

**Society of American Archivists Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 23, 2022  
Virtual Meeting**

**2022 Annual Meeting Awards  
(Prepared by Margery Sly)**

**BACKGROUND**

In May 2020 the Foundation Board “repurposed” the \$12,000 budgeted for [2020 Annual Meeting](#) Travel Awards to accommodate a fully virtual conference, allocating \$6,000 to support the registration fees of individuals at the reduced registration rate of \$49 (for “unemployed/ precariously employed archives workers”).

In 2020, the Travel Award program awarded a total of 81 individuals (i.e., all of those who applied) registration support for the virtual 2020 SAA Annual Meeting., totaling \$3,969.

In March 2021, the Board approved renaming the award to the Annual Meeting Award to 1) acknowledge that future SAA conferences—like the 2021 Annual Meeting—may be conducted entirely virtually or as in-person/virtual hybrids and 2) give the Board the flexibility to structure the award accordingly.

In 2021, the Annual Meeting Award program awarded a total of 33 individuals (i.e., all of those who applied) registration support for the virtual 2021 SAA Annual Meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

The current FY 22 budget includes \$12,000 for the Annual Meeting Awards program, to support attendance at the 2022 Annual Meeting. Because SAA Annual Meeting registration will launch in early May, the staff recommends that the Board decide at its March 2022 meeting how much it will allocate for the Annual Meeting Awards so that the award can be promoted as registration is announced.

As the 2022 Annual Meeting will be hybrid, the Board needs to decide how to allocate the Annual Meeting Award funding between in person attendance and virtual registrations.

In addition, the Board should discuss how the review process might be administered to best effect.As noted in the Background, the previously approved review process<sup>1</sup> was set aside in

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<sup>1</sup> See agenda item 0820-SAAF-I-D-BoardInterimActions, appendix D:

2020 and 2021 so that all applicants received the award. Does the Board wish to take a similar approach in 2022? Or does it wish to modify the approved review process in some way?

### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

**THAT [SX] be allocated for [TK] in person Annual Meeting Awards and [SX] be allocated for [TK] virtual Annual Meeting Awards to support attendance at the 2022 SAA Annual Meeting.**

**Support Statement:** The Foundation Annual Meeting Award provides important and necessary support for individuals who may not be able to attend the SAA Annual Meeting without it, particularly given the toll taken on archives workers by the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount allocated for attendance at the 2022 Annual Meeting will cover registration fees for [X] virtual applicants and will cover xxxx for X in-person applicants.

**Fiscal Impact:** No additional expenses beyond the \$12,000 already allocated in the FY22 budget for Annual Meeting Awards.

### **RECOMMENDATION 2**

**THAT Annual Meeting Award applications be reviewed and evaluated per..... [to becompleted following Board discussion].**

**Support Statement:**

**Fiscal Impact:** [Note impact on volunteer and staff time depending on the Board's decision. There are no direct expenses as a result of this action.]