



# American Society for Aesthetics

March 25, 2020

Dear Colleagues in Aesthetics,

As the Officers of the American Society for Aesthetics, we write today to inform you about the response of ASA to COVID-19. We share the universal concerns for the health and safety of our members, independent contractors, editors, and other participants in ASA activities.

- All of our editors of *JAAC*, *ASAGE*, the *ASA Newsletter*, Facebook, and the ASA web site, as well as the secretary-treasurer, work at home as independent contractors. This means that we can continue to function normally, thanks to the internet. Please continue to submit your work to these venues as you ordinarily would.
- As we are a small society, we do not have a physical office. (Our business mailing address is actually a UPS box number.) Thus, we do not have the safety issues and dislocation that many organizations face for their staff members.
- We have cancelled all four 2020 Divisional meetings, due to prohibitions on large meetings, travel by faculty, and international travel bans. All participants were immediately notified and received full refunds of their registration fees. We are hopeful that all four can be held in their usual venues in 2021.
- We are working with ASA grant-funded conferences in 2020 to determine whether they need to postpone or cancel. We are providing up-to-date information on our web site, Twitter, and Facebook.
- We are very hopeful that our Annual Meeting will go forward in November 2020. Should anything change, we will notify members and participants through our usual communication venues (bulk email, web site, Twitter, Facebook). We expect that a preliminary program will be posted on the web site in April.
- We understand that all members, but especially students and junior scholars, greatly value feedback on their work to make progress in their research and publication programs. We are concerned that our members lost valuable opportunities for dialogue with other members at the cancelled divisional meetings.
  - Some of our fellow members of the American Council of Learned Societies are exploring “virtual meetings,” but the mechanisms available for true interaction of these large groups are technically and prohibitively expensive for small societies such as ASA.
  - We are working on a plan to use ASA as a clearing house this summer for live-streamed presentations and discussion, using ASA’s publicity mechanisms, for members wishing to

present a talk and discuss their work with other members, taking advantage of such tools as Facebook-Live and Zoom.

- As a small society, we depend on your continued membership to support our operating expenses. We hope you will renew your membership for 2020 and beyond, if you have not already done so.

We welcome your suggestions for how we can best continue to meet your needs as teachers and scholars in aesthetics. You are welcome to send your thoughts to [secretary-treasurer@aesthetics-online.org](mailto:secretary-treasurer@aesthetics-online.org) or to President Susan Feagin at [feagin@temple.edu](mailto:feagin@temple.edu)

Sincerely,

Susan Feagin, President

David Davies, Vice-President

Kathleen Higgins, Past-President

Julie Van Camp, Secretary-Treasurer

Officers of the American Society for Aesthetics

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