

Insites



February 2016

With this commentary I am starting – or in some ways re-starting – INSITES. This was the original name of the newsletter for ACLS and I am proposing to revive it as a monthly blog from the president. This should leave more room in our quarterly newsletter for articles from and about our members and their work and our professions. If you have something to say about ACLS, liturgical space or art, our webinars, about your work or that of others please send your commentary or article for consideration to be included in our newsletter to Shelley Kolman our secretary at peotryart@aol.com.

For this first commentary I would like to begin with some commentary on an important event that occurred this month – the Southwest Liturgical Conference. This 54th annual conference was held in San Antonio, Texas and was a new beginning for ACLS. It marked the first effort of partnership between SWLC and ACLS. It is hoped by both organizations that this will be a permanent partnership. Through these efforts we are able to connect our members of professional artists, architects and liturgical consultants to the audience of the SWLC and to the conference keynote speakers. We did this in a number of ways – attending liturgies and speaker presentations, as exhibitors, presenters and through networking, as at the Pecha Kucha and through on-on-one meeting with conference attendees. All of our members were made to feel so welcomed at the conference, most especially through the very public and continual support from Father James Burkhart, the president of SWLC.

For me the true highlight of the conference was being together with old friends and new. There was something very special about all of our face-to-face encounters on the tour, in the exhibit hall and at the conference sessions. Meals at the ACLS ‘family table’ were especially memorable. When so many of us work in isolation, I think that these encounters are especially poignant and necessary. There was a sense of collegiality and sharing that is not easily found in other professional groups.



In addition to just getting to know everyone a bit better, I did truly learn a lot at the conference. The ACLS tour of churches was well planned and featured very interesting spaces. The keynote speakers inspired us to new ways of thinking that will be mulled over for some time to come. Our ACLS speakers were well prepared with talks relevant for all who attended. The topics of ACLS members ranged from basic building blocks for building committees to case studies to issues of diversity and beauty reflected in our churches. And of course for many the highlight of the Pecha Kucha where 18 presenters had the opportunity to show their work and reveal themselves to us in 7 minutes. Both funny and profound there were so many good things about the energy and enthusiasm this generated for the arts and worship.

The reality of such positive experiences for our members will stay with us as we return to our homes and studios. I would love to hear comments and suggestions from any who attended. And I do hope to see even more ACLS members when we partner with the next Southwest Liturgical Conference. That study week will be held in El Paso, Texas January 18 to 21, 2017. Mark your calendars for another eventful time together.

Events:

NPM
Convention
Houston, TX
July 11 - 16,
2016

Webinars:

Illumination of
the Church
Jason Foster
February 16,
2016
1:00 PM EST

New

Members:

Deborah Luke
Allied
Baton Rouge, LA

Julie Richey
Allied
Dallas, TX

Martin Marklin
Affiliate
Contoocock,
NH

Gianfranco
Tassara
Allied
Milwaukee, WI