

WHAT IS THE MUSEUM COLLECTION MANAGEMENT COMMONS PROJECT?

It is a 2-year, \$800,000 planning grant funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Five Colleges, Incorporated. The project is steered by an interdisciplinary, intercampus committee of museum and library leaders. The project's purpose is to plan for the future of a database shared by six museums since the mid-1990s. The database contains information describing the collections of:

- ✧ [Hampshire College Art Gallery](#)
- ✧ [Historic Deerfield](#)
- ✧ [Mead Art Museum at Amherst College](#)
- ✧ [Mount Holyoke College Art Museum and Skinner Museum](#)
- ✧ [Smith College Museum of Art](#)
- ✧ [University Museum of Contemporary Art at UMass Amherst](#)

THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

- ✧ Are the six museums working together effectively?
- ✧ Does the current database meet the museums' needs?
- ✧ What do users think about the [public portal](#) associated with the database?
- ✧ How can the museums communicate better with libraries, archives, and special collections to make research easier for public users?
- ✧ Is the information about artwork and objects in the database ethical, accessible, and consistent?
- ✧ How can the campuses situate their museums within a consortium-wide governance structure to better enable decisions that support cross collection coordination, user experience, and resource allocation?

PROJECT STAFF

- ✧ [Erin Richardson](#), *Project Manager*
- ✧ [Carrie Evans](#), *Data Specialist*
- ✧ [Bea Cusin](#), *Administrative Assistant for Sponsored Projects*
- ✧ Isabel Cordova and Sydney Nguyen, *Assistants for Indigenous American Collections (post-bacc)*

Amherst College | Hampshire College | Mount Holyoke College
Smith College | University of Massachusetts Amherst | Historic Deerfield

*William Brui (Russian, 1946-). Bridge (detail). 1965. Etching on medium heavy paper.
Mead Museum at Amherst College. Gift of Thomas P. Whitney (Class of 1937). AC 2001.141.*