Art Information Commons
Department of Library and Archives

Introduction
The Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) has received a Mellon Foundation grant for a 3-year project to explore how to make the most of our art information by focusing on the interrelated nature of our practices, processes, and systems. The Art Information Commons (AIC) initiative aims to leverage institution-wide standards for how information about individual works of art can be linked to related contextual information—such as archival materials, bibliographic references, exhibition labels, provenance documentation, conservation records, interpretive content, curatorial research files, and non-object images such as exhibition photography.

This planning phase is part of an organization-wide evolution in how we holistically manage our collections-related data and support a sustainable information culture—an Art Information Commons—that spans the entire organization and will benefit data creation, access, and preservation for years to come. This grant provides the staffing and resources to ask ourselves some exciting questions, including: What are the opportunities made available by current and emerging technologies? What have we been dreaming about? How can we activate *all of our* contextual art information? Based on the answers that emerge, we will begin creating blueprints for possible tools, process adjustments, and new ways of working.

Closely aligned with PMA's Strategy to 2020, AIC is coordinated by the Library and Archives Department, guided by both internal and external stakeholders and advisors. This is a collaborative undertaking for our institution and will involve all departments that contribute, manage, and/or access contextual information related to our collection. Together, we aim to leverage and move forward existing information work across the museum.

Planning Grant Goals
Our focus for each year of the three-year planning grant includes:

- Grant Year 1: Museum-wide awareness-raising, involvement, learning, idea-generation, analysis/documentation of the Museum's information ecosystem; begin to coordinate/collaborate with other initiatives; hire dedicated support
- Grant Year 2: Ongoing learning workshops and seminars, support information management via evaluating and prototyping tools and extensions that move toward a linked approach, continue coordination across initiatives
- Grant Year 3: Continue exploring, evaluating and prototyping, focus on integration opportunities, continue learning, articulate the shared vision, plan implementation

For more information
Please contact Juliet Vinegra, Project Manager, Art Information Commons at juliet.vinegra@philamuseum.org or view our Sharepoint page for Art Information Commons under Committees and Projects.