

**Society of American Archivists**  
**Council Meeting**  
**February 19, 2026**  
**Virtual**

**Vice President/President Elect Report**

**Prepared by: Brenda Gunn, CA FSAA**

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## **SAA Strategic Plan 2026-2028: VP Report**

The Council's strategic planning initiative for 2026-2028 is progressing well under the facilitation of Educopia consultant Katherine Kim. The process was initiated at our November 2025 in-person Council meeting, where we began by identifying the principles that would guide our work. Following that meeting, a short-term working group composed of Council members and staff was formed and has been meeting weekly since December to develop a comprehensive strategic plan and establish a robust feedback process.

The working group has met five times, demonstrating strong momentum and commitment to this critical work. In these sessions, we accomplished several key milestones. We reviewed and refined the principles of good strategic planning, drawing on insights from a retrospective analysis of SAA's previous strategic plan (2019-2025). This reflection identified important lessons about plan scope, DEIA integration, accountability mechanisms, and communication with component groups. The group developed draft strategic areas with particular focus on advocacy and sustainability around finances, systems, and information technology. We also established a timeline for Council feedback, revision periods, and public sharing of the draft plan, including potential town hall sessions for member input.

### **Intentional Design**

The working group has been intentional about creating a more focused, achievable plan that addresses key challenges identified in previous iterations. This includes better integration of DEIA throughout all strategic areas, clearer accountability structures for component groups, improved communication feedback loops, and realistic scoping to enable meaningful celebration of accomplishments. Additionally, emerging field-level concerns such as accessibility, mental health and wellbeing, professional precarity, and member belonging have been incorporated into our planning discussions.

## Next Steps

The next phases include finalizing the draft for Council review, implementing a structured feedback process through both Council and membership input, incorporating revisions, and preparing for potential town hall sessions before final approval. The working group's contract with Educopia concludes in April, at which point planning transitions to implementation.

## Appointments

- Appointments Committee - kick off
- Host Committee - kick off
- Fellows Committee – Tamar Chute, Louis Jones, and Merrilee Profitt
- Program Committee made one program co-chair appointment – Adrianna Cuervo

## Land Acknowledgement for New Orleans Annual Meeting

- Shared the draft with Ricky Punzalan, and adapted his recommendations.
- I met with Kody Grant (Pueblo of Isleta and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), University of Virginia's Tribal Liaison for a consult.
  - Kody's recommendations was to be clear about our audience. Much of what I had was repeated what the Native People already know. Perhaps those parts of the statements are not for Native American members of the association, but rather for Non-Native members as reason for repair work. What the Native American audience is looking to hear and more importantly, see are actions that we have taken and will take.
- NAAS Council liaison Jillian Cuellar and I met with John DuPriest (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) who is a faculty member at Tulane. John worked on Tulane's LA and liaised with members of Louisiana Tribal Nations during that process. Thank you to Jillian for facilitating that meeting.
  - Made recommendations about actions and what he's seen at conferences.
    - Land tax
    - Inviting leaders of local Nations to attend with an honorarium.
- Next Steps
  - Present draft to NAAS for their feedback
  - Revise
  - Present to Council at May meeting.

## Meetings:

weekly meetings with the SAA President, Derek Mosely; weekly meetings with the President and SAA staff, and monthly meetings with the Executive Council. Since December, I've met weekly with the Strategic Planning working group.