

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
August 24, 2025  
Anaheim, California  
Hybrid**

**U.S. 250<sup>th</sup> Working Group: Update**

**(Prepared by: Bryan Whittedge (Council Liaison) and Sarah Quigley (Chair))**

- The U.S. 250<sup>th</sup> Task Force, initiated by Council in November 2024, was constituted in March 2025. In advance of the first meeting, held on April 29, Sarah Quigley and Bryan Whittedge met with SAA President Derek Mosley and SAA Staff Liaisons Astoria Edwards and Julia Pillard to discuss the charge and administration of the group. That charge, from Council, is:  
“[...] to develop programming, tools, and resources to coincide with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The task force will propose one to three events, activities, or resources that could be created by SAA on this occasion; craft a budget for the proposed ideas; identify external resources to be shared broadly by SAA; and work to develop the proposed item(s) for dissemination during 2026.”
- Since the first meeting of the group on April 29, the 250<sup>th</sup> Task Force has met monthly and discussed ways of accomplishing the charge. This includes:
  - Developing PR materials and a “get out the information” strategy for an internal audience of attendees at the SAA Annual Meeting in Anaheim.
  - Developing a logo and a tagline: “Safeguarding America’s Many Histories” (see below)
  - Developing an effort allowing broad participation of archives in an archives-centric 250<sup>th</sup> program.
  - Addressing possible pitfalls that might accompany a 250<sup>th</sup> effort in an environment of hyper-partisanship and co-opting of the national A250 group by entities intent on making the 250<sup>th</sup> a jingoistic affair.
  - Crafting a budget for all of the undertakings (internal PR and the archives-wide effort).
  - Developing a grant application for an NEH award for 250<sup>th</sup> undertakings and developing a wish list of projects that could be undertaken with the funds.
- The PR effort at the SAA Annual Meeting will include:
  - brief remarks by Sarah Quigley, 250<sup>th</sup> Task Force Chair, during a plenary session of the meeting,
  - staffing a table in the space reserved for professional organizations and such groups
  - preparing bookmarks, postcards, buttons to give out at the meeting
- The archives-wide effort, called 250 for the 250<sup>th</sup>, will solicit one document from any and all archives repositories in the US (including DC, and territories) to be displayed on a publicly available platform. The goal of the group is to have this project completed in early 2026, with an ultimate deadline of June 19, 2026 (the start of “Civic Season”).

- As of the submission of this update, members of the 250<sup>th</sup> group are working out the logistics of the call for participation, the technology of the platform, the metadata requirements of participating archives, the process for vetting submissions, and other such details.
- The NEH award possibility came to the attention of the 250<sup>th</sup> Task force in June. Quigley and Whitledge discussed this opportunity with Mosley, SAA CEO Jackie Price Osafo, and SAA Staff Liaison Astoria Edwards. After consideration, SAA Executive Council approved Quigley and Whitledge researching and drafting a grant proposal to be submitted by SAA to the NEH for the “Celebrate America!” program [link: <https://www.neh.gov/program/celebrate-america>].
- The 250<sup>th</sup> Task Force invites members of SAA Leadership, including members of the Executive Committee, Council, and SAA Headquarters, to visit the U.S. 250<sup>th</sup> booth during the Annual Meeting to pick up some swag and ask questions of US. 250<sup>th</sup> Task Force members.

Logo:



Postcard:

