# • AASLH A YEAR IN REVIEW



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

n 2023 our membership association hewed to its mission: helping the history community to thrive and making the past meaningful to all people. We continued to promote AASLH's vision for the country's Semiquincentennial, began a new series of two-day virtual summits, and made good progress on the Making History Matter comprehensive fundraising campaign. In addition, our committees and staff worked together to meet the core goals for AASLH publications, professional development, and the annual conference.

A high point was certainly that 2023 Annual Conference in Boise, Idaho. After months of planning, it all came together remarkably well, and the weather was brilliant. A record-setting 94 percent of the respondents to the evaluation survey rated the Boise meeting as "excellent" or "very good." That highest rating ever is thanks to incredible Program and Host co-chairs, an excellent Program Committee and Host Committee, talented staff, and hundreds of dedicated presenters and participants.

One of the threads in this year's annual conference was **250th planning**, and we used the opportunity to convene two dozen state 250th commissions and hold several Semiquincentennial-related sessions. Our

We are committed to the full and honest portrayal of American history. goal for the Semiquincentennial is that it will help American society move towards justice through an inclusive approach to history and for the upcoming

years of commemoration to strengthen the history field. In 2023, AASLH also produced its fifth annual report on the status of the U.S. Semiquincentennial planning, a three-part webinar series on interpretive planning for the 250th, held one virtual summit and planned another, did a pilot study of 250th funding in six states, printed and began distributing another 12,500 copies of AASLH's 250th *Field Guide* to history organizations around the country, and began advocacy efforts to seek Congressional 250th funding for state and local institutions. Most importantly, our involvement in 250th conversations have brought AASLH into contact with a growing range of collaborative partners and coalitions.

What kept us grounded in this busy year were two things: always asking how our work

could help small history organizations in particular and always focusing on inclusive history, which I have taken to calling whole history. These two ideas also happen to be the heart of the Making History Matter campaign. The campaign is to build AASLH's endowment and fund programs during these Semiquincentennial years to promote inclusive, whole history and to reach and serve small history organizations. By year's end the Making History Matter campaign had raised nearly \$600,000 of our \$1 million goal. Thank you to those who have already contributed and to those who might consider a commitment in the coming year!

While promoting the 250th and conducting this association's usual programs and services, AASLH also spoke out multiple times in 2023 against efforts to restrict, reduce, or narrow American history, whether in museums, schools, or other venues. As the year was closing, AASLH commented on attacks on history books at Texas historic sites, noting that it was part of a larger trend:

Over the past few years, a small but vocal group of Americans have attempted through various means to limit public access to full, evidence-based tellings of American history at museums, historic sites, libraries, and schools. This troubling trend intentionally undermines public knowledge and prevents Americans from engaging with the full evidence of our nation's past.

All our efforts as an association to help history organizations and history practitioners to thrive, and to make the past meaningful to all people, require this dedication to completeness. We are committed to reaching all history organizations, we are committed to the full and honest portrayal of American history, and we are committed to creating community where everyone belongs.

John R. Dichtl

President & CEO, AASLH

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### FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR

ore than 50% of Americans were born after 1976, perhaps an even greater percentage among AASLH members. As such, they have no memory of our nation's Bicentennial. For me, it was extremely memorable.

The signature event was Operation Sail on July 4, 1976. An international flotilla of tall ships sailed past the Statue of Liberty as millions watched in person and around the world. Thirty-two days earlier on June 2, I, along with 854 fellow graduates, enthusiastically hurled our hats into the air as members of West Point's Bicentennial Class. In April, I escorted a leading military historian, who along with a distinguished panel of other scholars, gathered for the West Point Symposium on the American Revolution to discuss topics such as military strategy, weaponry, tactics, and the global impact of the Revolution.

The observance and celebration of the Semiquincentennial will be different in many ways. If a signature event emerges, it is doubtful it will draw the riveted attention of Operation Sail. For the "television

generation" Op Sail was surpassed only by President Kennedy's assassination and the lunar landing of Apollo 11. It was a national moment. However, in two years the number and variety of local observances and celebrations may well surpass those of 50 years ago.

West Point's Semiquincentennial Class will look very different from the

Bicentennial Class. We were all male—the first women were admitted a month later. Since then, women graduates have attained the rank of three-star general, and served as the Commandant of Cadets, the one-star general responsible for military training, physical fitness, and leadership development at the Academy. Most notably, four women in the Class of 2022 were selected to be Rhodes Scholars, accounting for one-eighth of the United States' annual quota. One was also First Captain, the highest-ranking cadet among 4,000. Women graduates have completed Ranger School, the Army's most grueling and demanding training program. Above all, they have served alongside their male counterparts, with some having given their lives in combat.

My classmates were predominantly white and of European ancestry—today's Corps of Cadets more accurately reflects the country's diversity. Army officers must always study and master tactics and

strategy, but in today's all-volunteer Army there is an ever-growing recognition and commitment for officers to understand and honor the heritage of the soldiers they are leading that was not present 50 years ago.

These and other differences between 1976 and 2026 should not be seen as a repudiation of the Bicentennial celebrations. Instead they are an acknowledgment that the Nation has evolved during the past 50 years, just as it has done throughout every 50 year interval.

Under John Dichtl's leadership, Council and staff have been working diligently for several years to train and equip the local history field to observe the Semiquincentennial. The *Field Guide* is now in its third printing with a total press run of 33,750 copies. Ongoing convenings of state commissions will expand the reach and impact of the 250th. Program sessions, virtual summits, and webinar series are enriching and strengthening the content of local programming. These and other accomplishments have positioned

AASLH as the unofficial clearinghouse for the Semiquincentennial. Equally important, AASLH has forged strong partnerships with foundations, government agencies, and private funders that will continue to bolster the local history community beyond 2026.

The Nation's founding documents proclaim two core principles: that all people are created equal and as such are

endowed with certain unalienable rights; and that we as a nation strive for a more perfect union for ourselves and our posterity. Two centuries later both declarations remain works in progress. For sure, we as a nation have moved closer to attaining these ideals during the past 50 years. However, for many Americans, our national journey to honor, to achieve, and to live by these two truths continues to be long, winding, at times tortuous, and remains unfinished. If the Semiquincentennial encourages us as a country to celebrate the progress of the past 50 years, while simultaneously spurring us to address and eradicate the inequities that continue to exist, it will indeed be the nation's most authentic and meaningful birthday celebration yet.

Chair, AASLH Council

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MAKING

**HISTORY** 

AT 250

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Sarah Zenaida Gould Class of 2024 Mexican American Civil Rights Institute San Antonio, TX



James Pepper Henry Class of 2024 First Americans Museum Oklahoma City, OK



Stacey Halfmoon Class of 2026 The Shawnee Tribe Miami, OK



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Pamela Junior Class of 2027 Two Mississippi Museums Jackson, MS



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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Arcus**

AASLH's Arcus online courses are designed to help participants think as entrepreneurs and leaders. These courses cover some of the most important issues in the public history field.

2023 was the first full year that AASLH had to work on developing the Arcus program. Over the course of the year, seven different courses were launched. These cover topics from basic DEAI principles for historic organizations, effective social media plans, program planning, and LGBTQIA+ inclusion in workplaces. The most popular Arcus courses are Introduction to Indigenous History and Accessibility for Historical Organizations. AASLH Professional Development recently finished a review to better develop a distinct look and feel for the courses and to see what areas to lean into for course development in the future.



long with providing technical support for the three virtual summits that were held this year, Professional Development also created or hosted several webinars. One was done in association with the Climate and Sustainability Affinity Community, which spoke on heritage resilience in a changing climate. A previous Technical Leaflet on creating artist-in-residence programs was given life as a webinar. We were also able to use a webinar to test interest in and content for a potential Arcus course. While the feedback from this particular webinar was lackluster, it helped to prove that this was not a course that should be pursued and saved the organization money. The Professional Development department also spent time in the latter half of the year developing relationships with outside organizations that could lead to partnerships that could lead to webinars and other in-depth professional development offerings.

### **Online Courses**

2023 was a year which saw continuing interest in the Small Museum Pro! Certificate program. It was also a year which saw the addition of one completely new course – Introduction to Museum Endowments. Two other courses were reworked. Collections



**Management** is now being offered as the 100-level Collection Development and the 200-level Stewardship and Public Access. The other reworking was the combination of two similar courses into one

- Developing Exhibitions: Planning and Design
- which launches in January 2024.

### Workshops

his year saw the return of AASLH's in-person workshop programs to sites across the country, bringing new ideas, networking, and expert guidance to attendees engaged in state and local history work. In April, the Gamble House in Pasadena, California, hosted Reimagining the Historic House Museum, an intensive one-day workshop on planning, programming, and innovation for historic houses. This workshop was also offered in June in Lancaster, Ohio, at the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio. Collections Camp: Military Collections brought attendees to the Atlanta History Center in Georgia in May for three days of hands-on training in storing, displaying, preserving, identifying, and interpretating military collections and stories. Our final workshop took place at the Grand Rapids Public Museum in Michigan in June. In Project Management for History Professionals, attendees learned about project planning, budgeting, scheduling, and negotiating skills to help history projects run smoothly and efficiently.

8 Professional Development AASLH

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **History Leadership Institute**

ducating inspiring history professionals since 1959. AASLH's History Leadership Institute (formerly Seminar for Historical Administration) is the nation's oldest and most prestigious leadership program for our field. While the timing, location, and topics



covered have evolved over the past decades, the ultimate goal of preparing history professionals to be capable and creative leaders has remained. In 2023, we welcomed new HLI director Andrea Jones and a class of 18 associates. Continuing with the hybrid schedule that has made this program more accessible, the class met remotely before and after the intensive two-week in-person portion of the program that takes place at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis, Indiana. Facilitators such as Richard Josey, Julie Johnson, Margaret Middleton, and others led discussions on making change in the workplace and the wider field, defusing the history wars, unionization, and other essential topics for twenty-first-century history leaders.

### **2023 History Leadership Institute Associates**

**Haley Aaron**, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL

**Paulina Budzioch**, Chicago History Museum, Chicago, IL

**Lora Cooper**, Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Charlottesville, VA

**Lindsey Crawford**, James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library, Fredericksburg, VA

Abbie Edens, Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN

Brian Failing, Aurora Regional Fire Museum, Aurora, IL

Tammy Gordon, Greenwood Seneca, California

**Chris Graham**, American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA

**Polly Hubbard**, Harvard Museums of Science and Culture, Cambridge, MA

**Gina Nichols**, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, Port Hueneme, CA

**Gwendolen Nystrom**, Pavek Museum, St. Louis Park, MN

Daniel Ronan, Resilient Heritage, Austin, TX

Stephanie Sieczkowski, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI

**Shirl Spicer**, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Riverdale, MD

**Brooke Steinhauser**, Emily Dickinson Museum, Amherst, MA

**Lori Ann Terjesen**, The National Women's History Museum, Alexandria, VA

**JoAnn Zeise**, South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC

aaslh.org Professional Development 9

### 250TH PLANNING AND COMMEMORATION RECONSIDERED



AASLH also continued to convene key groups, including state 250th commissions and our 250th Anniversary Coordinating Committee. These networks are critical avenues for trading information, identifying issues common to planners, and presenting opportunities for us to hear from stakeholders fieldwide. These gatherings spurred AASLH to sponsor a pilot study on the nature and extent of state-level

### **US 250th Planning**

his past year has been one of considerable progress in planning for the upcoming U.S. 250th anniversary in 2026. As federal and state-level activity intensified, AASLH continued its leadership in preparing the field for this once-in-a-generation occasion. We developed additional programs and resources while continuing our role in vision-setting, research, and coordination efforts.

We hosted a summer webinar series titled *Interpreting* the U.S. 250th at Your Site. Varied speakers offered best practices in interpretive planning, connections to fieldwide themes, and the chance to brainstorm ideas with fellow practitioners.

The series was followed by several 250th-related sessions at our Annual Conference in Boise, Idaho, including a full-day workshop on strategic planning and panels on topics such as considerations in using Revolutionary era imagery. Throughout the conference, AASLH distributed copies of *Making* History at 250: The Field Guide to the U.S. **Semiguincentennial**, a resource highlighting five themes to provide unity of vision and purpose for the commemoration. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities allowed us to print 12,500 copies of the guide, reaching institutions in at least 33 American states and territories.

funding available to support 250th planning. The initial findings can be found in our fifth annual report on the 250th.

Finally, AASLH spent 2023 working to solidify a fieldwide vision for the 250th and actively promoting that vision's two pillars—progressing towards justice through inclusive history and strengthening the field—by presenting at conferences and other venues, from Museums Advocacy Day to the We the Museum podcast.

### Commemoration Reconsidered

n April, AASLH debuted its inaugural virtual summit, Commemoration Reconsidered: Ethics, Justice, and America's 250th Anniversary, aimed primarily at engaging those feeling skeptical, cynical, or otherwise apprehensive about the U.S. 250th anniversary. The two-day event explored what we should commemorate, how, and why. More than 330 people participated.

The event kicked off with a roundtable discussion with Erica Armstrong-Dunbar, Stacey Halfmoon (Caddo), and Karin Wulf, moderated by Paul Farber. Subsequent sessions included experts from varied institutions focusing on topics such as lessons from past anniversaries, the ethics of commemoration, trends in commemoration today, and what a meaningful 2026 could look like and how it could be inclusive.

### NATIONAL VISITATION REPORT | SHAM

### **Nissan Foundation Grant**

n June, AASLH received a **\$49,797** grant from the Nissan Foundation for the *Making History Matter Tennessee* training initiative.

This project, part of AASLH's *Making History Matter Campaign*, is funding a network of small history organizations in central Tennessee to take full advantage of the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. A group of 20 to 30 history leaders, two each from 10 to 15 history museums and historic sites, are participating in training based on AASLH's Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (STEPS) program. They are also engaging with AASLH's *Making History at 250: The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial* and its five historical themes.

Other aims of this initiative include connecting these leaders to the Tennessee's State Commission for the 250th, promoting inclusive history, and supporting their involvement in the Tennessee Association of Museums.

The Nissan Foundation awarded a total of \$1.2 million in grants to 39 nonprofit organizations for its 2023 grant cycle, including AASLH. The Nissan Foundation was created in 1992 as a thoughtful response to the three weeks of violent civil unrest that occurred near Nissan North America's then U.S. sales and marketing operations in Southern California following the Rodney King trial verdict. In the more than 30 years since, the Nissan Foundation has awarded nearly \$16 million to more than 150 nonprofit organizations to support innovative programs that break down societal barriers and build inclusive communities through education and outreach. Grant recipients promote cultural diversity across a variety of arts, education, social, and public programs in seven U.S. communities where Nissan operates.

### **National Visitation Report**

n 2023, AASLH published our **fifth annual National Visitation Report**, an annual assessment of attendance trends at the nation's history organizations.

Measuring visitation changes between 2021 and 2022, this year's report offered a look at how history organizations fared in their **continued recovery from the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic**. In-person visits continued to increase at most organizations, with institutions reporting **an average increase of more than 35 percent**. The return of in-person attendance,



however, has proven to be somewhat uneven. Organizations with annual budgets of less than \$250,000 reported some of the largest increases. Those in the middle budget ranges—between \$1 million and \$10 million annually—lagged farther behind.

Finally, the survey asked about **changes to virtual engagement**. Here, we began to see the public's appetite for online events, exhibits, and other programs may be waning. The percentage of organizations that offered virtual programs of some kind (40 percent) did not change. While more than half of larger institutions reported offering virtual programs in 2022, fewer small institutions provided these kinds of offerings. Many institutions reported serving a fewer number of participants in these virtual offerings, likely signaling that while virtual programs may remain a complement to more traditional offerings, they won't become a replacement for in-person experiences.

# State Historical Administrators Meeting

wenty-eight leaders of state historical societies and state museums convened at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma, Washington, for the annual State Historical Administrators Meeting (SHAM). Jim Grossman, Executive Director of the American Historical Association, was the special guest. During the twoand-a-half-day retreat, participants shared ideas and delved into topics of concern to CEOs of state organizations. Key topics in Tacoma included planning for the nation's 250th anniversary, navigating current political tensions and attacks on history education, determining where history ends and activism begins, managing historical marker programs, sharing facility rental policies, improving staff retention and management, employing youth advisory councils, maintaining relationships with legislators, and expanding the diversity pipeline to leadership positions.

### 2023 AASLH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**784** attendees from 49 states (We missed, you Vermont friends!)

**94%** of survey respondents rated the conference **excellent or very good** 

87% rated conference sessions as excellent

**84%** rated the *I, Too, Am America* general session as **excellent** 

83% rated the evening events as excellent

**87%** strongly agreed or agreed that conference speakers, topics, and events reflected a **diversity of perspectives** 

94 volunteers contributed 463 service hours

\$5,000 in scholarships for attendees

67 sessions and workshops and 16 tours

**\$1.4 million in total business sales** from AASLH and conference attendees and exhibitors



AASLH held its 2023
Annual Conference in
Boise, Idaho, on
September 6-9. The Local
Host Committee, cochaired by Janet Gallimore,
Idaho State Historical

Society, and Liz Hobson, Idaho State Museum, welcomed 784 attendees to their beautiful western city. Attendees had plenty of time to explore Boise with numerous tours and evening events at the Old Idaho State Penitentiary, Idaho State Museum, and the Basque Block.

I, TOO, AM AMERICA"

The 2023 Program Committee Co-Chairs, Noelle Trent, Museum of African American History in Boston, and Christopher Miller, African American Museum in Philadelphia, planned an excellent program around the theme *I, Too, Am America*. The opening plenary session, held at Boise's Egyptian Theatre, featured "Ted-talk" style presentations from colleagues throughout the field focused on the conference theme including Ben Garcia, American LGBTQ+ Museum, Erin Carlson Mast,

Lincoln Presidential Foundation, Robbie Luckett, Jackson State University, and local community member Cherie Buckner Webb. It also featured a beautiful poem from Kurt Ikeda, a National Park Service ranger at Minidoka National Historic Site. On Friday, Miller interviewed Jorge Zamanillo about his experience starting the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino and how his work connects with the conference theme.

Thank you to all the members of the 2023 Program Committee and Host Committee for making this conference meaningful and energizing.



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### 2023 AASLH VIRTUAL SUMMITS

Sustainability, Relevance, and the Future of Historic **House Museums:** July 11-12, **A Virtual Summit** 2023 AASLH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION for STATE and LOCAL HISTORY

### Sustainability, Relevance, and the Future of Historic House Museums: **Virtual Summit**

How sustainable is the historic house museum field? A virtual summit, planned by AASLH's Historic House Affinity Committee and held July 11-12, 2023, answered this guestion from various perspectives, while giving over 280 attendees insight and inspiration into how they can keep their historic house museum sustainable and relevant.

Topics covered in the summit included:

- Everything Starts Here: How Have Historic House Museum Missions Changed to Maintain Relevance?
- How Do You Measure Success When the Metrics Change?
- Am I in a Rut? Inspiration from Creative Historic House Interpretation
- Preserving Sites for the Future: How Can We Be the Best Stewards of Buildings and Landscapes?
- How Can Telling Everyone's Story Help My Site Be More Relevant?

In the post-event evaluation, 94% of attendees gave the summit a very good or excellent rating making it one of the best rated events AASLH has produced in the last few years. After the success in this event, the Historic House Affinity Committee is planning for an in-person summit focusing on interpretation at historic houses. The committee looks forward to offering more programming for this important part of the AASLH audience in the future.



### small But MIGHTY: the powerful resilience of SMALL museums: Virtual Summit

Small history organizations across the United States share history with local audiences in ways that are creative, educational, and engaging. Despite the challenges of the last few years, they still serve vital roles in their communities leading the charge on the preservation and interpretation of local history. This virtual summit on December 5-6, 2023 celebrated the creativity and resourcefulness of small museums through the lens of resiliency. Developed by the AASLH Small Museums Affinity Community, the summit provided practical information as well as inspirational stories to prepare participants for the future, in particular, the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

More than 310 attendees participated in the summit, and 94% rated it very good or excellent.

2023 AWARD WINNERS

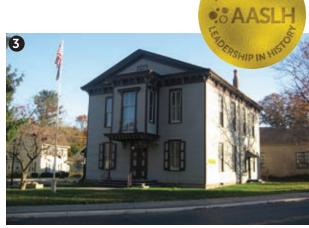




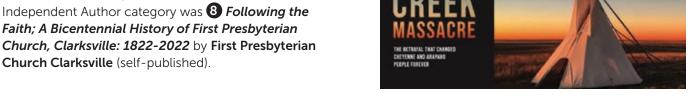
n May, our national awards committee met in Nashville to review the 2023 Leadership in History Awards nominations and recognize outstanding projects and people from around the country. This year, the committee conferred **fifty-six awards** to exhibits, public programs, and individuals that are doing impressive history work at institutions of every size and type. We were pleased to present many of the awards in person in September at our Annual Conference in Boise, including two Awards of Distinction, our highest award for personal service. The two recipients for 2023 were **1 Janet Gallimore** of the Idaho State Historical Society and the late **2 Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko**.

The winner of the 2023 Albert B. Corey Award, recognizing exceptional all-volunteer institutions, was the **3** Harrison Township Historical Society (Mullica Hill, NJ). History in Progress (HIP) Award winners represent the most creative and inspiring projects each year, and three projects on Indigenous history and culture rose to the top: the **4** First Americans Museum (Oklahoma City, OK) for the exhibit WINIKO: Life of an Object, **5** Barona Cultural Center & Museum and Split Rock Studios (Lakeside, CA) for the exhibit Nya'waap Illyuw Uuchyuwp: Our Way of Knowing, and **6** History Colorado (Denver, CO) for the exhibit The Sand Creek Massacre: The Betrayal That Changed Cheyenne and Arapaho People Forever.

This year's Publication Award winners explored the power of local history to help us understand larger national issues and global change. In the Large Press category, the winner was **7** Here and Everywhere Else: Small-Town Maine and the World by Andrew Witmer (University of Massachusetts Press). The winner of the Small Press/Independent Author category was **3** Following the Faith; A Bicentennial History of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville: 1822-2022 by First Presbyterian Church Clarksville (self-published).







14 2023 Award Winners AASLH

# BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2023

Interpreting Energy at Museums and **Historic Sites** 

by Leah S. Glaser

**Exploring the American** Presidency through 50 **Historic Treasures** 

by Kimberly A. Kenney

**Interpreting Sports** at Museums and **Historic Sites** 

edited by Kathryn Leann Harris and Douglas Stark

Making History: Makerspaces for Museums and **Historic Sites** by Tim Betz

Controversial Monuments and Memorials: A Guide for Community Leaders,

Second Edition edited by David B. Allison

Interpreting Science at Museums and **Historic Sites** 

edited by Debra A. Reid. Karen-Beth G. Scholthof, and David D. Vail

An Accessible Past: **Making Historic Sites** Accessible

edited by Heather Pressman



### STEPS PROGRAM

STANDARDS AND EXCELLENCE PROGRAM FOR HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

The number listed is the number of STEPS certificates the organization earned in 2023.

Bethel Center - Mountain Lake Park Historical **Association** | Mountain Lake Park, MD | 1

**Black Diamond Historical** Society

Black Diamond, WA | 1

**Bosque Museum** 

Clifton, TX | 4

**Camden County Historical Society** Collingswood, NJ | 9

**Clemson University Historic Properties** Clemson, SC | 12

Company of Fifers and Drummers | Essex, CT | 3

Delhi Historical Society | Cincinnati, OH | 1

Dickinson County Historical Society | Spirit Lake, IA | 4

**Dr. Pepper Museum** | Waco, TX | 2

Elgin History Museum | Elgin, IL | 6

Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Inc. Cincinnati, OH | 1

Grand Army of the Republic Military Museum Aurora, IL | 2

Historic Cold Spring Village Cape May, NJ | 2

Historic Palmyra Museums | Palmyra, NY | 1

Hoyt Sherman Place | Des Moines, IA | 3

Jekyll Island | Jekyll Island, GA | 2

Johnston Historical Society | Johnston, IA | 3

Kittitas County Historical Museum | Ellensburg, WA | 1

Little White School Museum | Oswego, IL | 2

Montana Masonic Foundation | Helena, MT | 1

Morgan County Genealogical & Historical Society/ Heritage Museum | Wartburg, TN | 2

Morrison Natural History Museum | Morrison, CO | 1

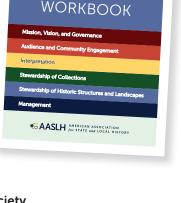
Rio Grande County Museum | Del Norte, CO | 1

St. Charles County Historical Society

St. Charles, MO | 6

Traer Historical Museum | Traer, IA | 1

Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology Schaumburg, IL | 1



### **FUNDRAISING**

# MAKING HISTORY MATTER

A Campaign to Help History Organizations Thrive

n its second year, the Making History Matter campaign surpassed \$500,000 in total funds raised toward the \$1 million goal. This comprehensive campaign will ensure AASLH has the resources necessary to strengthen history organizations and help the people who work in them thrive in the lead up to our nation's 250th anniversary. Funds will bolster



programming designed to help organizations in every state and territory do more inclusive history, foster critical thinking, and be more central to important community conversations. Funds will also go toward the AASLH endowment to sustain this work long after the 250th anniversary.

We are grateful for early major gifts to the campaign that came from an anonymous donor, from Janet Vaughan in memory of her husband Jim, and from the Conner Prairie Foundation in honor of Norman Burns. In 2023 AASLH received significant support from the Laurance S. Rockefeller Fund in memory of David Donath, from the Nissan Foundation, from Vicky L. Kruckeberg and Carl R. Nold, from colleagues and friends of Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko in her memory, and from many other AASLH members and friends.

### **AASLH LEGACY SOCIETY**

Legacy Society gifts are a crucial part of AASLH's Making History Matter Campaign to help small and large history organizations prepare to take full advantage of the U.S. Semiquincentennial, and to use the build-up to this significant anniversary to emphasize inclusive and relevant work by history organizations.

We are grateful for our Legacy Society members who have generously decided to include AASLH in their estate planning to help leave a lasting legacy for the history community. If you would like to know more about the AASLH Legacy Society or if you are interested in joining, please contact John Dichtl at dichtl@aaslh.org.

Ms. Sylvia Alderson\*

Mr. Bob & Ms. Candy Beatty

Ms. Melissa Bingmann

Mr. Robert M. & Ms. Claudia H. Brown

Ms. Mary Case & Mr. Will Lowe

Ms. Terry L. Davis

Mr. Stephen & The Rev. Diane Elliott

Mr. John Frisbee\*

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Mr. H.G. Jones\*

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Mr. Dennis A. O'Toole

Ms. Ruby Rogers

Mr. David J. Russo

Mr. Will Ticknor

Mr. Max and Ms. Mary van Balgooy

Mr. Jim\* and Ms. Janet Vaughan

Mr. George L. Vogt

Anonymous

\*Deceased

16 Fundraising AASLH

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Concord Historical Society

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Chet Orloff

Pajaro Valley Historical

Association Calli Patterson Merlin Peterson

Pleasant Prairie Historical

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### \$5,000 and Up

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#### Up to \$99

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### **History Leadership** Institute Scholarship **Fund**

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### **Small Museums** Scholarship Fund

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### \$500 and Up

Janice B. Klein

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### MAKING HISTORY MATTER DONORS

This campaign includes three memorial funds. Some donors directed part of their gifts to one or more funds.

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Joni Blackman<sup>c</sup> Nicole Bleau<sup>c</sup>

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#### ......

**\$10,000-\$49,999**Janet Vaughan<sup>t</sup>

#### ... ... ...

**\$50,000 and Up**Laurance S. Rockefeller Fund

<sup>c</sup> Catlin-Legutko | <sup>d</sup> Donath | <sup>v</sup> Vaughan | <sup>T</sup> Multi-year pledge



**18** Making History Matter Donors

AASLH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FY 2023 AUDITED STATEMENTS • YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

CURRENT ASSETS					
	2023	2022			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$619,543	\$328,510			
Restricted cash	\$157,243	\$251,932			
Accounts receivable	\$111,531	\$117,707			
Grant receivable	\$0	\$10,070			
Other assets	\$120,040	\$80,033			
Total current assets	\$1,008,357	\$788,252			
Property and equipment	\$6,341	\$8,777			
Right-of-Use assets	\$107,752				
Investments, substantially restricted	\$2,152,815	\$2,013,840			
Total assets	\$3,275,265	\$2,810,869			

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS					
Current liabilities	2023	2022			
Accounts payable	\$173,881	\$122,471			
Unearned membership dues	\$392,115	\$364,825			
Unearned revenue	\$272,297	\$204,637			
Current portion of operating lease liability	\$46,269				
Total current liabilities	\$884,562	\$691,934			
Long-term operating lease liability	\$62,589				
Total liabilities	\$947,151	\$691,934			
Net assets					
Without donor restrictions	\$16,016	(\$45,300)			
With donor restrictions	\$2,312,098	\$2,164,235			
Total net assets	\$2,328,114	\$2,118,935			
Total liabilities and net assets	\$3,275,265	\$2,810,869			

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES				
Revenues, gains, and other support	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total	
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$1,874,649	\$147,863	\$2,022,512	
Operating expenses	\$1,112,688		\$1,112,668	
Supporting services	\$700,665		\$700,665	
Total operating expenses	\$1,813,333		\$1,813,333	
Change in net assets from operations	\$61,316	\$147,863	\$209,179	
Net assets, beginning of year	(\$45,300)	\$2,164,235	\$2,118,935	
Net assets, year-end	\$16,016	\$2,312,098	\$2,328,114	
Statement of cash flow	FY 2023	FY 2022		
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$196,344	(\$93,940)		
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$580,442	\$674,382		
Total	\$776,786	\$580,442		

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