



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

April 1, 2019

Hello! With this note, I wish to draw your attention to Austin, Texas, where the Society for American Archaeology's 85th Annual Meeting will be held. The meeting will be at the Austin Convention Center, overlooking the Colorado River and adjacent to 6th Street – the street that made Austin the “live music capital of the world.”

The open call for submissions will be available online from May 1, 2019, and will close at 3:00 pm Eastern time on September 5, 2019. Since there will NOT be any options for extensions, I'm encouraging you to submit early, and encourage your colleagues and session participants to do so as well. Per SAA Board policy, it is a privilege of membership to be able to participate on the program, and so presenters at the Annual Meeting must be members of SAA in 2020.

An issue that has concerned the SAA is that Texas falls under California's “Prohibition on State-Funded and State-Sponsored Travel to States with Discriminatory Laws.” Thus, employees of the State of California, including university and college professors, will not be allowed to be reimbursed for travel. SAA signed our contract with Austin before this travel ban had been adopted in California. Austin is a progressive city. It's a university town and has a thriving LGBT community. SAA will be including a list of LGBT-friendly establishments on our meetings pages when submissions open.

The SAA Annual Meeting is an opportunity for conversation, and the Society calls on its members to strengthen dialogue across employment sectors (government agencies, THPOs and SHPOs, CRM, and academics) and foster exchange of information across local, national, and international regions. Archaeologists have a tradition of engagement, such as the kind of work done in creative mitigation, and I encourage you to engage with local stakeholders to share in cultural heritage appreciation and conservation. We hope you'll join the conversation by submitting your proposals and joining our program to help foster connections to each other and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Watkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Watkins, PhD, RPA
President (2019-2021)