

**Society of American Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 14, 2024
Chicago, IL
Hybrid Meeting**

**External Representative Report to Council:
International Council on Archives
Forum of Professional Associations (FPA)
(Prepared by: Brenda Gunn, CA FSAA)**

ICA's Forum of Professional Associations has held two virtual meetings since the ICA Congress in Abu Dhabi in October 2023. I attended a meeting in ??? but was not able to attend the meeting in June 2024. I have reviewed all of the materials from the most recent meeting and have contributed to action items arising out of that meeting.

I anticipate that momentum of work and engagement will increase within FPA as it prepares for the 50th anniversary of the forum in 2026 and as ICA begins planning for the Barcelona Congress to be held in October 2025. ICA intends to have a new strategic plan to present to members at the 2025 Congress and to work on the 2025-2027 plan between September 2024 and the Congress. FPA will follow ICA's lead on strategic planning and will take on action items in line with ICA's. Currently the FPA's Steering Committee (SC) is reviewing the 2021-2024 action plan to assess accomplishments and to identify what items from the outgoing plan need to be carried forward, all the while remaining watchful of ICA's Executive Board's (EB) progress on the 2025-2027 plan.

Other governance activities involve reviewing FPA's "Terms of Reference," which act as bylaws for the group. The Terms document will be reviewed, revised, and presented to the FPA's membership present in Barcelona.

The SC hasn't meet in person since June 2022. The terms of regulation (by-laws) hold that the SC will meet in person at least once a year. SC members have expressed interest in holding an in-person meeting in Spring 2025 to prepare the for the Barcelona meeting later in the year. I am interested in hosting the meeting in Charlottesville, or reaching out to contacts in the National Archives, possible Meg Phillips, to hold it in Washington DC. I expect that flying into a location with an international airport is preferable than flying into Charlottesville, VA.

According to a report from the ICA's Programme Commission (PCOM), submitted by Meg Phillips, VP PCOM, 2021-2025, ICA has established a new provisional Section for New Professionals (which also welcomes students and therefore similar to SAA's SNAP). Proposed sections begin as provisional and transition to full status in three to four years. Additionally, ICA recently created a new working group for LGBTQ+ archives and archivists. (ICA has named this group the Working Group on Sex-Affective and Gender Diversity Archives & Archivists (SAGDAA-WG)). Other expert groups include: Advocacy; Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness; Managing Digital and Physical records; Archival Buildings and Environment; Shared Archival

Heritage; Theft Trafficking and Tampering; Archival Description (EGAD); Indigenous Matters; Research and Outreach; Photographic and Audiovisual Archives; and Climate Change.

SAA's external representative to the ICA's FPA, Brenda Gunn, was appointed in December 2022 to complete the previous representative, Becky Haglund Tousey's four-year term. Gunn's term ends December 31, 2024. Brenda would be happy to be appointed to a full four-year term.

Recommendations and activities

- Participate in revising FPA's Terms of Reference (by-laws) that address associations' return on their investment.
- Make suggestions on how association members' representatives report and interact with their own associations.
- Continue to meet with SAA's Hui, led by Council member, Lydia Tang, to address SAA external partnerships, of which ICA is one. Will review the purpose of the FPA and see if it matches what SAA understands to be receiving in return for the membership. .
- Will need to see if the SAA representative, whether it is me or someone else, will become a member of the FPA's plenary assembly and will need to be voted on to become a member of the steering committee? Or do we (SAA) have a de facto spot on the SC? The Terms of Reference lead me to believe that we do not have a spot. But past practice suggests that we do.
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Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Gunn, CA FSAA
August 3, 2024