

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
May 19, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

**Staff Report: Annual Meeting
(Prepared by Nancy Beaumont)**

Annual Meeting [registration](#) launched on May 3. Registration rates remain the same as in 2020. As noted in the Foundation Board report (0521-2-V-G-SAAFBoard), the Board has voted to support up to 122 conference attendees with an “Annual Meeting Award” at the special conference rate of \$49. Individuals will see this option as they register; a simple application is required.

The [conference schedule](#), displayed via our new virtual conference platform (Pathable), is very similar to what I sent to the Council discussion list for comment on March 29. Pathable offers a more user-friendly experience than did the 2020 platform; for example, it enables users to develop their own “agenda.”

We have engaged a [production manager](#) whose primary role is to make the platform “sing,” ensure that all pre-recorded and live components are handled accurately, perform QC on captions and transcripts, etc. This will enable SAA staff to focus on other tasks.

Based on our 2020 experience as well as best practices in virtual conferencing, the Program Committee reduced the number of accepted sessions and scheduled them in two ways:

- Twenty pre-recorded on-demand sessions will be released for viewing on July 26. Attendees will have a chance to interact with the presenters during pre-determined 20-minute slots during the core hours of the conference on Wednesday, August 4, and Thursday, August 5.
- Ten “scheduled” sessions will be offered from Wednesday through Friday. These, too, will be pre-recorded, but included in each 60-minute assigned time slot will be 15 minutes for live Q&A.

New this year are two opportunities for networking: Coffee with Colleagues from 10:30 to 11:00 am CT each morning will give folks an informal opportunity to touch base before the day gets underway, and Conversation Lounges from 3:00 to 4:00 pm each day will provide the chance for “birds of a feather” to gather for conversations about topics of interest or based on affiliations. We will have five slots available each day.

The Diversity Forum is scheduled as a “general session,” and we have also created a slot for Open Forums mid-day on Friday. At least one session that was not accepted as part of the general line-up has been invited to hold an open forum.

Networking events at the end of the day will evolve as attendees decide to hold parties or mixers, film screenings, or programming. At the request of the Host Committee, we have already booked Cassandra Rowe of Epiphany Counseling Services to provide self-care sessions on Wednesday (Got Burnout?) and Thursday (Self-Care Is Essential!) at 5:00 pm CT. Rowe was the speaker at the recent Women Archivists Section online event that was so well-received. Her colleague will also be pre-recording a yoga/meditation session that attendees may view on demand.

The Host Committee is hard at work compiling virtual repository tours, following its call for tour proposals. The group also intends to offer one or more fun networking events.

Sponsor sales to date total \$66,350, thanks in large measure to Strategic Partners Lucidea and Preservica. Please forward the [sponsor prospectus](#) to your contacts.

As always, I'm happy to respond to questions or concerns.