

2020 Annual Report

a year in review



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION *for* STATE *and* LOCAL HISTORY

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Other than AASLH's earliest days when World War II erupted, or in the chaos that was 1968, I doubt there has been a span between one Annual Meeting and the next that was as jarring as 2020. It was a year of shock and historical reckoning. We saw months of pandemic, of economic erosion, of protests over racism and of symbols of racism, months of raging fires and hurricanes, as well as long-running attacks on science, evidence-based inquiry, and threats to the open and critical examination of history.

In this turmoil, people and institutions looked to the past to understand why things are the way they are, to find examples of resilience, and to formulate answers to today's problems. Some of these issues were decidedly historical in nature, such as how to deal with Confederate monuments or address racism. Others, such as how to respond to COVID or to climate change, demanded scientific answers but also spurred people to consider the past, such as the history of the 1918 flu and the history of communities adapting to natural disasters. While 2020 was enormously frustrating, I found it a privilege to watch colleagues in historical organizations all over the world respond to these crises and questions, provide answers, adapt their practices, and move forward.

AASLH navigated this crisis year, too. In this Annual Report are examples of how much our Council, committees, members, and staff accomplished. We held our first-ever Online Annual Meeting and served 2,400 people, keeping it to those who needed it. We offered low-cost "AASLH Conversations" webinars about the pandemic and other current issues. Our History Leadership Institute piloted a three-month online course. We launched free virtual small group discussions with our affinity communities. We piloted a successful competitive process for the publications award. We concluded the STEPS enhancement project. And we advanced major research projects: an NEH-funded census of historical organizations, the Mellon-funded FrameWorks project on attitudes toward history, and our National Visitation Report.

Over the next five years AASLH will be using the buildup to the U.S. 250th Anniversary to emphasize the inclusive and relevant work that history organizations are doing. Alongside our partners, we will assert that public history and history education are vital to all communities and to the national fabric. I hope you will join me in making the next few years a renaissance for history, a time of revived public interest in how history shapes local communities, the nation, and the world. Thank you for your support!



John R. Dichtl
President & CEO, AASLH

Alongside our partners, we will assert that public history and history education are vital to all communities and to the national fabric.

COUNCIL OFFICERS

AS OF DECEMBER 2020



Norman Burns, II*
Chair
2020-2022
Conner Prairie Museum



Burt Logan*
Vice-Chair
2020-2022
Ohio History Connection



John Fleming*
Immediate Past Chair
2020-2022
National Museum of
African American Music



Dina Bailey*
Secretary
2020-2022
Mountain Top Vision, LLC



Rebekah Beaulieu*
Treasurer
2020-2022
Florence Griswold Museum

*AASLH Executive Committee

From the Council Chair

In a year like none other, which we will always remember but many would soon like to forget ... I'm reminded that history matters because it connects people to each other and to something larger than themselves. During 2020 we have faced health, social, and economic crises that will forever change the face of museums, the way we do business, and the communities we serve.

We all began to realize that after first "surviving" the initial COVID crisis that we could still "provide" programs and services by pivoting to new delivery methods. Like entrepreneurial businesses, museums began to learn that "a crisis is a terrible thing to waste" because it is during times of extremity that opportunities always emerge, and it is where creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship are inspired.

I believe that museums and other history organizations are uniquely positioned as incubators of creativity to emerge stronger, and more innovative and relevant than ever before. I have seen this at my own institution and so many others in the many ways that we have all pivoted to provide virtual content for online exhibits and programs that can be accessible to everyone.

A wonderful example of how our field can pivot and adapt is the 2020 AASLH Annual Meeting that was held entirely online for the first time. As Chair of AASLH, I want to personally thank everyone that participated in this virtual conference experiment, for your support, and for how your feedback is helping us further evolve and make the conference even better in 2021.

The sentiment of one conference participant really captures the spirit of why we pivoted to serve our members needs differently in a year of crisis. "I think AASLH's leadership in adapting a digital model was marvelous. This gave us the opportunity to connect with people who would normally be able to attend an in-person conference and the ability to overcome the limitations imposed by COVID-19." Yet another participant went as far to say that "of all the meetings I have attended over the last 40 some years, I have to say that this was the best of all of them."

While this statement sets the bar high for AASLH in 2021 and beyond, I know that my colleagues on Council, the AASLH staff, and our many volunteers that serve our committees are up to the task.

Norman O. Burns, II
Chair, AASLH Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS

AS OF DECEMBER 2020



Lisa Anderson
Class of 2022
Woodbury Art Museum



Michelle Banks
Class of 2024
African American
Firefighter Museum



Melissa Bingmann
Class of 2021
West Virginia University



Christy Coleman
Class of 2022
Jamestown-Yorktown
Foundation



Sarah Zenaida Gould
Class of 2024
Museo del Westside



Jeff Harris
Class of 2024
Magoffin Home State
Historic Site



Trevor Jones
Class of 2023
History Nebraska



Richard Josey
Class of 2021
Collective Journeys, LLC



Jennifer Kilmer*
Class of 2023
Washington State
Historical Society



Stacy Klingler*
Class of 2021
Butterworth Center &
Deere-Wiman House



Jeff Matsuoka
Class of 2022
Indiana Historical Society



Steve Murray
Class of 2021
Alabama Department of
Archives and History



Jennifer Ortiz
Class of 2023
Utah Division of
Arts & Museums



Alexandra Rasic
Class of 2022
Workman and Temple
Family Homestead Museum



Gina Vergara-Bautista
Class of 2024
Hawaii State Archives

*AASLH Executive Committee

AASLH Staff

John Dichtl
President & CEO

Bethany Hawkins
Chief of Operations

John Garrison Marks
Director, Public History Research Lab
Senior Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Ashley Bouknight-Claybrooks
Senior Manager of Professional Development

Albert Samuels
Senior Manager, Marketing & Membership

Aja Bain
Program & Publications Manager

Alex Collins
Professional Development Manager

Aubrey Menich
Membership & Office Coordinator

Rey Regenstreif-Harms
Membership & Development Manager

COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, AND AFFINITY COMMUNITIES

2020 Annual Meeting Host Committee

Nathan Harper, Co-Chair
Melissa Kaiser, Co-Chair

2020 Annual Meeting Program Committee

Omar Eaton-Martínez, Chair
Michelle Banks
Dawn Barraclough
Jackie Barton
Mayela Caro
Brian J. Carter
Vedet Coleman-Robinson
Jacqui Ainlay-Conley
Su Kim Chung
Eola Dance
Erendina Delgadillo
Enimini Ekong
Veronica Gallardo
Sarah Gould
Nathan Harper
Richard Josey
Jina Lee
Stacey Mann
Aaron Micallef
Michelle Moon
Steven Moreno-Terrill
Patrick Naranjo
Kristine Navarro-McElhaneý
Bill Peterson
Jackie Peterson
Jeff Sellers
Nathaniel Thomas
Marie Toner
Noelle Trent
Ken Turino
Jason Turner
Jessica VanLanduyt

Audit Committee

David Simmons, Chair
John Dichtl, ex officio
Cathy Fields
Mind Love

Business History Affinity Committee

Patrick Wittwer, Chair
Sarah Lund-Goldstein
Nick Graves
Bailey Mazik
Cindy Olsen
Madison Sevilla

Climate and Sustainability Committee

Andre Taylor, Chair
Lisa Anderson
Austin Bell
Andrew Bradford
Marian Carpenter
Jerry Foust
Vicky L. Kruckeberg
Debra Reid
Sarah Sutton
Douglas Worts

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Richard Josey, Chair
Ashley Bouknight-Claybrooks
Marian Carpenter
Omar Eaton-Martínez
Enimini Ekong
Veronica Gallardo
Stacy Klingler
Kimberly Springle
Tobi Voigt

Editorial Advisory Board

Rebecca Shrum, Chair
Anne W. Ackerson
Bill Bomar
Jonathan Cain
Jessica Dorman
Harry Klinkhamer
Laura Koloski
Anne Lindsay
Laura A. Macaluso
Ann E. McCleary
Maria Montalvo
Porchia Moore
Debra Reid
Laura Roberts
Kelby Rose
Kimberly Springle
William S. Walker

Educators and Interpreters Affinity Committee

Sarah Jencks, Chair
Megan Wood, Past Chair
Melanie Bowyer
Heather Bruegl
Amy Durbin
Jenn Edginton
Mark Howell
Sally Meyer
Nicole Moore
Ani Simmons
Tamar Smithers
Jessica Waszak
Matthew White

Emerging History Professionals Affinity Committee

Casey Wooster, Chair
Lindsay Davis
Brian Failing
Zachary Hottel
Julia Kennedy
Kyle Mathers
Iliana Morton
Catherine Nuzum
Lauren O'Brien
Cayla Wagner

Field Services Alliance Affinity Committee

Amanda Higgins, Chair
Allison Campbell
Laura Casey
Samantha Forsko
Tamara Hemmerlein
Emily Huebner
Anastasia Matijkiw
Jennifer Ortiz
Chieko Phillips
Megan van Frank

Finance Committee

Rebekah Beaulieu, Chair
Melissa Bingmann
Norman Burns
Christy Coleman
David Jannsen
John Dichtl, ex officio
Michelle Lanier
Steve Murray
Scott Wands

Governance Committee

Stacy Klingler, Chair
Lisa Anderson
Dina Bailey
John Dichtl, ex officio
John Fleming
Burt Logan
Jeff Matsuoka
Jennifer Ortiz
Alex Rasic
Gina Vergara-Bautista

Historic House Museum Affinity Committee

Jessica VanLanduyt, Chair
Kelsey Brow
Carey R. Champion
Rena Lawrence
John Sherrer
Brooke Steinhauer
Joshua Torrence
Gennie Truelock
Ahmad Ward
Jessica Welch
Jamie Melissa Wilms
Lisa E. Worley

History in Our Parks Task Force

Shawn Halifax, Chair
Joanna Brace
Monica Drake
Jen Marsh
Omar Eaton-Martínez
Antone Pierucci
Michelle Podkowa
Kelby Rose
Amanda Vance
Laura Willoughby

History Leadership Institute Advisory Board

Jody Blankenship
Norman Burns
Bill Convery
John Dichtl
Trevor Jones
Frances Levine
Milward Simpson

The Inclusive Historian's Handbook Editors and Advisory Committee

Modupe Labode, Co-Editor
Robert Weible, Co-Editor
Will Walker, Co-Editor
Sheila Brennan
Aleia Brown
Bill Bryans
Priya Chhaya
Allison Marsh
Denise Meringolo
Ashley Rogers
Julia Rose
Kimberly Springle
Gretchen Sullivan Sorin
Jessie Swigger
Chris Taylor
Amy Wilson

COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, AND AFFINITY COMMUNITIES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Investment Committee

Ann Toplovich, Chair
Rebekah Beaulieu
Pam Garcia
Jennifer Kilmer
Stacy Klingler
Dennis A. O'Toole
Keith Spelmon

Law and Civics Affinity Committee

Rachael Drenovsky, Chair
Doria Lynch
Marilyn Marcus
Elizabeth Osborn
Carrie Sampson
Kerry Sautner
Kathy Shurtleff

Leadership Nominating Committee

Tramia Jackson, Chair
Kwasi Hope Agyeman
Gailyn Lehuanani Bopp
Norman Burns, ex officio
Kevin Cabrera
John Dichtl, ex officio
John Fleming, ex officio
Gretchen Sullivan Sorin
Sue Taylor
Cristin Waterbury
Helen Wong Smith

Military History Affinity Committee

Marc Blackburn, Chair
Gordon Blaker
Francois Bonnell
Lisa Budreau
Claire Samuelson
Adam Scher
Richard White*

National Awards Committee

Christy Crisp, Chair
Andrew Alberston
Jody Crago
Hattie Felton
Susan Fletcher
Daniel Gonzales
Lenora Henson
Liz Hobson
Karen Holmes
Joe Hoover
Tori Mason
JaMarcus Underwood
Megan van Frank
Melinda Meyer
Brooke Steinhauser

National History Day Advisory Board Representative

Rebecca Martin

NHPRC Representative

W. Eric Emerson

Nomenclature

Jennifer Toelle, Chair
Kathleen Byrne
Rosemary Campbell
Grant Czubinski
Heather Dunn
John Hart
Marquita Reed
Jean-Luc Vincent

Religious History Affinity Committee

Susan Fletcher, Chair
Petra Alsoofy
Gary Boatright, Jr.
Lynne Calamia
Barbara Franco
Concetta Gibson
Taffey Hall
Jill Kilheffer Hess
Melody Smith
Karen Graham Wade
Ivy Weingram
Eric Lewis Williams

Small Museums Affinity Committee

Jacqui Ainlay-Conley, Chair
Ann Bennett
Sean Blinn
Alison Bruesehoff
Laura Casey
Brian Failing
Jeff Harris
Shelby Henderson
Nate Meyers
Aimee Newell
Liz Stewart
Bruce Teeple
Kisha Wilson-Sogunro

Standards and Ethics Committee

Erin Richardson, Chair
Michelle Banks
Chris Goodlett
Jennifer Huebscher
Trevor Jones
Heather Kuruvilla
Maggie Marconi
Aimee Newell
Alex Rasic

STEPS Enhancement

Nina Zannieri, Chair
Justina Barrett
Rebekah Beaulieu
Kelsey Brow
Trenda Byrd
Joe Cialdella
Jennifer Coggins
Sara Elliott
Ellen Endslo
Sara Fisher
Jerry Foust
Sarah Zenaida Gould
Greg Griffith
Leigh Grinstead
Nicholas Hoffman
Emily Jacobs
Ashley Jordan
Vicky L. Kruckeberg
Kaia Landon
Maressa McFarlane
Aimee Newell
Linda Norris
Sara Phalen
Melissa Prycer
Danyelle Rickard
Ashley Rogers
Kelby Rose
Adam Scher
Jamie Simek
Michelle Sunset
Sarah Sutton
Brenda Thacker
Andy Verhoff
Scott Wands
Lori Woods
Elizabeth Wylie
Donald Zuris

U.S. 250th Anniversary Coordinating Committee

Sara Cureton, Chair
Jody Blankenship
Jim Campi
Kevin Cherry
Vedet Coleman-Robinson
Sylvia Cyrus
Laura Dominguez
W. Eric Emerson
Beth English
Susan Feller
Cathy Gorn
Kevin Gover
Linnea Grim
Jim Grossman
Anthea Hartig
Richard M. Josey
Stephen Kidd
Jennifer Kilmer
Gavin Kleespies
Turkiya Lowe
Maud Lyon
Brian Martin
Jeani O'Brien
Larry Paska
Estevan Rael-Gálvez
Phoebe Stein
Barry Szczesny
Lee White
Karin Wulf

Women's History Affinity Committee

Megan Byrnes, Co-Chair
Jennifer Krafchik, Co-Chair
Felicia Bell
Ashley Bouknight-Claybrooks
Page Harrington
Kelsey Millay
Lori Osborne
Kathleen Pate
Kenvi Phillips
Rebecca Price
Kimberly Robinson
Julie Rose
Madeleine Rosenberg
Rebecca Shrum
Noelle Trent

Many thanks to all of our volunteer committee members for their service in 2020.

2020 AASLH ANNUAL MEETING



Online Conference
September 24–30

What Kind of Ancestor Will You Be?

When COVID came, the idea of an onsite 2020 AASLH conference had to go away. AASLH postponed its planned gathering in Las Vegas and set about creating a virtual meeting. Staff and the Program Committee moved quickly in the spring to make this possible.

We knew the meeting could be more affordable by being online, having far fewer expenses to cover. So, we committed to having a low registration fee (\$55 for members) with even a free option for limited access. Historical societies, history museums, and historic sites across the country were struggling financially, and many of our colleagues were furloughed or laid off. In this time of economic and social crisis, AASLH staff and Council decided we could best assist our members and the history field by offering the strong content, personal connection, and professional development of a national conference, online, at a rate that served the majority of the field.

The result was the highest number of registrations in the history of the AASLH Annual Meeting, 2,400. An average AASLH Annual Meeting in the past has attracted 1,000 participants. We reached history practitioners, and even curious onlookers, who had never before come to an AASLH conference and AASLH members, brand new and longtime, who had not yet been to one of our onsite meetings, or who haven't been in a long while. Fifty-six percent of the 2020 conference attendees were

participating in their first AASLH conference, which is 10% more than the average of first-time attendees at our in-person meetings.

Staff and the Program Committee realized we could not and probably should not try to replicate the condensed intensity of an onsite, in-person conference; better to spread the meeting out and, through technology, allow people to build their own conference experience. We extended a four-day experience into live, keynote, and pre-recorded sessions and events across seven days, September 24–30. Registrants had the ability to catch some events live, watch others on their own schedule, and craft a conference to suit their own pace.

The virtual conference also offered a flexibility that is impossible with an onsite meeting. Omar Eaton-Martínez, 2020 Program Chair, and his advisory committee created a program that dealt with the realities facing the history field in the fall of 2020. General session speakers focused on topics such as #MeToo, Black Lives Matter, the impact of the pandemic, and the future of history organizations. These general sessions were offered free to all in order to include as many people as possible in the conversation.

The result of this work was a powerful conference that spoke to the moment and challenged attendees to answer the question of the conference theme, *What Kind of Ancestor Will You Be?*

If you missed the conference, you can still access sessions in the AASLH Resource Center at <https://learn.aaslh.org>.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND INCLUSION

In spring 2020, the AASLH staff began a series of internal discussions about systemic racism and how to make improvements in the office and organization to reduce bias and inequity. A specific process had been urged by the AASLH Diversity & Inclusion Committee, which recommended the staff use the MASS Action (Museum As Sites for Social Action) "Readiness Assessment," designed for gauging the effectiveness of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion efforts. All staff members completed an anonymous questionnaire, and staff leadership identified the areas needing the most work, engaging the rest of the staff in discussions about concrete steps for the staff, committees, and AASLH Council. After a long break to conduct the 2020 Annual Meeting, we drafted an "AASLH Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Plan" in the fall. We submitted it to the Diversity & Inclusion Committee for comment. In the fall, all staff members participated in a two-day workshop offered through the Center for Nonprofit Management, "Introduction to Systemic Racism."

We expect it to be an evolving and growing framework that we repeatedly revisit each year to hold ourselves accountable.

As a starting point, the draft action plan states that AASLH as an organization expects to reflect the diversity of equity of the country. The plan begins to highlight priorities—small steps and large

steps—for advancing inclusive practices across the organization. We expect it to be an evolving and growing framework that we repeatedly revisit each year to hold ourselves accountable, in conversation with committees, Council, members, and allied organizations.

Meanwhile, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee was busy in 2020. Several committee members served on the 2020 Program Committee and played a large role in planning sessions that spoke to the conference theme, "What Kind of Ancestor Will You Be?" The committee also made a persuasive case for making the conference accessible to more colleagues across the field by keeping the price low in a year when the pandemic had shuttered so many institutions. In addition to helping

make the inaugural Online Annual Meeting a success, D&I Committee members began a process of identifying the collective needs of the organization by initiating dialogue with several of AASLH's committees. Over the last half of 2020, D&I Committee members spoke with chairs from these other committees to establish communication lines, learn what the committees' priorities were, and plan how the D&I Committee might partner with them. Several of the committees had already identified diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion issues they wanted to address. Almost all reported a need to increase the diversity of representation amongst their committee membership. This information is currently being compiled to identify strategies to eliminate obstacles.

WEBINARS

As protests against systemic racism and police violence took place around the country last summer, AASLH put together several rapid-response webinars to help history professionals and historical organizations think about how these protests intersected with their work. In our "Monuments and Memory" webinar, for example, history leaders from across the country offered ideas and answered questions about connections between the protests against racism and the nation's rapidly changing commemorative landscape. We also hosted other webinars exploring how Black Lives Matter protests might inform 250th anniversary planning and how organizations could prioritize inclusion during the COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, as planning for the 250th anniversary proceeded at the national, state, and local level, we hosted a virtual listening session in partnership with the Association of African American Museums and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History to carefully consider how the community of African American museums and history organizations might engage with the "America 250" commemoration.

HISTORY RELEVANCE

Making history more relevant to the public continues to be at the core of AASLH's activities, from our professional development, to 250th anniversary planning, to research projects about the state of the field. Here are some of the ways we helped advance the relevance of history in 2020.

250th Anniversary Planning

AASLH is committed to ensuring the 250th anniversary commemoration in 2026 showcases inclusive and relevant stories of our nation's past. We published a white paper from a working group helping the field think through how historical organizations can "make history relevant to every American, every day." As part of our 250th anniversary planning, we organize and convene a national coordinating committee, which includes representatives from other national associations, federal agencies, and other major institutions helping the history community prepare for 2026. With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we are also developing interpretive themes to provide cohesiveness to a very grassroots commemoration, and to do so in ways that emphasize the history's relevance. In December 2020, we convened groups of renowned scholars to help us begin that process, which will continue in 2021.



Framing History with the American Public

Last year, we published the first major report from our "Framing History with the American Public" project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. "Framing History" is a three-year project to carry out a comprehensive, nationwide study of how the public understands what history is and why it is valuable to

society and to develop new, more effective communications tools for the field. The project has three major goals: 1) to identify the gaps between experts' and the public's understanding of what history is and why it's valuable to society; 2) to develop and test new communication strategies for solving those challenges; and 3) to create and deploy tools and resources to train history professionals in all sectors of our field to communicate more effectively with the public.

Last fall, we completed the first of those goals, resulting in the report: "[Communicating about History: Challenges, Opportunities, and Emerging Recommendations](#)." You can read the summary of the report on our [blog](#). In 2021 we will continue testing communications strategies identified in that report, developing an empirically tested, proven effective set of recommendations for how history professionals can most effectively communicate to public audiences what history is, what historians do, and why it's valuable to society.

National Visitation Report

In 2020 we published our second annual *National Visitation Report*, a critical tool for assessing Americans' engagement with historical organizations. In our first *Report*, in 2019, we found that in-person visits to history museums, historic sites, and other institutions had increased about 6 percent from 2013 to 2018, with the largest gains occurring at the smallest institutions. 2020's report found that visitation had leveled off in 2019, with virtually no change from the year before—although small institutions still reported stronger visitation numbers than their larger counterparts. This data will provide a critically important baseline for measuring the impact on visitation wrought by 2020's extended and widespread closures because of the coronavirus pandemic.

2020 AWARD WINNERS

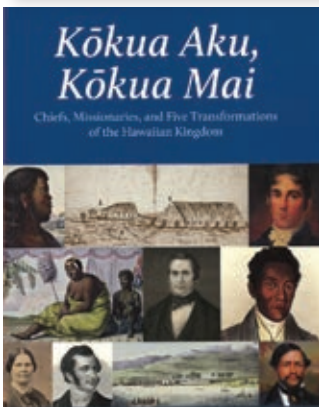
In May, our national awards committee met virtually to review this year's Leadership in History Awards nominations and recognize outstanding projects from around the country. This year, the committee conferred 60 awards to exhibits, public programs, and individuals that are doing impressive history work at institutions of every size and type. The winner of the 2020 Albert B. Corey Award, recognizing exceptional all-volunteer institutions, is the **Vail Preservation Society** of Vail, Arizona, for their documentary *Voices of Vail*. History in Progress (HIP) Award winners represent the most creative and inspiring projects each year, and 2020 saw three winners emerge: **Coastal Carolina University and the Horry County Museum** (Conway, South Carolina) for the exhibit *Printing the Past: SC in 3D*; **Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) for the public program *Hidden Lives Illuminated*; and **Guadalupe Centers, University of Missouri-Kansas City History Department, University of Missouri-Kansas City Latinx and Latin American Studies, Tico Productions, and Kansas City Public Library** for the special project

Kansas City's Guadalupe Centers: A Century of Serving the Latino Community.

Additionally, we debuted a new competitive process for the Publications Award this year which yielded impressive results. In the category of Local History, the winner is **QuiltSpeak: Uncovering Women's Voices Through Quilts** by Diana Bell-Kite (North Carolina Museum of History, 2019), with honorable mention going to **The Mariel Boatlift: A Cuban-American Journey** by Victor Andres Triay (University of Florida



Press, 2019). In the category of Local History (Small Press), the winner is **Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai: Chiefs, Missionaries, and Five Transformations of the Hawaiian Kingdom** by the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society (Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 2018), with honorable mention going to *A Relentless Spirit: Catharine Ladd, Southern Educator, Entrepreneur, and Author, 1808-1899* by Patricia V. Veasey (Floating Leaf Press, 2019).



Visit aaslh.org/programs/leadership-in-history-awards to see the full list of this year's award winners.

STEPS PROGRAM

STANDARDS AND EXCELLENCE PROGRAM FOR HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

2020 STEPS GRADUATES

Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, Dennison, OH

Navy Lakehurst Historical Society, Lakehurst, NJ

Hyrum City Museum, Hyrum, UT

Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, MO

Marlboro County Museums, Bennettsville, SC

Murray City Museum, Murray, UT

Navy Lakehurst Historical Society, Lakehurst, NJ

Ogden Union Station Museums, Ogden, UT

Pioneer Bluffs Foundation, Matfield Green, KS

The Country Doctor Museum, Bailey, NC

The Historical Cherryvale Museum, Inc., Cherryvale, KS

Uintah County Heritage Museum, Vernal, UT

Vintage Automobile Museum of New Jersey, Point Pleasant, NJ

Wentzville Community Historical Society, Wentzville, MO

Western Colorado University - CT Hurst Museum, Gunnison, CO

Wilson Heritage Museum, Wilson, KS

Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Schaumburg, IL

Wray Museum, Wray, CO

Organizations Earning STEPS Certificates in 2020

Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center, Chamberlain, SD

Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation, Park City, UT

Amherst History Society, Amherst, MA

Archaeological Repository of Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Aspen Historical Society, Aspen, CO

Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum, St. Louis, MO

Bent County Historical Society, Las Animas, CO

Berman Museum, Anniston, AL

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan, Alpena, MI

Black Diamond Historical Society, Black Diamond, WA

Boulder County Parks and Open Space, Longmont, CO

Brighton City Museum, Brighton, CO

Butler County Historical Society, Hamilton, OH

Cache Pioneer Museum, Logan, UT

Cleo Redd Fisher Museum, Loudonville, OH

Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation, Crazy Horse, SD

Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, Dennison, OH

Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Association, Inc., Effingham, IL

Farmers Branch Historical Park, Farmers Branch, TX

Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati, OH

Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Moorhead, MN

Historical Society of Palm Desert, Palm Desert, CA

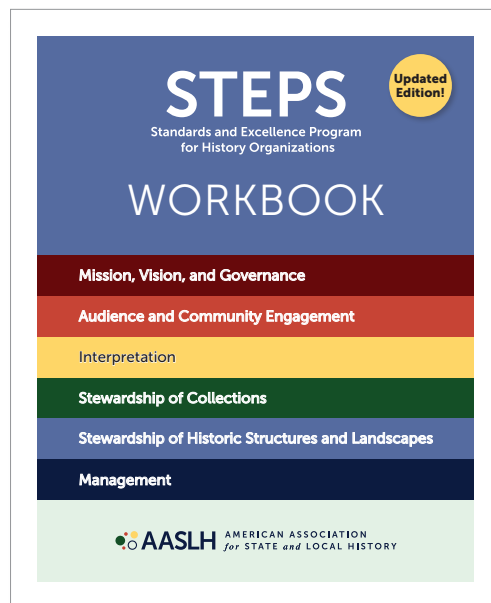
Humphrey History Park and Museum, Evergreen, CO

Updated Edition

In 2020, after several years of work by AASLH staff member Cherie Cook and many volunteers, the STEPS enhancement project concluded with the release of an updated STEPS workbook and online

community site. The updated workbook contains expanded guidance for essential topics like diversity and accessibility, and the new and improved online community space now features digital access to STEPS progress certificates.

Despite the challenges history organizations faced in 2020, it was encouraging to see so many of them find opportunities to continue their work in the program: 38 STEPS organizations earned a total of 96 progress certificates throughout the year.



HISTORY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Like almost every organization in 2020, AASLH was faced with unforeseen challenges regarding how to proceed with our other previously in-person programs, namely the History Leadership Institute Seminar. Although we scheduled a new “2+2” hybrid format, it became clear by mid-Spring that an in-person program would not be tenable due to the COVID-19. The growth of a modified virtual Seminar offered an opportunity to fast-track an idea we thought would still be years away: a History Leadership Institute online course.

From July to September, we piloted an online course with a remarkable group of the field’s emerging leaders. Course participants worked with facilitators Randi Korn, Larry Yerdon, and Trevor Jones to read, discuss, and plan for how to strengthen their organizations through intentional impact planning, systems thinking, and strategic operations. While it was not a replacement for the Seminar, the online course offered a way for mid-career professionals to connect with colleagues around the country, discuss shared challenges across the field, and gain valuable insights into how they can lead from any level of their organization.

Our experience last summer will aid us in our effort to grow HLI in the future. As we move into 2021, AASLH will begin offering History Leadership Institute online courses as a regular feature of our professional development program. As a direct result of our pivot to an online format in Summer 2020, we will introduce “HLI Online: Strengthening Your Organization’s Impact” as a new addition of AASLH’s online course offerings in early 2021. The success of our first virtual HLI program will help us slowly grow our online leadership training offerings for mid-career professionals in the coming years.

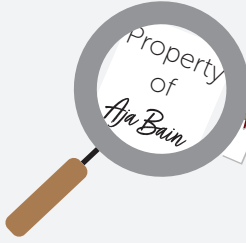
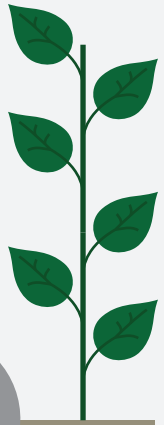
Online courses and other virtual programming will enable us to expand the reach and impact of the History Leadership Institute beyond those able to participate in the Seminar each year. This wider slate of programming represents a key part of AASLH’s efforts to provide professional development resources to history practitioners at institutions of all types and sizes, at any stage of their careers.

Advisory Board Partners



2020 BY THE NUMBERS

AN AASLH INFOGRAPHIC



41
Office
Plants

MEMBERSHIP



Academic: 34



Individual: 1,516

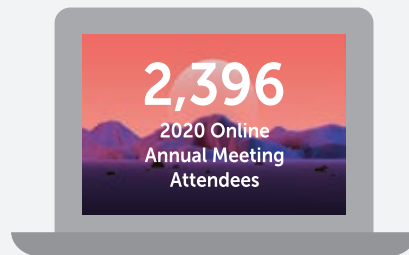


Institutional: 3,457

ANNUAL MEETING

SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN to ANNUAL MEETING

Small Museums Scholarships	13
Douglas Evelyn Scholarship for Diversity	13
Regional Annual Meeting Scholarships	60



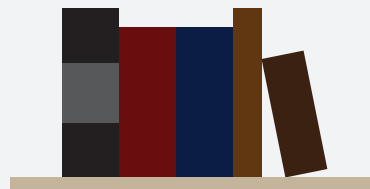
COMMITTEES



Task Forces, Advisory
Groups, and More

PROGRAMS & PUBLICATIONS

TOP BLOG CATEGORIES



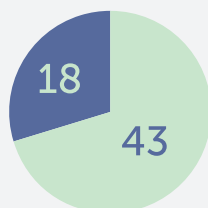
5 BOOKS PUBLISHED



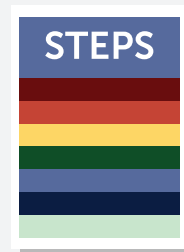
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



3,349 Unique
Attendees



Webinars
Online Courses



Total Participants: 1,121
New Participants: 60
Awarded Certificates: 96

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCES

What do we owe to one another? This question sits at the heart of the concept of justice, a notion so enduring that it is called forth in centuries-old founding documents as well as in current headlines and protest signs. In this extraordinary era, marked by profound reckoning with our complicated past, history institutions are uniquely positioned to engage in doing justice—to public understandings of our past, and as active agents in the world today.

Building on the overwhelming success of the 2020 AASLH Online Meeting in serving our far-flung membership, AASLH is planning a dual conference approach for 2021. This will consist of an onsite meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, *and* an online conference held a couple of weeks later. The two conferences will have different purposes, serve overlapping but different audiences, and focus on one theme—***Doing History/Doing Justice***.

A Dual Approach

AASLH/AMA 2021 Annual Meeting, September 22-25

Along with our partner, the Arkansas Museums Association, we hope to turn the onsite conference in Little Rock into a *transformative* experience. Every attendee will be encouraged to be a true participant in the rich offering of workshops, tours, in-depth discussions, hands-on experiences, and social events. Days spent onsite with colleagues will include additional plenary events and more shared experiences, as well as more free time to visit history institutions and sites in the Little Rock area.

Little Rock is the perfect city to explore the 2021 conference theme. We can witness the interplay between judicial procedure and social justice at the steps of Central High School, where the Little Rock Nine fought for their right to equal education. We can explore restorative justice through Rowher Japanese Relocation Center, where World War II detainees, after a decades-long campaign, secured reparations and commemoration. And we will leave the city feeling transformed in our thinking about our work.

AASLH 2021 Online Conference, October 12-15

The virtual conference will continue to be an *inspirational and informative* experience. This is an opportunity to improve on the successful online 2020 conference and to reach a larger percentage of our members and nonmembers around the country.

The work of history institutions is justice work. Historic sites, museums, and archives help bring complexity and nuance to questions of right and wrong. Our work helps establish relevant facts, provides access to evidence, and weigh competing claims for rights, freedoms, access, ownership, and our duty to one another. Far beyond matters of laws and courts alone, the call to uphold justice asks us to think about the meanings of belonging, fairness, responsibility, and equality; to acknowledge and redress historical wrongs and dismantle harmful myths; and to consider the impact of our actions today. The online conference will allow us to be inspired by the work of our peers in this important arena and learn how we can incorporate these powerful ideas into our own work.

Registration information will be available on www.aaslh.org in early June.

COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION



AASLH Conversations Guidelines and Procedures for Reopening Your Historic Site

Early on in the pandemic, AASLH secured a Chairman's Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide much-needed rapid response resources to our members and the field. Much of our effort focused on producing a series of webinars at no or low cost to attendees to help them think through how to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. These "AASLH Conversations" connected leaders in the field with other history practitioners to share ideas and learn from one another as they addressed a range of topics related to COVID-19 and more. Webinars included "Planning for an Uncertain Financial Future," "Empathetic Audience Engagement During a Crisis," "Leadership, Boards, and Response to COVID-19," "Planning for Reopening," and "Transforming Museum Work after COVID-19." These webinars helped address urgent questions and challenges in the field, and helped history practitioners remember that we are all in this together.

Small Group Discussions

In summer 2020, AASLH began hosting free virtual small group discussions with our affinity communities and partner organizations to provide platforms for candid conversations and personal connections around issues facing the field. In May, the Educators and Interpreters Affinity Community hosted a discussion about serving students and audiences at home while coping with reduced budgets during the pandemic. AASLH partnered with the Gender Equity in Museums Movement (GEMM) in August for a conversation about a column they authored in *History News* analyzing the pandemic's effects on women in the public history field. And in September, the Religious History Affinity Community hosted author and committee member Melody Smith for a discussion of her article "A Combined Effort: Why Museums and Visitors Need Religious Literacy" and how historians and sites can contribute to the field's ongoing DEAL efforts by promoting religious understanding and tolerance. These discussions reached new audiences beyond our usual webinar viewers while offering in-depth learning and networking opportunities around common interests.

Census

How many historical organizations exist in the United States? In 2020—with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and in collaboration with Dr. Carole Rosenstein and researchers at George Mason University—AASLH set out to answer this question for the first time in nearly two decades. Seeking to better understand the scope of our field, we are using publicly available data and leaning on expertise from partners and advisers across the field to build a comprehensive list of the nation's historical organizations. The final report and census (expected in summer 2021) will help advance advocacy efforts, facilitate collaborations between institutions, and provide a critical benchmark for assessing the impact of major events—like the 2020 coronavirus pandemic or the 2026 250th anniversary—on the number of institutions in the country.

DONOR REPORT

Annual Fund

\$10,000 and Up

Charles & Cammy Bryan

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Sandra Clark
Creigh Family Foundation
John Dichtl
John E. Fleming
Heather Huyck
Carol Kammen
Mann Family Foundation
Carl R. Nold
Dennis A. O'Toole
Ruby Rogers
Jean M. Svadlenak
George L. Vogt

\$500 - \$999

Melanie Adams
Dina Bailey
Michelle Banks
Kimberly A. Fortney
Trevor Jones
Katherine D. Kane
Erin C. Mast
Steve Murray
Bill Peterson

\$100 - \$499

Anne W. Ackerson
Elizabeth W. Adams
Charles H. Arning
Rebekah A. Beaulieu
Gordon Bennett
Melissa Bingmann
Joanna Brace
Dan Brown
Allison Campbell
Christina Claassen
Collingsworth County
Museum
Jessica Dorman
John W. Durel
D. Stephen Elliott
Lisa Eriksen
Addison Field
Suzanne Fischer
Barbara Franco
Wendy Franklin
Veronica Gallardo
Janet Gallimore
Georgia Historical Society
Mary Ellen Goddard
Karen M. Goering
Mark Gold
Sarah Z. Gould
Linnea Grim
William T. Groce
Donna Ann Harris

John A. Herbst
Hannah Hethmon
Nicholas Hoffman
John C. Holtzapple
Barb Howe
Susan Jarvis
Sarah Jencks
Richard M. Josey
Tom Kearney
Jennifer Kilmer
Janice Klein
Stacy Klingler
Margaret Koch
Nancy Kolb
Jennifer S. Landry
Maria Q. Leiby
Burt Logan
Jack Ludden
Jeff Matsuoka
Randall M. Miller
Susan Miner
Christian W. Overland
Ophelia Paine
Trish Parker
Gale E. Peterson
Melissa Prycer
Alexandra Rasic
Erin Richardson
Francine Rippy
Ruth Ann Rugg
Dawn E. Salerno
Bill Sanders
Philip Scarpino
Marsha L. Semmel
Elizabeth S. Shatto
Beverly K. Sheppard
Blyse Soby
Deborah L. Trupin
Louis L. Tucker
Kenneth C. Turino
Gina Vergara-Bautista
Jay D. Vogt
Scott L. Wands
Catherine Wasinger
K. Allison Wlckens
Nina Zannieri

Up to \$99

Shae Adams
Renee Aguilar
Tiffany Ahalt
Janet Anderson
Judy Anderson
Lisa A. Anderson
David R. Ashenhurst
Tracy L. Baetz
George W. Bain
Redmond Barnett
Justina Barrett

Jackie Barton
Alicia Batko
Perky Beisel
Lynda Belt
Ann Bennett
Tamara Biggs
Sean Blinn
Kathryn Boardman
Jane Boyd
Donna Braden
Eric Braverman
Megan Brett
Julia Brock
Cheryl Brooks
Joi Brown
Peter Bunten
Andrea Burns
Andrew S. Campbell
Tara M. Carlisle
Jacqueline Carr
Virginia P. Caruso
Matthew Cassady
Priya Chhaya
Alan Choutka
Tami Christopher
Jessica Colati
Cherie Cook
Leslie Coty
Cranbury Historical &
Preservation Society
Carolyn Crouch
Paula A. Degen
Ted Delaney
Charan Devereaux
Kimberly Dillon
Charlotte Dison
Denice Dressel
Mary Durusau
Sherrie Dux-Ideus
Sarah Easton
Jess Edberg
Jennifer Ehlen-Niemi
Sara Elliott
Heather Ewing
Christina Ferwerda
Susan R. Finkel
Laura Fitz
Karen A. Flinn
Roberta Flynn
Rosa Fox
Horace H. Foxall
Sarah Fry
John Fulton
Tamara Funk
Vince Furlong
William J. Furry
Shanna Ganne
Michael H. Gelman

Anthony Gibbs
Tracy Gillespie
Susan Goganian
Gilbert Gott
David Grabitske
Anjuli Grantham
Julia Gray
Sarah Griswold
Tim Grove
Vincent Hall
Shanon Haltiwanger
Kelly F. Hamlin
Jenny Hankinson
Jeff Harris
Elizabeth Hedler
Melissa Hermes
Rachel Hines
Marilyn Hoffman
Matthew Hofstedt
Carrie Hogan
Karen Holmes
Laura Hortz
Mark Howell
Jennifer Huebscher
Corina Iannaggi
Mike Jackson
Terry Jackson
Kyle Jansson
Gretchen Jennings
Sarah A. Johnson
Edna Johnston
Daniel Jones
Ivan Jurin
Martha Katz-Hyman
Kim Kelly
Susan Kloewer
Thomas Krasean
Dean Krimmel
Lynn C. Kronzek
LaClaire Laffitte
J.J. Lamb
Kirby Lambert
Jennifer Lanman
Eric Larsen
Rena Lawrence
Jennifer Leung
Sheri Levinsky-Raskin
Persephone Lewis
Kathryn Lloyd
Teri Long
Michele Longo
Steven Lubar
John Lucier
Heidi Lung
Frances S. MacIntyre
Hannah Mahnken
Elizabeth Maloney
Toby J. Manker

Sara Martin
 Maggie McAdams
 Larry A. McClellan
 Kim McCray
 George McDaniel
 Daniel McDuffie
 Jan McKay
 Gage McKinney
 Debra Mecky
 Tina Menendez
 Patricia Miller
 Ann Miner
 Mary E. Montgomery
 Lucy Moore
 Barbara M. Naef
 Lisa A. Nichols
 Linda Norris
 Claudia Ocello
 Janice Ogurcak
 Paul Orselli
 Jennifer Ortiz
 Mona Painter
 Linda Pearson
 Jennifer Pederson
 Suzanne Perin
 Jennifer Peters
 Julie Peterson
 Preston Pierce
 Pocumtuck Valley Memorial
 Association
 Deryn Pomeroy
 Leslie Przybylek
 Angela Rabin
 R.J. Ramey
 Ruth Rauch
 Rey Regenstreif-Harms
 Bonnie Reisman
 Wendy Rex-Atzet
 Rice County Historical
 Society/Coronado Quivira
 Museum
 Daniel Richardson
 Claudia Roche
 Rocky Mountain Quilt
 Museum
 Rene Rodgers
 Donald Rose
 Bart Roselli
 Bettie Rounsaville
 Stephanie Rowe
 Linda Ruholl
 John Russick
 Patricia Salvatore
 Stephanie Samera
 Esperanza Sanchez
 William M. Sauers
 Emily Schiller
 Thomas A. Scott
 Meena Selvakumar

Hope Shannon
 Martha M. Shannon
 Debbie Shaw
 Reba-Jean Shaw Pichette
 Jamie Simek
 Angela Smith
 Robert H. Smith
 Carolyn Spears
 Tonya Staggs
 Susan L. Stanley
 Stephanie Statz
 Samuel Stephens
 Marcia Steward
 Elizabeth Stewart
 Zachary Stocks
 Barbara Stovall
 Arthur Sudler
 Sarah Sutton
 Eric Taylor
 Bruce Teeple
 Jay Templin
 Karen Templin
 Joyce Thierer
 Jane Thompson
 Jennifer Thornton
 Margaret A. Tockarshewsky
 Charles Torchio
 Jennifer Trotoux
 Jenna Tshudy
 Jasmine Turner
 Beverly Tyler
 Doreen Uhas-Sauer
 Sara Van Arsdell
 Marieke Van Damme
 Jessica VanLanduyt
 Tiffany Villigan
 Tobi Voigt
 Amber L. Vroman
 William Walker
 Ahmad Ward
 Julia Washburn
 Sandra Washington
 Barry Webber
 Robert Williams
 Lisa Withers
 Arthur Wolf
 Megan Wood
 Thomas Woods
 Lawrence Yerdon
 Donald P. Zuris

Endowment

\$1,000 and Up

Carl R. Nold
 Janet Vaughan

\$500 - \$999

Ford W. Bell

\$100 to \$499

Cindy Damschroder
 Janet Gallimore
 Daniel D. Holt
 Anne & Chris Jones
 Laura Lott
 Suzanne Savery
 Kenneth C. Turino
 Max A. van Balgooy
 David Young

Up to \$99

Cherie Cook
 Terry L. Davis
 D. Stephen Elliott
 Barb Howe
 Mark Howell
 Maria Q. Leiby
 Mary E. Montgomery

**History Leadership
 Institute Scholarship
 Fund**

\$10,000 and Up

Charles & Cammy Bryan

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Ford W. Bell

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Kyle McKoy
 Dennis A. O'Toole

\$500 - \$999

Alicia Goehring
 Louise T. Jones
 Mindi Love
 Max A. van Balgooy
 Jim & Janet Vaughan

\$100 - \$499

Bob Beatty
 Patricia Brooks
 W. James Burns
 John Dichtl
 Jessica Dorman
 John W. Durel
 Mark J. Heppner
 Jennifer L. Lund
 Elizabeth S. Shatto
 Jennifer A. VanHaaften
 Dawn Weaver

Up to \$99

Laura C. Anderson
 Rebecca Beck
 Margo A. Carlock
 Karen L. Daly

Veronica Gallardo
 Barb Howe
 Sarah Milligan
 Deb R. Mitchell
 Melissa Prycer
 Marianne Sheline
 David Simmons
 Sandra Smith
 Danielle Stuckle

**Small Museum
 Scholarship Fund**

\$500 and Up

Janice Klein

Up to \$499

Cathy Adam
 Jacqui Ainlay-Conley
 Carleton Legg
 Anne Mason

**Donations given in
 Honor or In Memory of**

Louise Baumgartel
 California Historical Society
 Cherie Cook
 Laura Garcia Culler
 John & Anita Durel
 John Fleming
 George Gallardo
 Lucy Gump
 Janet Kamien
 Janice Klein
 Russell Lewis
 Dennis O'Toole
 Robert Richmond
 Bill Seale
 Jim Vaughan
 Jay Vogt
 Bob Wamble
 Scott Wands
 Tara White
 David Young

**Annual Meeting
 Diversity Scholarship**

\$200 and Up

Quintanilla Schmidt
 Consulting

**Regional Annual
 Meeting Scholarship**

\$10,000 and Up

Anonymous

Thank You!

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FY 2020 AUDITED STATEMENTS • YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

CURRENT ASSETS

	2020	2019
Cash and cash equivalents	\$356,242	\$346,849
Restricted cash	\$48,096	\$98,797
Accounts receivable	\$48,121	\$79,672
Grant receivable	\$6,400	-
Other assets	\$84,975	\$210,528
Total current assets	\$543,834	\$735,846
Non-current accounts receivable, net	\$0	\$62,317
Property and equipment	\$8,117	\$8,525
Investments, substantially restricted	\$1,865,209	\$1,843,725
Total Assets	\$2,417,160	\$2,650,413

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$54,112	\$91,925
Current portion of note payable*	\$45,854	-
Unearned revenue	\$507,662	\$878,906
Total current liabilities	\$607,628	\$970,831
Net assets		
Unrestricted	(\$147,122)	(\$164,143)
Temporarily restricted	\$1,882,508	
Permanently restricted	\$1,735,386	\$1,843,725
Total net assets	\$1,735,386	\$1,679,582
Total liabilities and net assets	\$2,417,160	\$2,650,413

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues, gains, and other support	Unrestricted	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$1,910,118	\$38,783	\$1,948,901
Operating expenses	\$1,318,565		\$1,318,565
Supporting services	\$574,532		\$574,532
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,893,097		\$1,893,097
Change in net assets from operations	\$17,021	\$38,783	\$55,804
Net assets, beginning of year	(\$164,143)	\$1,843,725	\$1,679,582
Net assets, year-end	(\$147,122)	\$1,882,508	\$1,735,386
Statement of Cash Flow			
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(\$41,308)		
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$445,646		
Total	\$404,338		

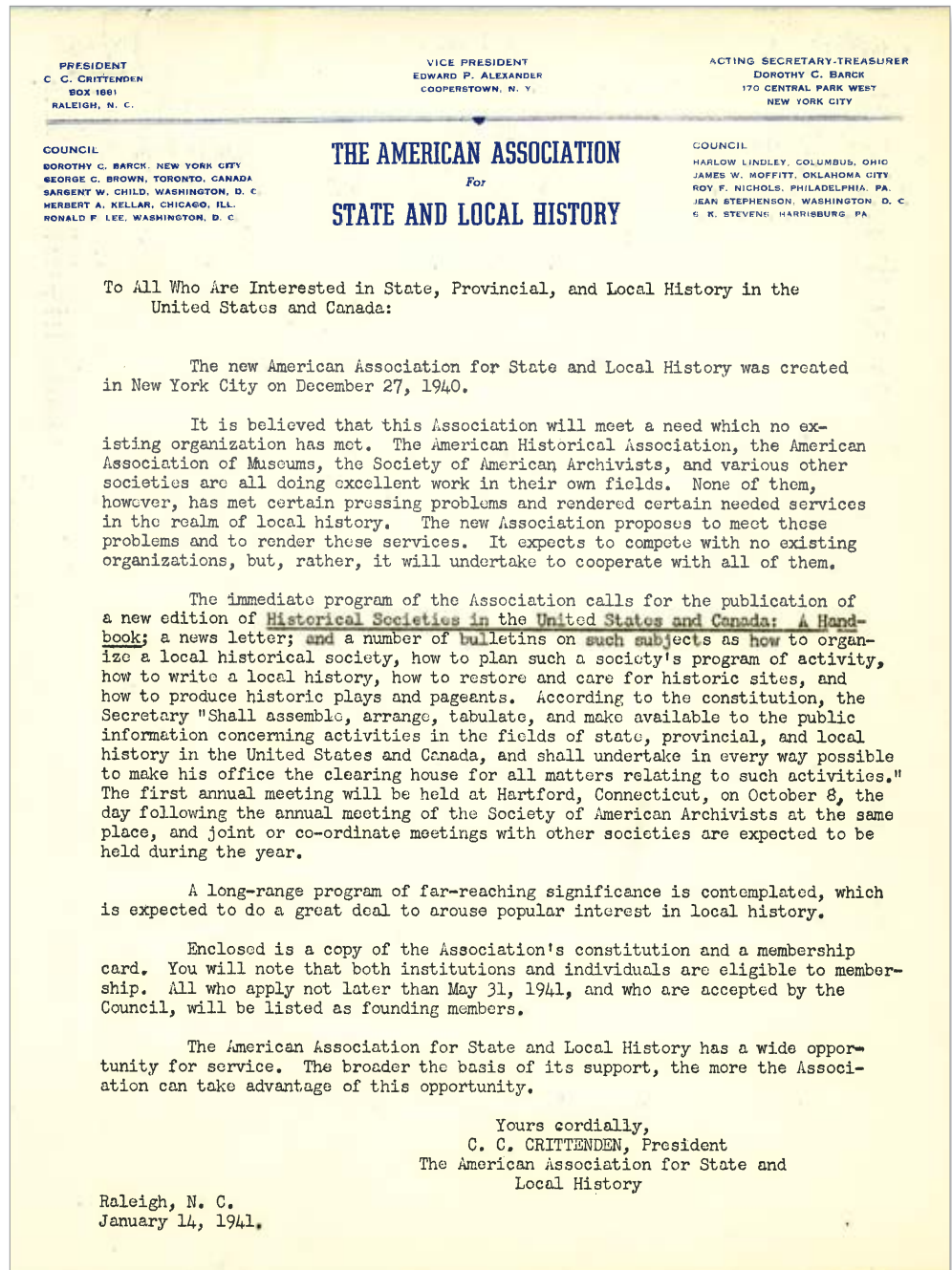
*AASLH received a Paycheck Protection Program Loan in May 2020 for \$120,000. The total amount was forgiven in November 2020 which will be reflected in the FY2021 financial statements.

AASLH 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Amidst the ruckus of 2020, AASLH happened to turn eighty years old. After existing as a "Conference of State Historical Societies" that had been meeting within the American Historical Association since 1904, it was on December 27, 1940, that AASLH's founders announced their intention to create a new organization. Early the next year, 1941, C. C. Crittenden, AASLH's first president, sent this letter to historical organizations across the U.S. and Canada inviting them to join the new association. Four practical objectives laid out in that letter made up AASLH's "immediate program" for the coming years. Each is something we still do today.

For eighty years AASLH has helped the people who work for historical

organizations, paid and unpaid, to do their jobs better by learning from each other. All of our projects and programs and resources are built by AASLH members for the greater good of the historical community. Our vision as we head into the U.S. 250th Anniversary planning years is that history organizations everywhere will prosper, tell everyone's story, and be central to important conversations going on in their communities.





2021 21st Avenue S., Suite 320 • Nashville, Tennessee 37212

P: 615-320-3203 • F: 615-327-9013 • aaslh.org