

Society of American Archivists

Preservation Section Steering Committee: Annual Report

Prepared by: Kat Trammell, Preservation Section Steering Committee Chair

Year: 2024- 2025

2024-2025 Roster:

Chair: Kat Trammell

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Heather Hamilton (resigned July 2025)

Immediate Past-Chair: Nicole Potter

Member-at-Large & NDRFA Subcommittee Chair: Daria Labinsky

Member-at-Large & Education Subcommittee Chair: Jesse Keel

Programming Chair (appointed): Peter Botticelli

Communications Chair (appointed): Kelley Moulton

Council Liaison: Alison Clemens

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:

-Seven Coffee Chats:

- September 26th, 2024, Succession Planning, 52 attendees
- October 31st, 2024, Preservation Horror Stories, 56 attendees
- January 30th, 2025, Preservation Resolutions for the New Year, 12 attendees
- February 27th, 2025, Community Archiving, 25 attendees
- March 28th, 2025, All About the 250th, 23 attendees
- May 1st, 2025, Disaster Response, 17 attendees
- June 12, 2025, Partnership with Conserv and HAI, 38 attendees

-Held the 2025 Preservation Section Annual Meeting on July 23rd. The Programming portion featured a panel discussion on the topic of "Preservation Outreach Strategies: Communicating the Urgency and Value of Preserving Cultural Heritage."

-Hosted our Second Annual Preservation Section In-Person Meetup at the SAA Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. Over 40 people attended.

Ongoing:

-The 2025 National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives (NDRFA) Silent Auction, held at the SAA Annual Meeting raised over \$5000. (The exact number will not be available until later in October.)

-Maintained and regularly posted to the SAA Preservation Section social media outlets.

New:

-Our first Coffee Chat of the new fiscal year will be held on October 30th and will reprise last year's wildly successful, Halloween-themed "Preservation Horror Stories."

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 [\[CJ1\]](#) [\[CJ2\]](#) main goals.)

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

The annual National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives Silent Auction fundraiser not only raises a significant amount of money each year, it also brings attention to a worthy cause and helps support this vital program. All of the funds raised by NDRFA go directly towards providing relief to archives impacted by disasters. The Preservation Section also advocates for archives and archivists through our educational outreach, programming, and communications.

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

The Preservation Section offers many opportunities for the professional growth of its members such as volunteering with the Section and Steering Committee subcommittees, attending and participating in our Coffee Chats, and utilizing the Section's listserv to engage with colleagues on a variety of subjects.

Goal 3: Advancing the Field

The Steering Committee focuses on selecting timely and important topics to include in our programming and communications. In particular, our Coffee Chat series and Annual Section Meetings are both excellent platforms to share information about the latest developments and current issues in the field.

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

The Steering Committee is in constant contact with Preservation Section members via our social media channels and the Section's SAA listserv. We offer volunteer opportunities for members interested in getting more involved with the Section and make every effort possible to accommodate individual interests and levels of time commitment. We also solicit feedback from our members and volunteers to inform our programs and activities. The in-person meeting we host at the SAA Annual Meeting offers a unique opportunity for our members (and anyone else interested in preservation) to network, make new friends in the field, and have fun.

PRESERVATION SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

Number of attendees: approximately 60 virtual attendees

Link to meeting minutes: [Pres Section Minutes FY2025](#)

Summary of meeting activities and highlights: During the business portion of our annual meeting we updated our members on the activities and accomplishments of the Preservation Section Steering Committee and its subcommittees over the course of the 2024-2025 year. The programming portion of the meeting featured a panel discussion on “Preservation Outreach Strategies: Communicating the Urgency and Value of Preserving Cultural Heritage.” The panelists explained how archivists can be effective in communicating the value of preservation to diverse audiences, including institutional stakeholders as well as the general public. The discussion also included ideas on how to educate the public on the risks to cultural heritage and how those risks may be mitigated and losses prevented through timely investments in preservation programs and services.

Panelists:

-Michele Cloonan, Professor and Dean Emerita, Simmons University School of Library and Information Science

-Barbara Lilley, Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY)

-Ann Marie Willer, Director of Preservation Services, Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)

SELF-ASSESSMENT

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

The Preservation Section is one of the largest and most active SAA sections. The Preservation Section Steering Committee meets monthly via Zoom and we have several subcommittees that are active throughout the year. Our members regularly post to the section listserv, engage with our social media content, and attend online sessions such as our Coffee Chats and our Annual Section Meeting. The in-person meetings at the SAA Annual Meeting that we have hosted the past two years are very popular and well-attended. Overall, we are a healthy and highly engaged section.

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

No, we did not encounter any challenges this year that prevented us from achieving our goals.

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

We have no suggestions for SAA Council or staff at this time.

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

None at this time.

[CJ1] Suggest changing to "contributed to one or more of the four main goals," clarifying that component groups don't have to contribute to all four goals necessarily.

[CJ2] Maybe also change to "how the component group has contributed or plans to contribute to" to account for activities that have not been started yet.