

**Society of American Archivists Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
August 15, 2018
Washington, DC**

**Grant Review Committee Report
(Prepared by Scott Cline)**

The 2017-2018 Committee was composed of Scott Cline (chair), Janet Ceja, Wilda Logan, Nance McGovern, and Executive Director Nancy Beaumont(*ex officio*). In 2016, the first year of the program, the Foundation received and funded one application. In 2017, the Foundation received three applications and funded two of them. For this year's cycle, the Foundation awarded eight grants.

The Foundation received 18 letters of inquiry by the December 1, 2017, deadline. The Grant Review Committee invited 12 inquirers to submit full applications. During the review process, one applicant was asked to revise and resubmit but chose not to do so.

The following institutions received a 2018 grant from the Strategic Growth Fund:

- Historical Society of Mount Pleasant, Ohio (\$1,446.10)
Preserve a collection of glass plate negatives representing the work of two local photographers, including Walter J. Hussey, whose work is represented at NMAH.
- American Academy in Rome (\$5,000)
Preserve and catalog a collection of 15,000 handwritten notes by archaeologist Esther B. Van Deman.
- Louisiana Historical Assn/Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Assn (\$4,950)
Train stakeholders in preserving Louisiana records to serve as spokespersons for the initiative.
- National Security Archive (\$1,860)
Digitize 35 audio cassettes of interviews with Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance.
- The Nomadic Archivist Project (\$2767)
Help establish, preserve, and enhance collections of three community partners in fledgling stages of development to build a community repository.
- South Asian American Digital Archive (\$5,000)

Create a SAADA Archivists' Collective among eight cities to collect and share overlooked histories of South Asian Americans.

- Florida International Univ. (\$5,000)
Explore the development and incorporation of translation and transcription functionality into the open-source digital archives, dPanther and dLOC, supporting increased access to the collections.
- Margaret Herrick Library / Academy of Motion Pictures Foundation (\$5,000)
Processing, metadata creation, and developing and applying knowledge in digital practices for two library projects: African American film history and web-archiving using Archive-IT.

Among the tasks of the Grant Review Committee is annual review of the application guidelines and the procedures for evaluating proposals. With the large response in our third year, the Committee soon became aware of deficiencies in the process. The Committee is proposing several changes to clarify and streamline the processes and to simplify the application guidelines document. Among the most prominent changes are:

- A clearer statement of what the Foundation does not fund;
- Creation of an online application to make it easier for applicants to ensure they have addressed all the required elements and to make all applications conform in appearance and order of information to make evaluation more efficient; and
- Creation of a new conflict-of-interest statement (see below).

Conflict of Interest. One of the grants submitted this year listed a Foundation Board member as a consultant to the proposed project. In reviewing the Board's conflict-of-interest statement, it became clear that, in light of this situation, the statement should be revised. The existing COI statement allowed for varying interpretations. The Grant Review Committee prepared revisions to the COI statement and the Board will vote on this revision as part of the revised application guidelines and evaluation procedures (Agenda Item II.A).