

Actions of Council

The Council of the American Association for State and Local History met on Wednesday afternoon, **September 6, 2023**, during the 2023 AASLH Annual Conference in Boise, Idaho. AASLH Chair Burt Logan led the meeting, and Council took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the June 23, 2023, Council Meeting on Zoom.
2. Recognized and thanked the members whose terms were ending during the Annual Conference: Veronica Gallardo, Jennifer Ortiz, and Jennifer Kilmer. Recognized and welcomed the members-elect whose terms were beginning during the conference: Veronica Gallardo (re-elected), Pam Junior, Margaret Koch, and Andrea Lowery.
3. Voted to select Michell Banks as Council's Representative to the Executive Committee for the remainder of her term.
4. Confirmed that the February 2024 Council meeting will be held in conjunction with Museums Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.
5. Reviewed the preliminary financial dashboard for FY2023 ending on June 30, 2023. The preliminary assessment was that there was a surplus which will allow the organization to restore the cash reserve fund, which had been tapped the previous year. Membership revenue was below budget but far exceeded the previous fiscal year. Expenses for staff were below budget due to staff turnover. Expenses included a large payment to set up the new Association Management System the office is adopting. In the next several months, AASLH will be seeking a new accounting firm due to the current firm's fee increase.
6. Received and discussed the President and CEO's report, which began with an overview of the strategic plan. Each of AASLH's five strategic goals were articulated into a three-year picture that will take the organization through the Semiquincentennial in 2026. A one-year plan offered ten specific objectives through June 2024. AASLH is nearly to the halfway point of its \$1M Making History Matter fundraising campaign. Staff completed proposals for two major grants, one to examine and promote equity in the history field workplace and one to expand the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (STEPS). Priorities for the fall will be planning two virtual summits, one on Small Museums and one on Doing History in Polarized Times.
7. Discussed the "AASLH Guidelines on Advocacy and When to Issue Statements," which was created in 2022 and adopted in June 2023. Based on experience over the summer of issuing statements, Council decided it would be a best practice to always consult in advance with museum or other history organization named in a statement. Council's consensus was that AASLH must continue to be firm in promoting inclusive, whole, honest history.
8. Approved the annual Strategic Priorities communication from Council to the Leadership Nominating Committee.
9. Council moved into Executive Session.