

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
May 28 - 30, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Issues and Advocacy Roundtable  
Statement of Mission, Vision, and Core Values  
(Prepared by Roundtable Chair Sarah Quigley)**

**BACKGROUND**

In 2014, members of the Issues and Advocacy Roundtable Steering Committee began to discuss ways to clarify and guide our advocacy efforts, specifically how and when we decide to become involved with an issue. As part of that discussion, we developed a Statement of Mission, Vision and Core Values to form the foundation of any activity going forward. We shared this document with the roundtable membership at the August 2014 business meeting, then solicited feedback via the listserv in the fall. Our Council liaison, Lisa Mangiafico, also shared the document with the Council at the November 2014 meeting. The Council requested that we change the final core value from "Independence" to better reflect our status within SAA and our commitment to collaboration with other groups. After some discussion, the committee agreed to change that section to "Dialogue" and add a new description. We are now submitting the edited document for formal approval.

**DISCUSSION**

Over the last year, the Roundtable has been working diligently with these values in mind. In collaboration with several other roundtables and sections, we are working on a pop-up session proposal for the upcoming Annual Meeting that will explore the possible ramifications of the University of Oregon records leak on the archives profession. At the height of the Oregon controversy, we collated numerous news articles on our blog in an effort to keep the archives community apprised of developments, and we're currently planning a blog series highlighting recent advocacy issues, such as the State Department email scandal and the Indiana religious freedom law, and how those play out in the daily lives of archivists. We are also working with the Regional Archival Associations Consortium on a proposal to Council (see Agenda Item 0515-VI-D) to strengthen and formalize communications between SAA and the numerous regional organizations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the following Statement of Mission, Vision, and Core Values of the SAA Issues and Advocacy Roundtable be approved:**

### **Issues & Advocacy Roundtable Statement of Mission, Vision and Core Values**

#### **Mission**

The Issues and Advocacy Roundtable (I&ART) of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) supports the goals and mission of the Society. As a forum for discussion of the critical issues facing the archival profession, the I&ART is committed to outreach and advocacy efforts which support the continued growth of the archival profession and nurture archivists and archives.

#### **Vision**

We are champions of archivists and the archival profession and of archives as building blocks of history and community. We promote their value and relevancy within and outside of the archival profession. We are advocates.

#### **Core Values**

**Advocacy:** We are a voice for the SAA membership and public on policies that affect SAA members, archivists, associated professionals, public archival institutions, private archival institutions, and the public by providing a forum for the active and public discussion of pro-archives positions, and a resource for marshalling direct advocacy actions and campaigns.

**Awareness:** We are a key contact and resource for apprising the archival community and the public of news, events, discussions, and information relevant to archivists, associated professionals, the SAA, and archival institutions.

**Diversity:** We are committed to ensuring the diversity of the archival profession and the archival record. We promote and defend the diverse opinions, heritage, and experience of members and support the collection of and access to historical records documenting the breadth of human experience.

**Education:** We are an educational resource on matters relating to archival advocacy and outreach, and work to ensure that archivists embrace advocacy and outreach as core functions of our profession.

**Dialogue:** We are an institutional forum for critical discussion and an internal advocate for the interests of SAA members. In dialogue with the SAA Council, the SAA President,

and other official SAA constituent offices and groups, we help inform official policy, action, and statements.

**Support Statement:** The Issues and Advocacy Roundtable Statement of Mission, Vision, and Core Values is the theoretical underpinning of roundtable activity and will help the group direct its efforts productively and in support of the Society of American Archivists' goals and strategic plan.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** The statement directly supports Goal 1 of the strategic plan, "Advocating for Archivists and Archives."

**Fiscal Impact:** Approval of the statement will have no fiscal impact on SAA.