

Actions of Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Friday, **June 23, 2023**, using Zoom. AASLH Chair Burt Logan led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the March 2, 2023, Council Meeting on Zoom.
2. Discussed the questions to be used in the Governance Committee's biennial survey of Council members in fall 2023.
3. Reviewed the reports of AASLH committee chairs and affinity committee chairs outlining the work and goals of the committees.
4. Discussed the challenges of scheduling the annual conference to avoid, when possible, National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15-Oct 15), the start of school, Labor Day weekend, and religious holidays, while also avoiding the spring and fall peak conference season of other history and museum associations.
5. Received and discussed the President and CEO's report. Staff will increase by one more to a total of twelve people this summer, with most staff members fully remote (five) or partially remote (six). The History Leadership Institute finished its first seminar under the new director and has a major focus on DEAI approaches. AASLH tried its first "Virtual Summit" in April (on the 250th, "Commemoration Reconsidered"), will do a second one in July ("Sustainability, Relevance, and the Future of Historic House Museums"), and a third in December (on Small Museums). AASLH's \$1M Making History Matter campaign to date totaled \$420,000. Included in the campaign is the new Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko Scholarship fund, which raised more than \$16,000.
6. Reviewed the financial reports and Finance and Investment committees' minutes for the third quarter of the fiscal year and projections for the final quarter, which ends on June 30, 2023. As of March 31, 2023, cash was \$353,415, accounts receivable were \$129,713, investments were \$2,406,661, and total assets were \$2,956,472. YTD actual revenues for the third quarter were \$1,599,327, and YTD actual expenses were \$1,277,884, leaving a net surplus of \$321,443 on March 31, 2023. Typically, revenues decline over the final quarter and expenses remain level, leading to a smaller surplus, or a deficit, by the end of the year.
7. Approved the FY2024 Budget (for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) as recommended by the Finance Committee. The budgeted revenues for FY2024 are \$1,954,046 and the expenses are \$1,940,653, leaving a budgeted surplus of \$13,393. (Budgeted revenues in FY2023 were \$1,945,745; budgeted expenses were \$1,872,133.)
8. Approved a new Gift Policy outlining how AASLH will accept "gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, [and] of real or personal property."

9. Discussed the Awards Committee's recommendations regarding submissions to the Award of Distinction this year, AASLH's highest honor.
10. Formed a task force to consider creating an award or acknowledgement for individuals or organizations in the local community, who advance public history practice from outside conventional or professional circles.
11. Discussed preparations for a strategic planning process that takes into account the approaching 250th anniversary commemoration and where AASLH and the history community will head afterward.