

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
May 18-20, 2022  
Chicago, Illinois**

*Agendas and background materials for SAA Council meetings are publicly available via the SAA website at: <http://www2.archivists.org/governance/reports>. Each Council meeting agenda comprises Consent Items, Action Items, Discussion Items, and Reports, and the number/letter in the minutes (e.g., II.A.) corresponds to an item listed on the agenda. The minutes summarize actions taken and the outcomes of discussions. Reports generally are not summarized in the minutes, but provide a wealth of information about the work of appointed and component groups and the staff. To view the reports—and all other background materials—see the SAA website.*

**Wednesday, May 18, 2022**

President Courtney Chartier called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. CT on Wednesday, May 18. Present were Vice President Terry Baxter; Treasurer Sharmila Bhatia; Executive Committee Member Meg Tuomala; Council members Eric Chin, Stephen Curley, Dominique Luster, Jasmine Jones, Derek Mosley, Mario Ramirez, Tonia Sutherland, and Rachel Winston; and SAA Executive Director Jacqueline Price Osafo, interim Publications Director Abigail Christian, Finance/Administration Director Peter Carlson, Education Director Rana Hutchinson Salzman, and Governance Manager Felicia Owens.

Guests included incoming vice president/president-elect Helen Wong Smith and newly-elected Council members Krystal Appiah and Joyce Gabiola.

**I. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**A. Adoption of the Agenda**

Chartier introduced the agenda. The Council agreed to remove II.F. CODA Description Revisions from the Consent Agenda and address it as an Action Item. (Agenda items are presented in these minutes based on the original sequencing to minimize confusion.)

Bhatia moved adoption of the agenda as revised, Mosley seconded, and the agenda was adopted unanimously (**MOTION 1**).

**B. Status of Council To Do List**

Council members briefly reviewed and provided updates on the status of actions listed in this internal working document.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were adopted by consent (**MOTION 2**).

**Move Consent Items:** Mosley

**Second Consent Items:** Chin

**Vote:** PASSED (unanimous)

**A. Ratify Council Interim Actions**

**THAT the following interim actions taken by the Council be ratified:**

- Approved the Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2023-2025 and the Actions and Timelines dashboard. (Appendix) (April 12, 2022)
- Approved the February 16, 18, 2022, Council virtual [meeting minutes](#). (May 4, 2022)

**B. Ratify Executive Committee Interim Actions**

**THAT the following interim actions taken by the Executive Committee be ratified:**

- Agreed to join as a coalition partner with [Learn from History](#), “a coalition of organizations that believe that fact-based, accurate history must be taught in American K-12 classrooms,” as recommended by the Committee on Public Policy. (April 20, 2022)
- Agreed to sign on to a letter, as a member of the National Coalition for History, thanking David Ferriero for his many years of service as Archivist of the United States. The letter was presented to Ferriero on his last day in office before retiring. (Appendix A) (April 27, 2022)
- Agreed to sign on to a letter, at the recommendation of the SAA Intellectual Property Working Group, to be sent to the Regional Coordinators of member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization articulating the issues that matter most to those needing exceptions and limitations to copyright. (Appendix B) (May 2, 2022)
- Agreed to join [Unite Against Book Bans](#), a national advocacy campaign led by the American Library Association to highlight and mobilize widespread public opposition to removal of reading materials from libraries and schools. (May 6, 2022)

**C. Standards: Approve EAC-CPF Revisions**

**THAT the SAA Council approve the revised version of Encoded Archival Context – Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families (EAC-CPF) (Appendix A).**

**Support Statement:** The SAA Council’s support for the revision of EAC-CPF will allow users of the schema to implement a more up-to-date version that addresses and reflects both new needs that have arisen since the creation of the standard in 2010 and improved alignment with EAD3 and the proposed RiC-CM.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** Accepting the revision of EAC-CPF supports Goal #2 by providing updated educational content and delivering that content freely through the web. It also supports Goal #3 by keeping pacing with and reflecting the changes in archival standards by adapting EAC-CPF in new ways (and considering future adaptations, based on the maintenance plan suggested). Lastly, this revision has already supported Goal #4 by providing members and non-members alike multiple opportunities to provide feedback and participate in the revision process.

**Fiscal Impact:** No known fiscal impact.

#### **D. Standards: Approve DACS Major Revision**

**THAT the SAA Council approve the proposed revisions to *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (DACS) (Appendix).**

**Support Statement:** SAA Council approval of these revisions will allow DACS to better reflect the implementation of a required element (11.1 Dates of Existence), and improve its use for approximate dates for individuals.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** In general, these revisions do not have an impact on strategic priorities. However, it does reflect a desire to support Goal #3 by providing faster updates to existing technical subcommittee-managed standards.

**Fiscal Impact:** No known fiscal impact.

#### **E. Committee on Education: Revise Description**

**THAT the Committee on Education description be revised as follows (strikethrough = deletion, underline = addition):**

### **Society of American Archivists Committee on Education**

#### **I. Purpose**

The Committee on Education has four complementary purposes: 1) to assess the profession's educational needs; 2) to prepare and promote standards for archival education programs based in graduate schools; 3) to prepare and promote post-appointment and continuing education and training programs; and 4) to provide advice to the SAA Education Office.

The Committee on Education's work is based on the following assumptions:

- Education and professional development are essential to the continued advancement of the profession;
- As the profession continues to grow and change, continuing education programs must be addressed in a coordinated manner, ensuring that developments in all areas are based on a common understanding of the profession at all levels;

- Education and professional development offerings must be responsive to the forces and circumstances that could or should shape the profession; and
- Education and professional development should be a cooperative enterprise involving various participants, including SAA; other national, regional, and local archival organizations; graduate-level academic programs; employers; and related professional associations.

## II. Committee Selection, Size, and Length of Terms

The Committee on Education consists of ~~ten~~ **eleven**-members (including a chair, ~~and~~ vice chair, **and past chair**) appointed by the SAA Vice President for staggered three-year terms. The vice chair is appointed by the Vice President normally from among the committee members serving the second year of their appointment. The vice chair assumes the chair in his or her third year on the committee. **Following their term as chair, the immediate past chair shall serve an additional one-year term as an ex officio member of the committee.** The chair of the Digital Archives Specialist Subcommittee and the SAA Education Director serve as ~~an~~ *ex officio* members of the committee.

The membership of the committee shall include a mix of archival educators and practicing archivists with expertise in one or more of the ACE categories and in continuing education development.

The vice chair of the Committee on Education serves as an *ex officio* member of the Theodore Calvin Pease Award Subcommittee of the SAA Awards Committee and as an informal advisor to the Students and New Archives Professionals Section.

## III. Reporting Procedures

The committee reports to the Council, providing a formal written report in the ~~fall~~ **spring** of each year and reporting on special initiatives as necessary or requested.

The committee works closely with the Education Director, serving in an advisory capacity in education-related projects and programs operated out of the executive office.

## IV. Duties and Responsibilities

The Committee on Education's charge is to review the needs for continuing education, assist the SAA Education Office in developing relevant programming, and provide guidance to the Society in this area. The tasks and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- Advise the SAA Education Director in:
  - Establishing directions and priorities for the Society's continuing education program;
  - Monitoring the effectiveness of the offerings in light of professional needs and developments;
  - Ensuring that the education programs are of high quality;
  - Coordinating the work of the Education Office with other educational initiatives within SAA;
  - Compiling a list of educational opportunities.
- Review educational initiatives proposed and/or undertaken by other SAA committees and sections, as appropriate;

- Review and assess information provided by the Education Office, the Digital Archives Special Subcommittee, and the Graduate Archival Education Subcommittee on the full range of the profession's educational needs and the degree to which they are being met by existing educational opportunities, and make recommendations or undertake initiatives as appropriate;
- Advise the Council on conditions and developments that affect educational program needs;
- Maintain contact with educational offices / committees in related professions and organizations to explore opportunities for cooperative and mutually beneficial efforts;
- Revise and update Archival Continuing Education (ACE) Guidelines in accordance with policy, including publishing revisions for member comment and submission to the Standards Committee per the internal approval process.

## V. Meetings

The committee meets at the SAA Annual Meeting. **The committee shall meet monthly;** additional mid-year meetings are scheduled depending on the availability of financial resources.

*Approved by the SAA Council: August 2008*

*Revised: January 1992, January 1998, May 2005, August 2008, May 2011, November 2016.*

**Support Statement:** The changes to the committee structure in Section II will continue to allow for leadership opportunities while ensuring continuity of knowledge. The changes in Section III and Section V update past language and reflect the committee's current work and meeting schedule.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** These changes to the committee structure in Section II support Goal 4.2 Create opportunities for members to participate fully in the association in the Draft Strategic Plan (FY 2023-2025).

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

## F. Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment: Revise Description

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to the end of the Action Agenda for further discussion.

## III. STRATEGIC PLANNING

The following document was provided for reference:

- [Current Strategic Plan 2023-2025](#)
- [Current Strategic Plan Dashboard](#)
- [Work Plan on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility \(DEIA\)](#)

## IV. ACTION ITEMS

### B.1. Repatriation / Purposeful Deaccessioning: Support Statement

The Council reviewed a draft statement in support of archival repatriation and purposeful deaccessioning. Baxter and Luster noted that the Native American Archives Section requested additional time to review the statement before the Council formally approves and publishes the statement. The Council provided notes to the group and will approve the final version via online discussion and vote once available.

### B.2. Repatriation / Purposeful Deaccessioning: Committee Description

Baxter and Luster introduced the description and charge for a new standing committee on archival repatriation, as requested by the Native American Archives Section at the February 2022 Council meeting. The Council reviewed and further revised the description, as noted by underlining below, primarily to clarify the committee membership and term lengths for continuity. The Council approved creating the new committee and directed staff to issue a special call for volunteers as soon as possible.

### **MOTION 3**

**THAT an Archival Repatriation Committee be created and charged per the following description:**

#### **Archival Repatriation Committee**

##### **I. Purpose**

The Archival Repatriation Committee works to ensure that the organization's services, activities, policies, communications, and products support the goal of supporting archivists in repatriating and receiving archival materials. It coordinates with various SAA entities, external organizations, and originating communities and monitors, evaluates, advocates for, and reports on matters relating to the repatriation of archival materials.

##### **II. Committee Selection, Size, and Length of Terms**

The committee consists of six members and two co-chairs, who are appointed by the SAA vice president/president-elect. The immediate past chair of the Native American Archives Section serves as a committee member for a one-year term. Committee members serve staggered three-year terms. The co-chairs shall serve staggered two-year terms. The vice president/president-elect shall appoint one committee member after consultation with the executive director of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.

##### **III. Duties and Responsibilities**

- Develops and disseminates guidance and training about archival repatriation.

- Serves as a point of contact and subject matter experts for people with questions about archival repatriation.
- Work on cooperative repatriation projects with organizations with similar goals.
- Engages in reparative and reciprocal actions that lead to better community and institutional relationships.
- Further ongoing investigations of relationships between the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), repatriation policy, and archival collections and/or to advocate for inclusion of archival collections in U.S. and international repatriation policy.
- Make recommendations to SAA Council for necessary actions to meet these goals.

#### **IV. Reporting Procedures**

The Repatriation Committee reports to the Council and works closely with its Council liaison, the President, and the Executive Director to ensure that it is responsive to the Council's needs. The chair is responsible for submitting an annual report to the Council, and may also submit items for Council action or discussion and feedback as necessary. The chair also is responsible for ensuring that minutes of Repatriation Committee meetings are prepared and posted on the Repatriation Committee's SAA-hosted website to inform SAA members of its activities and comply with SAA's record-keeping requirements.

#### **V. Meetings**

The committee shall meet virtually as needed to conduct its work. The committee may conduct its business by email, telephone, or virtual meeting during the course of the year.

**Support Statement:** The creation of this committee allows SAA to provide guidance and support to archivists involved in repatriating or receiving repatriated archives.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** The creation of this committee responds to Goal 3, Strategies 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 of the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

**Fiscal Impact:** The estimated staff time associated with this activity is 1 staff member @ 20 hours.

**Move:** Winston

**Second:** Mosley

**Vote:** PASSED

#### **C. Task Force on Membership Funding and Pathways for Diverse Archives Workers**

Tuomala introduced a draft description and charge for a new Task Force on Membership Funding and Pathways for Diverse Archives Workers, stemming from discussion at the February 2022 Council meeting. The Council discussed the logistics and timing for the task force's deliverables, as well as the standing SAA groups that should have representation on the task force. The Council determined that further revisions should be made to the draft and, as soon as possible following the meeting, the final draft would be shared for online review and vote.

#### **D. Committee on the Selection of SAA Fellows: Description Revisions**

Chin introduced a recommendation from the Committee on the Selection of SAA Fellows to revise the group's description and charge. The revisions focused primarily on adjusting the committee's member structure to expand the perspectives represented on the committee. The Council discussed and agreed with the changes, but given other current duties of the Diversity Committee, determined that the immediate past chairs of the Appointments Committee and the Nominating Committee would be best suited to this role.

#### **MOTION 4**

**THAT the following revisions to the Committee on the Selection of SAA Fellows be approved:**

#### **II. Committee Selection, Size, and Length of Term**

The committee is composed of the ~~five~~ **three** most recent past presidents of the Society ~~and~~, three Fellows who are elected by the Council at its winter meeting and who serve one-year terms, **and the immediate past chairs of the Appointments Committee and the Nominating Committee to serve one year terms**. ~~Past presidents~~, **Current members of the committee**, current members of the Council, and Society staff members are not eligible for election. The **past** president who has served the longest on the committee serves as chair of the committee.

**Support Statement:** Revising the member composition and limiting the past SAA president terms will broaden the candidate pool and increase nominations for overlooked, qualified, and diverse individuals for SAA Fellow.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists (1.3) – increases diverse leadership and representation with Fellow distinction, Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs (4.2) – provides opportunities more fairly for those qualified for honor, DEIA Strategic Plan – diversifies nomination pool with more focus goal of looking for candidates of different backgrounds.

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

**Move:** Chin

**Second:** Winton

**Vote:** PASSED (unanimous)

#### **E. Committee on Public Policy**

- 1. 2022-2023 SAA Legislative Agenda**
- 2. 2022-2024 SAA Public Policy Agenda**

Curley/Winston introduced proposed revisions, as drafted by the Committee on Public Policy, to SAA's Legislative Agenda for the 2022-2023 term and SAA's Public Policy Agenda for the 2022-2024 term. The Council discussed and agreed with both recommendations as proposed.

## **MOTION 5**

**THAT the following SAA Legislative Agenda be adopted for 2022-2023 (Appendix A).**

**Support Statement:** The Legislative Agenda, 2022-2023, an organic document that provides SAA with the flexibility needed to address unforeseen legislative and regulatory developments, allows members and other prospective audiences to understand SAA's priorities related to legislation and regulations affecting archivists, archives, the archives profession, and the communities we serve. SAA will prioritize six public policy actions during the 2022-2023 time period including:

- Ensuring robust federal funding for archives.
- Supporting network neutrality.
- Addressing inadequacies in intellectual property law and regulations.
- Supporting efforts to strengthen transparency and ensure access to open government data.
- Address inadequacies in statutes regarding records of the federal judiciary
- Support legislation that ensures fair compensation and living wages for archives and archives-adjacent workers

SAA will also monitor developments around legislation and regulations at the national and state and local levels that may impact archivists, archives, the archives profession, and the communities we serve.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** Addresses Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists:

- Strategy 1.1. Provide leadership in promoting the value of archives and archivists to institutions, communities, and society;
- Strategy 1.2. Educate and influence decision makers about the importance of archives and archivists;
- Strategy 1.3. Provide leadership in ensuring the completeness, diversity, and accessibility of the historical record; and
- Strategy 1.4. Strengthen the ability of those who manage and use archival material to articulate the value of archives.

**Fiscal Impact:** Approval of the Legislative Agenda does not commit SAA to expend funds on any particular advocacy effort. That said, SAA should be aware that that robust advocacy efforts on any particular issue could involve expenditures related to any of the following: SAA staff time, outreach documents for agencies and government officials, outreach to SAA members for advocacy training (e.g. webcasts), and individual or group face-to-face meeting with government officials.

**THAT the following SAA Public Policy Agenda for 2022-2024 be adopted (Appendix B).**

**Support Statement:** The revised Public Policy Agenda provides members and other prospective audiences with an understanding of SAA’s priorities related to public policies that affect archivists, archives, the archives profession, and the communities we serve.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** Addresses Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists, Strategy 1.1. Provide leadership in promoting the value of archives and archivists to institutions, communities, and society; 1.2. Educate and influence decision makers about the importance of archives and archivists; 1.3. Provide leadership in ensuring the completeness, diversity, and accessibility of the historical record; and 1.4. Strengthen the ability of those who manage and use archival material to articulate the value of archives.

**Fiscal Impact:** Approval of the Public Policy Agenda does not commit SAA to expend funds on any particular advocacy effort at this time.

**Move:** Bhatia

**Second:** Mosley

**Vote:** PASSED (unanimous)

#### **F. Select 2022-2023 Executive Committee Member and Nominating Committee Members**

By anonymous ballot, the nine Council members who are not officers elected Derek Mosley to serve as the 2022-2023 Executive Committee member and Stephen Curley and Rachel Winston to serve on the 2023 Nominating Committee.

#### **G. Other Action Items from Council Members**

##### **II.F. Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment: Revise Description**

Jones introduced a recommendation from the Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment to revise the group’s description and charge to formally add the SAA Research Forum to the committee’s duties. The Council discussed and confirmed further revisions with the group to simplify the Duties and Responsibilities section.

#### **MOTION 6**

**THAT the Committee on Research, Data and Assessment (CORDA) formal charge be revised as follows (*strikethrough = deletion, underline = addition*):**

#### **Committee on Research, Data and Assessment**

##### **I. Purpose**

The Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment provides access to significant and useful data and research about SAA, American archives, and their users that evidence the value of archives for society and help us improve our services to SAA members and to our consumers. The Committee will work to

conduct or support relevant research and to create, gather, and preserve data by directing and engaging in several areas of activity:

- Providing SAA members with standardized tools for gathering and analyzing data;
- Providing a repository or portal for data and other research outputs;
- Providing training on gathering, analyzing, interpreting, and using data; and
- Providing up-to-date and reliable basic facts and figures about archives and archivists;
- Providing a space to discuss and share information about research initiatives with relevance for archives and records management through the SAA Research Forum.

## II. Committee Selection, Size, and Length of Term

The Committee shall consist of a minimum of nine appointed members (including two co-chairs) serving staggered three-year terms with the possibility of reappointment. The Vice President, on behalf of the Council and with the recommendation of the Committee, appoints new members and co-chairs. Because the Committee may benefit from members who possess specialized skills and abilities that may vary from time to time, a Request for Applicant-based process may be necessary to help surface the best candidates in any particular appointment cycle. Maximum Committee size is variable, depending on the number, nature, and complexity of the projects and activities in which the Committee is engaged at any particular time.

To better facilitate the Committee's diverse work, members may be distributed among multiple project- or activity-based subcommittees, each of which is headed by a subcommittee chair appointed by the Committee co-chairs to repeatable annual terms. The Committee co-chairs may recommend that the SAA Council form (and disband) subcommittees from time to time, based on current needs.

The vice chair of the Committee on Education will serve as an *ex officio* member of the committee. The outgoing co-chair may serve as an *ex officio* member of the committee for up to one year after rotating off the committee.

## III. Reporting Procedures

The Committee co-chairs shall submit a report for each Council meeting, summarizing current activities and projects and progress toward stated objectives. As directed by the Council, the Committee co-chairs may submit a written report upon the conclusion of specific projects.

## IV. Duties and Responsibilities

The Committee shall enjoy a great deal of latitude in developing and engaging in research projects and data accumulation. In so doing, the Committee must maintain frequent communication with the Council, which approves and advises on the Committee's strategic directions, tactics, resources, activities, and projects. This communication is facilitated by the Committee co-chairs, who must ensure that the Council is aware of emergent planning and directional changes.

The Committee maintains responsibility for achieving its purpose by:

- Looking strategically at the organization's information needs and sharing its strategies with the SAA Council and relevant component groups;
- Proactively commissioning or directly engaging in necessary and strategic research, including dissemination, preservation, promotion, and education of survey data and research (such as A\*CENSUS II);
- Manage the SAA Research Forum.

- Gathering quantitative and qualitative information of strategic value for SAA in the areas of advocacy, public awareness, improved audience service, and community engagement;
- Evaluating such information and surfacing it to SAA members via dashboards, reports, and constructed data sets that members can use to better understand and act on their own environments and to perform better as archivists;
- Engaging academic and other communities within SAA to perform research by helping to set research agendas and by utilizing grants, fellowships, conferences, and other tools and levers;
- Providing a repository (or repositories) and analytical tools for sharing and evaluating useful data about archivists, repositories, audiences, and the environments in which archives function; and
- Building and maintaining, in collaboration with other SAA groups, a training site for archivists ~~in~~ the area of around research, data gathering, evaluation and assessment, and business intelligence.

## V. Meetings

The Committee shall conduct its business largely through email and conference calls. The Committee shall meet formally each year at the SAA Annual Meeting. Any additional in-person meetings that may be necessary shall occur only with Council approval and funding.

*Approved by the SAA Council, November 2018. Revised: May 2022.*

**Support Statement:** These changes to the charge will allow for the SAA Research Forum to officially transfer under CORDA and help ensure sustainability and succession planning and will acknowledge CORDA's role and collaboration on the dissemination of data and research from A\*CENSUS II. These changes will allow for CORDA to plan for current and future work, including adding a one-year *ex officio* option for the outgoing co-chair, while justifying the need for additional members through a future process.

**Impact on Strategic Priorities:** These changes support Goal 3.2 (Foster and disseminate research in and about the field), specifically Goal 3.2.C (Seek effective means to elevate information presented at Research Forum). These changes also support the SAA DEIA Work Plan 1.3 (Conduct A\*CENSUS on a regular schedule).

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

**Motion:** Luster

**Second:** Bhatia

**Vote:** PASSED (unanimous) (Absent: Ramirez)

## I. COUNCIL BUSINESS

### C. Budget Orientation

Carlson provided a high-level orientation to the SAA budget and financial documents to both current and incoming Council members.

## IV. ACTION ITEMS

### H. Executive Session

The Council met in a private Executive Session to discuss the process for annual evaluations of the *American Archivists* and Publications editors, as well as the executive director's annual performance appraisal.

## **MOTION 7**

**THAT the Council move into a confidential Executive Session.**

**Move:** Chartier

**Second:** Bhatia

**Vote:** PASSED

## **Thursday, May 19, 2022**

President Courtney Chartier called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. CT on Thursday, May 19. Present were Vice President Terry Baxter; Treasurer Sharmila Bhatia; Executive Committee Member Meg Tuomala; Council members Eric Chin, Stephen Curley, Dominique Luster, Jasmine Jones, Derek Mosley, Mario Ramirez, Tonia Sutherland, and Rachel Winston; and SAA Executive Director Jacqueline Price Osafo, interim Publications Director Abigail Christian, Finance/Administration Director Peter Carlson, Education Director Rana Hutchinson Salzmann, and Governance Manager Felicia Owens.

Guests included incoming vice president/president-elect Helen Wong Smith and newly-elected Council members Krystal Appiah, Joyce Gabiola, and Lydia Tang.

## **V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Constitution and Bylaws Revisions [CONFIDENTIAL]**

The Council reviewed proposed revisions to the SAA Constitution and Bylaws, per standard review conducted by second-year Council members. Many major and minor revisions are recommended to bring the documents into alignment, reflect current technology and realities, and adhere to proper association governance best practices. The Council will next prepare a final version to share with membership this summer and will seek feedback in the fall, ahead of an all-member referendum to approve the revisions in spring 2023.

### **B. Sections Structure**

Chartier, Jones, and Luster shared initial recommendations for addressing the structure and format of SAA Sections, per discussions from the February 2022 Council meeting. The Council further discussed the general health metrics that could be used going forward to ensure all sections are meeting basic requirements. The subgroup agreed to create a survey in the fall to proceed with the next phase of assessment.

### **C. Council Exemplary Service Awards/Resolutions**

The Council met in executive session to draft and approve three Council Exemplary Service Awards and three Council Resolutions honoring SAA members and groups for their outstanding contributions to the profession and to SAA. Awards will be announced in conjunction with the 2021 SAA Annual Meeting.

*These awards remain confidential until the Annual Meeting; see the appendix to the August 2022 Council meeting minutes for the full text of the awards.*

### **D. 2022 Annual Meeting Activities**

Chartier and Price Osafo provided a summary of activities that will involve Council members at the hybrid 2022 Annual Meeting, including Council meetings and new Council member orientation, the Leadership Orientation and Forum (organized by first-year Council members Jasmine Jones, Dominique Luster, and Tonia Sutherland), the annual membership (business) meeting, sponsor and exhibitor visits, and more.

### **E. Other Discussion Items from Council Members**

No additional discussion items were brought forward.

## **IV. ACTION ITEMS (cont.)**

### **A. Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget**

SAA Treasurer Sharmila Bhatia provided an overview of the budget development process, including review by the Finance Committee prior to the Council's consideration. The staff had prepared a draft based on 1) activities outlined in the current Strategic Plan and 2) operational needs and trends, with an overall goal of ensuring sustainability and growth of key programs.

The Council considered [five?] funding requests from component groups and, based on recommendations from the Finance Committee, declined to fund all requests due to budget constraints.

### **MOTION 8**

**THAT the Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget, as submitted by the Finance Committee and staff, be adopted, with revenues of \$ 2,758,657, expenses of \$2,782,426, and a projected net loss of \$23,770.**

**Move:** Mosley

**Second:** Winston

**Vote:** PASSED

## VI. REPORTS

*Reports are discussed by the Council only as needed and generally are not summarized in the minutes (with the exception of the Executive Committee report, which details interim actions of the Executive Committee). They do, however, provide a wealth of information about the work of appointed and component groups and the staff. To view the reports—and all other background materials—see <http://www2.archivists.org/governance/reports>.*

The Council reviewed, but did not discuss, the following reports:

A. [President](#)

B. [Vice President/President-Elect](#)

C. [Treasurer](#)

D.1. [Staff: Executive Director](#)

D.2. [Staff: Membership](#)

D.3. [Staff: Education](#)

D.4. [Staff: Publications](#)

D.6. [Staff: Technology](#)

E. [American Archivist Editor](#)

F. [Publications Editor](#)

G. [SAA Foundation Board](#)

H. [A\\*CENSUS II Update](#)

D.5. **Staff: Annual Meeting** (verbal)

Price Osafo shared updates on planning for the 2022 Annual Meeting, SAA's first hybrid conference! Sessions will be offered in a combination of hybrid, in-person only, and virtual only, with all sessions recorded and available to registrants following the conference.

**I. Other Reports from Council Members / What Are You Hearing from Members?**

Price Osafo shared an update from the A\*CENSUS II Working Group on plans for preparing and disseminating the survey results, including collaborations with the Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment, the *American Archivist* Editorial Board, and more.

**Friday, May 20, 2022**

## V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

**A. Constitution and Bylaws Revisions [CONFIDENTIAL]**

The Council continued review of proposed revisions to the SAA Constitution and Bylaws, per standard review conducted by second-year Council members. Many major and minor revisions are recommended to bring the documents into alignment, reflect current technology and realities, and adhere to proper association governance best practices. The Council will next prepare a final version to share with membership this summer and will seek feedback in the fall, ahead of an all-member referendum to approve the revisions in spring 2023.

## **I. COUNCIL BUSINESS (continued)**

### **D. Review of May 2022 Talking Points and To Do List**

Council members reviewed the draft list of action items stemming from the meeting.

### **E. May 2022 Meeting Debriefing**

The Council briefly reflected on the highlights from the meeting and suggestions for improving future hybrid Council meetings.

## **IV. ACTION ITEMS (continued)**

### **I. Executive Session**

#### **1. Executive Director Performance Evaluations**

The Council returned to a private Executive Session to complete the executive director's annual performance appraisal with Jacqueline Price Osafo.

#### **MOTION 9**

**THAT the Council move into a confidential Executive Session.**

**Move:** Mosley

**Second:** Bhatia

**Vote:** PASSED

## **I. COUNCIL BUSINESS (continued)**

### **F. Adjournment**

Mosley moved adjournment, Winston seconded, and the Council meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:56 a.m. CT on Friday, May 20.

## Society of American Archivists Legislative Agenda (2022-2023)

Written by the SAA Committee on Public Policy and adopted by the SAA Council.

Date of latest revision: 2019, 2022

Date of next planned revision: early 2023

To view previous versions, see:

[2018 Legislative Agenda and Action Plan](#)

[2019-2020 Legislative Agenda](#)

### Introduction

The SAA Legislative Agenda lists objectives for legislative and regulatory action at the national level on issues that affect archives and archival programs in the United States. The agenda identifies six high-priority issues for which legislative or regulatory action is already underway, has been scheduled to take place, or is anticipated to emerge this legislative term. This is an organic document; the list may be amended or reprioritized as legislative and regulatory developments take place during the legislative term.

In addition to the priorities for advocacy, issues are identified for monitoring and potential action. First are national issues that will be monitored for unanticipated developments that may need immediate response. Second are state, regional, or municipal issues, for which the most effective advocacy will be through actions by individual members, institutions, and regional archival organizations.

SAA, guided broadly by the 2022-2023 Public Policy Agenda [\[insert link\]](#), will advocate or take other action on the following public policy priorities, either separately or in collaboration with other organizations.

### 2022-2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

#### **Public Policy Priority:**

**Ensure robust federal funding for archives.**

**Public Policy Action:** Advocate for robust federal funding for grant programs benefiting archival projects, including electronic records preservation initiatives and cultural heritage disaster recovery efforts. Support increases in appropriations for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS). This includes proposing and

championing a new archives funding initiative under the umbrella of one or more of the aforementioned agencies.

Advocate for a level of funding for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) that ensures NARA can accomplish its mandated functions to guarantee the transfer and management of the permanently valuable records of the presidency and federal government. Furthermore, funding is essential for NARA to meet the terms of the Office of Management and Budget directive M-19-21 *Transition to Electronic Records* and to support effective management of and access to federal electronic records.

Advocate for the following federal budget funding levels:

NHPRC: \$13 million in appropriations  
NEH: \$225 million in appropriations  
IMLS: \$286 million in appropriations  
NARA: \$433 million in appropriations

**Background:** Federal funding for the NHPRC, the NEH, and the IMLS must be sustained to ensure that the historical record of our collective human experience is preserved and accessible for use by the American public, including teachers and students, scholars, scientists, family historians, the business community, and governments themselves.

Federal funding for the National Archives needs to continue to be increased, not simply be maintained or reduced. The challenges of managing federal electronic records are substantial, from ensuring the comprehensive transfer of records to providing access to those securely preserved records years and decades after they were originally acquired. These challenges require focused staffing, technology, and implementation of new approaches to assure that the essential information created by all branches of the federal government is appropriately preserved and made accessible, and so that NARA meets its mandate to ensure the accountability and transparency of the federal government on behalf of the American people.

### **SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- Joint Statement (NAGARA/CoSA/SAA): [Support of the Federal Budget for NARA and NHPRC](#) (2021)
- Archives, Public Policy, and You: [Federal Funding Programs for Archives and Historical Records](#) (2019)
- Issue Brief: [Federal Grant Funding for Archives](#) (2017)
- Background: [Funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission](#) (2017)
- Background: [Funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (2017)
- Issue Brief: [Strengthening of Federal Records Authority](#) (2015)
- Issue Brief: [Adequate Funding of Government Archives and Archival Programs](#) (2014)

### **Public Policy Priority:**

## **Support network neutrality.**

**Public Policy Action:** Support the maintenance of net neutrality in the United States and legislative proposals that would ensure that Internet providers are designated as common carriers under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934.

**Background:** Net neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers must treat all data on the Internet in the same way, and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or method of communication.[1] Under these principles, Internet service providers are unable to intentionally block, slow down, or charge money for specific websites and online content.

Access to essential documentation of our government and society is made available to a wide array of users through the Internet. Archival institutions use the Internet to provide access to finding aids, discovery tools, and digital collections. In this way, they are able to reach large audiences, including governments and policy researchers, K-12 teachers and students, college/university students and academic researchers, family historians, legal and medical researchers, and many other users. The principles of net neutrality are indispensable for the transparent and democratic distribution of information available online from thousands of archival repositories throughout the country.

Our nation and the mission of our profession is best served if government regulations ensure the ability of archives to provide equitable and unfettered access to our shared cultural heritage and support access for all users of archival information.

[1]Gilroy, Angele A. (March 11, 2011). Access to Broadband Networks: The Net Neutrality Debate (Report). DIANE Publishing. p. 1. [ISBN 978-1437984545](#).

### **SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- Issue Brief: [Net Neutrality](#) (June 2018)
- [SAA Letter to the FCC Commissioner](#) (December 2017)

### **Public Policy Priority:**

#### **Address inadequacies in intellectual property law and regulations.**

**Public Policy Action:** Oppose any legislation or regulatory actions related to intellectual property rights that reduce or impede the ability of archives and libraries to preserve and provide access to archival materials. Such actions include extending the duration of copyright or changes to Section 108 of the U.S. Copyright Act that are not made specifically to expand permitted uses by archives and libraries.

**Background:** Lengthy terms of copyright protection inhibit the growth of the public domain to the detriment of the public interest. Section 108 of the U.S. Copyright Act is one of several provisions in the law ensuring a balance between the important interests of rights holders and the equally important interests of the public—a balance critical to archives' missions. By permitting

archives to duplicate copyrighted material for preservation and access, Section 108 empowers archivists to carry out their core work. Although aspects of Section 108 might be updated, the statute is remarkably resilient and is used every day by practicing archivists. Combined with the Fair Use doctrine as codified in Section 107, Section 108 is an invaluable tool for archivists in conducting their collective mission to preserve the historical record.

Recent developments in intellectual property law, particularly provisions related to small claims adjudication authority within the Copyright Office, make it imperative to advocate for an intellectual property framework that allows archivists and information professionals to fulfill their professional duties without threat of civil litigation.

### **SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- [Archivists and the Term of Copyright](#) (2016)
- [Statement on Draft Revision of Section 108](#) (2016)
- [Archivists and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement Provisions](#) (2015)
- Issue Brief: [Orphan Works](#) (2014)
- View a one-page [overview](#) of SAA's positions on copyright issues.

### **Public Policy Priority:**

**Support efforts to strengthen transparency and ensure access to open government data.**

**Public Policy Action:** Monitor forthcoming or in progress legislation that affects the ability of the public, researchers, and government agencies/officials to ensure open access to public records as provided for by law. Issues that will emerge cannot always be predicted or anticipated, hence the need for regular monitoring of ongoing government action and legislation that may require a quick response. Focus must be on supporting legislation to ensure access to public records and opposing legislation designed to limit such access unless there are compelling and demonstrable reasons.

Support efforts to develop open public information for all government agencies. Support legislation that enhances federal electronic records management, such as H.R.745, the Federal Records Modernization Act of 2017.

**Background:** SAA promotes the protection and accessibility of records found in governments, organizations, and archives repositories. Records ensure the protection of individuals' rights, the accountability of governments and organizations, and the accessibility of historical information.

Government has long sought to achieve a balance between open access to public records and information while ensuring restrictions that respect concerns of privacy, intellectual property, and national security. In general, the public requires broad access to government records and information to ensure transparency and accountability. Some agencies and officials have found a balance that provides the public with a great deal of information, while others have tended to restrict information and access to public records, believing it necessary to protect their work and decision-making.

To ensure that federal records can serve the purposes of ensuring transparency and accountability, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) should be granted the statutory authority that will allow it to carry out its crucial responsibility for the proper management of federal records.

Issues may arise relating to access and restrictions that are difficult to anticipate and are complex. For example, new technologies such as ephemeral social media content used by public officials and entities raise questions about what constitutes a public record. Additionally, the use and abuse by public officials and agencies of electronic mail and social media have led to growing questions about what requirements must be met to ensure official records are created and can be managed and preserved. Finally, issues relating to classification/declassification of public records require constant consideration to balance the public's interest in having access to information with the desire of government officials and agencies to protect the information.

SAA firmly believes that the critical nature of information in a democracy places the burden on those asserting such claims. Therefore, SAA strongly opposes any effort by government officials to deny U.S. citizens access to government information found in archives and records.

#### **SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- [Judiciary Records](#) (2021)
- [Congressional Records as Public Records](#) (2018)
- [Police Mobile Camera Footage as a Public Record](#). (2017)
- Issue Brief: [Federal Classified Information and Controlled Unclassified Information](#) (2017)
- [Statement on the Value and Importance of Transparency in Government](#) (2017)
- Issue Brief: [Declassification of Federal Records](#) (2017)
- [Statement on Conducting Public Business in Non-Government Email Accounts](#) (2015)
- Issue Brief: [Presidential Records Act of 1978](#) (2014)

#### **Public Policy Priority:**

##### **Address inadequacies in statutes regarding records of the federal judiciary**

**Public Policy Action:** Develop organizational relationships with communities that support the creation of laws governing the disposition, preservation, and accessibility of the papers of Supreme Court justices and other federal judges. Identify potential allied legislators and arrange meetings with them to raise the issue.

#### **Background:**

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is responsible for the [official institutional records](#) of the U.S. Courts. Despite the increasing attention to the federal judiciary in recent decades, there are no laws governing the disposition, preservation, and accessibility of the papers of Supreme Court justices and other federal judges. The lack of consistent transfer practices among judges and justices, and the absence of a law like the Presidential Records Act,

has led to uneven public access to the archival records of some of our country's most powerful public servants.

In 1974, President Gerald Ford signed the [Presidential Recordings Preservation Act](#), which required the preservation of [President Nixon's presidential records](#) and established the National Study Commission on Records and Documents of Federal Officials, a national committee to "study problems and questions with respect to the control, disposition, and preservation of records and documents produced by or on behalf of Federal officials." In 1977, the Committee issued its [final report](#), which was [considered](#) in the passage of the [Presidential Records Act in 1978](#). Although the Presidential Records Act institutionalized many of the Commission's recommendations regarding the records of the President and Vice President and created the paradigm shift that legally transformed the President's private papers into public records, the United States lacks similar legislation concerning the status of records of members of Congress and federal judges.

The Federal Judicial Center (FJC) actively encourages federal judges to develop a plan for preserving their papers by communicating the value such documents have to researchers, historians, and the public. The most effective way to create a desirable consistency regarding the disposition, preservation, and accessibility of the entire archival record of the judiciary would be to enact legislation to address gaps in the management of federal judges' papers. Many of the recommendations of the 1977 report are still worth considering. Effectively, a judicial version of the Presidential Records Act should be passed.

To ensure the greatest public access, consideration should be given to centralizing responsibility for these records under NARA, the Library of Congress, or a government-funded consortium of authorized repositories to preserve judges' papers.

#### **SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- [Judiciary Records](#) (2021)

#### ***Public Policy Priority:***

**Support legislation that ensures fair compensation and living wages for archives and archives-adjacent workers.**

**Public Policy Action:** Develop partnerships with organizations who can help SAA monitor and advocate for legislation that strengthens the ability for workers to unionize, seek increases to the minimum wage, or seek to address unfair labor practices within archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions. Mobilize our members to participate in partner organizations' advocacy efforts. Oppose legislation that minimizes workers' ability to unionize, prevents the minimum wage from increasing, or seeks to further enable unfair labor practices within archives.

#### **Background:**

- Institutional memory in the form of long-serving staff is a valuable asset that organizations can retain through adequate compensation of and fair labor practices in regard to their employees.
- Supporting legislation that ensures fair compensation for all people, including those employed in the cultural heritage field, will improve working conditions within the field. Much of federal labor law affects SAA members in their work and should be monitored in the same way that SAA monitors other issues at the intersection of archives and public policy/legislation.

## NATIONAL ISSUES TO BE MONITORED IN 2022-2023

### **Public Policy Issue:**

**Address weaknesses in classification of federal records.**

**Public Policy Action:** Collaborate with interested organizations to support efforts to improve classification and declassification and avoid over-classification of federal records. Actions to support include simplification of classification categories and provision of additional funding for training and technology to assist and improve the process.

**Background:** The core values of archivists as defined by the Society of American Archivists and the profession include accountability and access and use. In order to ensure a more open and transparent government, there is a demonstrated need to reform the federal classification process, reduce over-classification, and ensure that the Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) system does not become yet another system of “classification.”[2] In particular, the federal government should strive for the greatest possible openness when declassifying national security information.

[2]”Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) is information that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls pursuant to and consistent with applicable law, regulations, and government-wide policies but is not classified under Executive Order 13526 or the Atomic Energy Act, as amended.” For further information see “About Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)” [link: <https://www.archives.gov/cui/about>]

### **SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- Issue Brief: [Declassification of Federal Records](#) (2017)
- Issue Brief: [Federal Classified Information and Controlled Unclassified Information](#) (2017)

### **Public Policy Issue:**

**Promote effective management of federal records.**

**Public Policy Action:** Monitor any developments with, and advocate as appropriate for, legislation and agency regulations that strengthen the records management authority of the

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and support NARA in pursuit of these goals.

**Background:** The Congress should pass, and the President should sign, legislation that gives NARA the authority and resources to investigate violations of records management laws and policies. Such legislation should also set appropriate penalties – levied according to the degree of authority and responsibility granted to the offender – for noncompliance with existing records management laws and policies. Cases in which violation of records management law are suspected should be referred to the Department of Justice for adjudication.

NARA should be provided the necessary additional resources to carry out a system of robust, regular audits of the records management practices of federal agencies to determine their level of compliance with existing laws and regulations. While agencies currently conduct self-assessments, the inherent weaknesses of self-reporting require comprehensive audits at least once every five years for continued improvement and compliance.

**SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- Issue Brief: [Strengthening of Federal Records Authority](#) (2015)

**Public Policy Issue:**

**Improve the Freedom of Information Act.**

**Public Policy Action:** Support strengthening of FOIA implementation, especially through expansion to all federal agencies of the “Release Once Release to All” pilot project.

**Background:** Many agencies across the federal government have backlogs in responding to FOIA requests from citizens, and “the average processing times at many agencies are hundreds of days longer than the 20-day response time established by law.”[3].

[3] [”Feinstein, Grassley, Leahy, Cornyn Push for Better FOIA Compliance.”](#) March 15, 2019

**SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- Issue Brief: [Freedom of Information Act](#) (2014, updated 2016)

**STATE / REGIONAL / LOCAL POLICY ISSUES  
TO BE MONITORED IN 2022-2023**

**Public Policy Issue:**

**Support efforts to define police mobile camera footage as a public record.**

**Public Policy Action:** Encourage members to advocate for and support efforts to define police mobile camera footage as a public record under existing public records laws according to local,

state, and federal statutes; advocate for standardized practices and policies to ensure effective management, preservation, and access.

**Background:** Police mobile camera video—recorded in the course of operations and preserved as evidence—falls under the professionally accepted definition of public records, i.e., any documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by a government entity in the conduct of public business and preserved (or appropriate for preservation) as evidence of the entity's organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities, or because of the information contained therein. However, state laws diverge widely on the treatment of body camera recordings as public or open records. Effective management of these records needs to be addressed, as well as the complex issues involved in balancing the public right to know versus personal privacy.

**SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- Issue Brief: [Police Mobile Camera Footage as a Public Record](#) (2017)

**Public Policy Issue:**

**Promote improvements in state Freedom of Information laws.**

**Public Policy Action:** Closely monitor state legislation pertaining to state records laws, work with other organizations that are interested in FOIA, and encourage members in respective states to advocate for strengthening state FOI laws.

**Background:** To ensure the public's right to equal and equitable access to government information found in archives, SAA supports state government efforts to examine all freedom of information laws and strengthen all pertinent legislation. All state records laws should include specific language to prevent restrictions and exemptions for records of public officials and other government employees, other than those that are explicitly required by law.

**SAA Statements/Issue Briefs on This Topic:**

- Issue Brief: [State Freedom of Information Laws](#) (2015)

## Society of American Archivists Public Policy Agenda (2022-2024)

Written by the SAA Committee on Public Policy and adopted by the SAA Council.

Date of latest revision: 2021-2022

Date of next planned revision: 2024 - 2025

*To view previous versions, see:*

[2019-2020 Public Policy Agenda](#)

[2017-2018 Public Policy Agenda](#)

[2015-2017 Public Policy Agenda](#)

[2012-2014 Advocacy Agenda](#)

[2009-2020 Advocacy Agenda](#)

### Introduction

SAA's Public Policy Agenda outlines the organization's public policy priorities.

Individual members or groups may request that SAA address these issues by following these [procedures](#); SAA will consider them on a case-by-case basis. Requests for SAA to take action on a specific public policy issue will be more vigorously pursued if that issue aligns with this Agenda. However, many worthy advocacy issues lie outside the scope of this Public Policy Agenda.

SAA recognizes that social issues and archival concerns may overlap (e.g., in matters of personal privacy, access to public information, or misuse of records for political purposes). Therefore, SAA may speak out on human rights or social justice issues that affect archivists, researchers, and other users of archives.

As an organization that values social responsibility, the public good, and the completeness of the public record, SAA encourages its members to engage in advocacy as individuals, in accordance with their own values and priorities.

Many SAA groups discuss issues of importance to archivists and the archival community and work to empower SAA members to learn about and engage in advocacy. SAA members are encouraged to read about these groups and volunteer to become involved in them:

[SAA Committee on Public Policy](#)

[SAA Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct](#)

[SAA Intellectual Property Working Group](#)

[SAA Issues and Advocacy Section](#)

SAA also collaborates with the Council of State Archivists, the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, and the Regional Archival Associations Consortium on the [CoSA/NAGARA/SAA/RAAC Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness](#).

## **Public Policy Agenda**

Archival sources protect the rights of individuals and organizations, enable the accountability of governments and institutions, and provide access to historical information and cultural heritage. In alignment with our [Core Values Statement and Code of Ethics](#), SAA is committed to supporting policies that will make accessible evidence of the diverse and complex elements of the human experience; ensure the protection of privacy and individual rights; ensure the transparency and accountability of government at all levels; guarantee the administrative continuity necessary for good governance; and preserve historical documentation for future generations. SAA defines public policy as any government policy—federal, state, or municipal—that directly affects archivists or the archival record, including legislation, executive orders, judicial decisions, funding priorities, and other regulatory measures.

SAA firmly believes that the critical nature of information in a democracy places the burden to prove the need for withholding access to records, for reasons of confidentiality, classification, or otherwise, on those asserting such claims. Unless there are legal or other compelling reasons to the contrary, SAA will consistently value the general good obtained through open access to information over the limited good achieved by information closure or proprietary use. SAA also is committed to actively resisting policies that undermine existing records authority, public records law, and/or privacy laws or that endanger the integrity of the historical record held in both public and private institutions.

### **SAA will prioritize the following public policy areas:**

- Raising awareness of public policy issues that affect archivists and their ability to do their work in accordance with SAA's Core Values and Code of Ethics;
- Advancing the diversity of the archival record;
- Protecting privacy and individual rights of archival subjects and users;
- Promoting the public's right to access information held or created by public and publicly funded bodies, as well as the accessibility of that information in physical or digital formats;
- Strengthening federal, state, and municipal records authority over information and data created by public and publicly funded bodies;
- Supporting impartial and non-partisan federal, state, and municipal records authorities;
- Ensuring adequate funding for government archives at the federal, state, and municipal level;
- Ensuring adequate funding for federal and state programs that support archives and archival projects, including, but not limited to, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS);
- Supporting a robust public domain, which forms the backbone of creative and research activities by ensuring access to unambiguously free cultural content;

- Advocating for copyright rules that preserve the incentives for creators to make and publish new works without unduly constraining the work archivists do in pursuit of their mission;
- Supporting small archives\* through advocacy that takes into account the specificities of their operations and resource constraints (\*annual budgets under \$100,000)
- Supporting public policy changes aimed at securing living wages, fair compensation, and workplace protections, for classes of workers that include archives employees.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

SAA [Committee on Public Policy](#)

[How to Suggest SAA Take Action on an Issue](#)

[SAA's Criteria for Advocacy Statements](#)