

The American Institute for Conservation Emergency Committee & Collections Emergency Response Team

EC MEMBERS



RITA BERG
MASTERS CANDIDATE
CONSERVATION CENTER
INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS, NYU



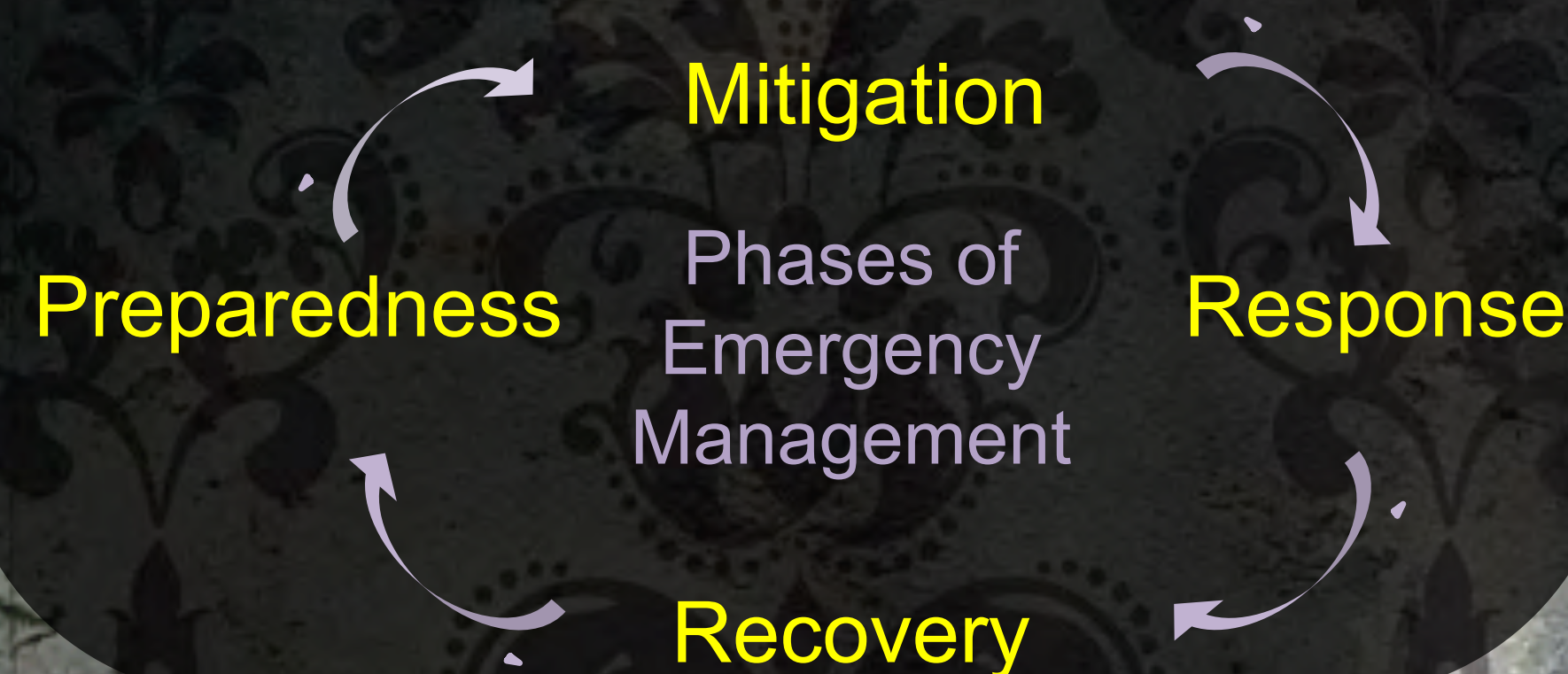
ANNA WEISS
MASTERS CANDIDATE
ART CONSERVATION PROGRAM
QUEENS UNIVERSITY

Emergency Committee (EC)

The AIC board created the Emergency Committee in 2004. The committee is charged to promote awareness and increase knowledge of the AIC membership in the areas of emergency preparedness, response and recovery for cultural heritage by producing articles and technical information, organizing lectures and workshops, supporting the AIC-CERT, and developing educational training tools.

AIC's Conservation OnLine Website Revamp

The Conservation OnLine (CoOL) disaster portal is getting a facelift. The new CoOL resources are intended to provide the general public with information about disaster response and recovery – as well as the protection – of treasured possessions. The categories are broken down into the four facets of emergency management – prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. For resources that go into more depth regarding conservation and institutional collections, please refer to the Conservation OnLine (CoOL) disaster portal: <http://cool.conservation-us.org/bytopic/disasters/>



Collections Emergency Response Team (AIC-CERT)

AIC-CERT responds to the needs of cultural institutions during emergencies and disasters through coordinated efforts with first responders, state agencies, vendors and the public. AIC-CERT began in part as a reaction to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which struck New Orleans in the summer of 2005. AIC-CERT teams were on the ground following the Midwest floods in 2008 and in the Galveston area following Hurricane Ike later that year.

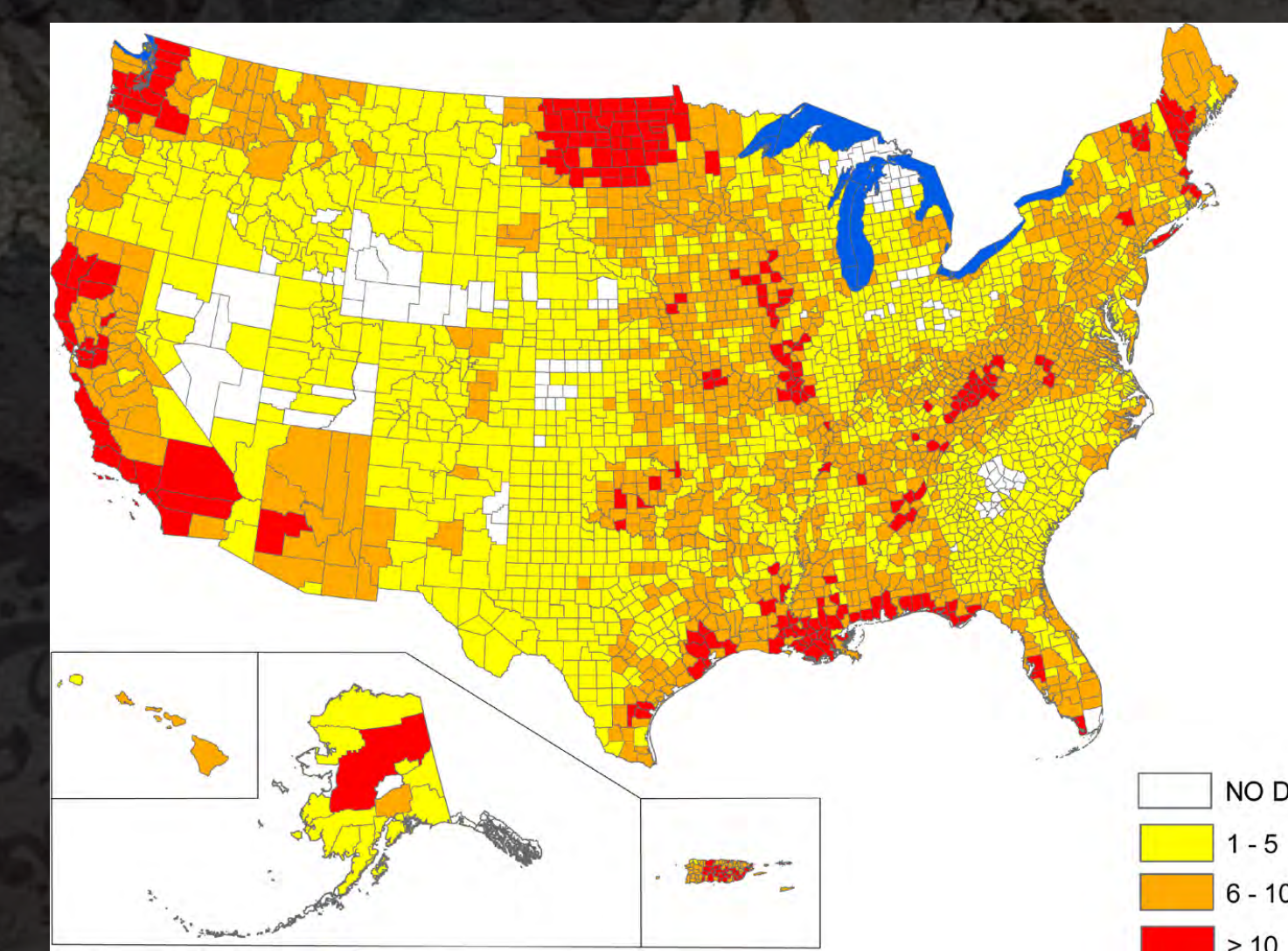


AIC-CERT conservator Hitoshi Kimura working on the FIRST painting at the Haiti Cultural Recovery Center

AIC-CERT members and other conservators assisted with the recovery of cultural materials damaged in the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The disaster decimated Haiti's cultural institutions that housed the country's artwork, artifacts, and archives, and prompted AIC's first international response effort

America's Treasures at Risk!

The Heritage Health Index, conducted by Heritage Preservation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services in 2005, found that 80% of collecting institutions in the U.S. did not have an emergency plan that included collections, with staff trained to carry it out.



Presidential Disaster Declarations in the United States and Territories by county from 1965–2003 reflect the broad geographic distribution and human impacts of earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, tsunamis, volcanoes, and wildfires.

- Earthquakes have the highest potential for causing catastrophic casualties, property damage, and economic disruption.
- Over 75 percent of declared Federal disasters are related to floods.
- More than half of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of a coast. Many of these areas, especially the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, will be in the direct path of future hurricanes.

Recent Flood Response in Minot, ND

AIC-CERT had "boots on the ground" Friday, August 5, 2011, to assist the Ward County Historical Society in Minot, North Dakota. The call for volunteers went out on Tuesday afternoon. By Thursday, AIC-CERT had an Incident Action Plan, a three-person team, and airline tickets, car rental, and hotel rooms booked. This is a real testament to the dedication of the team volunteers and to the maturing nature of AIC-CERT.

Getting Involved with AIC-EC

- *Attend workshops and lectures!* "Respirator Fit Testing," "From Lab to Field: Choosing and Using Personal Protective Equipment," "Getting the Money: Disaster Funding to Get Institutions Back on Their Feet," etc.
- *Apply for a position!* The EC has 1-year term student positions and 2-year regular member positions.

Getting Involved with AIC-CERT

- *Utilize it!* Volunteer AIC-CERT members provide advice and referrals by phone at the following number. Onsite assistance can be arranged through the AIC-CERT Coordinator and Project Director for response. For 24-hour assistance, call (202) 661-8068.
- *Become an AIC-CERT Responder!* FAIC offered training sessions in 2007 and 2011, with the support of grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Look for future training opportunities.