Affiliate Organization: Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

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- **News and updates from the affiliate organization:**

  The following notes were taken at the April 2019 Providence, RI conference.

  SAH President Sandy Isenstadt spoke about the present state and future directions of the organization:

  Strategic plan for the decade ahead developed two years ago:

  - Global and local approach to promoting the study of the built environment
  - Teaching and scholarship
  - Financial sustainability
  - Nurture next generation of scholars; promote diversity

  In evidence at this conference:

  - Paper sessions on new regions and issues
  - Inaugural Edward Sekler talk
  - Graduate student resources
    - Book group
    - Lightning talks
    - Mentoring café
    - Free professional headshots
  - Addition of poster sessions
  - Session on Vectors of Change, pressing issues coming to the fore
  - Pop Up session on Notre Dame

  The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians made some online issues open access in order to raise awareness of the journal. The issue on the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus has been accessed by 150,000 people.

  Buildings of the US & SAH Archipedia continues to lower barriers to access with more scholarly content in a more user friendly format.
Archipedia 3.0 now has:

- Open access including metadata
- Mobile friendly
- Updated legacy materials
- New back-end /content management system

SAHARA now features highlights with themes.

SAH is providing youth outreach, funding fieldtrips for underserved K-12 students, teaching them to observe and analyze the built environment.

For adults, there were study programs / field seminars /study days:

- **2018 Cuba**
- **2019 Japan** (12 days, led by Ken Oshima/ postponed)
- **Summer 2020 N. China and Mongolia** (led by Nancy Steinhart)

Study days at National Museum of African American Culture, DC

A two year grant from the Mellon Foundation is underway to gauge health of architectural history as a degree of study and gather data about the academic status of this study in higher education. Sarah Dreller will be leading this research.

Dr. Isenstadt took the opportunity to review the SAH policy statement

- Core values
- Personal conduct
- Position statements (ACLS)
- New page on website, Click on ADVOCACY tab

Treasurer Michael Gibson reported on the organization’s finances and fundraising events:

- Chicago Arts Club Gala raised $139,000
- Fall fundraiser Weimar, Dessau, Berlin tour sold out in hours
- July 17th NYC Century Club event honoring Diller Scofidio + Renfro
- Successful fundraiser in Paris
- $110,000 unrestricted donation
- $70,000 netted from St Paul conference [Clarification: $70,000 is the net figure prior to expense allocations, which aren’t applied until the end of the fiscal year. SAH actually netted $-3K after expenses and administrative allocations.]
- Bumpy rise with investments but was at 5.7 million, 4.5% draw rate from portfolio
- Half of funds raised for Charnley-Persky House

Grants:

- Gill Family Foundation for grad students
- NEH Open Humanities Portfolio Program
- Mellon Grant, arch history in higher ed study

Following the Business Meeting, we were treated to an introductory address by Barnaby Evans, founder of Waterfire Providence, who gave a talk about the history of Providence, its architecture, and the preservation movement that has led to such a vibrant downtown.
The conference continued with numerous fascinating and informative lectures, roundtables, and tours. The entire conference program with abstracts is available here.

- **Meetings or conferences attended:**
  The 72nd Annual Society of Architectural Historians conference was held in Providence, RI from April 24-28, 2019.

- **Potential collaborations between ARLIS/NA and the affiliate:**
  While there was hope that ARLIS and SAH might be able to schedule their 2021 Montreal conferences close enough together to allow for some overlap in the form of shared sessions or tours, the dates that each organization ended up scheduling are nearly a month apart, with SAH April 14-18 and ARLIS May 5-9, 2021.

  SAH has recently created Affiliate Groups which function like ARLIS SIGs. There may be some opportunity for these groups to work together. More information on SAH Affiliate Groups is available here.

- **Date(s) of next conference or annual meeting of the affiliated organization:**
  The 73rd Annual Society of Architectural Historians conference was to be held in Seattle, WA from April 29-May 3, 2020 but will now be held online instead. Reduced rates were provided for graduate students.

  84% of the speakers from the Seattle conference have been able to continue their participation in the virtual platform, and 94% of speakers are planning to present live on April 30–May 1. View the [final program](#).

  Seventy-one speakers have agreed to make their recorded presentations available to registered attendees to watch for up to 30 days after the conference. View the list of [recorded presentations](#).

- **Questions for the President or ARLIS/NA Board:**
  None.

- **Additional comments, questions, concerns:**
  My attempts to propose roundtables and other sessions that bridge ARLIS and SAH have been stymied by how far in advance participants must commit. Can we find better ways to be more nimble with programming and/or, especially given the 'new normal', be less dependent on the annual conferences as the place where everything must happen?