

**Society of American Archivists Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 2-3, 2023  
Chicago, IL (Hybrid)**

**Seeking External Funding**

**(Prepared by: Lisa Mangiafico, SAA Foundation President)**

The SAA Foundation strategic plan includes several mentions of seeking outside or external funding—either from grants or sponsorships:

Goal 1: Build resilient archival communities within and beyond SAA

- Foster collaborative relationships and leverage resources to be nimble to our ever-changing environment.
  - Open dialogue with preeminent grant makers to seek out collaborative projects.

Goal 3: Enhance support infrastructure for the SAA Foundation.

- Build infrastructure to develop and expand fundraising/giving opportunities.
  - Develop a corporate giving program.

Over the past two conferences, SAA Foundation has made contact with representatives from the National Endowment for the Humanities. At the Boston conference, Bob Clark and Sean Ferguson initiated a conversation held after the conference. In Washington, Beth Joffrion coordinated a meeting with Cathleen Tefft, a program officer with NEH's Division of Preservation and Access.

In order to begin any kind of external funding initiatives, the SAA Foundation will need to start having conversations about seeking that kind of funding and what policies we need to put into place to guide the Foundation's efforts in this area.

**DISCUSSION**

1. What kinds of outside funding the Foundation is willing to consider?
  - a. Public—most likely federal grant makers
  - b. Private foundations-grants
  - c. Corporate sponsorships
2. Does SAA/SAA Foundation have the infrastructure/staff support to manage the application and reporting requirements required for seeking external funding?
  - a. If not, what is needed?
  - b. What implications does this have on the current year or upcoming 2024/2025 budget?
3. What SAA Foundation initiatives would be appropriate for outside funding?
4. What kinds of limitations, if any, should an external funder have on naming an initiative or being connected to an initiative they are funding?

5. What areas of collaboration with SAA and its component groups already exist if SAA Foundation must serve as the 501(c)(3) gateway for grant funding to SAA or any of its groups or if SAA Foundation seeks funding for their own initiatives. In other words, how do we not compete with ourselves for funding.
  - a. SAA Component groups and sections seeking outside funding opportunities must first seek approval from the SAA Executive Committee via the [saagovernance@archivists.org](mailto:saagovernance@archivists.org).