

2021 Annual Report

A YEAR IN REVIEW

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Looking at the past twelve months, I am filled with gratitude. So many committee volunteers, donors, sponsors, and members give their participation, support, ideas, and connections to each other and the rest of the field, and this makes AASLH prosper. It was another challenging year, thanks to COVID-19, but with your help AASLH managed to grow.

Our 82nd Annual Meeting, held in-person in Little Rock, was a success, and it was followed by an Online Conference a few weeks later which drew more than 1,100 people. As you can imagine, a great amount of staff and committee time was devoted to having two conferences; yet with our dedicated volunteers and staff, active Council, and collaborative partner associations, AASLH accomplished a lot of other things in 2021.

Over the past year our 250th plans grew, culminating in ***Making History at 250: The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial***. A strong theme of inclusion and diversity, reflected in AASLH's past few years of annual conferences, took center stage in this *Field Guide*. Professional development programs increased with the addition of another staff member in that department and integration of the AASLH STEPS program into all our webinars and courses. Toward the end of 2021, three major programs entered final phases. First, our census of all history organizations in the country finished; a final report will appear in early 2022. Second, we conducted and are still analyzing an AASLH Membership Survey. Third, the research phases of our "Framing History with the American Public" project concluded. In the coming year we will focus on sharing results of that study, which answers the question of "How do we talk most effectively with the public about the importance of history and the work that history organizations do?" This "Reframing History" toolkit will help all history organizations to promote inclusive and evidence-based history as part of the 250th. And it will help us in pushing back against "divisive concepts" legislation that many states have passed, or are considering, to restrict teaching about the history of racism and slavery.

The nation has days and years of reckoning ahead of it, and all of us will have a role to play as history practitioners.

The nation has days and years of reckoning ahead of it, and all of us will have a role to play as history practitioners. As the 250th approaches, we have a tremendous opportunity to promote critical engagement with history and to rejuvenate and strengthen the field for generations to come.



John R. Dichtl
President & CEO, AASLH

COUNCIL OFFICERS

AS OF DECEMBER 2021



Norman Burns, II*
Chair
2020-2022
Conner Prairie Museum
Fishers, IN



Burt Logan*
Vice-Chair
2020-2022
Ohio History Connection
Columbus, OH



John Fleming*
Immediate Past Chair
2020-2022
National Museum of
African American Music
Nashville, TN



Dina Bailey*
Secretary
2020-2022
Mountain Top Vision, LLC
Atlanta, GA



Rebekah Beaulieu*
Treasurer
2020-2022
Florence Griswold Museum
Old Lyme, CT

*AASLH Executive Committee

From the Council Chair

When I stumbled into my first full-time museum job in 1987 right after grad school, I wasn't necessarily looking for a career in public history, though sometimes a career path can find you with the help of others. In my mid-twenties with zero experience running a museum but the good sense to call others that did, I reached out to two colleagues in my home state of Tennessee who were well established leaders at the state's leading historic site and historical society.

After listening to the panic in the voice of this young neophyte in public history, my mature colleagues calmly begin laying out further mentoring, training, and professional development opportunities with state and regional museum organizations, and most importantly, nationally with the American Association for State and Local History. They explained how AASLH and similar professional organizations were a place where a young professional like me could meet and learn from others the best practices needed to become a confident leader. To that end, they invited me to attend an AASLH conference.

I still remember attending my first AASLH conference thirty plus years ago and being introduced around by

these colleagues to others that they knew would be helpful to further my learning as a public historian and for my maturation as a museum professional. As an academic historian trained in social history now looking to make a career in public history, I was eager to make history inclusive and useful so the public could learn about its relevance by fostering critical thinking and exploration about the human experience. In AASLH, I found a home that could help me nurture and explore these approaches, which seemed so different and radical at the time but that I now realize are the Rosetta Stone for our infinite understanding of history's gift.

As I stood at the podium in Little Rock looking out over the attendees, I realized how I've come full circle. I'm no longer the young Turk eager for radical change and brash enough to try anything without knowing why, I'm now a seasoned museum professional who is old enough to know better but young enough to still try. No matter where you are in your professional journey, AASLH is the place to explore how to change the way the world views and uses history.

Norman O. Burns, II
Chair, AASLH Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS

AS OF DECEMBER 2021



Lisa Anderson*
Class of 2022
Woodbury Art Museum
Orem, UT



Michelle Banks
Class of 2024
African American
Firefighter Museum
Los Angeles, CA



Roberta Carothers
Class of 2025
National Museum of the
U.S. Air Force
Dayton, OH



Christy Coleman
Class of 2022
Jamestown-Yorktown
Foundation
Williamsburg, VA



Luis Fernandez
Class of 2025
Dominguez Rancho Adobe
Museum
Compton, CA



Veronica Gallardo
Class of 2023
Surratt House Museum
Clinton, MD



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



Jeff Harris
Class of 2024
Magoffin Home State
Historic Site
El Paso, TX



Trevor Jones
Class of 2023
History Nebraska
Lincoln, NE



Richard Josey
Class of 2021
Collective Journeys, LLC
Newport News, VA



Jennifer Kilmer*
Class of 2023
Washington State
Historical Society
Tacoma, WA



Leo Landis
Class of 2025
State Historical Museum
of Iowa
Des Moines, IA



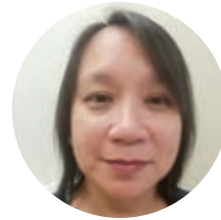
Jeff Matsuoka
Class of 2022
Indiana Historical Society
Indianapolis, IN



Jennifer Ortiz
Class of 2023
Utah Division of History
Salt Lake City, UT



Alexandra Rasic
Class of 2022
The Gamble House
Conservancy
Pasadena, CA



Gina Vergara-Bautista
Class of 2024
Hawaii State Archives
Honolulu, HI

AASLH Staff

John Dichtl
President & CEO

Bethany Hawkins
Chief of Operations

John Garrison Marks
Director, Public
History Research Lab
Senior Manager,
Strategic Initiatives

**Ashley Bouknight-
Claybrooks**
Senior Manager
of Professional
Development

Albert Samuels
Senior Manager,
Marketing & Sales

Aja Bain
Program &
Publications Manager

Alex Collins
Professional
Development
Manager

Rebecca Mendez
Membership &
Office Coordinator

Aubrey Menich
Professional
Development
Coordinator

**Rey
Regenstreif-Harms**
Senior Manager,
Membership &
Development

Eva Young
Development
Coordinator

*AASLH Executive Committee

COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, AND AFFINITY COMMUNITIES

2021 Annual Meeting Host Committee

Joleen Linson, Co-Chair
Nathaniel Thomas,
Co-Chair
Angie Albright
Judy Costello
Dr. Deborah Baldwin
Nicole Benedict
Scott Carter
Daniel Cockrell
Sharese Cross
Cassandra Exum
Reveille Isgrig
Diane Karlson
Aaron Loehndorf
Stephan McAteer
Brian Rodgers
Kurt Senn
Christina Shutt

2021 Annual Meeting Program Committee

Michelle Moon, Chair
Angie Albright
Kayleigh Bryant-Greenwell
Judy Costello
Erendina Delgadillo
Abigail Diaz
Veronica Gallardo
Sean Kelley
Jina Lee
Sheri Levinsky-Raskin
Joleen Linson
Kat Lloyd
Stacey Mann
Aaron Noble
Kathleen Pate
Jackie Peterson
Justin Reid
Nathaniel Thomas
Trina Nelson Thomas
Rainey Tisdale
Noelle Trent
Lance Wheeler

2022 Annual Meeting Host Committee

Terry Abrams, Co-Chair
Melissa Brown, Co-Chair

2022 Annual Meeting Program Committee

Sarah Jencks, Co-Chair
Jennifer Ortiz, Co-Chair
Terry Abrams
Anne Ackerson
Jenny Angell
Emily Bentley
Melissa Brown
Rich Cooper
Lenora Henson
Liz Hobson
Nick Hoffman
Dr. Ashley Jordan
Baty Landis
Meredith Leonard
Sheri Levinsky-Raskin
Rebecca Martin
Ellen McHale
Michelle Moon
Aaron Noble
Braden Paynter
Chieko Phillips
Erin Richardson
Irene Rodriguez
Jeff Sellers
Gretchen Sullivan Sorin
Patrick Stenshorn
Mark Sundlov
Edward Tepporn
Trina Nelson Thomas
Noelle Trent
Scott Wands
Shakia Gullette Warren
Lance Wheeler
Allison Wickens
Lisa Worley
Evan Wright

Audit

Cathy Fields, Chair
Mindi Love
David Simmons

Climate and Sustainability Committee

Debra Reid, Chair
Lisa Anderson
Linda Aragon
Austin Bell
Andrew Bradford
Marian Carpenter
Jerry Foust

Kathy Garrett-Cox
Christopher Hobbs
Vicky L. Kruckeberg
Sarah Sutton
Andre Taylor
Douglas Worts

Diversity & Inclusion

Richard Josey, Chair
Marian Carpenter
Abigail Diaz
Omar Eaton-Martinez
Enimini Ekong
Veronica Gallardo
Jennifer Kilmer
Leo Landis
Jina Lee
Matthew Lopez
Kimberly Springle
Gina Vergara-Bautista

Editorial Advisory Board

Rebecca Shrum,
Series Editor
Bill Bomar
Jessica Dorman
Harry Klinkhamer
Anne Lindsay
Steven Lubar
Laura A. Macaluso
Ann E. McCleary
Porchia Moore
Debra Reid
Laura Roberts
Kelby Rose
Kimberly Springle
Zachary Stocks
William Stoutamire
William S. Walker

Educators and Interpreters Affinity Committee

Sarah Jencks, Chair
Samantha Alberts
Matthew Blazek
Melanie Bowyer
Heather Bruegl
Rich Cooper
Amy Durbin
Jenn Edginton
Mark Howell
Meredith Leonard
Carla Mello
Sally Meyer
Amber Mitchell

Nicole Moore
Elisabeth Nevins
Ariel Peasley
Ani Simmons
Tamar Smithers
Jessica Waszak
Matthew White
Megan Wood

Emerging History Professionals Affinity Committee

Casey Wooster, Chair
Lindsay Davis
Zachary Hottel
Kyle Mathers
Iliana Morton

Field Services Alliance

Amanda Higgins, Chair
Anastasia Matijkiw,
Vice-Chair
Allison Campbell
Laura Casey
Samantha Forsko
Stephanie Garafolo
Tamara Hemmerlein
Emily Huebner
Jennifer Ortiz
Chieko Phillips
Angela M. Thorpe
Megan van Frank

Finance Committee

Rebekah Beaulieu, Chair
Melissa Bingmann
Norman Burns
Christy Coleman
Luis Fernandez
David Janssen
Michelle Lanier
Steve Murray
Gina Vergara-Bautista
Scott Wands

Governance Committee

Lisa Anderson, Chair
Dina Bailey
John Fleming
Sarah Zenaida Gould
Stacy Klingler
Burt Logan
Jeff Matsuoka
Jennifer Ortiz
Alex Rasic

COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, AND AFFINITY COMMUNITIES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Historic House Museums Affinity Committee

Jessica VanLanduyt, Chair
Kelsey Brow
Rena Lawrence
Andrea Malcomb
James Manning
Kelsey Mullen
Victoria Munro
Brooke Steinhauser
Joshua Torrance
Ahmad Ward
Jessica Welch
Lisa E. Worley

History in Our Parks Affinity Committee

Antone Pierucci, Chair
Maya Davis
Veronica Gallardo
Shawn Halifax
Hillary Kidd
Michelle Podkowa
Amanda Vance
Laura Willoughby

History Leadership Institute Advisory Board

Jody Blankenship
Norman Burns
Bill Convery
Trevor Jones
Frances Levine
Milward Simpson

The Inclusive Historian's Handbook Editors

Modupe Labode, Co-Editor
Will Walker, Co-Editor
Robert Weible, Co-Editor

Investment Committee

Ann Toplovich, Chair
Rebekah Beaulieu
Pam Garcia
Jennifer Kilmer
Stacy Klingler
Dennis A. O'Toole
Keith Spelmon

Leadership Nominating Committee

Burt Logan, Chair
Kwasi Hope Agyeman
Lisa Anderson
Gailyn Lehuanani Bopp
Tiffini Bowers
Norman Burns

Kevin Cabrera
Zoia Falevai
John Fleming
Marvin-Alonzo Greer
Tramia Jackson, Past Chair
Sue Taylor
Cristin Waterbury

Military History Affinity Committee

Marc Blackburn
Roberta Carothers
Zac Distel
Christopher Kolakowski
John Leighow
Anthony Lind
Peggy Maniates
Kyle Mathers
Matthew Peek
Damian Smith

National Awards Committee

Christy Crisp, Chair
Hattie Felton
Susan Fletcher
Daniel Gonzales
Nicole Harvey
Lenora Henson
Liz Hobson
Karen Holmes
Heidi Lung
Tori Mason
Melinda Meyer
Megan van Frank
JaMarcus Underwood

National History Day Advisory Board Representative

Rebecca Martin

NHPRC Representative

W. Eric Emerson

Nomenclature

Jennifer Toelle, Chair
Kathleen Byrne
Rosemary Campbell
Caralyn Courtade
Geneviève Déziel
Heather Dunn
Shoshana Batya Greenwald
John Hart
Alyssa Magnone
Casey Seger
Jean-Luc Vincent

Reframing History Advisory Committee

Carol Anderson
Christy Coleman
Benjamin Filene
LuAnn Jones
Ari Kelman
Erin Carlson Mast
Kristine Navarro McElhane
Marla Miller
George Sanchez
Jennifer Scott
Jorge Zamanillo

Religious History Affinity Committee

Susan Fletcher, Chair
Gary Boatright, Jr.
Lynne Calamia
Charlene Fletcher
Barbara Franco
Jill Kilheffer Hess
Melody Smith
Karen Graham Wade
Ivy Weingram
Eric Lewis Williams

Small Museums Affinity Committee

Jacqui Ainlay-Conley, Chair
Sean Blinn, Vice-Chair
Ann Bennett
Alison Bruesehoff
Laura Casey
Alana Dunn
Brian Failing
Julia Gray
Jeff Harris
Shelby Henderson
Erik London
Nate Meyers
Aimee Newell
Melissa Prycer
Liz Stewart
Bruce Teeple
Kisha Wilson-Sogunro
Michelle Zupan

Standards and Ethics Committee

Erin Richardson, Chair
Michelle Banks
Chris Goodlett
Jennifer Huebscher
Trevor Jones
Heather Kuruvilla
Maggie Marconi
Aimee Newell
Alex Rasic

U.S. 250th Anniversary Coordinating Committee

Sara Cureton, Chair
Jody Blankenship
Jim Campi
Kevin Cherry
Vedet Coleman-Robinson
Sylvia Cyrus
Laura Dominguez
W. Eric Emerson
Beth English
Susan Feller
Cathy Gorn
Kevin Gover
Linnea Grim
Jim Grossman
Anthea Hartig
Richard M. Josey
Stephen Kidd
Jennifer Kilmer
Gavin Kleespies
Turkiya Lowe
Maud Lyon
Brian Martin
Jeani O'Brien
Larry Paska
Estevan Rael-Gálvez
Phoebe Stein
Barry Szczyński
Lee White
Karin Wulf

Women's History Affinity Committee

Kathleen Pate, Chair
Megan Byrnes
Page Harrington
Jennifer Krafchik
Kelsey Millay
Kenvi Phillips
Rebecca Price
Kimberly Robinson
Julie Rose
Madeleine Rosenberg
Rebecca Shrum
Noelle Trent

Many Thanks...

To all of our volunteer committee members for their service in 2021!

2021 AASLH ANNUAL CONFERENCES



Dr. Jeffries addresses conference attendees in Little Rock.

Starting in 2021, AASLH began offering a new dual conference format: the Annual Meeting which takes place in person and the Online Conference held after the in person meeting. The AASLH Annual Meeting is known for a participatory format, takeaways galore, hallway conversations, unmatched evening events, new life-long friendships, intensive workshops, and the inspiration that comes from being around other history-doers. But, after the success of our 2020 Online Conference, we wanted to continue to offer a virtual event that inspires and informs attendees. The online meeting focuses on sessions that allow speakers to share their stories, strategies, and expertise while interacting with participants through the chat function and breakout rooms. The virtual format makes this conference available to all AASLH members without the cost of travel.

The AASLH Program Chair Michelle Moon, the 2021 Program and Host Committees, AASLH staff, and our partner the Arkansas Museums Association worked hard to turn the Annual Meeting in Little Rock September 22-25 into a more personal, participatory conference in 2021. Despite the issues with COVID, 311 attendees met in Little Rock for the first time in 18 months. Every attendee had the opportunity to be a true

participant in a rich offering of workshops, tours, in-depth discussions, hands-on experiences, and social events. Days spent onsite with colleagues included inspirational calls to action from our keynote speakers Hasan Kwame Jeffries and Rhonda Y. Williams. Recordings of their keynote addresses are available in the AASLH Resource Center for free. Attendees also visited history institutions and sites in the Little Rock area and participated in workshops and tours that maximized the history, culture, and places of the host city. Some of the highlights of our time in Arkansas were the evening events at the Old Statehouse Museum, Clinton Presidential Center, and Historic Arkansas.

The 2021 Online Conference, also chosen by the Program Committee and spearheaded by Michelle Moon, drew over 1,100 attendees for the October 12-15 virtual gathering. The general sessions focused on leadership in the field: Trauma and Public History; Museums, Civic Learning, and Democracy; and Land, Space, and Place. Concurrent sessions explored the topics of history and justice and how they intersect. The conference wrapped up with a closing plenary discussion led by Melanie A. Adams from the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum.



Recordings from the 2021 Online Conference are available in the Resource Center.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND INCLUSION

Promoting inclusive approaches to history and inclusive practices in the history community was again a major focus of programming in 2021.

The AASLH Annual Meeting and the Online Conference took as their theme, *Doing History/Doing Justice*. As our Program Chair Michelle Moon said about Little Rock, the conference city, it “is rich in places that generate profound reflections on right and wrong.” Conference sessions and tours, as well as both keynote addresses by Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries and Dr. Rhonda Y. Williams pushed attendees to expand their spheres of inclusion and to courageously use history work to change the inequities in their institutions and communities.

Council used 2021 to move on discussions it and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee have been having over the past few years about how AASLH operates, how Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, & Inclusion (DEAI) issues are prioritized, and how the organization can help advance the field’s practices. In March, Council adopted “The 13 Behaviors of a High Trust Leader” (FranklinCovey) as guidelines for all future Council

meetings. These behaviors are helping to encourage the full participation of all members and to foster dialogue about difficult topics. AASLH staff is also using these “high trust” guidelines, and the practices are being shared with AASLH committees. In September, Council

Attendees were pushed to expand their spheres of inclusion and to courageously use history work to change the inequities in their institutions and communities.

adopted a DEAI Framework created by the committee and the AASLH staff. The framework is specific to AASLH’s internal workings and covers how Council, committees, and staff operate, and how AASLH programs will be used to advance DEAI issues.

Over the summer, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, with the help of AASLH staff, conducted a survey of all AASLH committees, task forces, and affinity committees, as well as of Council and staff, to find out how diverse these groups are and what their members think of the culture of inclusion within their

group and within AASLH. The committee will be conferring with the committees, staff, and Council on the results of this study in 2022.

Meanwhile, work continued on a very important joint study by AASLH and the National Council on Public History (NCPH). Together, the organizations issued a Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Survey in 2019. More than 400 lengthy, detailed, and deeply moving survey responses resulted. NCPH and AASLH hired a research consulting firm to conduct a thorough analysis of the data, and the firm will be submitting a report in early 2022. We expect the findings from this study to generate critical discussion on a variety of topics and result in recommendations for both associations to act upon.

2021 WEBINARS

This past year, AASLH hosted several webinars addressing diversity and inclusion in the field, focusing primarily on best practices in community engagement. In our “**Being a Good Neighbor: Authentic and Empathetic Community Engagement**” webinar, participants had the opportunity to gauge and critique the community engagement work being done at other institutions in hopes of fostering new and strengthening old community relationships. “**Juneteenth: Celebrating Freedom at Historic Sites in the Age of Black Lives Matter**” discussed how organizations can join the celebration in ways that are appropriate, respectful, and elevating to the communities they are trying to reach all year round. “**Challenging Histories: Engaging with Community through Exhibitions**” focused on how to create a space of shared authority for community groups within exhibition content and interpretation. We also hosted webinars that highlighted centering equity and education at historic sites and building relationships with historically marginalized communities to create permanent and easily accessible oral history collections.

HISTORY RELEVANCE

250th Anniversary

In July 2021, AASLH published *Making History at 250: The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial*, the culmination of several years of organizing work AASLH has undertaken to prepare the history community for the U.S.

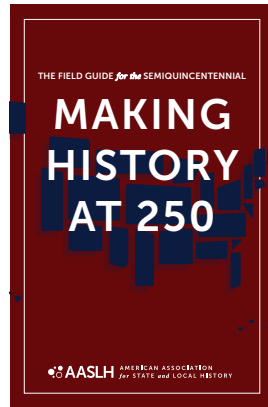
Semiquincentennial in 2026.

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and developed in collaboration with more than two dozen scholars, public historians, and museum professionals across the country, the *Field Guide* provides historical themes and big ideas to give cohesiveness to the upcoming commemoration.

The themes, such as “Power of Place,” “Unfinished Revolutions,” and “Doing History” offer points of entry for institutions of all types, sizes, and in all regions of the country—even those far from the Atlantic coast who feel little connection to the events of the Revolutionary War. Following a digital launch in July, AASLH published print versions of the guide, mailing more than 8,000 copies to members of AASLH and others around the country. The guide is now being used to inform planning at museums, historical societies, humanities councils, and state Semiquincentennial commissions around the country.

In addition to the *Field Guide*, AASLH continued its national leadership of 250th anniversary planning in 2021. AASLH convened a National Coordinating Committee, which brings together leaders of history organizations, museums, federal agencies, and national associations to facilitate coordination and communication about developing 250th anniversary programming. AASLH also continues to support advocacy work related to the Semiquincentennial, at the American Alliance of Museums’ “Museums Advocacy Day,” and through our involvement in the National Coalition for History.

Through all of these efforts, AASLH has championed inclusive, relevant history that shares the full diversity and complexity of American history, helping the history community use the 250th to bring about transformational change.



Reframing History

Early in 2022, AASLH will publish the final report and recommendations from its “Reframing History” project, a multi-year effort to research how Americans think about what history is and why it’s valuable to society, and to develop new strategies to help the history community more effectively communicate with public audiences. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and carried out in partnership with the FrameWorks Institute, National Council on Public History, and Organization of American Historians, “Reframing History” has already reported on major challenges facing history professionals, among them a mindset among much of the public that history is about “just the facts.” In 2021, our research team used deep, qualitative interviews and a nationally-representative survey experiment to test a range of ways to frame discussions about what history is, how we do it, and why it matters. The project recommendations will provide empirically proven approaches to build support for evidence-based, inclusive history. Those recommendations will be coupled with a toolkit, podcast, webinars, workshops, and an online course to train history professionals and volunteers working in a variety of contexts.

National Visitation Report

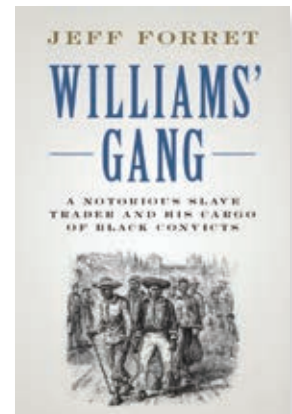
In the fall, AASLH’s Public History Research Lab published the third annual *National Visitation Report*, a yearly assessment of in-person attendance trends at the nation’s history organizations. Analyzing how 2020 visitation compared to the year prior, this year’s report helped organizations around the country assess how their visitation figures during the pandemic compared to their peer institutions. The report found that at institutions of all types, sizes, and in all regions of the country, visitation declined nearly 70 percent in 2020. Investigating the impact of COVID-19, the report found that, on average, institutions were closed entirely for 23 weeks, and only partially reopened for an additional 16—about 9 full months operating at less than full capacity. The small size of most institutions, coupled with robust federal assistance, meant that about 65 percent of history organizations avoided layoffs and furloughs. AASLH will analyze 2021 visitation trends to see how institutions bounced back through its next national survey, forthcoming in spring 2022.

2021 AWARD WINNERS

In May, our national awards committee met virtually to review the 2021 Leadership in History Awards nominations and recognize outstanding projects from around the country. This year, the committee conferred forty 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 on September 24 at our Annual Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The winner of the 2021 Albert B. Corey Award, recognizing exceptional all-volunteer institutions, is the **Cache Celebration of Women's Suffrage Committee of Utah**. History in Progress (HIP) Award winners represent the most creative and inspiring projects each year, and 2021 saw two winners emerge: the **Greensboro History Museum** (Greensboro, NC) for the exhibit *Pieces of Now* and the **Orange County Regional History Center** (Orlando, FL) for the exhibit *Yesterday, This Was Home: The Ocoee Massacre of 1920*.

This year's Publication Award winners draw from fascinating research on diverse topics. In the category of Small Press, the winner is ***Loud, Naked, & in Three Colors: The Liberty Boys and the History of Tattooing in Boston*** by Derin Bray and Margaret Hodges (Rake House, 2020), with honorable mention going to ***Afro-Creole Poetry in French from Louisiana's Radical Civil War-Era Newspapers: A Bilingual Edition*** by Clint Bruce (editor and translator), (Historic New Orleans Collection, 2020). In the Large Press category, the winner is ***Williams' Gang: A Notorious Slave Trader and His Cargo of Black Convicts*** by Jeff Forret (Cambridge University Press, 2020), with honorable mention going to ***A Simple Justice: Kentucky Women Fight for the Vote*** by Melanie Beals Goan (The University Press of Kentucky, 2020).



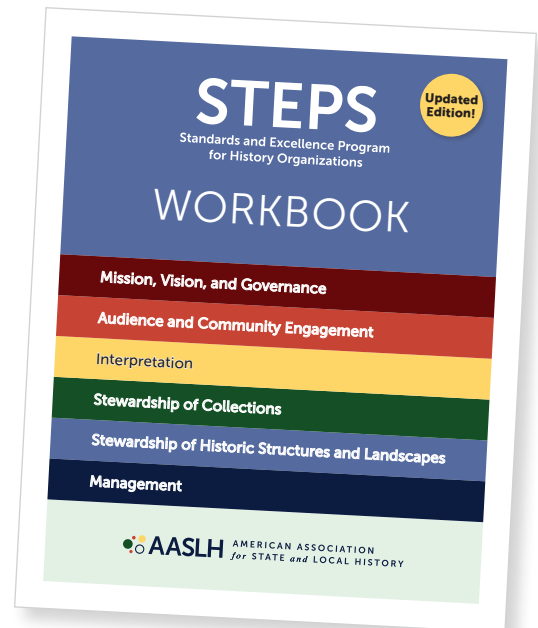
Visit aaslh.org/programs/leadership-in-history-awards to see the full list of this year's award winners.

STEPS PROGRAM

STANDARDS AND EXCELLENCE PROGRAM FOR HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS

STEPS Certificates by State

Berman Museum, Anniston, AL
Aspen Historical Society, Aspen, CO
City of Brighton, Brighton, CO
Douglas County Libraries, Castle Rock, CO
Western Colorado University, Gunnison, CO
Victor Lowell Thomas Museum, Victor, CO
Company of Fifers & Drummers, Ivoryton, CT
Johnston Historical Society, Johnston, IA
Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Association, Effingham, IL
Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Schaumburg, IL
Pioneer Bluffs Foundation, Matfield Green, KS
Wilson Heritage Museum, Wilson, KS
Amherst Historical Museum, Amherst, MA
Nahant Historical Society, Nahant, MA
Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, Moorhead, MN
Jackson County Historical Society, Independence, MO
Wentzville Community Historical Society, Wentzville, MO
The Country Doctor Museum, Bailey, NC
Navy Lakehurst Historical Society, Lakehurst, NJ
Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati, OH
Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, Dennison, OH
Lorain County Historical Society, Elyria, OH
Butler County Historical Society & Museum, Hamilton, OH
The Cleo Redd Fisher Museum, Loudonville, OH
Union County Historical Society, Lewisburg, PA
Marlboro County Historical Museum, Bennettsville, SC
Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center, Chamberlain, SD
Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation, Crazy Horse, SD
Farmers Branch Historical Park, Farmers Branch, TX
Hyrum City Museum, Hyrum, UT
Murray City Museum, Murray, UT
Ogden Union Station Museums, Ogden, UT
Alf Engen Ski Museum, Park City, UT
Fort Douglas Military Museum, Salt Lake City, UT
Cache DUP Museum, Smithfield, UT
Uintah County Regional History Center, Vernal, UT
Black Diamond Historical Society, Black Diamond, WA
La Crosse County Historical Society, La Crosse, WI



STEPS Groups

In the summer of 2021, the Iowa Museum Association launched STEPS-IMA through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. STEPS-IMA is an online program that consists of synchronous and asynchronous modules to provide six Iowa institutions the opportunity to “grow towards best practices” in the field. The institutions complete the program as a cohort using the STEPS curriculum. The first STEPS-IMA cohort will begin in January of 2022.

For more information on
STEPS-IMA, visit
imaonlinelearning.com/steps-ima.

HISTORY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The History Leadership Institute (HLI) held its first all-virtual seminar in June 2021. Seminar Associates attended various online workshops over four weeks to learn how to become better leaders in their organizations. Facilitators such as Brandie Macdonald, Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, and Elee Wood provided invaluable insight into the benefits and challenges of serving in leadership roles in various levels of an organization. Julie Johnson asked associates to evaluate their individual leadership skills and how they directly impact their professional growth. Using Zoom breakout rooms and the AASLH Community Center, participants had the opportunity to network and continue their workshop dialogues. In 2022, the HLI seminar will reconvene as a hybrid program, with two weeks online and two weeks in person. The seminar will take place at the Indiana Historical Society during the summer of 2022.

In addition to the June seminar, AASLH launched HLI online courses under professional development. The course "HLI Online: Strengthening Your Organization's Impact" provided leadership building content to midcareer professionals across the country. We are excited to continue hosting the course in 2022.

At the end of 2021, HLI transitioned to its new home within the AASLH Professional Development Department. Senior Manager of Professional Development Dr. Ashley Bouknight-Claybrooks will serve as HLI Coordinator. By merging the History Leadership Institute with Professional Development, AASLH can fully maximize the Institute's offerings. HLI now has more AASLH staff support as well as access to professional development course management software. The Professional Development team will also create more spaces for networking opportunities in the AASLH Community Center.

We are excited about the evolution of HLI and our ability to assist more public history professionals to expand their leadership skill set.

BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2021



We were proud to add five new titles to our publishing program with Rowman & Littlefield in 2021, along with commissioning new manuscripts and finalizing edits for upcoming 2022 books. AASLH books aim to offer accessible resources, guidance, and case studies on important issues and techniques in our field, and to inspire history organizations of all sizes and types to pursue innovative and inclusive work. New titles included *Archives 101* by Lois Hamill; *Exploring the American Civil War through 50 Historic Treasures* by Julie Holcomb; *Exploring American Girlhood through 50 Historic Treasures* by Ashley E. Remer and Tiffany R. Issselhardt; *Interpreting the Legacy of Women's Suffrage at Museums and Historic Sites* by Page Harrington; and *Interpreting Slavery at Museums and Historic Sites* by Kristin L. Gallas. Holcomb's work was reviewed in *Booklist*, the book review journal of the American Library Association. Gallas's recorded book talk webinar and Harrington's 2021 Online Conference session on her book are both available for download in our Resource Center. Browse our full catalogue at [rowman.com/Action/Imprint/R15](https://www.rowman.com/Action/Imprint/R15).

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

AN AASLH INFOGRAPHIC

Membership



Academic Programs: 34



Individual: 1,369

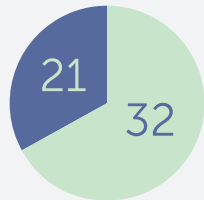


Institutional: 3,253

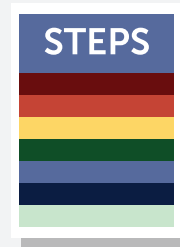


Future Members: 1
(2 more office babies due in early 2022)

Professional Development



■ Webinars
■ Online Courses



Total Participants: 1,158
New Participants: 61

Meetings & Scholarships



Scholarships Given to Annual Meeting Attendees

- Small Museums Scholarships 2
- Douglas Evelyn Scholarship for Diversity 9



Online Conference Attendees: 1,148

TOP Blog POSTS

Awards

#1

2021 Leadership in History Award Winners

#2

10 Unique Ways Museums Can Connect with Their Community

#3

Introducing the AASLH Public History Research Lab

40 Awards Presented

AASLH 2022:

Right Here, Right Now: The Power of Place

AASLH will again hold dual conferences in 2022 which will examine the theme *Right Here, Right Now: The Power of Place*. In Buffalo and online, we have an opportunity to reflect on the spaces we occupy and the stories they tell. As holders of history, we have a responsibility to ensure that full stories are being shared with our audiences and that those histories represent the diversity and complicated narratives of the spaces we occupy now, highlight and investigate the spaces of the past, and set standards for interpreting the concept of place for future generations to come. The conference theme is drawn from “Power of Place,” one of the five themes that AASLH has identified for the 250th anniversary of the United States and laid out in its *Making History at 250: The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial*.

Our conference theme, *Right Here, Right Now: The Power of Place*, suggests many questions. What place is important to you? To your community? Do you see these stories reflected in your museums, historic sites, and the local cultural sector? Who decides what places are saved or interpreted and what ends up being worth saving? Answers to these questions trace back to who is at the table when discussing memorializing an event in history or a place in time, who holds authority in decision-making processes, and structures of power that often go unseen or unaddressed.

Our Annual Meeting host city, Buffalo, is a perfect location for exploring the importance of place. Buffalo was at one point the “Gateway to the West.” But we also need to consider the impact on Indigenous communities facing a continuing societal upheaval that began centuries before and intensified during the Revolution. As the bicentennial of the Erie Canal approaches in 2025, we must consider the environmental, economic, and sociological impact it had on the development of a nation still in its adolescence. Consider the mighty Niagara Falls. What do we see? An environmental marvel? A resource to be exploited? A diverse community living amidst one of the most prominent tourist attractions in the world? How much of our perspective is determined by who tells the history of these places?



Viewing our conversations for the 2022 Annual Meeting and Online Conference through the lens of power of place allows us to consider the spaces and places we’ve collectively built, while acknowledging those we’ve had a hand in reimagining over time. We ask you to embrace this year’s theme, *Right Here, Right Now* as an invitation to pause and meditate on what placemaking really means to you and to the communities you serve, and ultimately to interrogate how you may be a tool in this development process. Let’s gather in Buffalo and/or online and reexamine ideas about our natural and built environments and to reorient when and where we find our country’s history.

Registration information will be available in early June.

COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

Census

Over the past year, AASLH's Public History Research Lab has worked with external researchers and leaders of state history and museum organizations across the country to conduct a thorough census of the nation's history organizations. By gathering and analyzing existing lists of history institutions from federal agencies, national nonprofits, and state historical and museum organizations, AASLH has for the first time in decades developed a reliable, high-quality list of every history organization in the United States. Preliminary analysis has already revealed several new insights. We can now show that there are far more history organizations in the U.S. than previously believed, small organizations make up an enormous proportion of those organizations, and that history institutions serve communities no other cultural or educational entities can reach. These findings will help serve outreach, resource development, and advocacy efforts in the years to come. A full report of the project's findings will be published in May 2022.

AASLH has developed a high-quality list of every history organization in the U.S.

Community Center Launch

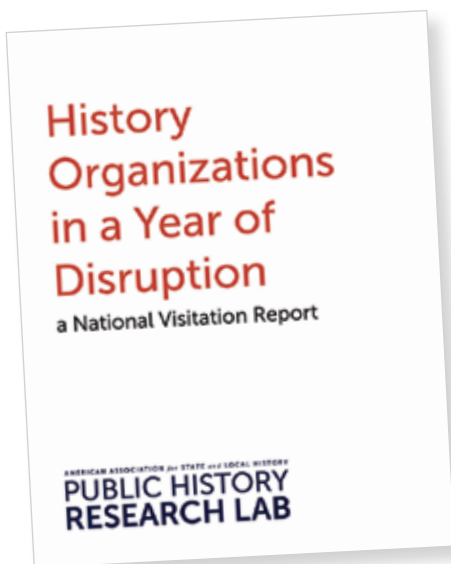
Some of you may remember when we first launched an online discussion forum in the spring of 2020. After launching, we quickly discovered that the forums were not as user-friendly as we had hoped. So in March of this year, with the help of our Affinity Committees, we inaugurated a better community experience: the AASLH Community Center. In the Community Center, members and non-members can ask questions, engage in discussion, and share resources with fellow history practitioners across the field for free.

We are very excited about this new forum and all the possibilities it offers Affinity Communities, AASLH members, and the history field at large to connect to each other and to critical issues in the history community. In 2020, we learned just how meaningful and powerful connection can be, and we are happy to have a new forum space where connections can be made within our history community.

Have a question, solution, or a resource to share with your colleagues? There is a community group for just about everyone, including Small Museums, Educators and Interpreters, Emerging History Professionals, and more. We invite you to connect with us at community.aaslh.org!

Public History Research Lab

In 2021, AASLH established the Public History Research Lab, a central hub for the several research projects the organization carries out in service to the field. By conducting research about public history practice and the role of history in American life, AASLH's Research Lab strives to equip history professionals, museum leaders, scholars, advocates, and others with data and insights they can use to fulfill their missions and more effectively champion the cause of history. The Research Lab partners with external researchers and practitioners at institutions large and small to carry out original research like the *National Visitation Report*, "Reframing History," and the National Census of History Organizations. We also produce "Research Briefs," short summaries of emerging research to help practitioners more easily connect to new work from across and beyond the public history field. This growing body of work serves history practitioners, advocates, and organizations in a wide range of public history contexts, providing new data and insights to advance the field.



DONOR REPORT

Annual Fund

\$5,000 and Up

Carol Kammen

\$3,500 to \$4,999

Sandra Clark

Dennis A. O'Toole

\$1,000 to \$3,499

Heather Huyck

Trevor M. Jones

Katherine D. Kane

Burt Logan

Mann Family Foundation

Mary & Max A. van Balgooy

Janet Vaughan

Nina Zannieri

\$500 to \$999

Michelle Banks

Christy Coleman

Creigh Family Foundation

John R. Dichtl

Douglas Evelyn

Kimberly A. Fortney

W. Todd Groce

Erin Carlson Mast

Michael Potaski

Ruby Rogers

\$100 to \$499

Anne W. Ackerson

Afro American Historical

Association of Fauquier County

Chuck Arning

Bags Unlimited, Inc.

Redmond J. Barnett

Gordon Bennett

Tamara Biggs

Melissa Bingmann

Allison Blakely

Scott Bocock

The Carroll Collection

Jennifer Chalos

Debbie A. Charpentier

Cherie A. Cook

Brian Crockett

Terry L. Davis

Cindy Hedrick Day

Charan Devereaux

Richard W. Dexter

David Alan Donath

D. Stephen Elliott

Fidelity Charitable

Susan Finkel

John E. Fleming

Karen Flinn

Florence County Museum

Barbara Franco

Veronica Gallardo

Janet Gallimore

Mary Ellen Goddard

Karen M. Goering

Sarah Zenaïda Gould

Linnea Grim

Meredith Handakas

Donna Ann Harris

Bethany Hawkins

John A. Herbst

Guy Hermann

John C. Holtzapple

Barb Howe

Mark Howell

Stephen C. Iverson

Mike Jackson

Janice Klein

John Kneebone

Alice Knierim

Nancy D. Kolb

Kirby Lambert

Jennifer S. Landry

Lansdale Historical Society

Maria Quinlan Leiby

Barbara Little

Katherine Maas

Toby Jean Manker

Jeff Matsuoka

Lorraine McConaghy

Randall Miller

Susan Miner

Steve Murray

Susan R. Near

Aimee E. Newell

Claudia Ocello

Gordon LaVerne Olson

Payette County Historical Society

Gale E. Peterson

Ruth Pickering

Pocumtuck Valley Memorial
Association

Barbara Poresky

Matthew Powers

Project SAVE Armenian

Photograph Archives, Inc.

Alexandra Rasic

Raymer Society

Brenda J. Reigle

Francine Rippy

Julia Rose

Dawn Estabrooks Salerno

Thomas A. Scott

Marsha L. Semmel

India M. Spartz

Samuel A. Stephens

Davidde E. Strackbein

Bryant F. Tolles

Deborah L. Trupin

Louis L. Tucker

Kenneth C. Turino

James F. Turk

Amy Vandegrift

Jessica VanLanduyt

George L. Vogt

Amber Lynn Vroman

Larry Wagenaar

Scott L. Wands

The Whitney Institute

Susie Wilkening

Lawrence J. Yerdon

Samuel Young

Up to \$99

Richard Adam

David R. Ashenhurst

Wendy Atzet

Tracy Baetz

George W. Bain

Perky Beisel

Brad Belk

Lynda Belt

Judith Bittner

Robert F. Bluthardt

Edward R. Bosley

Steve Boyd-Smith

California Pioneers of Santa Clara
County

Margo Carlock

Jeanie F. Child

Cranbury Historical & Preservation
Society

Edith S. Crockett

Charlotte A. Dison

Julie Dougherty

Enterprise Museum

Priscilla Esser

Brian Feldman

Benjamin Filene

Carol Fitzsimmons

Anna M. Foster

Horace Henry Foxall

John Fulton

Michael H. Gelman

Jeanne Goodman

Gilbert V. Gott

Leigh A. Grinstead

Kate Haley Goldman

Jeff Harris

John Harris

Jane Hasek

Elizabeth Hedler

Hannah Hethmon

Nancy Anne Hill

Susan Elizabeth Hill

Historic Harrisville

Daniel D. Holt

Dona W. Horowitz-Behrend

Stanton H. Hudson Jr.

Sarah A. Johnson

Paul Kahan

Nan Kim
 Ronald J. Kley
 Margaret Koch
 Samantha Kosters
 Gregory Kowalski
 Katherine Kuehler Walters
 J.J. Lamb
 Leo Landis
 Frances S. MacIntyre
 Barbara J. Mangum
 Marion Public Library & Museum
 Mary Massie
 David J. Maurer
 Andrew McCarthy
 Daniel McDuffie
 Kimberly Moon
 Michelle Moon
 Karen M. Muchow
 Barbara M. Naef
 Lisa A. Nichols
 Mercedes A. Niess
 Northern Rockies Heritage Center
 Paul Orselli
 John H. Ott
 Pajaro Valley Historical Association
 Park Forest Historical Society
 Michele Phillips
 Preston Pierce
 Barbara Piscopo
 Pleasant Prairie Historical Society, Inc.
 Plymouth Historical Society
 Marian Joyas Posey
 Pulaski Area Historical Society
 Ruth Rauch
 Angelita D. Reyes
 Linda Ruholl
 Adrienne Saint-Pierre
 Hannah Scruggs
 Betty Seifert
 Shelburne Historical Society
 Barbara Skryja
 Robert H. Smith
 Starke County Historical Society
 Macarena Tamayo-Calabrese
 Jennifer L. Trotoux
 Tuckerton Seaport
 Kurt Updegraff
 Vail Preservation Society
 Emily N. Walski
 S andra Washington
 Cristin Waterbury
 Wanda Williams
 Ronald Wyatt
 Michelle Zacks

Endowment

\$1,000 and Up
 Jean M. Svadlenak

\$500 to \$999
 Richard W. Dexter
 Thomas Krasean

\$100 to \$499
 Richard Adam
 Cherie A. Cook
 James B. Gardner
 Sarah Zenaïda Gould
 Marcella Huggard
 Dean Krimmel
 Suzanne Savery
 Deborah L. Trupin
 Kenneth C. Turino
 Russell Reed Whitaker

Up to \$99
 George W. Bain
 Virginia Paganelli Caruso
 Jeanie F. Child
 Paula A. Degen
 Richard H. Engeman
 Mary E. Montgomery
 Debra A. Reid
 Eric Taylor

**History Leadership Institute
 Scholarship Fund**

\$100 and Up
 Mark J. Heppner
 Martha Morris
 Alexandra Rasic
 Beverly K. Sheppard

Up to \$99
 Laura Anderson
 Frances Blaylock
 Rebecca Martin
 Erin Carlson Mast

**Small Museums
 Scholarship Fund**

\$500 and Up
 Janice Klein

\$100 to \$499
 Jacqui Ainlay-Conley
 Sean Blinn
 John R. Dichtl
 Trevor M. Jones
 Carole & Bob Klingler
 Stacy Lynn Klingler & Richard Lynch

Up to \$99
 Ann Bennett
 Laura Casey
 Linda Endersby
 Conny C. Graft
 Bethany Hawkins

Jennifer Kilmer
 Patricia L. Miller
 Alexandra Rasic
 Mackenzie Tansey

**Nashville Historic
 Restoration Fund**

Up to \$150
 Lisa Anderson
 Michelle Banks
 Rebekah A. Beaulieu
 Melissa Bingmann
 Norman O. Burns
 John R. Dichtl
 John E. Fleming
 Sarah Zenaïda Gould
 Jennifer Kilmer
 Stacy Lynn Klingler
 Steve Murray
 Jennifer Ortiz
 Alexandra Rasic

**Donations in Honor of
 or In Memory of**

David Crosson
 John R. Dichtl
 John & Anita Durel
 E. Duane Elbert
 Exchange Place
 Jeff Harris
 Mary Ellen Hayward & John McGrain
 Jabari & Keiantai
 Larry Kocher
 Lt. Col Troy Marshall
 Patricia Miller
 Scott Sackett
 Somerville Museum
 Jim Vaughan

AASLH Legacy Society

Sylvia Alderson*
 Bob & Ms. Candy Beatty
 Melissa Bingmann
 Robert M. & Claudia H. Brown
 Mary Case & Will Lowe
 Terry L. Davis
 Stephen & Diane Elliott
 John Frisbee*
 J. Kevin Graffagnino
 John A. Herbst
 H.G. Jones*
 Katherine Kane
 Dennis A. O'Toole
 Ruby Rogers
 David J. Russo
 Will Ticknor
 Jim* and Janet Vaughan
 George L. Vogt
 Anonymous

*Deceased

Thank You!

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FY 2021 AUDITED STATEMENTS • YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

CURRENT ASSETS

	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	\$444,550	\$356,242
Restricted cash	\$229,832	\$48,096
Accounts receivable	\$107,939	\$48,121
Grant receivable	\$11,075	\$6,400
Other assets	\$38,762	\$84,975
Total current assets	\$582,158	\$543,834
Property and equipment	\$5,597	\$8,117
Investments, substantially restricted	\$2,315,708	\$1,865,209
Total assets	\$3,183,463	\$2,417,160

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	2021	2020
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$116,631	\$54,112
Current portion of note payable*	0	\$45,854
Unearned membership dues	\$328,419	\$329,179
Unearned revenue	\$349,493	\$178,483
Total current liabilities	\$794,543	\$607,628
Long-term liabilities		
Note payable, net of current portion	0	\$74,146
Total liabilities	\$794,543	\$681,774
Net assets		
Unrestricted	\$108,146	(\$147,122)
Without donor restrictions	\$2,280,794	\$1,882,508
With donor restrictions	\$2,388,920	\$1,735,386
Total net assets	\$2,388,920	\$1,735,386
Total liabilities and net assets	\$3,183,463	\$2,417,160

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenues, gains, and other support	Unrestricted	With donor restrictions	Total
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$1,686,077	\$398,256	\$2,084,333
Operating expenses	\$837,266		\$837,256
Supporting services	\$593,533		\$593,256
Total operating expenses	\$1,430,799		\$1,430,799
Change in net assets from operations	\$255,278	\$398,256	\$653,534
Net assets, beginning of year	(\$147,122)	\$1,882,508	\$1,735,386
Net assets, year-end	\$108,156	\$2,280,764	\$2,388,920
Statement of cash flow			
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$270,044		(\$41,308)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$404,338		\$445,646
Total	\$674,386		\$404,338

*AASLH received a Paycheck Protection Program Loan in May 2020 for \$120,000. The total amount was forgiven in November 2021 which is reflected in the FY2021 financial statements.

CLOSE TO HOME



AASLH expresses its gratitude to thirteen members of the AASLH Council who, in January 2021, donated nearly \$900 to the Nashville Metropolitan Historical Commission Foundation. These funds helped support structural assessments and façade repairs for the historic buildings of 2nd Avenue damaged in the December 25, 2020, bombing. From 1985 to 1993, AASLH's offices were located at 172 2nd Avenue North, a nineteenth-century building that was completely destroyed in the bombing.

2021 was a challenging year for AASLH's home state of Tennessee. Along with the 2nd Avenue bombing, portions of the state were hit with catastrophic floods and tornadoes. As AASLH is a member of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF), co-sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Smithsonian Institution, the staff quickly contacted history and cultural organizations in the hard-hit areas and connected them with HENTF resources. Thankfully, the damage to historical resources was minimal, but the people, homes, and businesses impacted continue to recover.



On December 2, AASLH staff visited the new home of the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville. We toured the new state-of-the-art facility, and appreciated our first all-staff gathering since March 2020. We hope to hold workshops and meetings in this great space in the future.



2021 21st Avenue S., Suite 320 • Nashville, Tennessee 37212

P: 615-320-3203 • F: 615-327-9013 • aaslh.org