



Native American Archives Section Monthly Meeting

[April 16, 2026, 11:00 AM EST](#)

Welcome to the celebration of 20 years of NAAS!

Introductions

- Kelley - Chair
- Candy - Vice Chair
- Vina - Past Chair
- Jack - Secretary
- Jerrid - Steering Committee
- Eric - Steering Committee
- Janine - Steering Committee
- Mattie - Steering Committee
- Ugoma - Steering Committee
- Sage - Steering Committee
- Jillian - SAA Council Liaison

Attendance: Kelley Hummingbird, Jack Schmitt, Mattie Lewis, Janine Smith, Jerrid Lee Miller, Brenda Gunn, Jonathan Pringle, Tsinni Russell, Sarah Buchanan, Maxwell Field, Ben King, Madeline Frieser, Candy Navarette, Sage Innerarity, Jillian Cuellar, Felicia Bartley, Ugoma Smoke, K. René Price, Alejandra Gaeta, Eric Hung

[NAAS Soundtrack](#) - Ugoma

ELECTION SEASON

- General NAAS election updates - Janine
 - Dates, how to nominate yourself
 - The nomination form will be open through 4/24. If you would like to keep on, you can renominate yourself. You do need to be a member of SAA. Voting will open on June 1.

- Ugoma: Focus on access, visibility, stronger representation within leadership. Gained experience during a past role in identifying and inviting new members to join an advisory board. This can be a challenging process, to balance the voices that need to be in a particular conversation, recognize meaningful work, and affirm that they belong in a space. Leadership is not only about positions, but about intentionally building relationships and community to guide the future of a profession.
 - [Ugoma A. Smoke, Candidate for Nominating Committee | Society of American Archivists](#)
- Sage: Early experiences offered a grounding impression of archives having the capacity to build relationships and share knowledge and information, when historically they've not always served marginalized communities in this way. Focus on being invited in, mentorship, investment in the professional development and well-being of community members - particularly in NAAS. Their current role with Peabody Essex Museum working with Native American fellows revolves around connecting them to the pathways and opportunities that best excite and serve them, and a role on the Nominating Committee offers the chance to bring those same skills to SAA and give back to this community as well.
 - [Sage Innerarity, Candidate for Nominating Committee | Society of American Archivists](#)
- Council - Jillian, Sarah
 - Highly encourage that interested individuals self-nominate. After several years as a general member, they found a strong community in SAA that encouraged me as a leader and to take space in leadership roles. Served as a Steering Committee Member in sections and on the Mosaic Advisory Group, and sought out a role in Council to bring those experiences to a larger institutional position. All these areas of expertise, from all members of the Council, are critical for the organization to continue to thrive. It is a lot of work, a large time commitment, but a great learning opportunity that broadens one's perspective on archives.

Sarah is on the ballot for SAA Council:

- Sarah Buchanan: Put a lot of thought into their decision, following service in a number of different component groups. There's so much to be engaged with in the world, and within SAA more broadly. A lifelong learner, a longtime SAA member.
 - [Sarah Buchanan, Candidate for Council | Society of American Archivists](#)

- VP/Pres - Brenda
 - On the Nominating Committee: the most powerful group in SAA, building a slate, with the ability to change the future of the organization. With the example of the Principles, after multiple attempts to bring it to the Council, it was finally endorsed in 2018 – largely due to who was on the Council at the time.
 - Similar trajectory to Jillian, the Awards Committee is another fun space to serve in, as well as the Preservation section, and after years on Council, was called on to serve in this position. Access, being at the table, vitally important, but listening and collaboration is just as important. Advocacy is important now more than ever, which drove them from service in component groups to leadership. We have a lot of work to do, but looking to emphasize that in the coming year and strengthen our collective voices. Committed to creating pathways for folks across generations, mentoring is super important (check out Ricky Punzalan’s recent podcast episode).
 - <https://metacast.app/podcast/libvoices/XXs2twxf/episode-27-ricky-punzalan-on-colonization-repatriation-and-access/2p1voD5O>
 - Congrats and thank you to Kelley for her work on the Nominating Committee.
- Election encouragement
- Q&A

Subcommittee Updates - current activities, calls for collaboration

- Case Studies: Diana, and Sage
 - Meeting later, more to come soon.
- Communications: Jack and Ugoma
 - The [March meeting minutes](#) are available on the NAAS Microsite.
- IAT: Candy, Jerrid, and Kelley
- Elections: Janine, Vina, and Melissa
 - (discussed above)
- Scholarship: Candy and Jerrid
 - The [scholarship application](#) is open through April 17!
 - Renaming the NAAS scholarship for 2027, and for fundraising: The Society of American Archivists Ganawendan Award is named for the Ojibwe word *ganawendan*, meaning “to take care of, to protect, to keep.” This name reflects the fundamental responsibility of archivists to care for, safeguard, and steward cultural heritage for present and future generations.
[pending]
- Monthly Interviews: Jack, Ugoma, Kelley
 - Recordings [here](#).

Other SAA News:

- The NAAS/Solo Archivists joint session was accepted! If you are attending SAA and would like to be involved in planning and presenting, let Kelley know. We are **Session 604: From Principles to Practice: Indigenous Repatriation in Constrained Archives; August 1, 10:45-12:00 CST**
 - Education session; open to being hybrid
 - If you're going to SAA and want to get involved in planning, please reach out to Kelley. We'll be getting started on that soon.
 - Meetings will be held every other Thursday, starting on April 23, at 2:00 PM EST. [Please use this link](#) if you would like to be involved.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2-3:30 PM EST - Annual component meeting - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Shareable links:

- [NAAS Discord](#)
- [NAAS YouTube Playlist](#)
- [20 Years of NAAS Playlist](#)
- [PINAR](#)