



american
institute for
conservation

**50 Years of Preserving
Cultural Heritage**

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AIC Member Business Meeting Minutes **A Virtual Meeting** **June 1, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm Eastern Time by AIC President Suzanne Davis. Davis began with a land acknowledgement and then thanked outgoing directors Sarah Melching and Molly Gleeson, and introduced the board members Gregory Bailey, Director, Specialty Groups and Beth Edelstein, Director, Professional Education.

Secretary's Report

Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton, AIC Secretary, noted a typo in the minutes that were sent out. The corrected 2022 Member Business Meeting minutes were shared in the learning community earlier in the day. She made a motion to approve the minutes. The membership voted to approve the minutes, with 77 affirming, 10 abstaining, and none opposed.

Treasurer's Report

AIC and FAIC Treasurer Elmer Eusman began by thanking Finance Director Linda Budhinata for her assistance in developing the Treasurer's Report.

2022 was a challenging year for AIC's finances due largely to poor investment returns. It was also the first year the organization returned to an in-person annual meeting since the COVID pandemic, and the first time offering a hybrid meeting with both in-person and live streaming options.

Both organizations' financial statements are reviewed by an independent financial firm. There were no significant deficiencies reported.

Eusman showed that in 2022, expenses were lower than expected, but revenue was also lower than expected. A \$233,616 deficit is largely due to unrealized losses on the investment portfolio. The 2023 budget shows another deficit. The organization budgeted conservatively, but hybrid annual meetings increase expenses. Board and staff will look carefully at the 2024 budget to try to avoid another year of deficit.

Looking at the ten-year graph of total net assets, 2022 is in line with years 2015-2020.

The unfavorable stock market had an even greater effect on FAIC due to unrealized losses. The 2023 budget projects a small surplus. Most of the FAIC budget is from grants or endowment funds with restricted uses. The Cultural Heritage Fund will help provide more flexible funding to help sustain the organization through challenging periods such as the present.

In 2023, investment income is projected to be better than 2022, but the projection was also done conservatively.

There was a question about the percentage loss in investment holdings; for FAIC it was around 18%. Staff and board representatives meet with the organizations' investment adviser quarterly.

Nominating Committee Report

Jessica Chloros, AIC Nominating Committee Chair, reviewed the nominating process. The committee seeks multiple candidates for each open position. Calls for nominations go out to the membership in AIC News, and this year the committee also reached out to the Rainbow Caucus and BIPOC Caucus. Self-nomination is encouraged.

The committee seeks diversity on the board, including racial diversity, gender, sexual orientation, conservation specialty, geographic location, career stage, and type of employment. There is recognition that BIPOC colleagues are overtaxed, and that is something the organization is working on. The bylaws also limit who can run for some positions.

Jessica Chloros announced the outcome of the 2022 elections. Suzanne Davis has been elected to a final 2-year term as President; Cory Rogge to a final 2-year term as Vice President; Beth Edelstein was elected to a 3-year term as Director, Professional Education; Gregory Bailey was elected to a 3-year term as Director, Specialty Groups. Bianca Garcia was elected to serve a three-year term on the Nominating Committee. Chloros thanked everyone who was contacted by the committee for their consideration of their request of becoming a nominee, and for all of the candidates for agreeing to run. Outgoing Directors Molly Gleeson and Sarah Melching were also thanked for their service. Renée Stein will serve as Chair of Nominating Committee next year, followed by Chela Metzger and then Bianca Garcia.

State of the Organization

Suzanne Davis reported on the organization and progress on the strategic plan.

It is Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe's first year anniversary as Executive Director of the organization. Two new staff have been hired recently. Nicholas Farrell is Operations Assistant and Anna-Claire McGrath is Development Manager.

Membership dropped in 2023 from 3,369 in 2021 to 2,900 in 2023. It is anticipated that financial impacts from the pandemic may be responsible.

The 2023-25 strategic plan has seen progress already. Staff is beginning work on a user experience study of the website. The membership engagement subcommittee is hosting monthly member meetups. A climate impact survey was distributed in Spring 2023 to investigate how to reduce the environmental impact of the annual meeting. The board has reviewed the recent accessibility survey and its findings, and the board is working on a board diversity plan. FAIC signed a contract with Resnicow & Associates, a communications consulting firm specializing in cultural heritage; they will be building communication toolkits for members. The bylaws are being updated for clarity, and FAIC secured a lead sponsorship with Bank of America for the annual meeting for the first time ever.

Bylaws Revision Updates

Samantha Springer thanked the Bylaws Committee for their work in drafting changes to the bylaws. The Committee was charged with bringing the bylaws in line with the Membership Designation changes passed in 2021, as well as to amplify inclusive language and organizational practice.

The committee is finalizing the draft based on board feedback. They are also creating an overview document to summarize the proposed changes in plain language. The bylaws will need to be reviewed by legal counsel before being shared with the membership for review and vote by Professional Associate and Fellow members. That is expected to happen later this summer.

There was a question about when professional development credit requirements would go into effect. We will begin tracking credits after the bylaws pass and Professional Members will have five years to accrue the required credits in order to maintain their status.

2023 and 2024 Annual Meetings

Suzanne Davis reported on the 52nd *Annual Meeting: Conservation in the Age of Environmental, Social, and Economic Climate Change* in Jacksonville. Davis thanked the staff, program committee, exhibitors, sponsors, and the local task force members for their work on the meeting. There were over 600 in-person attendees and 400 virtual attendees. New highlights from this year included the keynote presentation with Dr. Nicole Robinson, Ennis Davis, and Ben Garcia.

In 2024, the annual meeting will be hybrid again, with the in-person component in Salt Lake City, Utah, from May 21-25. This was to be the site of the 2020 meeting that was postponed due to COVID. The theme will be Expect the Unexpected: Embracing and Managing Change, Uncertainty, and Surprise. The deadline for abstracts will be September 15th.

Held in Trust Update

Katelin Lee provided an update on Held in Trust, a cooperative agreement between FAIC and the National Endowment for the Humanities to review the state of conservation and preservation in the United States. The findings can be summarized in the following statement: "A vibrant and resilient future for conservation and preservation depends upon the development of new, highly collaborative paradigms and structures grounded in social justice, equity, and environmental action."

A National Convening took place at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, on April 28, 2023, featuring speakers exemplifying work that is already being done that reflects the vision presented in the Held in Trust report. The final report will be available June 21, 2023, on the AIC website. Lee thanked the over 150 people who contributed to the work.

A preliminary outcome of the Held in Trust that is already being supported as a supplement to the NEH grant is Climate Resilience Resources for Cultural Heritage. The project provides tools and learning modules to help cultural caretakers identify risks to collections caused by climate change and build resilience in the face of those risks.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was a question about other meeting options being considered for after 2024. The staff and board will review the results of the Annual Meeting Climate Impact Survey. The intention is to continue to present a fully hybrid option for any in-person meetings in the future.

Bonnie Naugle, Membership and Communications Director, asked members to share photos from the annual meeting in a shared Google photos folder.

Suzanne Davis asked members for feedback on the idea of returning the member business meeting to the in-person annual meeting rather than the virtual format post-conference. Responses were mixed; additional member feedback will be sought.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.