2020 Annual Report
a year in review
Other than AASLH’s earliest days when World War II erupted, or in the chaos that was 1968, I doubt there has been a span between one Annual Meeting and the next that was as jarring as 2020. It was a year of shock and historical reckoning. We saw months of pandemic, of economic erosion, of protests over racism and of symbols of racism, months of raging fires and hurricanes, as well as long-running attacks on science, evidence-based inquiry, and threats to the open and critical examination of history.

In this turmoil, people and institutions looked to the past to understand why things are the way they are, to find examples of resilience, and to formulate answers to today’s problems. Some of these issues were decidedly historical in nature, such as how to deal with Confederate monuments or address racism. Others, such as how to respond to COVID or to climate change, demanded scientific answers but also spurred people to consider the past, such as the history of the 1918 flu and the history of communities adapting to natural disasters. While 2020 was enormously frustrating, I found it a privilege to watch colleagues in historical organizations all over the world respond to these crises and questions, provide answers, adapt their practices, and move forward.

AASLH navigated this crisis year, too. In this Annual Report are examples of how much our Council, committees, members, and staff accomplished. We held our first-ever Online Annual Meeting and served 2,400 people, keeping it to those who needed it. We offered low-cost “AASLH Conversations” webinars about the pandemic and other current issues. Our History Leadership Institute piloted a three-month online course. We launched free virtual small group discussions with our affinity communities. We piloted a successful competitive process for the publications award. We concluded the STEPS enhancement project. And we advanced major research projects: an NEH-funded census of historical organizations, the Mellon-funded FrameWorks project on attitudes toward history, and our National Visitation Report.

Over the next five years AASLH will be using the buildup to the U.S. 250th Anniversary to emphasize the inclusive and relevant work that history organizations are doing. Alongside our partners, we will assert that public history and history education are vital to all communities and to the national fabric. I hope you will join me in making the next few years a renaissance for history, a time of revived public interest in how history shapes local communities, the nation, and the world. Thank you for your support!

John R. Dichtl
President & CEO, AASLH
From the Council Chair

In a year like none other, which we will always remember but many would soon like to forget … I’m reminded that history matters because it connects people to each other and to something larger than themselves. During 2020 we have faced health, social, and economic crises that will forever change the face of museums, the way we do business, and the communities we serve.

We all began to realize that after first “surviving” the initial COVID crisis that we could still “provide” programs and services by pivoting to new delivery methods. Like entrepreneurial businesses, museums began to learn that “a crisis is a terrible thing to waste” because it is during times of extremity that opportunities always emerge, and it is where creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship are inspired.

I believe that museums and other history organizations are uniquely positioned as incubators of creativity to emerge stronger, and more innovative and relevant than ever before. I have seen this at my own institution and so many others in the many ways that we have all pivoted to provide virtual content for online exhibits and programs that can be accessible to everyone.

A wonderful example of how our field can pivot and adapt is the 2020 AASLH Annual Meeting that was held entirely online for the first time. As Chair of AASLH, I want to personally thank everyone that participated in this virtual conference experiment, for your support, and for how your feedback is helping us further evolve and make the conference even better in 2021.

The sentiment of one conference participant really captures the spirit of why we pivoted to serve our members needs differently in a year of crisis. “I think AASLH’s leadership in adapting a digital model was marvelous. This gave us the opportunity to connect with people who would normally be able to attend an in-person conference and the ability to overcome the limitations imposed by COVID-19.” Yet another participant went as far to say that “of all the meetings I have attended over the last 40 some years, I have to say that this was the best of all of them.”

While this statement sets the bar high for AASLH in 2021 and beyond, I know that my colleagues on Council, the AASLH staff, and our many volunteers that serve our committees are up to the task.
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AS OF DECEMBER 2020

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Class of 2024
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**Committees, Task Forces, and Affinity Communities**
COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, AND AFFINITY COMMUNITIES
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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Many thanks to all of our volunteer committee members for their service in 2020.
When COVID came, the idea of an onsite 2020 AASLH conference had to go away. AASLH postponed its planned gathering in Las Vegas and set about creating a virtual meeting. Staff and the Program Committee moved quickly in the spring to make this possible.

We knew the meeting could be more affordable by being online, having far fewer expenses to cover. So, we committed to having a low registration fee ($55 for members) with even a free option for limited access. Historical societies, history museums, and historic sites across the country were struggling financially, and many of our colleagues were furloughed or laid off. In this time of economic and social crisis, AASLH staff and Council decided we could best assist our members and the history field by offering the strong content, personal connection, and professional development of a national conference, online, at a rate that served the majority of the field.

The result was the highest number of registrations in the history of the AASLH Annual Meeting, 2,400. An average AASLH Annual Meeting in the past has attracted 1,000 participants. We reached history practitioners, and even curious onlookers, who had never before come to an AASLH conference and AASLH members, brand new and longtime, who had not yet been to one of our onsite meetings, or who haven’t been in a long while. Fifty-six percent of the 2020 conference attendees were participating in their first AASLH conference, which is 10% more than the average of first-time attendees at our in-person meetings.

Staff and the Program Committee realized we could not and probably should not try to replicate the condensed intensity of an onsite, in-person conference; better to spread the meeting out and, through technology, allow people to build their own conference experience. We extended a four-day experience into live, keynote, and pre-recorded sessions and events across seven days, September 24–30. Registrants had the ability to catch some events live, watch others on their own schedule, and craft a conference to suit their own pace.

The virtual conference also offered a flexibility that is impossible with an onsite meeting. Omar Eaton-Martinez, 2020 Program Chair, and his advisory committee created a program that dealt with the realities facing the history field in the fall of 2020. General session speakers focused on topics such as #MeToo, Black Lives Matter, the impact of the pandemic, and the future of history organizations. These general sessions were offered free to all in order to include as many people as possible in the conversation.

The result of this work was a powerful conference that spoke to the moment and challenged attendees to answer the question of the conference theme, What Kind of Ancestor Will You Be?

If you missed the conference, you can still access sessions in the AASLH Resource Center at https://learn.aaslh.org.
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND INCLUSION

In spring 2020, the AASLH staff began a series of internal discussions about systemic racism and how to make improvements in the office and organization to reduce bias and inequity. A specific process had been urged by the AASLH Diversity & Inclusion Committee, which recommended the staff use the MASS Action (Museum As Sites for Social Action) “Readiness Assessment,” designed for gauging the effectiveness of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion efforts. All staff members completed an anonymous questionnaire, and staff leadership identified the areas needing the most work, engaging the rest of the staff in discussions about concrete steps for the staff, committees, and AASLH Council. After a long break to conduct the 2020 Annual Meeting, we drafted an “AASLH Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Plan” in the fall. We submitted it to the Diversity & Inclusion Committee for comment. In the fall, all staff members participated in a two-day workshop offered through the Center for Nonprofit Management, “Introduction to Systemic Racism.”

We expect it to be an evolving and growing framework that we repeatedly revisit each year to hold ourselves accountable.

As a starting point, the draft action plan states that AASLH as an organization expects to reflect the diversity of equity of the country. The plan begins to highlight priorities—small steps and large steps—for advancing inclusive practices across the organization. We expect it to be an evolving and growing framework that we repeatedly revisit each year to hold ourselves accountable, in conversation with committees, Council, members, and allied organizations.

Meanwhile, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee was busy in 2020. Several committee members served on the 2020 Program Committee and played a large role in planning sessions that spoke to the conference theme, “What Kind of Ancestor Will You Be?” The committee also made a persuasive case for making the conference accessible to more colleagues across the field by keeping the price low in a year when the pandemic had shuttered so many institutions. In addition to helping make the inaugural Online Annual Meeting a success, D&I Committee members began a process of identifying the collective needs of the organization by initiating dialogue with several of AASLH’s committees. Over the last half of 2020, D&I Committee members spoke with chairs from these other committees to establish communication lines, learn what the committees’ priorities were, and plan how the D&I Committee might partner with them. Several of the committees had already identified diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion issues they wanted to address. Almost all reported a need to increase the diversity of representation amongst their committee membership. This information is currently being compiled to identify strategies to eliminate obstacles.

WEBINARS

As protests against systemic racism and police violence took place around the country last summer, AASLH put together several rapid-response webinars to help history professionals and historical organizations think about how these protests intersected with their work. In our “Monuments and Memory” webinar, for example, history leaders from across the country offered ideas and answered questions about connections between the protests against racism and the nation’s rapidly changing commemorative landscape. We also hosted other webinars exploring how Black Lives Matter protests might inform 250th anniversary planning and how organizations could prioritize inclusion during the COVID-19 crisis. Additionally, as planning for the 250th anniversary proceeded at the national, state, and local level, we hosted a virtual listening session in partnership with the Association of African American Museums and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History to carefully consider how the community of African American museums and history organizations might engage with the “America 250” commemoration.
Making history more relevant to the public continues to be at the core of AASLH’s activities, from our professional development, to 250th anniversary planning, to research projects about the state of the field. Here are some of the ways we helped advance the relevance of history in 2020.

250th Anniversary Planning

AASLH is committed to ensuring the 250th anniversary commemoration in 2026 showcases inclusive and relevant stories of our nation’s past. We published a white paper from a working group helping the field think through how historical organizations can “make history relevant to every American, every day.” As part of our 250th anniversary planning, we organize and convene a national coordinating committee, which includes representatives from other national associations, federal agencies, and other major institutions helping the history community prepare for 2026. With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we are also developing interpretive themes to provide cohesiveness to a very grassroots commemoration, and to do so in ways that emphasize the history’s relevance. In December 2020, we convened groups of renowned scholars to help us begin that process, which will continue in 2021.

Framing History with the American Public

Last year, we published the first major report from our “Framing History with the American Public” project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. “Framing History” is a three-year project to carry out a comprehensive, nationwide study of how the public understands what history is and why it is valuable to society and to develop new, more effective communications tools for the field. The project has three major goals: 1) to identify the gaps between experts’ and the public’s understanding of what history is and why it’s valuable to society; 2) to develop and test new communication strategies for solving those challenges; and 3) to create and deploy tools and resources to train history professionals in all sectors of our field to communicate more effectively with the public.

Last fall, we completed the first of those goals, resulting in the report: "Communicating about History: Challenges, Opportunities, and Emerging Recommendations." You can read the summary of the report on our blog. In 2021 we will continue testing communications strategies identified in that report, developing an empirically tested, proven effective set of recommendations for how history professionals can most effectively communicate to public audiences what history is, what historians do, and why it’s valuable to society.

National Visitation Report

In 2020 we published our second annual National Visitation Report, a critical tool for assessing Americans’ engagement with historical organizations. In our first Report, in 2019, we found that in-person visits to history museums, historic sites, and other institutions had increased about 6 percent from 2013 to 2018, with the largest gains occurring at the smallest institutions. 2020’s report found that visitation had leveled off in 2019, with virtually no change from the year before—although small institutions still reported stronger visitation numbers than their larger counterparts. This data will provide a critically important baseline for measuring the impact on visitation wrought by 2020’s extended and widespread closures because of the coronavirus pandemic.
In May, our national awards committee met virtually to review this year’s Leadership in History Awards nominations and recognize outstanding projects from around the country. This year, the committee conferred 60 awards to exhibits, public programs, and individuals that are doing impressive history work at institutions of every size and type. The winner of the 2020 Albert B. Corey Award, recognizing exceptional all-volunteer institutions, is the Vail Preservation Society of Vail, Arizona, for their documentary Voices of Vail. History in Progress (HIP) Award winners represent the most creative and inspiring projects each year, and 2020 saw three winners emerge: Coastal Carolina University and the Horry County Museum (Conway, South Carolina) for the exhibit Printing the Past: SC in 3D; Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) for the public program Hidden Lives Illuminated; and Guadalupe Centers, University of Missouri-Kansas City History Department, University of Missouri-Kansas City Latinx and Latin American Studies, Tico Productions, and Kansas City Public Library for the special project Kansas City’s Guadalupe Centers: A Century of Serving the Latino Community.

Additionally, we debuted a new competitive process for the Publications Award this year which yielded impressive results. In the category of Local History, the winner is QuiltSpeak: Uncovering Women’s Voices Through Quilts by Diana Bell-Kite (North Carolina Museum of History, 2019), with honorable mention going to The Mariel Boatlift: A Cuban-American Journey by Victor Andres Triay (University of Florida Press, 2019). In the category of Local History (Small Press), the winner is Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai: Chiefs, Missionaries, and Five Transformations of the Hawaiian Kingdom by the Hawaiian Mission Children’s Society (Hawaiian Mission Children’s Society, 2018), with honorable mention going to A Relentless Spirit: Catharine Ladd, Southern Educator, Entrepreneur, and Author, 1808-1899 by Patricia V. Veasey (Floating Leaf Press, 2019).

Visit aaslh.org/programs/leadership-in-history-awards to see the full list of this year’s award winners.
In 2020, after several years of work by AASLH staff member Cherie Cook and many volunteers, the STEPS enhancement project concluded with the release of an updated STEPS workbook and online community site. The updated workbook contains expanded guidance for essential topics like diversity and accessibility, and the new and improved online community space now features digital access to STEPS progress certificates.

Despite the challenges history organizations faced in 2020, it was encouraging to see so many of them find opportunities to continue their work in the program: 38 STEPS organizations earned a total of 96 progress certificates throughout the year.
Like almost every organization in 2020, AASLH was faced with unforeseen challenges regarding how to proceed with our other previously in-person programs, namely the History Leadership Institute Seminar. Although we scheduled a new “2+2” hybrid format, it became clear by mid-Spring that an in-person program would not be tenable due to the COVID-19. The growth of a modified virtual Seminar offered an opportunity to fast-track an idea we thought would still be years away: a History Leadership Institute online course.

From July to September, we piloted an online course with a remarkable group of the field’s emerging leaders. Course participants worked with facilitators Randi Korn, Larry Yerdon, and Trevor Jones to read, discuss, and plan for how to strengthen their organizations through intentional impact planning, systems thinking, and strategic operations. While it was not a replacement for the Seminar, the online course offered a way for mid-career professionals to connect with colleagues around the country, discuss shared challenges across the field, and gain valuable insights into how they can lead from any level of their organization.

Our experience last summer will aid us in our effort to grow HLI in the future. As we move into 2021, AASLH will begin offering History Leadership Institute online courses as a regular feature of our professional development program. As a direct result of our pivot to an online format in Summer 2020, we will introduce “HLI Online: Strengthening Your Organization’s Impact” as a new addition of AASLH’s online course offerings in early 2021. The success of our first virtual HLI program will help us slowly grow our online leadership training offerings for mid-career professionals in the coming years.

Online courses and other virtual programming will enable us to expand the reach and impact of the History Leadership Institute beyond those able to participate in the Seminar each year. This wider slate of programming represents a key part of AASLH’s efforts to provide professional development resources to history practitioners at institutions of all types and sizes, at any stage of their careers.
2020 BY THE NUMBERS
AN AASLH INFOGRAPHIC

MEMBERSHIP
- Academic: 34
- Individual: 1,516
- Institutional: 3,457

ANNUAL MEETING
SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN to ANNUAL MEETING
- Small Museums Scholarships: 13
- Douglas Evelyn Scholarship for Diversity: 13
- Regional Annual Meeting Scholarships: 60

COMMITTEES
- Task Forces, Advisory Groups, and More

PROGRAMS & PUBLICATIONS
TOP BLOG CATEGORIES
1. Education and Interpretation
2. Small Museums
3. Best Practices

5 BOOKS PUBLISHED

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- 3,349 Unique Attendees
- 18 Webinars
- 43 Online Courses
- Total Participants: 1,121
- New Participants: 60
- Awarded Certificates: 96

AASLH
2020 by the Numbers 13
What do we owe to one another? This question sits at the heart of the concept of justice, a notion so enduring that it is called forth in centuries-old founding documents as well as in current headlines and protest signs. In this extraordinary era, marked by profound reckoning with our complicated past, history institutions are uniquely positioned to engage in doing justice—to public understandings of our past, and as active agents in the world today.

Building on the overwhelming success of the 2020 AASLH Online Meeting in serving our far-flung membership, AASLH is planning a dual conference approach for 2021. This will consist of an onsite meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, and an online conference held a couple of weeks later. The two conferences will have different purposes, serve overlapping but different audiences, and focus on one theme—Doing History/Doing Justice.

A Dual Approach

AASLH/AMA 2021 Annual Meeting, September 22-25

Along with our partner, the Arkansas Museums Association, we hope to turn the onsite conference in Little Rock into a transformative experience. Every attendee will be encouraged to be a true participant in the rich offering of workshops, tours, in-depth discussions, hands-on experiences, and social events. Days spent onsite with colleagues will include additional plenary events and more shared experiences, as well as more free time to visit history institutions and sites in the Little Rock area.

Little Rock is the perfect city to explore the 2021 conference theme. We can witness the interplay between judicial procedure and social justice at the steps of Central High School, where the Little Rock Nine fought for their right to equal education. We can explore restorative justice through Rowher Japanese Relocation Center, where World War II detainees, after a decades-long campaign, secured reparations and commemoration. And we will leave the city feeling transformed in our thinking about our work.

AASLH 2021 Online Conference, October 12-15

The virtual conference will continue to be an inspirational and informative experience. This is an opportunity to improve on the successful online 2020 conference and to reach a larger percentage of our members and nonmembers around the country.

The work of history institutions is justice work. Historic sites, museums, and archives help bring complexity and nuance to questions of right and wrong. Our work helps establish relevant facts, provides access to evidence, and weigh competing claims for rights, freedoms, access, ownership, and our duty to one another. Far beyond matters of laws and courts alone, the call to uphold justice asks us to think about the meanings of belonging, fairness, responsibility, and equality; to acknowledge and redress historical wrongs and dismantle harmful myths; and to consider the impact of our actions today. The online conference will allow us to be inspired by the work of our peers in this important arena and learn how we can incorporate these powerful ideas into our own work.

Registration information will be available on www.aaslh.org in early June.
COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

EARLY ON IN THE PANDEMIC, AASLH SECURED A CHAIRMAN’S GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED RAPID RESPONSE RESOURCES TO OUR MEMBERS AND THE FIELD. MUCH OF OUR EFFORT FOCUSED ON PRODUCING A SERIES OF WEBINARS AT NO OR LOW COST TO ATTENDEES TO HELP THEM THINK THROUGH HOW TO ADAPT TO RAPIDLY CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. THESE “AASLH CONVERSATIONS” CONNECTED LEADERS IN THE FIELD WITH OTHER HISTORY PRACTITIONERS TO SHARE IDEAS AND LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER AS THEY ADDRESSED A RANGE OF TOPICS RELATED TO COVID-19 AND MORE. WEBINARS INCLUDED “PLANNING FOR AN UNCERTAIN FINANCIAL FUTURE,” “EMPATHETIC AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT DURING A CRISIS,” “LEADERSHIP, BOARDS, AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19,” “PLANNING FOR REOPENING,” AND “TRANSFORMING MUSEUM WORK AFTER COVID-19.” THESE WEBINARS HELPED ADDRESS URGENT QUESTIONS AND CHALLENGES IN THE FIELD, AND HELPED HISTORY PRACTITIONERS REMEMBER THAT WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

IN SUMMER 2020, AASLH BEGAN HOSTING FREE VIRTUAL SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR AFFINITY COMMUNITIES AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE PLATFORMS FOR CANDID CONVERSATIONS AND PERSONAL CONNECTIONS AROUND ISSUES FACING THE FIELD. IN MAY, THE EDUCATORS AND INTERPRETERS AFFINITY COMMUNITY HOSTED A DISCUSSION ABOUT SERVING STUDENTS AND AUDIENCES AT HOME WHILE COPING WITH REDUCED BUDGETS DURING THE PANDEMIC. AASLH PARTNERED WITH THE GENDER EQUITY IN MUSEUMS MOVEMENT (GEMM) IN AUGUST FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT A COLUMN THEY AUTHORED IN HISTORY NEWS ANALYZING THE PANDEMIC’S EFFECTS ON WOMEN IN THE PUBLIC HISTORY FIELD. AND IN SEPTEMBER, THE RELIGIOUS HISTORY AFFINITY COMMUNITY HOSTED AUTHOR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MELODY SMITH FOR A DISCUSSION OF HER ARTICLE “A COMBINED EFFORT: WHY MUSEUMS AND VISITORS NEED RELIGIOUS LITERACY” AND HOW HISTORIANS AND SITES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE FIELD’S ONGOING DEAI EFFORTS BY PROMOTING RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING AND TOLERANCE. THESE DISCUSSIONS REACHED NEW AUDIENCES BEYOND OUR USUAL WEBINAR VIEWERS WHILE OFFERING IN-DEPTH LEARNING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES AROUND COMMON INTERESTS.

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Quintanilla Schmidt Consulting

Regional Annual Meeting Scholarship

$10,000 and Up
Anonymous

Thank You!

AASLH
Donor Report 17
### Current Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$356,242</td>
<td>$346,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted cash</td>
<td>$48,096</td>
<td>$98,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>$48,121</td>
<td>$79,672</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant receivable</td>
<td>$6,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>$84,975</td>
<td>$210,528</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$543,834</strong></td>
<td><strong>$735,846</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-current accounts receivable, net</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$62,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>$8,117</td>
<td>$8,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments, substantially restricted</td>
<td>$1,865,209</td>
<td>$1,843,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,417,160</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,650,413</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$54,112</td>
<td>$91,925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current portion of note payable*</td>
<td>$45,854</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unearned revenue</td>
<td>$507,662</td>
<td>$878,906</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$607,628</strong></td>
<td><strong>$970,831</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>($147,122)</td>
<td>($164,143)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>$1,882,508</td>
<td>$1,843,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>$1,735,386</td>
<td>$1,843,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,735,386</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,679,582</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,417,160</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,650,413</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues, gains, and other support</strong></td>
<td>$1,910,118</td>
<td>$38,783</td>
<td>$1,948,901</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>$1,318,565</td>
<td>$1,318,565</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting services</td>
<td>$574,532</td>
<td>$574,532</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,893,097</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,893,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets from operations</td>
<td>$17,021</td>
<td>$38,783</td>
<td>$55,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>($164,143)</td>
<td>$1,843,725</td>
<td>$1,679,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, year-end</td>
<td>($147,122)</td>
<td>$1,882,508</td>
<td>$1,735,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statement of Cash Flow</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>($41,308)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year</td>
<td>$445,646</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$404,338</td>
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*Note: AASLH received a Paycheck Protection Program Loan in May 2020 for $120,000. The total amount was forgiven in November 2020 which will be reflected in the FY2021 financial statements.
Amidst the ruckus of 2020, AASLH happened to turn eighty years old. After existing as a “Conference of State Historical Societies” that had been meeting within the American Historical Association since 1904, it was on December 27, 1940, that AASLH’s founders announced their intention to create a new organization. Early the next year, 1941, C. C. Crittenden, AASLH’s first president, sent this letter to historical organizations across the U.S. and Canada inviting them to join the new association. Four practical objectives laid out in that letter made up AASLH’s “immediate program” for the coming years. Each is something we still do today.

For eighty years AASLH has helped the people who work for historical organizations, paid and unpaid, to do their jobs better by learning from each other. All of our projects and programs and resources are built by AASLH members for the greater good of the historical community. Our vision as we head into the U.S. 250th Anniversary planning years is that history organizations everywhere will prosper, tell everyone’s story, and be central to important conversations going on in their communities.