

Society of American Archivists Council Meeting Chicago, IL

America 250 Task Force: Annual Report (Prepared by: Sarah Quigley, Task Force Chair)

Year: 2024- 2025

Current Rosters (Include full name, position title, and term end date for each):

- Sarah Quigley, Chair, September 1, 2026
- Joshua Cochran, Member, September 1, 2026
- Ridgeway Boyd Murphree, Member, September 1, 2026
- Eric Romero, Member, September 1, 2026
- Emma Rooney, Member, September 1, 2026
- Dawn Sueoka, Member, September 1, 2026
- Bradley Wiles, Member, September 1, 2026
- Anthony Wright de Hernandez, Member September 1, 2026

Council Liaison:

- Bryan Whittedge, Council Liaison
- Astoria Edwards, SAA Staff Liaison
- Julia Pillard, SAA Staff Liaison,

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

(Please indicate all projects and activities that your component group has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the following fiscal year.)

Completed:

- Established monthly meeting schedule
- Composed slogan, "Safeguarding America's Many Histories"
- Identified "250 for the 250th" as our major project, an effort to solicit one item from at least 250 repositories across the country that represents their area's impact on American history and build an online resource putting the items in conversation with one another
- Developed outreach plan and marketing materials for SAA 2025
- Chair Sarah Quigley announced the task force's plans during the opening plenary of SAA 2025
- Quigley, Whittedge, Romero and Rooney staffed a table during SAA 2025 to promote the task force and project

Ongoing:

- Composing solicitation message for contributions to "250 for the 250th"
- Creating metadata requirements for submission of items
- Reviewing potential platforms

- Writing NEH grant application in support of programming in conjunction with SAA 2026
- Identifying potential partnerships in support of commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

New:

- Soliciting content for “250 for the 250th”
- Building resource
- Promoting resource
- Planning for SAA 2026

SAA STRATEGIC PLAN

(Please review the current [Strategic Plan](#) and indicate below how the component group has or plans to contribute to one or more of the four main goals.)

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

The goal of the America 250 Task Force is to leverage the country’s 250th anniversary as an advocacy tool by centering archives and archivists in the commemoration (1.1). As truthful accountings of American history are increasingly removed from public parks and museums, it has never been more critical for archivists to articulate the value of primary source evidence and the critical roles played by the individuals and institutions who preserve and steward records. Our project “250 for the 250th” will reinforce the multiplicity of historical narratives that make up the American story, while promoting the diversity and accessibility of the historical record (1.3). It can be used by educators in the classroom, by archivists in promoting their local history and collections (1.4), and to educate and influence legislators regarding policy decisions relevant to archives (1.2).

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

Goal 3: Advancing the Field

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

SAA ANNUAL MEETING

The task force meets monthly but did not have a specific meeting in conjunction with SAA 2025.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

How would you describe the health or energy of the group, and how engaged are the members?

The energy of the group is high. Our members are passionate about American history, archives, and advocacy, and dedicated to the work of the group. Most members are actively volunteering

for projects and subcommittees and there will be additional volunteer opportunities as our work moves forward.

Did the component group's leadership encounter any challenges in achieving its goals for the year?

No. SAA leadership and staff have been incredibly supportive, ensuring that we have the resources we need to meet regularly and promote our project. SAA members were very enthusiastic during the annual conference and the task force is hopeful that such support will continue as our project comes to fruition.

What suggestions do you have for the SAA Council and staff that might help address these challenges in the coming term?

N/A

What questions or concerns do you have for the SAA Council and staff?

N/A