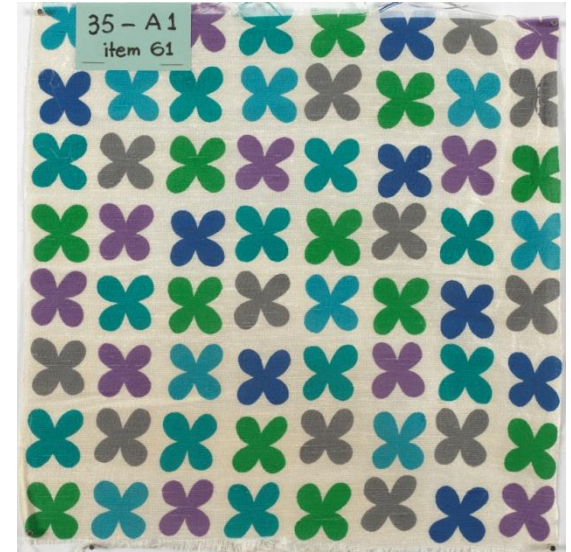
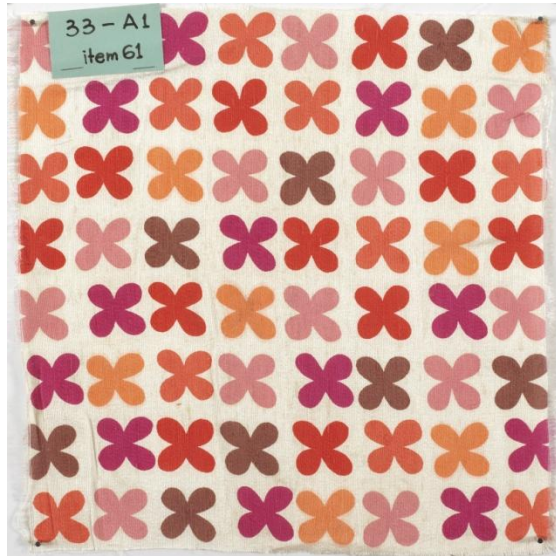


Digitizing Modern Living

Making and managing change through the life of a grant.



Samantha Norling

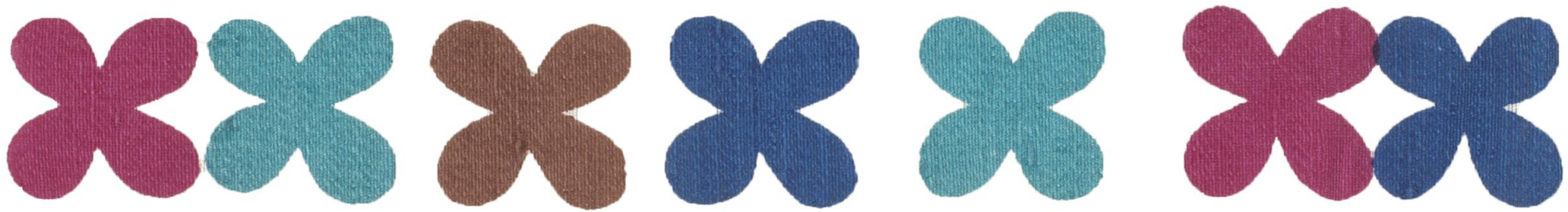
Archivist, Indianapolis Museum of Art

Midwest Archives Conference, May 8, 2015

The Miller House and Garden

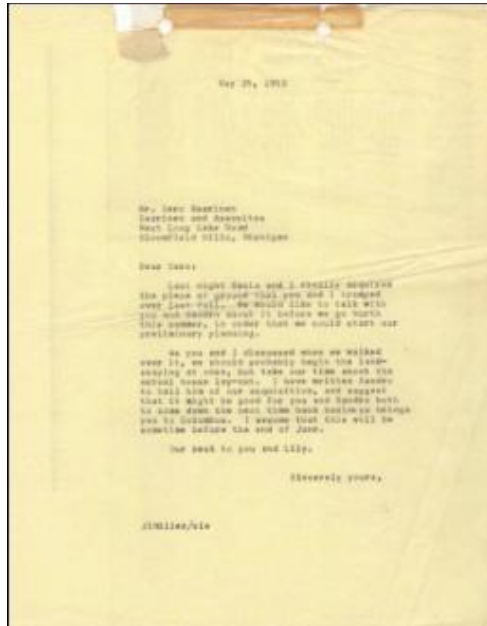


Courtesy of David Lauer Photography

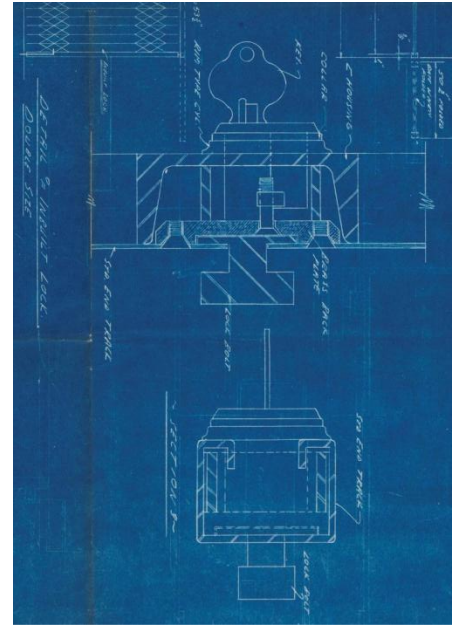


MHGC by the Numbers

20,000
paper
documents



1,500 arch.
drawings



900
photos

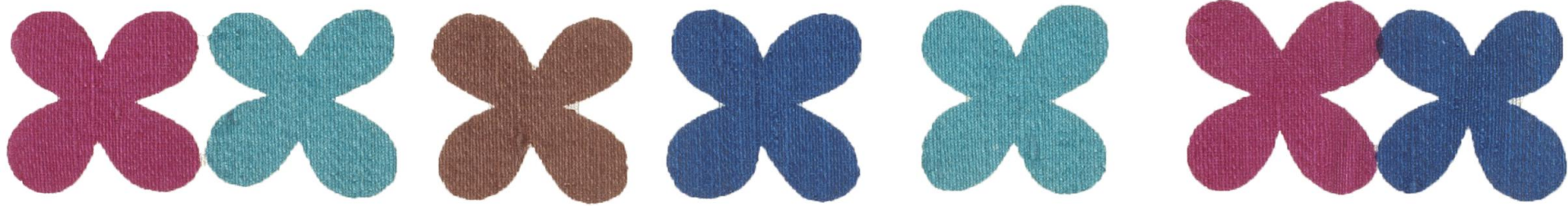


700
material
samples



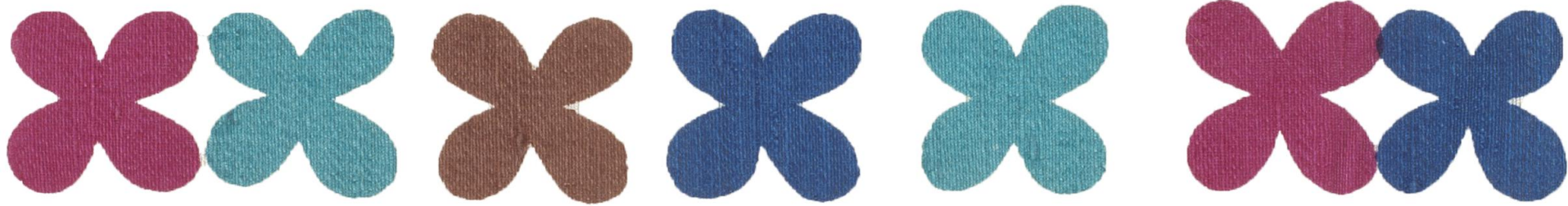
NEH Grant

- First NEH grant for the IMA since 1980s
- Awarded \$190,000 on April 12, 2012
- **Preservation and Access Program:**
Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grant
Narrative: <http://1.usa.gov/1bgASP3>
- Funded equipment purchase; two full-time archives assistants to carry out digitization and metadata creation



THE PLAN

- Award Period: 5/1/2012 to 5/31/2014 (25 months)
- Project Director: First IMA Archivist
- Deliverable: Digitization of majority of collection (approx 17,000 items) -- made available in Archon
- Back-up images in Nuxeo (IMA's DAM)
- Phase II (out of scope): Web interface featuring a visual online finding aid, created by IMA Lab

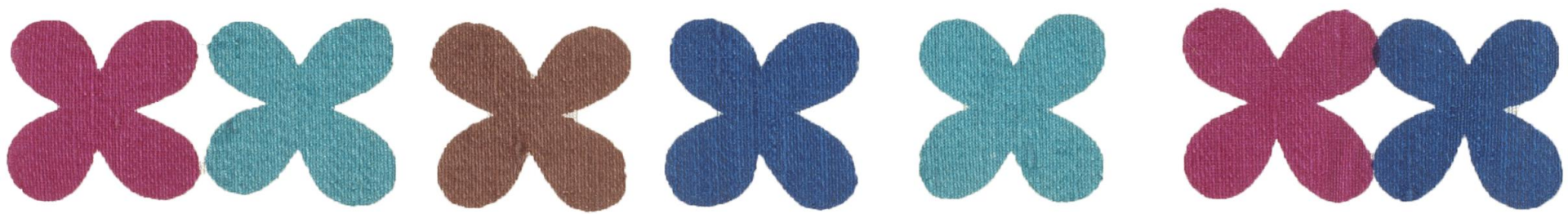




But



is not always **THE REALITY.**





New Museum Director



New Museum Vision



New Reporting Structure

Institutional Changes, Round 1

read: how to prepare for the changes you can't predict and don't control.

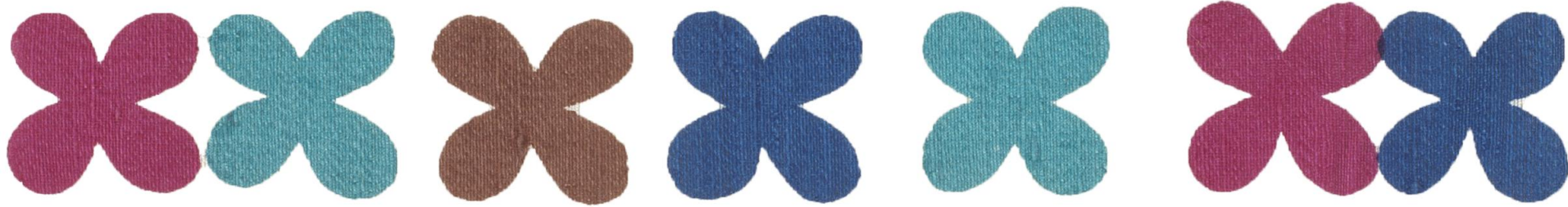
Staff Changes



Department Restructure



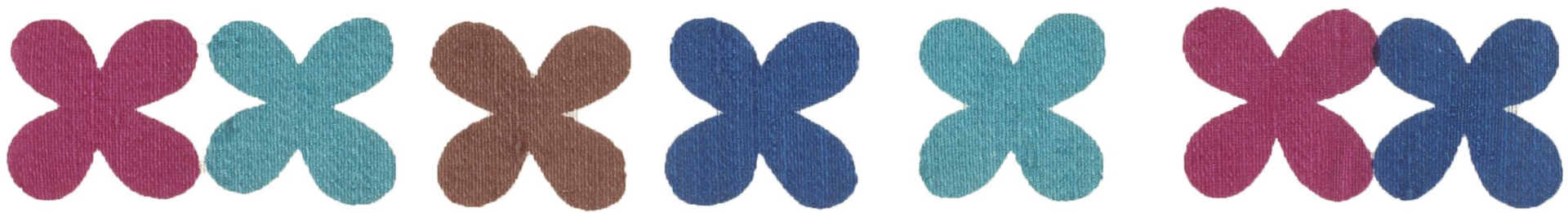
Available Resources Changed





And to top it all off,

NO ARCHIVIST.





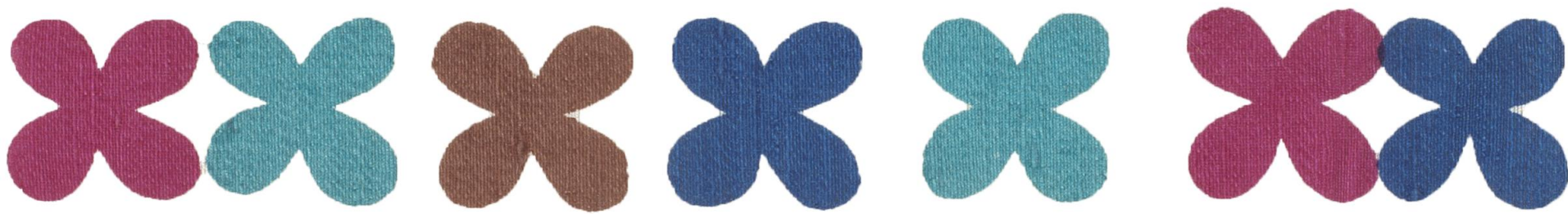
So what were the keys to making it through these unexpected changes?

Inertia

Communication, Advocacy, Outreach

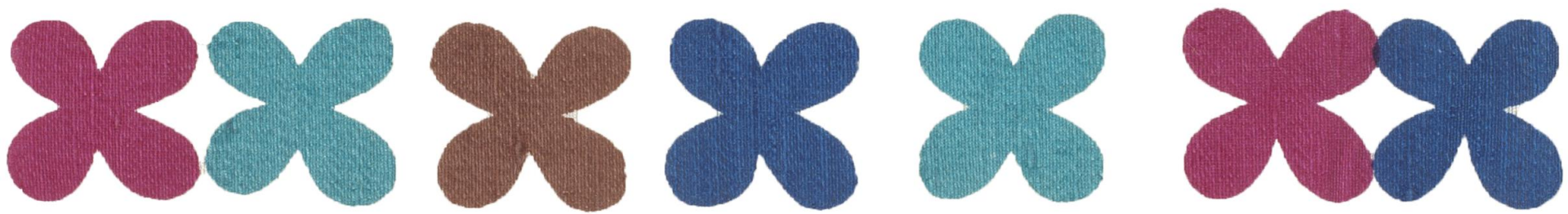
(Internal + External)

Documentation





And as a new member of the staff who found myself in the role of Project Manager, I was in a position to enact additional, **purposeful** changes.



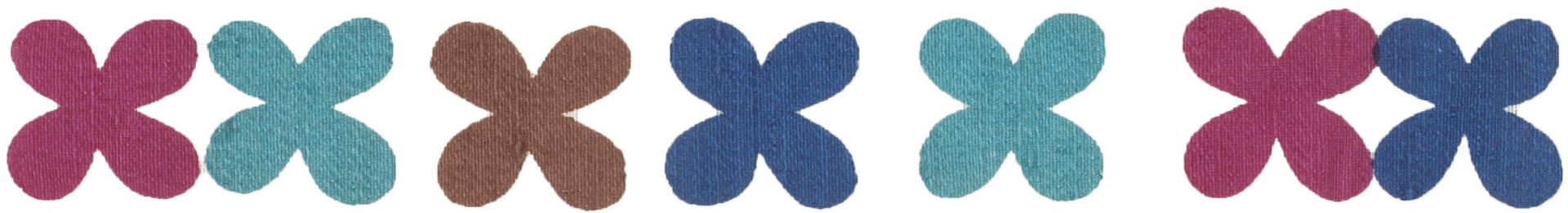


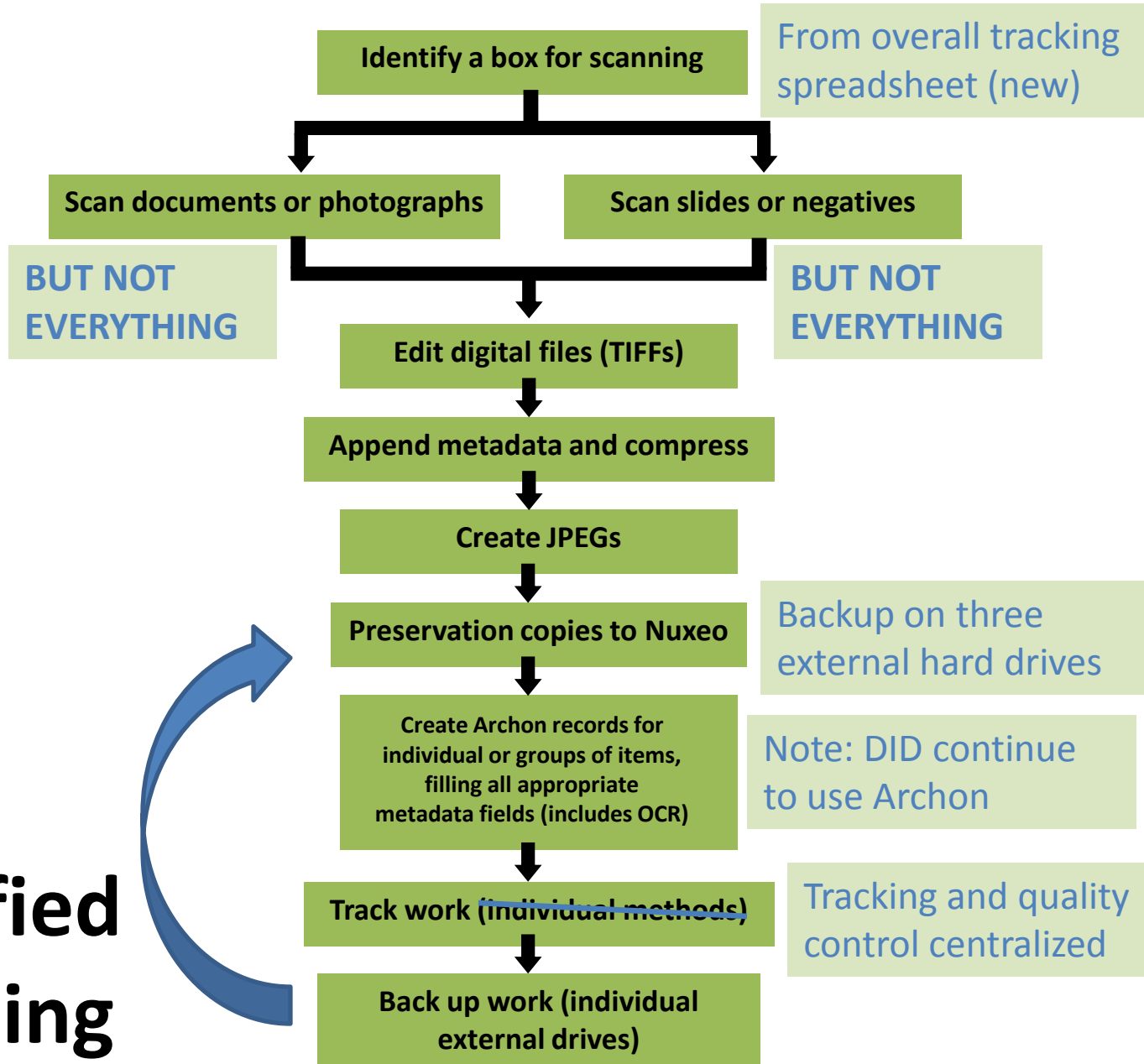
Project Timeline

Initial award period: 5/1/2012 to 5/31/2014
(25 months)

Requested extension from NEH

New completion date: 5/31/2015

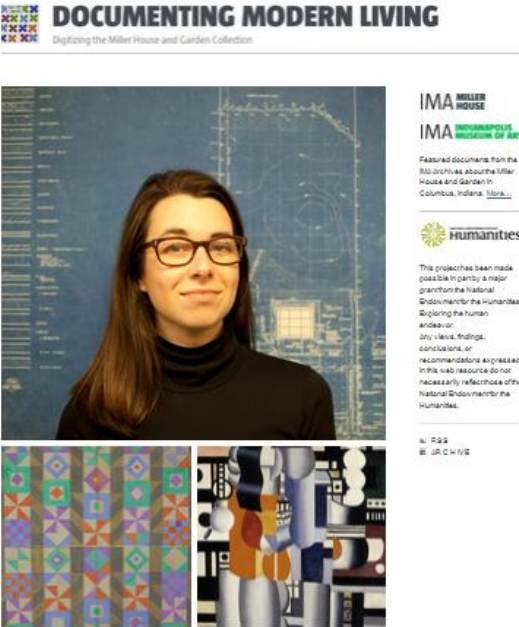




Modified Scanning Workflow

Tumblr Expanded Scope, “pulling back the curtain”

- “Meet the team” series
- Why do we do what we do?
 - Archival concepts, “original order”
- Process-focused
 - Photography set-up
 - Scanning set-up
- Contextualizing, not just sharing
 - Avoid interpreting, but provide more context for items



DOCUMENTING MODERN LIVING
Digitizing the Miller House and Garden Collection

IMA MILLER HOUSE
IMA **INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART**

Featured documents from the IMA archive about the Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Indiana. [View...](#)

Humanities

This project has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Expanding the human endeavor. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this web resource do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

in P&G
in ARCHIVE

Meet the team: Amy Aucherman

Title: Archives Assistant

Now I got here. I am a life-long Indiana resident and began at the IMA as an intern in the Stout Reference Library in 2011. My educational background includes a BA in Art History and I'm currently finishing my Masters of Library Science at Indiana University (Bloomington). There I have focused my studies on special collections libraries. Before coming to the IMA, I worked for four years at the [Lilly Library](#). It's a rare book and manuscript library, and handled everything from artist's books by Max Ernst to books of Sylvia Plath's hair. My love and knowledge of modern architecture and design, paired with my experience in special collections, prepared me for this current dream job.

Documenting Modern Living duties: Scanning Miller House and Garden Collection material, metadata entry into Arctos, main contributor to Tumblr.

Favorite MHLG find: Some of the material I find most interesting in the [Miller House and Garden Collection](#) is related to projects that were never realized, or that ended up completely different than the original proposal. The hand-printed board by Alexander Girard (pictured above) was presented as a design option for the kitchen rug, but was rejected by Xenia Miller. The geometric design Girard originally proposed is vastly different from the [app-colored, more abstract design](#) that ended up living on the kitchen floor. We haven't properly photographed the item yet, but wanted to share this sneak-peek detail shot of the board.

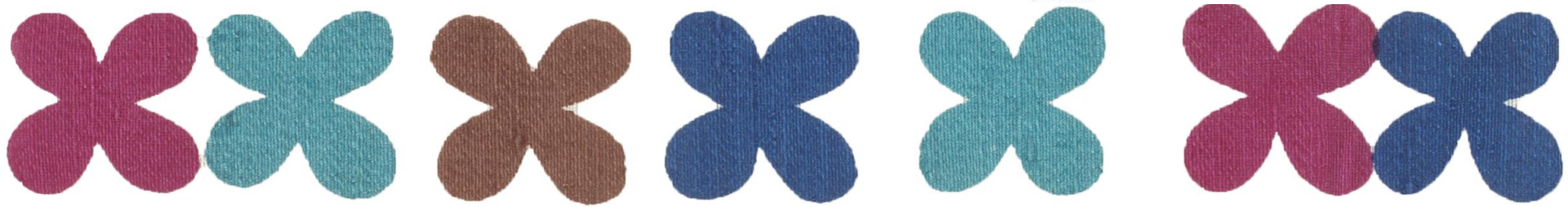
Best thing about my job: I love that I've been able to work solely with this incredibly rich collection. The best part has been sharing with others, via the blog, the amazing materials that, until this digitization project, was only enjoyed by a handful of people. Another huge job perk is being able to walk around the IMA's galleries and campus during my lunch breaks.

Favorite item in the IMA collection: It's hard to choose, but I often find myself visiting [Fernand Legere's Men and Women](#).

When I'm not working, I'm probably doing that: Scouring a library book sale or used book shop, looking for books with covers designed by my favorite mid-century graphic designers.

Follow Amy Aucherman on Twitter: [@aoc_doe](#)

FEBRUARY 24, 2014 (10:27 AM) [ANIMATE ARCHITECTURE DESIGN](#)
MILLER HOUSE AND GARDEN ALEXANDER GIRARD FERNAND LEGERE
INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVES END
ENJOY THE STUFF



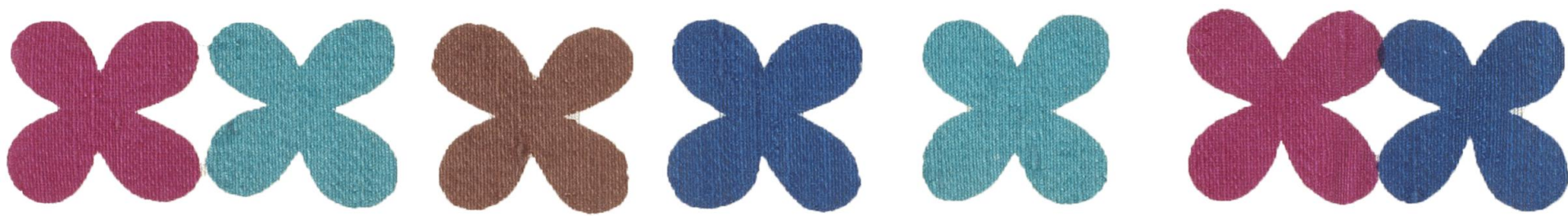
Animating Modern Living





But there was one last major **opportunity** to rear its ugly head...

...and its name was **Archon**.



Series I.: **Files**Subseries a.: **Correspondence**

The Correspondence files include correspondence between the Millers, their designers, contractors, and others involved in the Miller House and Garden project. Additional correspondence may be filed in the Administrative Files (see below).

Box 1 ▶

- Folder 1: J. Irwin Miller "New House", 1953-1955 ▶
- Folder 2: J. Irwin Miller "New House", 1953-1955 ▶
- Folder 3: J. Irwin Miller "New House", 1956 ▶
- Folder 4: J. Irwin Miller "New House", 1956 ▶
- Folder 5: J. Irwin Miller "New House", 1956 ▶
- Folder 6: J. Irwin Miller "New House", 1956 ▶
- Folder 7: J. Irwin Miller "New House", 1957 ▶
- Folder 8: J. Irwin Miller "New House", 1957 ▶

Box 2 ▶

- Folder 9: J. Irwin Miller "New House", 1957 ▶
- Folder 10: J. Irwin and Xenia S. Miller "New House", 1958 ▶
- Folder 11: J. Irwin and Xenia S. Miller "New House", 1958 ▶
- Folder 12: Girard, Alexander, 1957-[1989] ▶
- Folder 13: Girard, Alexander, 1957-[1989] ▶
- Folder 14: Girard, Alexander, 1957-[1989] ▶

Box 3

- Folder 15: Alexander Girard - misc., 1972-1976 ▶
- Folder 16: Alexander Girard - misc., 1972-1976 ▶
- Folder 17: Girard Visits, 1972-1981 ▶
- Folder 18: Kiley, Dan ▶
- Folder 19: Kiley, Dan ▶
- Folder 20: Miscellaneous, 1973-1978 ▶
- Folder 21: Miscellaneous, 1973-1978 ▶
- Folder 22: White House Visit, 1967-1969 ▶

Subseries b.: **Administrative Files**

The administrative files include a variety of documentation about the design, constructions and maintenance of the Miller House and Garden. Files may include correspondence, invoices, contracts, receipts, materials samples, photographs, design drawings, notes, reports, etc.

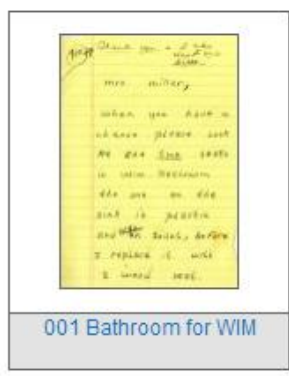
Arrangement: The administrative files are divided into two sub-groups: General files with varied subjects and files by subject. The general files hold a variety of projects in one folder and the files by subject were separated by a room or area in the house or garden or a particular project within the house or garden.

Sub-subseries i.: **General files**

Image Thumbnails | Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives



001 Allee grading...



001 Bathroom for WIM



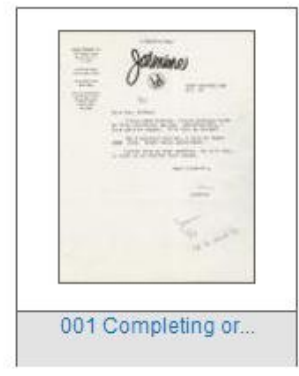
001 Capital impro...



001 Check authori...



001 Color photogr...



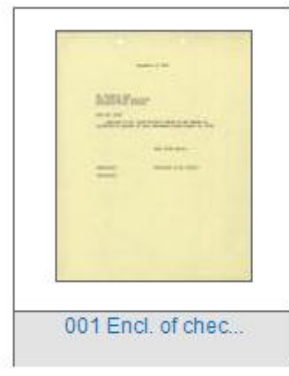
001 Completing or...



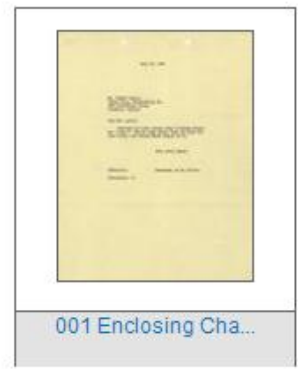
001 Dining room c...



001 Drawing trans...

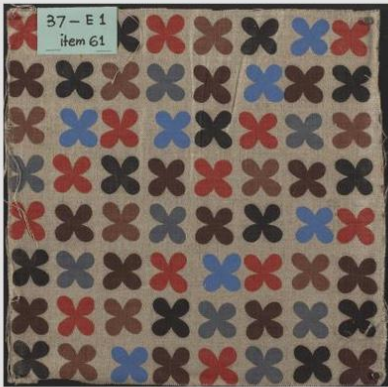


001 Encl. of chec...



001 Enclosing Cha...

001 Herman Miller "Quatrefoil" (#163) by Alexander Girard, sample (Item No. 61) for Boys' Bedroom curtains | Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives



001 "Quatrefoil" for Boys' Bedroom curtains (JPEG Image, 1.48 MB)

[Download Original File](#)

[Request hi-res copy](#)

NOTE: This metadata is **NOT** searchable by the public.

Title: 001 Herman Miller "Quatrefoil" (#163) by Alexander Girard, sample (Item No. 61) for Boys' Bedroom curtains

Date: 1955-1957

Description: Textile sample (11.5 x 11.5 in.) of Herman Miller "Quatrefoil" on plain ecru linen (#163) designed by Alexander Girard. Green cardstock is stapled to upper left corner of sample. Note on cardstock identifies sample as Item No. 78 for space 37-E1 (Boys' Bedroom).

Phys. Desc: 11.5 x 11.5 in.

ID: MHG_ivb_B091_f046_001

Repository: Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

Found in: [Miller House and Garden Collection, 1953-2009](#) → [Series IV.: Material Samples](#) → [Subseries b.: Boys Bedroom and Bathroom](#) → [Box 91](#) → [Folder 46: Curtains](#)

Creators: [Herman Miller, Inc.](#)

[Alexander Girard](#)

Subjects: [Miller House \(Columbus, Ind.\)](#)
[textiles](#)

Rights:

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The IMA is eager to hear from any copyright owners so the IMA can provide the appropriate information to interested researchers. If you have information please contact the Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives, 4000 Michigan Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46208 or archives@imamuseum.org.

Languages: [English](#)

See Also: https://doc.imamuseum.org/nuxeo/nxdoc/default/21e6ea9c-8c14-473e-843b-19311ee6f4c8/view_documents?tabids=%3A&conversationId=0NXMAIN

Subject/index terms

- [Eero Saarinen & Associates](#)
- [Girard, Alexander Hayden \(1907-1993\)](#)
- [Kiley, Dan Urban \(1912-2004\)](#)
- [Miller, J. Irwin \(Joseph Irwin\) \(1909-2004\)](#)
- [Miller, Xenia S. \(1917-2008\)](#)
- [Miller House \(Columbus, Ind.\)](#)
- [Roche, Kevin \(1922-\)](#)
- [Saarinen, Eero \(1910-1961\)](#)
- [Taylor Bros. Construction Co.](#)

Administrative Information

Repository: Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

Alternate Extent Statement: 335 linear feet: 54 boxes of files, photographs, samples, and drawings; 2 card file boxes; 12 oversize and 40 flat files of architectural plans.

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions: Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured contact the Archivist for more information.

Acquisition Source: Irwin Management Company Inc.

Acquisition Method: Gift

Preferred Citation: [Title of item], [date], [Container information], Miller House and Garden Collection (M003), IMA Archives, Indiana

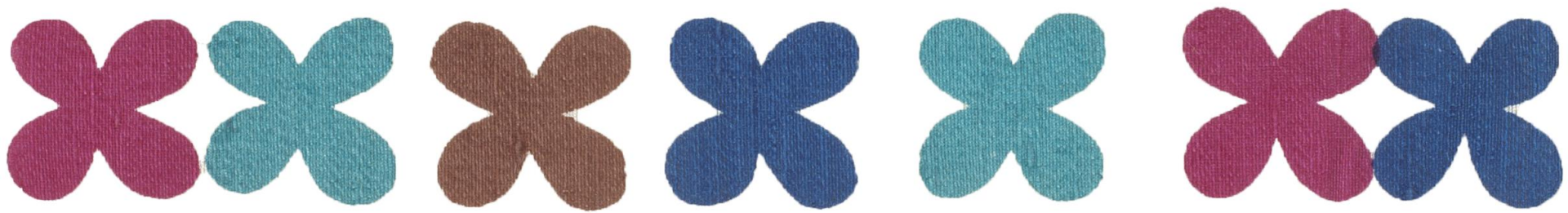
Box and Folder Listing

Browse by Series:

- [\[Series I.: Files\]](#),
- [\[Series II.: Photographs\]](#),
- [\[Series III.: Drawings\]](#),
- [\[Series IV.: Material Samples\]](#),
- [\[Series V.: Non-Miller House Materials\]](#),
- [\[All\]](#)



**Clearly, something
needed to be done.**

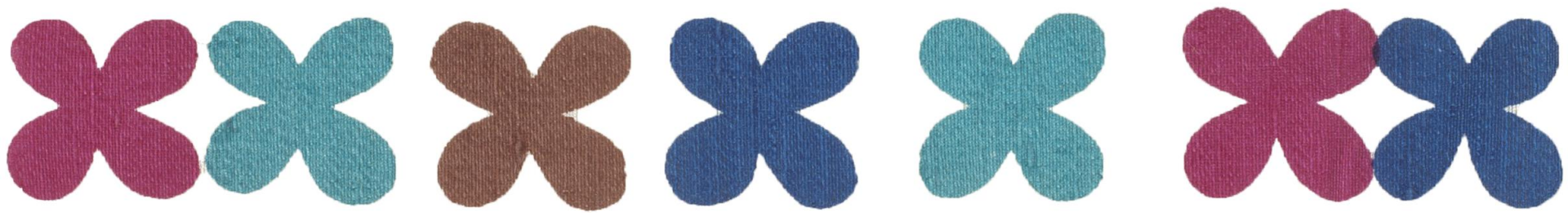




Nuxeo  Piction

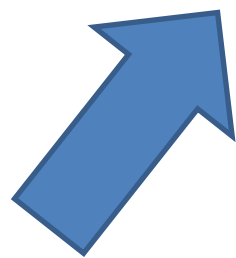
Institutional Changes, Round 2

Archon  ArchivesSpace

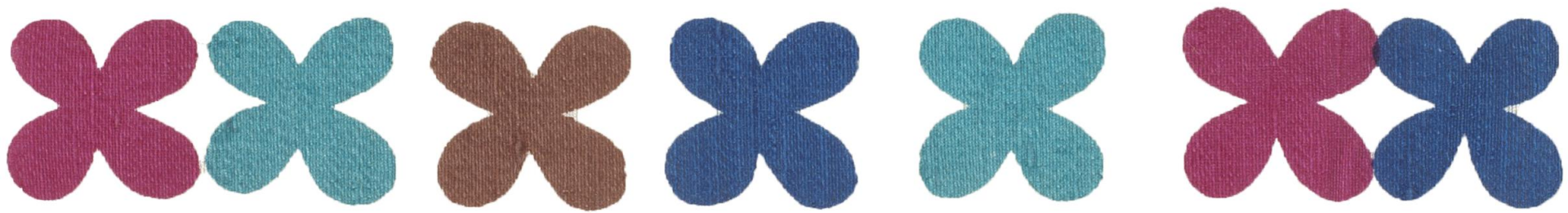




Piction



Archon

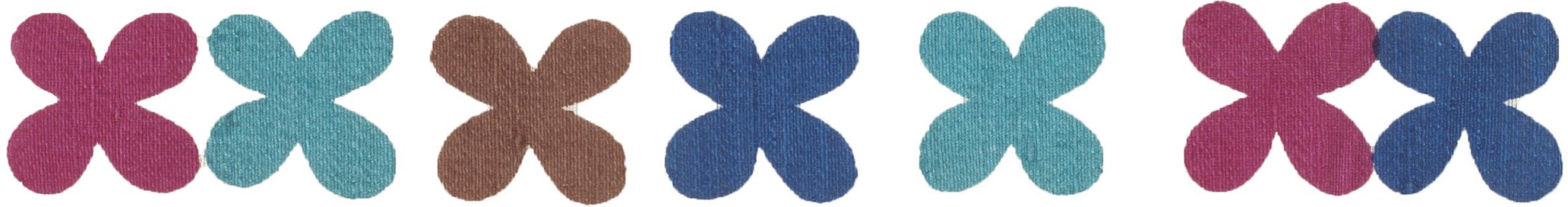




SEARCH THE COLLECTION



The Fifth Plague of Egypt, Turner, about 1800





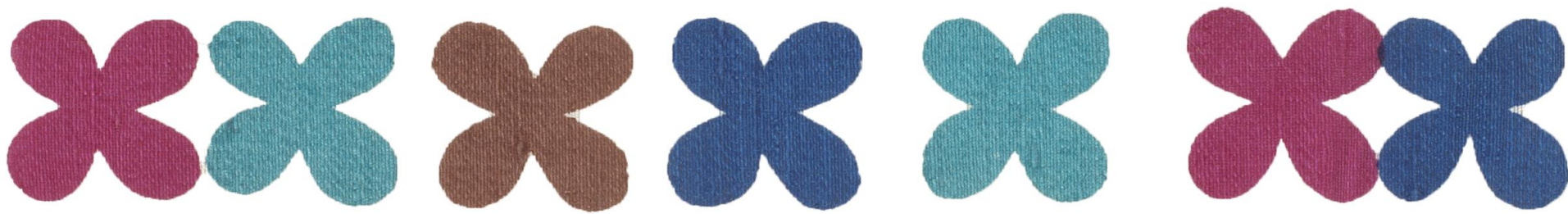
So what were the keys to making it through these planned changes?

Communication, Advocacy, Outreach

(Internal + External)

Collaboration

(IMA Lab + Piction + Libraries & Archives)

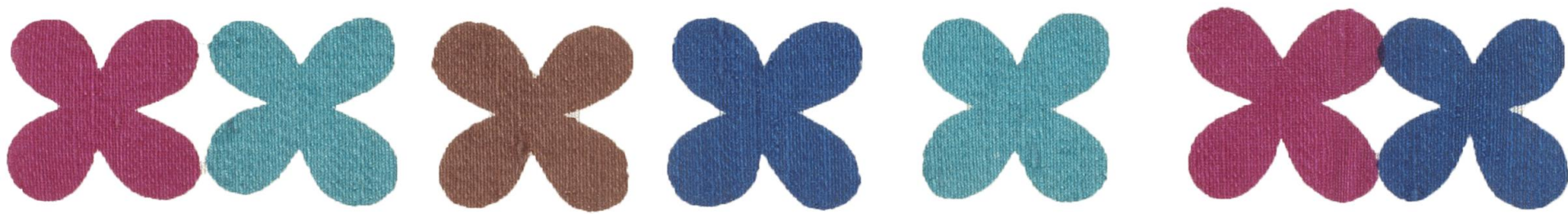




Unexpected, inconvenient **changes**
Unexpected, inconvenient **problems**



Purposeful, positive **opportunities.**





Questions?

Contact

Samantha Norling, Archivist

snorling@imamuseum.org

@SamiNorling

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

