



american  
institute for  
conservation

50 Years of Preserving  
Cultural Heritage

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## AIC Member Business Meeting Minutes

### A Virtual Meeting

### June 4, 2024

AIC President Suzanne Davis called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Eastern Time. She provided an overview of the agenda and introduced members of the AIC Board of Directors.

#### Secretary's Report

Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton, AIC Secretary, asked if there were edits to the 2023 meeting minutes that were shared in the online community. She made a motion to approve the minutes and a vote ensued, but a quorum was not present so the minutes remain unratified.

#### Treasurer's Report

AIC and FAIC Treasurer Elmer Eusman shared the Treasurer's Report.

In 2023, the organization experienced a deficit of \$255,457. This was due to lower annual meeting registration, less income for publications paired with greater expenses, and increased specialty group expenditures.

The budgeted deficit for 2024 is \$314,147. Meetings and membership provide the majority of income.

AIC's total net assets have decreased significantly over the past few years due to multiple years of deficit spending.

FAIC also has a projected deficit for 2024, although it is significantly lower, at closer to \$92,000. FAIC ended 2023 with a surplus of \$288,000 after including previously booked income.

There was a question about the breakdown between general and administrative expenses and membership in the budget. Membership expenses is about \$172,000 and the remaining amount of just over \$500,000 is administrative, which consists of rent, office expenses, staff salaries and other shared costs.

It was suggested that dues income is low, and that increases be considered to help pay for rising costs. The board shared that this is being planned in a way that increases dues for most members while keeping dues low for students and early career professionals. Institutional membership may also increase.

There was a question about use of office space. Staff still use the office, but discussions are beginning with the landlord to explore opportunities to reduce rent.

#### Nominating Committee Report and Election Results

Renée Stein, AIC Nominating Committee Chair, congratulated the following board members of their re-election to a second or final term: Elmer Eusman (Treasurer, 3-year term), Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton (Secretary, 2-year term), and Samantha Springer (Director, Committees, Networks, and Task Forces, 3-year term). Nina Owczarek was elected to a 3-year term on the Nominating Committee.

Members were encouraged to consider running for office or joining a committee, or nominating a colleague to run.

The Nominating Committee hosted a Meet the Board event during the opening reception at the annual meeting that allowed attendees to learn more about the board.

### **President's Report**

President Suzanne Davis reported that finances are a concern despite a highly attended Annual Meeting.

The organization has been making progress on the strategic plan. A report on progress was shared in chart form in AIC News and in the member communities. The organization is also working through goals outlined in a board diversity plan published last year, which is available on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access page of the website.

It was suggested that AIC increase registration fees for virtual meeting registration.

### **Membership and Code of Ethics Review Updates**

Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton provided a review of the membership designation changes and an update on code of ethics review.

Changes to the bylaws were approved by member vote in November 2023, at which time all members with Professional Associate and Fellow designations became Professional Members. The continuing education requirements to maintain Professional Member status will be required at renewal for 2029 membership.

The Membership Committee and staff are working to update the professional member application process, and more information should be provided in July.

The ethics core documents review is in progress. The core group has incorporated subgroup feedback into a draft that was then reviewed by the board. After incorporating board feedback, the task force will contact specialty groups, networks, committees, and task force subgroups for feedback.

Suzanne Davis shared that the bylaws require the board to develop and provide to members a procedure for members to report suspected violations to the code of ethics. A draft is being reviewed by legal counsel and will be shared with members soon.

### **2024 Meeting Wrap-up and 2025 (53<sup>rd</sup>) Annual Meeting**

Vice President Corina (Cory) Rogge reported that feedback from the 2024 annual meeting was overwhelmingly positive. She asked members to consider volunteering for the meeting as part of the program committee or poster committee.

The member engagement subcommittee developed conversation cards to encourage attendees to meet new people, and they were well received.

Next year's annual meeting will be held in Minneapolis. The 53rd Annual Meeting theme will be *What's Your Story? The Power of Collaboration and Connections*.

Minneapolis is a poignant location for this theme and for the field, as the location of George Floyd's murder and the George Floyd Global Memorial, whose executive director Jeanelle Austin spoke at the 2023 Held in Trust National Convening.

The deadline for session proposals for the 2025 Annual Meeting is June 28th, and presentation abstracts will be due September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Suzanne Davis noted that the Equity and Inclusion Committee is seeking new members, including those who might be willing to serve in a leadership capacity.

### **FAIC Update**

Executive Director Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe reported on the recent work of the Foundation, which is in direct support of members.

The Foundation is continuing to work with public relations firm with Resnicow & Associates to generate media coverage and expand awareness of the field. NPR featured a story of National Heritage Responders emergency response and training efforts. In 2023, FAIC presented two online workshops, one online series, four in-person workshops, the Photomechanical Symposium, and five workshops at the Annual Meeting. Over seven hundred and fifty-two individuals participated in these programs.

Alliance for Response trainings were hosted in Boston and Charleston, SC, with additional training planned for New Orleans in the fall. A new network was launched in New Hampshire and another new network launch forum is planned for Arizona this fall. National Heritage Responders are providing ongoing support in Maui after the wildfires that destroyed Lahaina.

The first round of Holly Maxson Conservation Grant projects will be completed this summer.

Climate Resilience Resources for Cultural Heritage were launched in March as an outcome of Held in Trust.

Ask a Conservator Day was November 5<sup>th</sup> and has been growing each year, providing a way to create more visibility for the field.

Rosenthal-Yoffe thanked early and foundational contributors to the Cultural Heritage Fund. The campaign will relaunch in fall.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

A pulse poll was launched with the question: Should we return to the annual business meeting as an in-person event? Results follow:

55% Yes, but only if streamed virtually

24% Either way

12% No, prefer virtual

10% Yes, absolutely

It was clarified that the relaunch of the Cultural Heritage Fund will have a more open-ended timeline.

Members were reminded that AIC will have a new website coming this summer.

There was a question about what the next steps for Held in Trust would be. Rosenthal-Yoffe explained that the Held in Trust report serves as a road map for the field. Significant needs include diversification of the field and climate sustainability. FAIC received supplemental funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities under the Held in Trust agreement to fund development of Climate Resilience Resources for Cultural Heritage as one way to address climate impact concerns outlined in the report.

It was suggested that in the future, vegetarian meals be the default for annual meeting participants, with meat a special request.

It was suggested that the organization explore grant opportunities to support more sustainability changes in the conference.

Attendees asked for an attendee list. Attendees can be viewed in the AIC Annual Meeting online community.

A question was asked about how to suggest annual meeting locations. Emails to Meetings and Advocacy Director Ruth Seyler are always welcome, but the issue is specifically discussed during the Internal Advisory Group meeting, so advocating to group leadership may also help. The organization plans meeting locations 3-4 years in advance.

Suzanne Davis made a motion to adjourn. Sarah Reidell seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.