

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
February 16, 18, 2022
Virtual Meeting**

**Report: SAA Foundation
(Prepared by Margery Sly, President)**

The Foundation Board appreciates this opportunity to provide an update about our activities during the past several months. The Foundation exists to promote and support the charitable and educational initiatives of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), and we look forward to strengthening our relationship to support the profession.

Annual Appeal

In November and December 2021, the Development Committee used videos and e-mail blasts to pursue the annual appeal for support of the Foundation's undesignated Strategic Growth Fund, or, if the donor preferred other funds which support specific initiatives.

Development Consultants

The Foundation Board continues to work with development consultants Schultz & Williams (S&W), hired last spring to work with the Board and the Development Committee, to build capacity in funds development. After more than ten years in operation, the Board agreed it was time to move the Foundation to the next level.

Sunsetting the Archival Workers Emergency Fund

On December 31, 2021, due to legal and tax regulations, the Foundation wrapped up the work of the AWEF committee. Established in April 2020, this temporary program provided support to archival workers experiencing acute, unanticipated financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a part of the Foundation strategic plan, the Board will be considering other ways, including working with SAA, to address job precarity in the profession.

Foundation Strategic Plan

One of S&W's recommendation was that the Foundation create a strategic plan which would define its goals and direction for the next several years. The Board began work on that in Fall 2021, and made good progress at a planning meeting in mid-January 2022. We see opportunities to support SAA's strategic plan, which we can include in the Foundation plan.

Capacity Building

The Foundation also decided to contract with S&W to provide funds development support for the second half of this fiscal year. This will include:

- Reviewing and updating the gift acceptance policy;
- Suggesting social media strategies (Facebook fundraisers, etc.);
- Developing Spring Appeal, Summer Appeal timing and messaging;
- Reviewing annual appeal language to plan ahead for 2022; and potentially
- Starting work on a “Case for Support” document, building on the development of the SAAF strategic plan.

Strategic Growth Grants

The Foundation funds grants that meet the mission and goals of the Foundation and/or the strategic planning priorities of SAA. The Grant Review Committee read nineteen letters of interest and met in December 2021, to discuss them. We sent responses in late December asking for full proposals from nine applicants. The proposals represent a range of projects that could contribute to building the diversity of the historical record and enhancing archives work and best practice. Full applications are due on February 8, 2022.

Foundation Nominating Committee

Last year, the Nominating Committee revised its procedures to implement a solicitation process which more closely follows the one used to recruit SAA’s appointed group leadership and to encourage a larger, diverse, and better qualified applicant pool. The Committee will be launching its call soon in order to recommend a slate to the Council early in May that will enable us to fill Foundation Board member seats expiring in August 2022.

Awards for Excellence

The Foundation oversees the funds that enables SAA to present the many awards for excellence in the profession for which the awards committees are currently soliciting nominations. We look forward to another great year of award winners.