

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 23 – 26, 2014
Chicago, Illinois**

**Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives
Roundtable Request for Discussion and
Feedback on 2014 Priorities and Projects
(Prepared by Council Liaison Tanya Zanish-Belcher)**

BACKGROUND

The Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable (LACCHA) is currently completing a strategic plan for 2014 and would like to make the SAA Council aware of its activities. These include:

- Sponsoring international speakers from Honduras at its 2014 meeting.
- A LACCHA WordPress blog, which will be multilingual (with abstracts in English). There will be posts by guest contributors written in other languages.
- Interest in participating in SAA translation projects on a volunteer basis.

LACCHA would like to request support from the SAA Council and staff with the goal of “making sure the organization as a whole is more committed and open to this kind of international, multilingual participation.” They are not requesting financial support, “just more for the buy-in that SAA has the potential to be an organization that can have this kind of participation through the talent, connections and skill of its membership.”

The SAA Council has discussed this kind of work in the past, but it was determined that we simply did not have the resources to support anything major. LACCHA is also interested in translations of SAA publications (such as *DACS*) and targeted sessions from the SAA annual program. The book translation request has been discussed briefly with Teresa Brinati, who has expressed interest as this could be a collaborative project with the International Council on Archives (ICA). She also noted that LACCHA could translate selected articles for *The American Archivist*. There are some projects already in the pipeline (i.e., translation of SAA brochures) undertaken by other SAA groups.

DISCUSSION

The projects proposed by the LACCHA Roundtable fall under a number of goals in our Strategic Plan, namely the following:

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists; 1.3. Provide leadership in ensuring the completeness, diversity, and accessibility of the historical record; 1.3.3. In collaboration with appropriate communities, develop resources for managing cultural heritage materials to assist the broader archives community in managing cultural property issues.

Goal 3: Advancing the Field; 3.2. Foster and disseminate research in and about the field; 3.2.2. Consider ways in which to expand the conversation within the profession about published research (both practical and theoretical).

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs; 4.2. Create opportunities for members to participate fully in the association; 4.2.2. Remove barriers, perceived and actual, to broad participation by SAA members in the activities of the organization.

The Roundtable is looking for support from the SAA Council and the SAA staff. An informal statement of support should suffice. That statement might be something like this: "SAA fully supports the LACCHA Roundtable's strategic projects as they provide an opportunity to expand the Society's efforts to more broadly share its resources with the archival community, nationally and internationally."

In addition, we should assess how we can better connect this group with others working on these issues and what kind of staff oversight is needed. There could be potential staff time involved with any oversight of translation work and the efforts with sharing the results. The estimated staff time associated with initial oversight activity is two staff members @ 10 hours.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is it appropriate for the SAA Council to provide an informal statement of support for LACCHA's project initiatives?
2. How might we better connect the groups interested in undertaking these kinds of volunteer tasks?
3. How do we provide enough appropriate oversight, without overwhelming the SAA staff?