

**Society of American Archivists Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
August 10, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

**President's Report
(Prepared by Margery Sly, President)**

Thanks and Farewells

It has been a privilege to serve as president this year. I am grateful to both continuing and departing Board members for all they've done for the Foundation this year.

Special thanks to our departing members: Fynnette Eaton, serving since 2012, including as Board president; Class B members JoyEllen Williams, Angelique Richardson, and Michele Hagen; SAA Immediate Past President Meredith Evans; SAA/SAAF Treasurer Amy Fitch; and SAA Council Executive Committee member Melissa Gonzales.

And Executive Director Nancy Beaumont, whose vision for a Foundation reached fruition ten years ago and continues to grow through all our good work.

And welcome to our new members!

Updates

Since our last meeting, I appointed and convened the AWEF Review Task Force. The members are Margery Sly (Chair), Sharmila Bhatia and Courtney Chartier representing the Board, and Jessica Chapel and Carli Lowe representing the AWEF Review Committee, with staff support from Felicia Owens and Peter Carson. Our first meeting was June 10, during which we discussed issues and assigned research tasks for investigation over the summer. We will have recommendations around the future of AWEF ready for consideration at a Fall Board meeting. Development Consultants Schultz & Williams began work with a kick off meeting with the Board on May 17. Since then, Nancy Beaumont and I have reviewed their list of interviewees and questionnaire drafts. Their staff has talked with several Board members, and SAA staff sent e-mail questionnaires in early July to the Council, Foundation Board, lapsed members, prospects, and current members. They are currently analyzing the multiple survey results, preparing the development assessment, and beginning to draft recommendation, which they will review with Jackie and I later this month. The full Board will receive the recommendations shortly after that, and S&W will then schedule a Board and staff workshop to get us started on next steps.

The Grant Review Committee has been reviewing their processes and considering a list of possible changes and enhancements to the review process, some of which are on today's agenda (II.D.).

The SAA Committee on Research Data and Assessment (CORDA) and Research Forum teamed up to jointly host Research and Innovation Wednesdays in July 2021, as a prelude and leading up to the SAA Annual Meeting. I talked about Foundation grants during the program, "Research & Innovation @ SAA: An Introduction," on Wednesday, July 14, at 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm CT. On August 4, I will be hosting an Annual Meeting 'coffee chat' for members as well as participating in a Research Forum Conversation Lounge, following up on the July 14 event.

On July 23, I was pleased to represent the Foundation in person at Rachel Vagts' SAA President's address at the Denver Public Library. In addition to Rachel's thoughtful offering about 'radical welcome,' the event also celebrated Nancy Beaumont, who was made an honorary member of SAA and presented with COSA's Archival Advocacy Award, and welcomed new SAA Executive Director Jackie Price Osafo.