

## **Actions of Council**

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Thursday, **December 14, 2023**, using Zoom. AASLH Chair Burt Logan led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the September 6, 2023, Council Meeting on Zoom.
2. Discussed the controversy over books removed from gift shops at two Texas Historical Commission plantation sites and approved the issuance of the public statement, ["AASLH Stands for Public Access to History Books and Supports History Practitioners."](#)
3. Reviewed the financial dashboard through September 30, 2023 and discussed the \$54,522 surplus at the end of the previous fiscal year (ending June 30, 2023). Approved spending \$18,000 from the surplus to move the organization's files to a cloud-based system. The remainder of the surplus will go to the cash reserve. AASLH's new accounting firm is Nashville-based Hoskins & Company.
4. Discussed the President and CEO's report, which focused on three things: initiatives to connect AASLH members to each other and to the organization; the ongoing series of Virtual Summits on focused topics; and efforts to prepare for the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. AASLH will release a Spanish translation of its *250 Field Guide* and themes in the next month, is creating a Programming Handbook to help small organizations prepare for the Semiquincentennial, and is leading an effort to seek Congressional funding for 250<sup>th</sup> programming in the states.
5. Discussed the Executive Committee's creation of a Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Task Force and voted to extend the task force's charge to a full year as requested by staff.
6. Heard a report from the Making History Matter Campaign Chair Erin Carlson Mast and fundraising consultant Jennifer Chalos on the state of the campaign. More than \$500,000 from nearly 80 donors was raised in the first year and a half.
7. Met with the chair of the Climate and Sustainability Committee, Kathy Garrett-Cox, to share ideas and review the committee's plans.
8. Council ended the meeting in Executive Session.