



Actions of the AASLH Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Wednesday, **September 16, 2017**, at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center in Austin, Texas, during the 2017 Annual Meeting of the organization. AASLH Chair Katherine Kane led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Thanked departing Council members including Janet Gallimore, Idaho State Historical Society; Jane Lindsey, Juneau-Douglas City Museum; Ken Turino, Historic New England; and Tobi Voigt, Michigan History Center. Welcomed newly elected Council members Lisa Eriksen, Lisa Eriksen Consulting; Stacy Klingler, William Butterworth Foundation; Brent Ott, The Henry Ford; and Trina Nelson Thomas, Stark Art & History Venues.
2. Approved the Minutes from the June 17-18, 2017, Council Meeting in Boise, Idaho.
3. Welcomed and thanked the members of the Leadership Nominating Committee who sat in on the Council meeting (Lisa Anderson, chair; Omar Eaton-Martinez; Laura Hartz Stanton; and Margo Carlock), and discussed ways to improve the nomination process.
4. Accepted the Treasurer's Report on Fiscal Year 2017, which ended on June 30, 2017. AASLH's actual total revenues were \$1,677,606 and actual total expenses were \$1,481,111. Including the gains on investments of \$180,929, the budget was balanced and had an actual surplus of \$196,495. In addition, the budgeted 4.75 percent draw of \$54,002 from the endowment was still to be taken, meaning that minus the \$180,929 in gains, the budget surplus was \$69,568. The Investment Committee and Finance Committee have AASLH on track for reducing its annual draw on the endowment; it has been 5 percent in recent years, and in the current fiscal year (2018) has been reduced to 4.5 percent. In the past four years, between purchases and gains, the endowment value has grown by \$450,000. As of June 30, 2017, the AASLH Endowment stood at \$1,647,202.
5. Concurred with the President/CEO's plan to use the organizational surplus to add a part-time administrative assistant to the staff and to use the other half for the project to enhance StEPs (Standards and Excellence for History Organizations Program).
6. Agreed that staff should develop for Council's consideration a new policy about selecting and, on rare occasion, moving Annual Meeting site location. Agreed that the bar for relocating a conference must be very high and that AASLH should have as broad and positive an impact on its host community and state as it can by being inclusive and building relationships. The Creativity & Experimentation Task Force and the Diversity &

Inclusion Task Force will work with the 2018 Program Committee and the 2018 Host committee on plans for the 2018 Annual Meeting in Kansas City.

7. Discussed the controversy over deaccessioning and capitalization of collections as raised most recently by the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. AASLH Chair Katherine Kane will appoint a working group to examine the issue in conjunction with AASLH's Professional Standards and Ethics Committee.
8. Continued discussing the matter of issuing advocacy statements on behalf of the organization, and commented on the Advocacy Task Force's advocacy policy draft for finalization.
9. Voted to endorse the American Historical Association's Statement on Confederate Monuments (August 2017).