

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
May 12-13, 2020
Virtual Meeting**

SAA Foundation Board Report

(Prepared by President Scott Cline and Governance Manager Felicia Owens)

As reported in the [January/February issue of *Archival Outlook*](#), contributions to the Foundation in Calendar Year 2019 totaled \$75,651 (compared with \$96,441 in CY 2018, \$76,300 in CY 2017, and \$72,648 in CY 2016) from 400 donors (compared with 450 donors in CY 2018, a record 548 in CY 2017, and 413 in CY 2016). Many thanks to our generous donors!

In 2019 the Foundation:

- Awarded more than \$21,600 in grants from the Strategic Growth Fund to support five archives projects;
- Helped 10 individuals attend the 2019 Joint Annual Meeting by providing each with \$1,000 in financial support; and
- Continued to fund SAA's scholarship and awards program.

2020 Grants Cycle

With staff assistance in providing an automated review and ranking process, the Foundation Grant Review Committee evaluated 28 letters of inquiry and invited 11 grant proposals in the 2020 cycle (compared with twelve proposals received in 2019, nine proposals in 2018, and three in 2017). The Foundation Board has approved \$19,500 for four grant awards in the 2020 cycle.

Archival Workers Emergency Fund

In early March, a group of motivated archivists approached the Foundation Board with a proposal to support archival workers whose employment and/or income were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In a few short weeks, we worked together to craft and approve the Archival Workers Emergency Fund (AWEF), with \$15,000 in seed funding from the SAA Foundation. The fund will provide support to U.S.-based archival workers facing financial hardship, with up to \$1,000 grants as well as a year-long complimentary SAA membership.

To date, more than 490 donors have contributed an incredible \$67,750 to this fund alone. A special thank you goes to the following organizations for their especially generous donations: The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc.; Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference; Rockefeller Archive Center; and the Society of Southwest Archivists.

The AWEF Review Committee is comprised of members from the original proposal group, as well as Foundation Board members: Jessica Chapel (chair), Sharmila Bhatia, Steven Booth, Anna Clutterbuck-Cook, Amy Fitch, Carli Lowe, Bridget Malley, and Lydia Tang. The Review Committee meets weekly to review applications on a rolling basis and facilitate approvals within 10 business days.

As of May 1, we have received 93 applications, ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 in requested aid. To date, the Review Committee has approved 77 applications, totaling \$66,050 dispersed; the committee will continue their review weekly.

As always, we are happy to respond to any questions or comments.