

Program Schedule and Overview

Thursday, May 21, 2026		Coast Canmore Hotel (511 Bow Valley Trail)	
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration		
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Archival Enclosures Workshop (Wolverine Room, Coast Canmore)		
12:00 pm – 1:00pm	Lunch (for workshop participants only)		
1:00 pm – 4:00pm	Archival Enclosures Workshop (continued)		
6:30 pm – 7:00pm	Conference Registration – Coast Canmore Ballroom Foyer		
7:00 pm – 9:00pm	Opening Reception – Crocus/Arnica Ballroom		
Friday, May 22, 2026		Crocus/Arnica Ballroom – Coast Canmore	Wolverine Room – Coast Canmore
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Conference Registration (Coast Canmore Ballroom foyer)		
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Session 1 – Navigating Archival Silence: Lessons from a Chinese Canadian archivist – June Chow		
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Break		
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Session 2A – Strategies to Fill Internal Silence (Rebecca Mbanyele, Jia Jia Yong, Jesse Carson)	Session 2B – Illuminating Indigenous – related Records in the Vaults (Maryna Chernyavska, Sandy Hoye, Ashley Sims)	
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch		
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Session 3A – Building an Archives from Absence (Chantelle Desjarlais, Leland Reed, Kathryn Ruddock, Kim Gerald)	Session 3B – Surveillance and Missing Records (Braden Cannon, Susanne Clark)	
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Break		
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Session 4A – Illuminating the Invisible (Marlena Wyman, Philip Pype, Ciaran Purdome)	Session 4B – Exhibiting from the Silence (Amanda Oliver, Karen Cyrus, Curtis Frederick)	
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm		Institutional Forum (ASA Institutional members only)	
Saturday, May 23, 2026		Crocus/Arnica Ballroom – Main Meeting Space	Wolverine Room – Breakout Space
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Conference Registration – Coast Canmore Ballroom foyer		
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Session 5 – Institutions/Institutionalization and Erasure (Michael Gourlie, Angie Dilts, Brendan Griebel)		
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Break		
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Session 6 – Making Space for Indigenous Voices at the Whyte (Colleen Crawler, Dagny Dubois, Kate Nielsen)		
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch		
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	AGM (ASA members)		

Description of Conference Sessions

Day 1

Pre-Conference Workshop: Archival Enclosures Workshop, Lisa Isley

This workshop will guide participants to create custom-made enclosures for a variety of textual materials in archival collections.

Opening Reception: Join us for welcoming speeches, light snacks and refreshments to open our conference. The reception is an opportunity to network with conference delegates.

Day 2

Session 1: Keynote Presentation: Navigating Archival Silence: Lessons from a Chinese Canadian Archivist, June Chow

In this talk, June shares lessons from her personal and professional experience on both sides of archival silence – from the perspective of fighting against it and being in a position empowered to break it.

Session 2A: Strategies to Fill Internal Silence (Rebecca Mbanyele, Jia Jia Yong, Jesse Carson)

The panel explores strategies used in the cases of community archives and a government archives for addressing records that are missing in the holdings. Presenters will discuss their programs at the Spruce Grove Archives, Xwi7xwa Archives, and City of Edmonton Archives.

Session 2B: Illuminating Indigenous-related Records in the Vaults (Maryna Chernyavska, Sandy Hoye, Ashley Sims)

One presentation touches on Indigenous initiatives at UofA's Archives. The other presentation explores how Indigenous community direction combined with digital access to archives can support Indigenous peoples' access to information about their communities.

Session 3A: Building an Archives from Absence (Chantelle Desjarlais, Leland Reed, Kathryn Ruddock, Kim Geraldi)

In this session we learn about a pilot diversity audit for the University of Calgary Archives. We also hear about the establishment of a new archival program at Frog Lake First Nation.

Session 3B: Surveillance and Missing Records (Braden Cannon, Susanne Clark)

One presentation discusses how silence can occur due to policy around privacy legislation. The other presentation examines government surveillance and repression of dissenting movements which results in missing information in archives and how to address this issue.

Session 4A: Illuminating the Invisible (Marlena Wyman, Philip Pype, Ciaran Purdome)

This panel explores the missing records of women, people with disabilities, as well as missing records in a university archives with religious roots. The presentations examine creative methods for including these missing voices.

Session 4B: Exhibiting from the Silence (Amanda Oliver, Karen Cyrus, Curtis Frederick)

In this panel, we hear about challenges in creating exhibits when there are silences in the records. One case is for the University of Calgary's 60th anniversary and another case is for Wilfrid Laurier University's digital exhibit on staff, students, and faculty of African descent.

Institutional Forum

A meeting for ASA institutional members only. An agenda will be presented at the meeting.

Day 3

Session 5: Institutions/Institutionalization and Erasure (Michael Gourlie, Angie Dilts, Brendan Griebel)

The panel looks at the scarcity of records of incarceration institutions and the erasure of eugenics records. Methods to fill in the missing information will be explored.

Session 6: Making Space for Indigenous Voices at the Whyte (Colleen Crawler, Dagny Dubois, Kate Nielsen)

A case study of how archives staff at The Whyte in Banff are tackling issues of missing context and a lack of Indigenous voices in the archives, and how the impact of this work has extended beyond the archives department.

Annual General Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Archives Society of Alberta which includes reports from our 2025 – 2026 year as well as elections for our Board of Directors.

**ASA Conference:
Archival Silence**
May 21 – 23, 2026