

# **Society of American Archivists Council Meeting Chicago, IL**

## **Archives and Archivists of Color Section: Annual Report**

**(Prepared by: Tamera Coleman, Co-chair; Lauren Cooper, Newsletter Editor;  
incoming Co-chair; Arthur Carlson, Steering Committee Member)**

**Year: 2024-2025**

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

Tamera Coleman (Co-Chair) (8/15/2024 - 9/1/2026 term end date)

Lauren Cooper (Newsletter editor; incoming Co-chair) (8/15/2024 - 9/1/2026 term end date)

Arthur Carlson (Steering Committee) (8/15/2024 - 9/1/2026 term end date)

### **Council Liaison:**

Jillian Cuellar ([jcuellar1@tulane.edu](mailto:jcuellar1@tulane.edu))

## **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:**

The steering committee oversaw the requested overhaul of the section directory, however, it is currently offline as a stopgap measure and responding to individual members who are concerned over their inclusion in the list owing to social or personal safety concerns. This is an issue we will need to address more fully. The section newsletter has been revitalized and is disseminated each quarter with a letter from the co-chair, reports of submitted activities, and listings for continued professional development and support.

### **Ongoing:**

We continue to seek information on how prior Steering Committees supported the needs of our section members. At the annual meeting, we made a direct appeal to those in attendance to submit names for steering committee consideration or ideas for engagement and support, but due to capacity issues, we could not undergo a full-fledged recruitment drive as would be expected. We plan to actively recruit for the next leadership election cycle with elections in the Summer of 2026.

### **New:**

Owing to our small committee size, we are focused on maintaining current activities and communication as we prepare to recruit a full committee following the upcoming election cycle.

## 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**

### **Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth**

### **Goal 3: Advancing the Field**

### **Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs**

We immediately addressed issues of doxing concerns that were brought to light by taking the AAC directory offline, removing prior members' role on the Steering Committee, and noting a suspicious spam user account. By having a consistent newsletter, we were able to keep an appearance while we figured out the internal logistics.

## SAA ANNUAL MEETING

**Number of attendees:** 30

**Link to meeting minutes:** [https://www.pathlms.com/saa/events/11920/event\\_sections/17503](https://www.pathlms.com/saa/events/11920/event_sections/17503)  
Summary of meeting activities and highlights:

The annual meeting was held online on July 14, 2025. The first 30 minutes included an update from the steering committee on section activities from the past year, including a recap of activities. We also solicited ideas for future programming and encouraged attendees to identify and nominate potential candidates for future steering committee participation. The remainder of the program focused on the Black Visual Arts Archives Initiative grant recipients. The feature presentation was given by Miguel de Baca of the Getty Museum, Jennifer Morris with The Anacostia Museum, Dominique Luster of The Luster Company and Raquel Flores-Clemons with Chicago Public Library.

## SELF-ASSESSMENT

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

During the fall 2024 to winter 2025 transition, the AAC Subcommittee saw the departure of three members, the Senior Co-Chair and 2 Steering Committee members (one who resigned before our first steering committee meeting)—reducing the group to three. Many cited a lack of time and capacity and health issues, while one member disappeared completely. Many months were spent trying to keep cohesion and momentum which was difficult with a very novice committee membership. Despite demanding full-time professional commitments where AAC

committee duties are outside of duties, and a challenging period for the archives field, we sustained core activities, including publishing the quarterly newsletter and holding a successful annual meeting. Recruitment efforts, however, have not yet produced candidates for the two vacant seats, and overall capacity has been strained.

Without the orientation and mentorship from previous committee members, we struggled to find our footing. Our liaison did reach out several times, but we found ourselves lost in knowing what to ask and who should ask—we were caught in the gap between guidelines and disorientation of who was responsible for what while the three of us tried to fill in roles in a de facto fashion.

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

The AAC Senior Co-Chair resigned in February 2025, after several weeks of silence and non-response to multiple members' efforts. This left a newly constituted team with limited transition guidance or mentorship. In response, we deprioritized programming and focused on core deliverables: producing the quarterly newsletter and coordinating the Annual Meeting.

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

Implement a formal notification and communication process when a steering committee member, in particular a Co-chair, has the need to step down. A formal notification process (2 weeks, 30 days, etc) official notice may help to prepare committees to pivot, rebalance responsibilities and priorities, thereby maintaining morale and successful outcomes throughout the remaining term or until the vacancy is filled.

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