

AASLH



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION for STATE and LOCAL HISTORY



AASLH Council touring Conner Prairie in Fishers, Indiana, during the June 2018 Council Meeting.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
for STATE and LOCAL HISTORY

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From the President & CEO

When AASLH's leaders filed Articles of Incorporation in Washington, D.C., in November 1944, they must have been influenced by the experiences of WWII. They laid out an ambitious purpose for the new organization: "In maintaining and perfecting our own institutions and fulfilling our world responsibilities, we must rely heavily upon knowledge of our American history and heritage." Invoking the idea that history is relevant, AASLH's architects went on to state that an "understanding of the past must become the sure guide to solving our problems of the future." AASLH would be more than a "narrow" professional association of "professors and technicians" because it would do something to "reach the great body of the citizenry."

AASLH is again experimenting with ways to serve broader audiences. What has always made AASLH unique is its ability to be a home for history for people who come to the field from so many backgrounds. We will be working harder than ever to be an inclusive and equitable institution that promotes those values across the historical discipline.

Over the past year we successfully piloted our community historians program, with funding from Humanities Tennessee, at public history institutions in East, Middle, and West Tennessee. The project feeds public curiosity and creates more knowledgeable volunteers, donors, and board members for history museums, historic sites, and historical societies. We have renamed it the Community Historians Program and will be looking for funding to expand it into a ten- to thirteen-week course at institutions across the country.

In 2018 we also made progress on our National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a chance to rethink our growing continuing education and professional development curriculum. Guided by consultants, AASLH staff will be employing a new framework for organizing and shaping all our webinars, online courses, and onsite workshops in ways that take the most advantage of the organization's strengths while serving not only history practitioners at all stages of their careers, but volunteers, graduate students, and, perhaps, lifelong learners.

There have been many other small steps at testing beyond the current AASLH membership. In July, AASLH staff launched the organization's new website and added an online Learning Management System to make our expanding pool of trainings and publications more readily available to more people. In tandem with the National Council on Public History, we also began to sketch out an online and free-to-the-world *Inclusive Historian's Handbook*, which will be of interest to many inside and outside of the historical profession. Meanwhile, thanks to the Canadian Heritage Information Network, we have made publicly available one of the most arcane but intriguing corners of history work: how to categorize historical artifacts. As of October 2018, AASLH's *Nomenclature 4.0* is now online, free, and in French and English. For anyone curious about the names of artifacts in museum collections. In partnership with the Organization of American Historians, we have started a *History Check-In* series of webinars for volunteers, paid staff, and members of the general public that gives an update on the current state of historiography for particular topics.

In 2019 we will be focusing on how the new IMLS-funded framework for continuing education widens our reach, while also connecting with more graduate programs in museum studies and public history, and, for the first time in many years, AASLH will be gathering some basic data about field that could help all history organizations reach new audiences. Our first effort will be to capture fundamental information about the most interesting people beyond AASLH's membership—those who give meaning to history institutions by visiting them.

Thank you for your help in making this year a turning point for AASLH. I am deeply grateful for your support, the dedication of the AASLH staff, and the commitment of all our Council and committee members.

John R. Dichtl
President & CEO, AASLH

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From the Council Chair



I am pleased to serve as the chair of the nation's most outstanding organization devoted to the study and preservation of state and local history, and to represent and speak on behalf of our membership at the national level.

The American Association for State and Local History is the one organization that deals with all aspects of American history and the various ways it is interpreted in traditional history museums, historic houses, historic villages and farms, inner city interpretive and cultural centers, and other organizations. AASLH is challenged by the times that we live in to be both preservers of our past as well as advocates for its relevance to our lives today.

One challenge (or opportunity, as one may view it) is that by 2043, the United States population is projected to become majority-minority. Today, Hawaii, California, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, and the District of Columbia are already majority-minority. Ethnic minority children will be the

majority in the United States as early as 2019. The AASLH Council is beginning to address these changing demographics by examining how representative we are of our membership, as well as how we reflect the ethnic diversity of the nation. The challenge of the twenty-first century is how to become more inclusive within our local and state organizations so that we preserve a history that is true and relevant to a society that is becoming more diverse with each generation.

The AASLH Council is continuing to tackle issues of diversity and inclusion at the national level with the sincere hope that AASLH can play a major role in moving this nation towards becoming a more inclusive society. Let us take the lead in bringing real meaning to our national motto of *E pluribus unum*.

John E. Fleming

AASLH Chair of Council
President of JE Fleming Associates, LLC
Director in Residence, National Museum of African American Music
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Many thanks to all of our volunteer committee members for their service in 2018.

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AASLH Council



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Class of 2020
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U.S. 250th Anniversary Information and Listening Session at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.

History Relevance Initiative

AASLH remains a strong supporter of the History Relevance initiative—a coalition of history organizations and practitioners dedicated to promoting a shared language, tools, and strategies to mobilize history organizations in the United States around the relevance and value of history. Since 2014, more than 300 history organizations have endorsed the initiative's "Value of History" statement.

In 2018, the initiative continued to expand its coalition and provide the field with strong examples of history organizations around the country working to make the past more relevant to present-day challenges and concerns. History Relevance and AASLH staff began offering the *History Relevance Coffee Break* webinar series. These webinars, structured as thirty-minute, interview style chats, feature public history practitioners discussing ways their institution has worked to make history more relevant. In addition, we offered a workshop on making history relevant at our Annual Meeting in Kansas City. Led by Tim Grove (Grove History Consulting and History Relevance steering committee member) and Aaron Genton (Collections Manager at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill), this workshop helped more than thirty conference attendees think through what it means to make history relevant and the challenges of carrying out that work at their institutions. AASLH and History Relevance plan to begin offering similar in-person events at conferences and elsewhere in the year to come.

We are working on several other fronts to help history organizations more clearly articulate the value of their work to the public. We are continuing to seek funding for major research projects to advance our efforts. We hope to survey American attitudes about history and history organizations and are working to develop common metrics of impact that can provide meaningful, actionable data for measuring the community impact of our organizations. Relevance is one of the key goals for guiding the commemoration of the U.S. 250th anniversary and remains one of our core values, guiding the work of the organization as we look to the future.

U.S. 250th Commemoration

AASLH has established itself as a leader in the field in preparation for the United States' 250th anniversary in 2026. This anniversary will present a major opportunity to engage with new audiences and re-assert the importance of history for understanding the present and planning for the future. By encouraging history organizations large and small to begin preparing now, we hope 2026 will feature creative and engaging approaches to sharing 250 years of American history and will leave a lasting legacy for the field and the nation.

With the help of our U.S. 250th Task Force, we developed several grant aspirations we hope can help coordinate the work of history organizations around the country over the next several years:

- Emphasize history's relevance to every American, every day
- Tell inclusive stories about the American past
- Increase funding for history
- Enhance the public's engagement with history collections
- Highlight the importance of history education

In addition, AASLH is also serving as an information clearinghouse for the 250th, helping connect the work of state and local partners. To that end, in 2018 we surveyed state-level organizations to determine the current status of commemoration planning. While preparations in several states are well under way, many more are just beginning to think about this anniversary. In 2019 and over the next several years, we will continue to work with other stakeholders at the national, state, and local levels to help facilitate a commemoration centered on relevant, inclusive stories from 250 years of American history.

Community Historians Program

Over the past two years, AASLH began developing a new community historian program. Modeled in part on successful programs at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum and the Museum of History and Industry (both in Washington state), this program was designed to support a group we call “avocational historians”—history enthusiasts, “buffs,” and others with a deep interest in the subject matter, but who may not have formal training or a connection to a history organization. More specifically, the program seeks to introduce these avocational historians to professional historical practices, helping them improve their ability to interpret the past and pursue history projects they find personally meaningful. We hope the program can sharpen the way members of the public think about the past and its connection to the present, forge a stronger link between local history organizations and their surrounding communities, and help develop stronger advocates for history and the humanities.

Through funding from Humanities Tennessee, AASLH began making the program a reality. Between summer 2017 and fall 2018, we convened a panel of humanities and public history experts to develop a curriculum outline, worked with a curriculum developer to fully plan three of the proposed program weeks, and partnered with three history organizations in Tennessee to implement the program for public audiences in each of the state’s Grand Divisions. During the implementation phase, three weeks of the curriculum were offered for four separate cohorts at three institutions: East Tennessee Historical Society (East); Tennessee State Library and Archives (Middle); and Morton Museum of Collierville History (West).

These offerings were a great success, serving more than 100 Tennesseans in all parts of the state—only about half of the total number of individuals who expressed interest in participating. Participant backgrounds ranged from genealogists to re-enactors to historical society volunteers and beyond, all of them looking to gain additional skills in researching and interpreting local history. The cohorts participated in instruction and discussion regarding how historians think about the past, how to conduct research with primary and secondary sources, and how to interpret material culture and care for objects. The enthusiasm of

the participants and the host sites, in addition to the public history professionals with whom we have discussed the program over the past eighteen months, has revealed that this type of programming is serving a real need and warrants further development. The experience at the Tennessee pilot sites has helped us identify the program’s strengths and more clearly assess its future challenges. We’ll be seeking new funding and working to refine and expand the program in 2019. This pilot phase has revealed the opportunity for history organizations to connect more directly with their surrounding communities and to demonstrate the value and relevance of history by meeting history enthusiasts where they are and guiding them in professional practices.

AASLH Receives IMLS Grant to Create Continuing Education Framework

In the fall of 2017, AASLH received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to improve and expand our continuing education program. Beginning with an assessment of the association’s current continuing education and professional development programs, we will examine how the historical community’s training needs have been served, and how organizations inside and outside the history museum field have provided professional development opportunities. We are currently conducting interviews about current and emerging training needs.

The project will deliver a comprehensive, evolutionary Continuing Education and Professional Development Framework that augments graduate education, serves professionals at every stage of their careers, and reaches life-long learners and avocational historians. The framework will identify the value of the association’s training programs for professionals; create a refined vision statement, outcomes, and metrics; establish a curriculum of courses, workshops, and webinars; define target audiences and ideal formats for reaching those audiences; and outline systems for evaluation and experimentation. The grant will allow us to assess the training needs of our community and to develop a comprehensive and competitive curriculum that will best serve our members. The project will be completed in December 2019.

Right: Participants in the Middle Tennessee Community Historians Program at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville. Below: Alabama Department of Archives and History enjoys an AASLH Continuing Education webinar.



Leadership in History Awards

Albert B. Corey Award

Museum of the American Military Family and Learning Center
Tijeras, NM

The all-volunteer Museum of the American Military Family and Learning Center brings together people with shared experiences to showcase and honor those who have served behind the scenes: America’s military families. The award-winning project included the exhibit *Inside Out: Memories from Inside the Closet*, a collection of special works painted on military uniforms by LGBT military veterans, and the anthology *SHOUT! Sharing Our Truth*, a collection of first-hand stories by LGBT veterans and family members about their experiences both in the military and in re-integrating into civilian communities before and after “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” This project empowered members of the LGBT veteran community to tell their stories and helped acquaint the public with the unique challenges of the LGBT military experience.



Briann Greenfield of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center and Council Chair Katherine Kane.

- Fairfield Museum and History Center
Fairfield, CT
- Harriet Beecher Stowe Center
Hartford, CT
- Knights of Columbus Museum
New Haven, CT
- Boston Historical Society
Boston, NY
- Richard Longstreth
Keeseville, NY
- Leo P. Ostebo
Kings Park, NY
- Maxine N. Lurie and Richard F. Veit
New Brunswick, NJ

- Region 3
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania
- Museum of the American Revolution
Philadelphia, PA

- Region 4
Alabama, Florida, Georgia
- The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at Auburn University
Auburn, AL
- Georgia Historical Society
Savannah, GA

- Region 5
Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia
- James Madison’s Montpelier
Orange, VA*



AASLH Awards Committee at work in Nashville.

- Region 6
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio
- Glencoe Historical Society
Glencoe, IL
- Indiana Historical Bureau
Indianapolis, IN
- Detroit Historical Society
Detroit, MI*

- Region 7
Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee
- Mississippi Civil Rights Museum
Jackson, MS
- Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage
Nashville, TN

- Region 8
New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
- Coronado Historic Site and the Friends of Coronado Historic Site
Bernalillo, NM
- Silver City Museum
Silver City, NM
- Cordelia Thomas Snow
Santa Fe, NM

- Region 9
Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin
- Marcia G. Anderson
St. Paul, MN
- Brown County Historical Society
New Ulm, MN



Delia Hagen and Kate Hampton representing the Montana Historical Society.

- Goodhue County Historical Society and Frederick L. Johnson
Red Wing, MN
- Minnesota Discovery Center
Chisholm, MN
- The Neville Public Museum of Brown County
Green Bay, WI
- Oshkosh Public Museum
Oshkosh, WI

- Region 10
Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska
- Johnson County Museum,
Overland Park, KS
- Kauffman Museum
North Newton, KS
- Kansas City PBS and Libraries of Greater Kansas City
Kansas City, MO
- Missouri Historical Society
St. Louis, MO
- The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures
Kansas City, MO
- Nick Batter and Ben Bohall
Omaha, NE

- Region 11
Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
- Montana Historical Society
Helena, MT

- Region 12
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington
- Atwood Resource Center at the Anchorage Museum
Anchorage, AK*

- Region 13
California and Hawaii
- None
- Region 14
Arizona, Nevada, Utah
- Arizona Historical Society’s Pioneer Museum
Flagstaff, AZ
- Chandler Museum
Chandler, AZ
- Utah Humanities
Salt Lake City, UT

* History in Progress (HIP) award winners

Record Number of Scholarships Awarded for 2018 Annual Meeting



Mindi Love, 2018 Annual Meeting Host Committee Co-Chair.

Thanks to the generosity of the William T. Kemper Foundation, the Kansas City Host Committee, and AASLH members, a record thirty-six people received scholarships to attend the AASLH Annual Conference. These scholarships were designed to expand the diversity of the conference in areas such as ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and organizational capacity. AASLH presented four scholarships through the Douglas Evelyn Scholarship for Diversity. The AASLH Small Museums Committee raised funds to provide scholarships for five small museum employees to attend the conference in Kansas City. In addition, they also awarded nine scholarships for registration for the Online Conference. The Kemper Foundation funded an additional twenty-six scholarships. Thank you to all of the generous donors who helped to fund this important effort.

Diversity and Inclusion Mixer

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee (formerly Diversity and Inclusion Task Force) held its second mixer at the AASLH 2018 Annual Meeting in Kansas City. With twice as many registrants as 2017 (and many welcome drop-ins), this mixer was a lively space of discussion, reflection, fellowship, and good fun. The D&I Committee looks forward to hosting everyone again in 2019 in Philadelphia.



2018 Annual Meeting attendees.

Featured Speakers in Kansas City Bring Diverse Perspectives on *Truth or Consequences*

AASLH welcomed two featured speakers who brought different perspectives on the theme of *Truth or Consequences* to the general sessions at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Historian, British television personality, and host of the

podcast *Dan Snow's History Hit*, Dan Snow looked at the theme from an international perspective. He challenged attendees to keep "discovering the truth, preserving that truth, and transmitting that truth." Cheryl Brown Henderson, Founding President of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence, and Research and owner of Brown and Associates, examined truth and consequences from a personal perspective. Brown Henderson is one of three daughters of the late Rev. Oliver L. Brown who, in the fall of 1950 along with twelve other parents led by attorney for the NAACP, filed suit on behalf of their children against the local Board of Education which became the landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. She shared her story and reminded the audience that history is personal and historians need to be sure that everyone's truth is heard.

2019 Annual Meeting: *What Are We Waiting For?*

In this time of political, social, and cultural turmoil, history institutions stand poised to connect with their communities and audiences like never before. Rancorous debates over issues like racial violence, immigration, global climate change, mass incarceration, and others divide our communities and the nation. These flashpoint issues also reveal opportunities for the history community to provide context and information to help make sense of modern challenges. History institutions can serve as a refuge from the rapid swirl of the news cycle and offer the restoration, contemplation, and community sought by a tired and disconnected citizenry.

Even as a need for the history community to take action becomes increasingly apparent, many of us remain hesitant to enter the fray. Some are aware that there are no quick solutions and that real connections take time. Others are afraid to weigh in on politically divisive issues or simply uncertain how, when, or if to make the jump. As history practitioners and history orga-



2018 Annual Meeting attendees.



K. Allison Wickens.

nizations encounter increasingly pressing and even dire challenges in our communities and within the field, the question remains:

As AASLH and our partner, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, arrive in Philadelphia for the 2019 Annual Meeting, we'll be examining how getting the timing right can make the difference between success and failure, between building relationships or breaking them down. Should we dive in, get better organized before starting, or take time to consider an entirely new direction? It's definitely time to start the conversation: *What Are We Waiting For?*

AASLH Online and ADA Compliance

AASLH is committed to providing everyone with full and equal opportunities to benefit from the resources we offer. When developing our new online presence, we retained an accessibility consultant (UsableNet) to assist us in implementing and maintaining compliance with the relevant portions of the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 Level AA, as well as state and federal accessibility requirements. At the time of writing, we have completed an audit of our website and have made the recommended edits to improve its functionality for all users. Accessibility is a complex and ever-evolving topic, so we will continue to revisit and improve our site in the years to come. In 2019, we'll be developing an accessibility roadmap for our online presence, which we look forward to sharing with you. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at learn@aaslh.org.



Left: Cherie Cook, AASLH Senior Program Manager, with Lana Burton.



Anna Altschwager.

The Inclusive Historian's Handbook

In conjunction with the National Council on Public History (NCPH), we are producing *The Inclusive Historian's*

Handbook, a free online guide to public history practices and perspectives. The *Handbook* will offer both theoretical framing and practical tips that practitioners can lean on as they work to make their institutions, exhibits, and programs more inclusive. A team of volunteer editors and authors representing both organizations began work in 2017 with the aim

of launching the website in 2019. This project directly supports AASLH's and NCPH's goals of building diversity and inclusion across the historical community.



Ken Turino.



Stacy Klingler, AASLH Council.

Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations

In early 2019 we will be welcoming the 1,000th organization to our StEPs program (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations). Organizations enrolled in the self-study program use Basic, Good, and Better performance indicators to assess their policies and practices and make improvements that are aligned with national museum standards.

In 2018, the Association continued to encourage the formation of StEPs groups for the benefits of shared learning, increased networking, and greater progress through peer accountability. In western Massachusetts, the Pioneer Valley History Network began working with eight history organizations in September after receiving funding from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and Mass Humanities. And in St. Louis, the Missouri Historical Society finalized its plans to launch a metro area StEPs group in early 2019.

The two-year StEPs Enhancement Project moved into full gear in 2018 as teams of volunteers met in Tennessee in April. Their task over the two-day session was to consider new StEPs workbook content in seven areas: Creativity and Experimentation; Digital Collections; Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Access; Environmental Sustainability; Finance, Transparency, and Fraud Prevention; Fundraising; Impact, Engagement, and Relevance. In October, teams submitted their draft content. Undoubtedly, organizations enrolled in StEPs will want to know how an updated version of the workbook will affect their work in the program. The current plan is to allow them to continue using the original version of the workbook for twelve to eighteen months after the new version is published in late 2019.

Many thanks to our StEPs Enhancement volunteers:

Justina Barrett	Nicholas J. Hoffman	Adam Scher
Rebekah Beaulieu	Emily Jacobs	Jamie Simek
Kelsey Brow	Ashley Jordan	Michelle Sunset
Trenda Byrd	Vicky Kruckeberg	Sarah Sutton
Joe Cialdella	Kaia Landon	Brenda Thacker
Jennifer Coggins	Maressa McFarlane	Andy Verhoff
Sara Elliott	Aimee Newell	Lori Woods
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Sara Fisher	Sara Phalen	Elizabeth Wylie
Jerry Foust	Melissa Prycer	Nina Zannieri
Sarah Zenaida Gould	Danyelle Rickard	Donald Zuris
Greg Griffith	Ashley Rogers	
Leigh Grinstead	Kelby Rose	



Participants in the **Connecting Your Collections to Teachers and Students** workshop at the **New Hampshire Historical Society**.

2018 StEPs Graduates

Greeneville Greene County History Museum, Greeneville, TN
Ocean County Historical Society, Toms River, NJ

Organizations Earning StEPs Certificates in 2018

Addison Historical Museum, Addison, IL
Bay-Lakes Council Scout Museum BSA, Oostburg, WI
Bosque Museum, Clifton, TX
Chagrin Falls Historical Society and Museum, Chagrin Falls, OH
Cheshire Historical Society, Cheshire, CT
City of Miami Black Police Precinct and Courthouse Museum, Miami, FL
Cleveland Grays Armory Museum, Cleveland, OH
Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, Dennison, OH
Douglas County History Repository, Castle Rock, CO
Edina Historical Society, Edina, MN
Elgin History Museum, Elgin, IL
Fort Worth Aviation Museum, Fort Worth, TX
Frances Willard House Museum, Evanston, IL
Greeneville Greene County History Museum, Greeneville, TN
Hampton Historical Society/Tuck Museum, Hampton, NH
Historic Cold Spring Village, Cape May, NJ
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township, Marmora, NJ
Howard County Historical Society, Kokomo, IN
Jacob Wolf House Historic Site, Norfolk, AR
Johnston Historical Society, Johnston, IA
Kent-Delord House Museum, Plattsburgh, NY
Lacey Historical Society, Forked River, NJ
Lillian E. Jones Museum, Jackson, OH
Long Beach Island Historical Association, Beach Haven, NJ
Lorain Historical Society, Lorain, OH
Manitowoc County Historical Society, Manitowoc, WI
McLeod County Historical Society, Hutchinson, MN
Montgomery County Historical Society, Mt. Sterling, KY
National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, OH
Navy Lakehurst Historical Society, Inc., Lakehurst, NJ
Newnan-Coweta Historical Society, Newnan, GA
Ocean County Historical Society, Toms River, NJ
Park County Heritage, Fairplay, CO
Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH
Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield, NJ
Roxborough State Park, Roxborough, CO
San Jacinto Museum of History, La Porte, TX
Southeast Ohio History Center, Athens, OH
Union County Historical Society, Lewisburg, PA
Wanda Gag House Association, New Ulm, MN

Jerolyn Barbee, **National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center**.

Seven African American Museums Selected for First NMAAHC StEPs Cohort

In a collaboration between the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and AASLH, seven organizations are participating as a cohort in AASLH's StEPs program:

- **African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County** (Ann Arbor, MI)
- **Black Heritage Society of Washington State** (Seattle, WA)
- **Evansville African American Museum** (Evansville, IN)
- **Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community** (Bridgeport, CT)
- **Northwest African American Museum** (Seattle, WA)
- **National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center** (Wilberforce, OH)
- **Robert Russa Moton Museum** (Farmville, VA)



Front Row: LaNesha DeBardelaben, Jerolyn Barbee, Ashley Jordan, Joyce M. Hunter.
Back Row: Stephanie Johnson-Toliver, Cameron Patterson, Lana Burton, Maisa L. Tisdale.

These organizations will receive guidance in the areas of management and governance, learning from one another as they take part in the StEPs program together. To kick off the work of the cohort, each institution sent representatives to the AASLH Annual Meeting in Kansas City for an orientation meeting where they had the opportunity to meet one another and begin their work. Over the coming year, they will continue to work together virtually through a mentorship program, online webinars, and other resources.

Visitors Count!

Visitors Count! is AASLH's visitor research program for mid- to large-sized museums and history organizations. Participants in the program work with AASLH to customize a survey instrument and a plan for collecting replies. Then, an expert analyzes the data and creates a detailed custom report. The Visitors Count! report places the visitor survey

data in perspective by comparing the results with similar museums, and provides statistically-derived "key drivers" that help you understand what makes for a great visitor experience at each unique institution.

In 2018, twenty-five institutions participated, with five choosing to do a teacher survey. Over 4,000 surveys were collected, and three in-person meetings were held to discuss results. AASLH also worked with the Tennessee Historical Commission, which sponsored a group of thirteen historic sites across the state to participate and better understand visitor experiences at historic organizations in Tennessee.

Membership Structure Change

This year, AASLH made significant changes to the dues structure for institutional memberships for the first time in more than twenty years. In an effort to establish a membership structure more accessible and equitable for small institutions—the institutions with budgets smaller than \$250,000 per year that make up more than half of U.S. history organizations—and to align our model more closely with those of our peer associations, we instituted two major changes. First, for basic institutional memberships, we established a sliding scale for dues based on an institution's budget. This allowed us to reduce the cost of an annual membership for our smallest institutions (those with budgets smaller than \$50,000 per year), and keep the cost the same for those between \$50,000 and \$250,000. Annual dues rose for larger institutions according to the size of their annual budgets. Second, we updated our higher membership levels to accommodate institutions choosing to make a bigger annual commitment to AASLH. We've retained our "Partner" level membership, and created two new levels with an expanded suite of benefits: our "Premier Partner" and "Platinum Partner" levels. We're thrilled to have added Alabama Historical Commission as a Premier Partner, as well as Missouri Historical Society as the association's first Platinum Partner. With increased access to continuing education and professional development, Annual Meeting perks, and other new benefits, we hope other institutions will consider joining them. In all, the transformation of our membership structure has allowed us to expand access to the smallest institutions while also growing in our ability to serve a dynamic and changing field in new and exciting ways.

New Website and Learning Management System

This year AASLH released a new website, with a primary objective of providing a better user experience. We made improvements such as clearer navigation and a more responsive layout to simplify our content and improve accessibility and aesthetics. The website includes a new Resource Center that allows users to personalize their learning experiences and provides an integrated approach to our programs and offerings. We were thrilled to unveil the site in July and we are continuing to work to create a digital home for all history practitioners.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION *for STATE and LOCAL HISTORY*
2018 By the Numbers



1
New Staff
Family Member
Nathan Richard Marks



1
New Staff
Member
Alex Collins

5

New Council
Members
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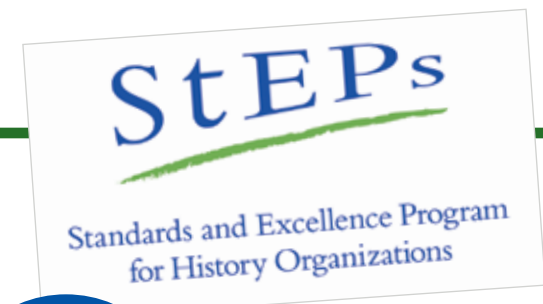


7
Onsite
Workshops



13
New Books
Published

15
Online
Courses



85%

Member
Retention
Rate

53

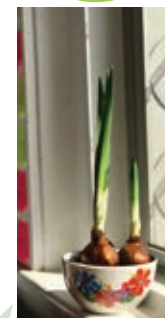
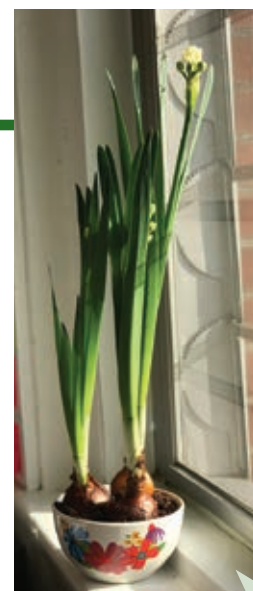
Continuing
Education
Instructors

45

Scholarships
Given Out

42

Webinars
Presented



37
Office
Plants



24
States
Visited

+ 1
Sheep,
cooling off
at Conner
Prairie

95
StEPs
Certificates
Awarded

995
Total StEPs
Members

98
New StEPs
Members

977
Annual
Meeting
Attendees



1,556
New
Members

3,539
Continuing
Education
Participants



5,240
Total number
of AASLH
members



FINANCIAL REPORT

FY 2018 Audited Statements • Year Ending June 30, 2018

Statement of Financial Position
CURRENT ASSETS

	2018	2017
Cash and cash equivalents	\$128,484	\$190,466
Accounts receivable	\$116,120	\$39,843
Other assets	\$89,363	\$73,281
Total current assets	\$333,967	\$303,590
Non-current accounts receivable, net	\$62,974	\$66,858
Property and equipment	\$16,547	\$11,623
Investments, substantially restricted	\$1,723,483	\$1,647,202
Total Assets	\$2,136,971	\$2,029,273

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities	2018	2017
Accounts payable	\$63,399	\$77,168
Unearned revenue	\$503,205	\$445,622
Total current liabilities	\$566,604	\$522,790
Net assets		
Unrestricted	(\$153,116)	(\$140,719)
Temporarily restricted	\$209,349	\$134,868
Permanently restricted	\$1,514,134	\$1,512,334
Total net assets	\$1,570,367	\$1,506,483
Total liabilities and net assets	\$2,136,971	\$2,029,273

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues, gains, and other support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$1,614,714	\$74,481	\$1,800	\$1,690,995
Operating expenses	\$1,041,749	-	-	\$1,041,749
Supporting services	\$585,362	-	-	\$585,362
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,627,111	-	-	\$1,627,111
Change in net assets from operations	(\$12,397)	\$74,481	\$1,800	\$63,884
Net assets, beginning of year	(\$140,719)	\$134,868	\$1,512,334	\$1,506,483
Net assets, year-end	(\$153,116)	\$209,349	\$1,514,134	\$1,570,367
Statement of Cash Flow				
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash	(\$61,982)			
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$190,466			
Total	\$128,484			

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continued next page

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Middlebury Historical Society/Community Historical Museum
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2019 AASLH ANNUAL MEETING

In Partnership with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?



International Coalition of
SITES of CONSCIENCE

PHILADELPHIA, PA

AUGUST 28-31



WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

This question serves as our theme for the 2019 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Depending on the work at hand, our response to the question will vary. It might serve as a call to action, a challenge to embrace difficult work now. It might also serve as a cautious whisper, a reminder to slow down and get it right. Although different issues warrant different responses, consideration of the question is essential in light of the challenges our field, communities, nation, and planet are facing.

In August of 2019, AASLH, in partnership with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, will meet in Philadelphia to grapple with these issues and more. Philadelphia holds a central place in American history and reveals many of its contradictions. The city hosted the creation of our nation's founding documents, the Declaration

of Independence and Constitution, both signed by enslavers on what was formerly Lenni-Lenape Indian land. It's a city famous for celebrating the history of liberty, but it's also a city that bombed black activists in a residential neighborhood fewer than forty years ago. It's home to extreme wealth, but also rife with poverty.

Philadelphia has served as host to groundbreaking work in public history. Its buildings were the first documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey, and it was the nation's first city to be inscribed as a World Heritage site. It has pushed beyond its famous colonial stories to address change and welcome diverse stories. In these ways and others, the city's public historians take risks and solve problems to help the community make necessary changes, all with an eye to the right timing.

SEE YOU IN PHILADELPHIA!



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
for STATE *and* LOCAL HISTORY

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615-320-3203 | Fax 615-327-9013
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www.aaslh.org

