



History
NEBRASKA
CONSERVATION
Nebraska State Historical Society

Guide to
**ART & ARTIFACT
CONSERVATION**
@ THE FORD CENTER



Preserving the past. Building the future

ART & ARTIFACT CONSERVATION



FORD CONSERVATION CENTER

What we do and how we do it.

The Ford Conservation Center is a regional art conservation facility, and a part of History Nebraska. We are committed to the preservation of our shared cultural history and adhere to the standards of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC).

CONSERVATION SERVICES

Details regarding how we serve you.

Examination of art and historic items

- Artifact description
- Structural and surface materials testing
- Condition analysis
- Preservation recommendations

Conservation Treatment

- Surface stabilization
- Structural repairs
- Pest eradication



- Loss compensation
- Cosmetic reintegration
- Protective housing and mounts
- Care recommendations for storage & display

Conservation Assessment

A conservation assessment provides long-term preservation planning recommendations for institutional and private collections. Conservators conduct a site visit and prepare a report that documents current conditions and makes recommendations for all aspects of the institution affecting preservation of the collection, including:

- Collections-related policies
- Storage and housing procedures
- Exhibit materials and practices
- Pest exclusion and control
- Building care and housekeeping
- Emergency preparedness
- Environmental conditions

Condition Survey

Conservation surveys document the physical condition and treatment needs of individual

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artifacts in a collection. Data is collected on:

- Structural and surface condition
- Care and treatment needs
- Time and cost estimates
- Curatorial and conservation priority

The resulting data is analyzed and used to create reports that includes information needed to prioritize collections care activities and develop long term preservation budgets.

We are happy to consult on the development of grants applications for long-term preservation planning activities.

CONSERVATION LABS

Art & Objects labs to best serve you.

In the **Objects Lab**, we treat a wide variety of three-dimensional works and artifacts including fine and decorative art; historic and cultural artifacts and archeological objects.



Materials include, but are not limited to:

- Ceramics and glass
- Gilded frames
- Metals and stone
- Leather, bone, ivory & animal materials
- Wood, basketry and other plant material

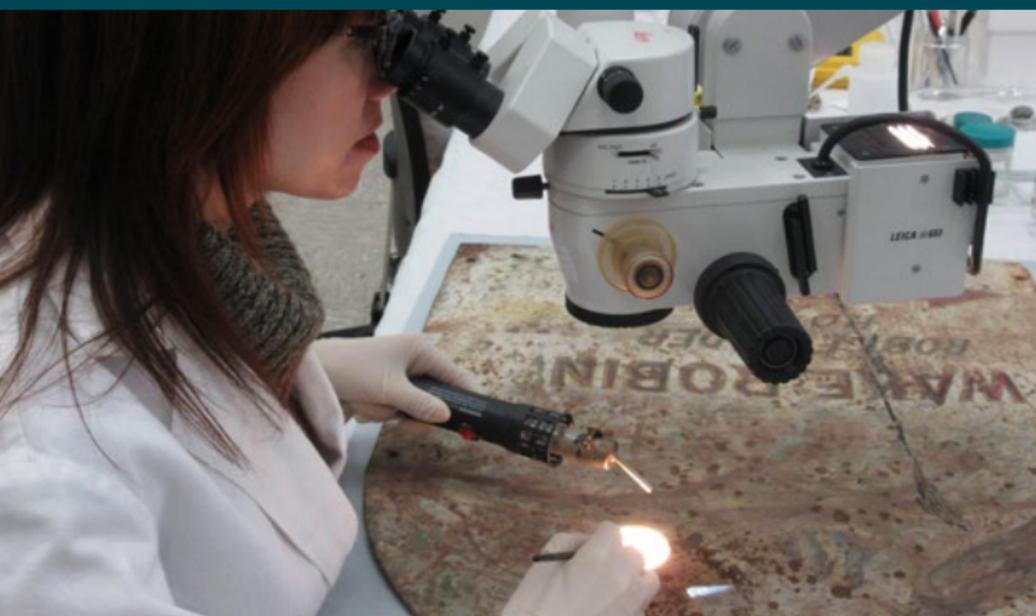
In the **Paintings Lab**, we treat works on canvas, panel, or walls, including:

- Traditional, modern, and contemporary artworks
- Oil and acrylic easel paintings
- Murals, stage curtains, & oversized art

In the **Paper Lab**, we treat works of art on paper, documents, books, and photographs, including:

- Watercolors
- Charcoals and pastels
- Prints, drawings and maps
- Books and family Bibles
- Certificates, letters, and records
- Paper-based photographs

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WORKING WITH A CONSERVATOR

Experts here to serve you..

Please call or email to arrange an appointment to meet with a conservator to discuss your project. Appointments are required to ensure that you and the conservator have one-on-one time to discuss your needs. The conservator can provide guidance, options and recommendations.

If you choose to pursue conservation, a written proposal and estimate must be prepared. Because a considerable amount of time may be needed to prepare these documents, there will be a fee.

Once you receive these documents, please review them carefully. If you decide to proceed with your project, please sign and return one copy of the proposal and estimate so that we have your written authorization to carry out the activities proposed. If you choose not to proceed, please contact us to arrange a time to retrieve your artifact.



Approved projects will be placed in the conservator's schedule and will be carried out in the order of receipt. Although we will do our best to complete your project in a timely manner, the safety of your artifact is our top priority. Because conservation activities can sometimes be very time consuming, your patience is appreciated.

Upon completion of your project, we will send an invoice, a written report, and documentary images. Once payment is received, we can schedule an appointment for you to visit to pick up your artifact.

WHO WE SERVE

All facets of our communities; including:

- *Museum and Libraries*
- *Federal, state, and local government agencies*
- *Private Individuals*
- *Corporations*

OUR STAFF

Years of expertise to better serve you.

The Ford Conservation Center team members represent years of specialized study, ongoing professional training, and hands-on experience in the art and science of conservation. Conservators and technicians have trained and worked at major cultural institutions in the United States and abroad, and keep abreast of the latest research and innovation in conservation practice.

CONTACT & LEARN MORE

Additional Resources.

Ford Conservation Center
1326 S 32 Street
Omaha, NE 68105
402-595-1180
history.nebraska.gov/conservation-center

Monday - Friday, by appointment only



history.nebraska.gov