

Maureen McGuire is a Ph.D. candidate in Visual Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Maureen earned a Bachelor's degree in Art History from Sweet Briar College and a Master's in Art History from the University of South Florida. Throughout her academic career, Maureen has been very interested in the cultural matronage of imperial and royal women of the Middle Ages and Byzantium and is very excited by the opportunities digital tools provide for exploring this topic. In her dissertation titled "Unacknowledged Influence: The Impact of Anikia Juliana's Cultural Matronage on 6th-Century Constantinople," Maureen explores the Christian monuments constructed at the behest of Anikia Juliana across Constantinople and their links to her matrilineage, her religious convictions, and the beautification of the city. A component of the dissertation includes creating a digital simulation of one of Juliana's monuments, the Church of St. Polyeuktos.