Nelda Ault
- Tamara Kubacki
- Emily Afanador

Building on the shared vision of and renewed commitment to the AWSF that resulted from the 2013 JVA Consulting workshop, "Moving Toward a Sustainable Future," AWSF members Amy Mills, Nelda Ault, Tamara Kubacki and Emily Afanador facilitate discussions for the four action groups that emerged from last year's meeting. Goals are to determine a single goal/focus for each group's work this year, define what that work looks like, and how to achieve it.

3:45 - 4:45 Fife Folklore Archives
30 Years of the Bridger Folk Music Society Posters
USU Merrill-Cazier Library
3000 Old Main Hill

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. The Archer Taylor Memorial Lecture

- Prof. Charles Briggs, Chair of the UC Berkeley Folklore Program and Alan Dundes Distinguished Professor of Folklore

Eccles Conference Center
5005 Old Main Hill

6:45 - 8:00 p.m. WSFS & AWSF Reception
Caine House
691 E. 500 N.

8:00 p.m. Dinner on your own

Saturday, April 12
Meeting Location: Room 307/309, Utah State University, University Inn & Conference Center

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Continental breakfast at hotel

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. AWSF Action Planning Session

- Emily Afanador
- Nelda Ault
- Tamara Kubacki
- Amy Mills

Continue work from previous day's workshop and finalize plans.

10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. - Noon Career Positioning for Public Folklorists

- Anne Hatch, Arts Specialist & Folklorists, Wyoming Arts Council
- Jennifer Joy Jameson, Folk and Traditional Arts Program Director, Mississippi Arts Commission
- Elaine Thatcher, Independent Public Folklorist
- Wendi Hassan, Utah Division of Arts & Museums, Facilitator

The demand on public folklorists to anticipate trends in the field, adopt an entrepreneurial approach to their work and advocate for themselves as small businesses is high for professionals working independently and with a state. What types of transferable skills do folklorists have that, when highlighted, might lead to new job prospects, projects, clients and/or funding opportunities? Anne Hatch of the Wyoming Arts Council, Jennifer Joy Jameson of the Mississippi Arts Commission and independent folklorist Elaine Thatcher join facilitator Wendi Hassan of the Utah Division of Arts & Museums to discuss lessons learned from navigating careers as both independent and state-employed folklorists.

Anne F. Hatch *joined the Wyoming Arts Council (WAC) in December 2005 to re-establish the Folk and Traditional Arts Program. Her responsibilities include managing the Mentoring program, administering the Folk Arts grants, conducting field documentation of local folk musicians, dancers and artisans, and generating special projects to highlight Wyoming's cultural heritage. She curated Wyoming Folk Masters, an exhibit of eight artists for the Wyoming Arts Council gallery, and produced Wyoming Folks: Encounters with Wyoming Folk Artists, a documentary which aired on Wyoming Public Television and was awarded a bronze Telly in 2007. Additional documentary work includes Wyoming Food: Volume 1 (2011), Wyoming Folks: Are Afraid (2009) and various artist vignettes (2006-2010) for the Department of State Parks and Cultural Affairs website. Anne has over 20 years of experience in folklore and arts administration in the Intermountain West including positions with the Utah Arts Council, the Nevada Arts Council – Southern Office, and the Utah Humanities Council. She has a MA in folklore from Utah State University and a BA in anthropology from Oberlin College. She lectures, publishes and reviews manuscripts in her effort to promote folklife and folk art in a wide variety of sectors.*

Originally from Southern California, ***Jennifer Jameson*** *moved south from Nashville, Tennessee to serve as the Folk and Traditional Arts Program Director at the Mississippi Arts Commission. She has an M.A. in public sector folk studies from Western Kentucky University and a B.A. in folklore and ethnomusicology from Indiana University. Jennifer has worked with museums, archives, festivals, and arts and cultural organizations on the federal, state, and local level, including positions at the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Traditional Arts Indiana, the Kentucky Folklife Program, the Alabama Folklife Association, the Tennessee Folklore Society, and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. She also taught folklife studies and English courses at Middle Tennessee State University and Western Kentucky University, and in 2013, Jennifer participated in a residency institute on cultural organizing at Tennessee's historic Highlander Center. At the Mississippi Arts Commission, Jennifer works with individual artists, organizations, and communities to further support and sustain folklife and traditional arts in the state through a range of grants, programs, and special initiatives.*

Elaine Thatcher *(M.A., American Studies and Folklore, Utah State University, 1983) is a folklorist who has worked closely with many ethnic and occupational communities of the West. She has worked in government, nonprofits, and higher education and has served on the boards of the American Folklore Society, the Folklore Society of Utah, and the Bear River Heritage Area. A seasoned interviewer and veteran producer of public programs, her past projects include The Mountain West Songfest & Symposium (Utah*

State University, 2004-2008), The Spirit of Place radio series (WESTAF, 1999), exhibitions of ranching gear at the Coconino Center for the Arts (Flagstaff, Arizona) and the Western Folklife Center (Elko, Nevada), and heritage tourism projects in Arizona and Utah. Her publications include Cowboy Poets & Cowboy Poetry (co-editor; University of Illinois Press, 2000), Sharing Your Culture: A Handbook for Traditional Folk Artists Interested in Building New Audiences (Western States Arts Federation, 1997, 1999) and an essay, "Public Folklore in Utah," in Folklore in Utah: A History and Guide to Resources (David Stanley, ed., Utah State University Press, 2004). Currently she is doing fieldwork in western Wyoming. Thatcher was the 2006 recipient of the prestigious Benjamin A. Botkin Prize given by the American Folklore Society for outstanding achievement in public folklore.

***Wendi Hassan** is the Community Arts Manager for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, where she works with an incredible team to serve museums, local arts agencies, and community and rural arts. She is a co – facilitator of the Change Leader Program, a network of more than 180 individuals committed to shepherding positive change in their communities. Wendi has over twenty years of experience in arts and museums administration, grantwriting, fundraising, marketing, arts education and outreach for organizations including Cache Valley Center for the Arts, Unicorn Theatre, Alliance for the Varied Arts, Mountain West Strings Academy and Cache Children's Choir. Wendi has taught Theatre Leadership and Management at Utah State University and holds masters degrees in Arts Administration and Policy from The Ohio State University and in Business Administration from Utah State University.*

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. The Future of Folklore

- Jennifer Joy Jameson, Folk and Traditional Arts Program Director, Mississippi Arts Commission
- Amy Mills, Programs Coordinator, Western Folklife Center
- Kirsten Stoltz, M12 Collective

A growing number of professionals working in public folklore consider the field to be at pivotal moment in its evolution. As part of a re-envisioning process, many are exploring ways to meaningfully connect the work to community interest and need. Amy Mills of the Western Folklife Center facilitates a conversation with the M12 Collective's Kirsten Stoltz and Jennifer Jameson of the Mississippi Arts Commission who will speak to projects and efforts directly situated at the intersection of folklore, the rural experience, creative practice and community engagement.

***Jennifer Joy Jameson** is current Director of the Folk and Traditional Arts Program for the Mississippi Arts Commission. See previous bio.*

***Amy Mills** works at the Western Folklife Center in Elko, NV, where she is the programs coordinator and manager of the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Prior to this position, she worked for two years a project manager at Deep Web Technologies, a small software company in Santa Fe, NM. From 2005-2008, she was the Outreach & Education Coordinator at Northwest Folklife in Seattle, WA. After graduating from the University of Oregon in 2002 with MAs in anthropology and folklore, Amy has always found it necessary to remain flexible in order to find cultural work. She has worked in several non-profits, taught university courses, and done freelance research, film and festival production work – and volunteered when that was the only entry point. She has been a board member at three small nonprofits, and she is active in organizing within her own communities. She is interested to see how the work of folklorists can remain flexible and meaningful in our rapidly changing society.*

***Kirsten Stoltz** is the Program Director for the M12 Collective which is known for groundbreaking and award-winning creative projects that explore the aesthetics of rural cultures and landscapes. M12 is an interdisciplinary group based in Colorado on the American High Plains that create context-based art works,*

research projects, and education programs. Working in the fields of art and design, they favor projects that are centered in rural areas and which can be developed through dialogical and collaborative approaches. The M12 Collective has created a body of work explores community identity and the value of often under-represented rural communities and their surrounding landscapes. The M12 Collective has been featured widely nationally and internationally including recent exhibitions and commissioned works appearing at The 13th International Venice Architecture Biennale; The Kalmar Konstmuseum in Sweden; The Chicago Cultural Center; Franklin Street Works; Wormfarm Institute; The 2011 Australian Biennial (SPACED); The 2010 Biennial of the Americas; The Center for Land Use Interpretation; The Ewing Gallery of Art and Architecture at the University of Tennessee; The Kohler Arts Center; The Contemporary Museum in Baltimore; Wall House #2 in the Netherlands, and The Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin.

3:00 - 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 - 4:30 p.m. Regional and Intergenerational Collaboration

- Wendi Hassan, Utah Division of Arts & Museums, Facilitator

Collaboration is a frequently used buzzword in the arts and culture sector that underscores the expectation that arts professionals and folklorists maintain a level of productivity, or do more, with dwindling resources. The rationale for working collaboratively, while not often discussed, is just important as how to work with partnering institutions, organizations or colleagues. Facilitator Wendi Hassan of the Utah Division of Arts and Museums guides the group through a structured brainstorming session that explores the perceived value of regional and intergenerational collaborations and the capacity of to engage in them from an individual and an organizational perspective.

***Wendi Hassan** is the Community Arts Manager for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums. See previous bio.*

4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Final remarks & 2015 Planning: Denver

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner on your own

7:30 p.m. Concert/Presentation
Hal Cannon & Gary Eller, Traditional Songs of Northern Utah & Southern Idaho
Whittier Community Center
290 N. 400 E.