

Dear MAC community,

I am writing with the perhaps not unexpected news that we are canceling the 2020 Annual Meeting for the Midwest Archives Conference scheduled for May 6-9 in Des Moines.

MAC Council has been actively monitoring the rapidly changing situation as state governments, institutions, and employers continue to extend travel restrictions and limitations on gatherings of groups of people. MAC leadership was most concerned with the health and well being of our members and others attending our conference. These concerns, weighed against the amount of volunteer effort by MAC members to execute this conference and the need for professional development by presenters and attendees, were tipped this week with the recommendations of public health professionals regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

MAC leadership considered the option of holding a meeting later in the calendar year, however, the logistics of such a meeting and the uncertainty of reconstituting the program presented too many questions without answers for us to pursue this option. MAC's next planned event will be the 2020 symposium in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 9-10.

A few questions you might have:

How will attendees be refunded?

MAC is in the process of confirming our cancellation with the hotel. Once completed, the hotel will release the room block which will cancel all reservations. Attendees who reserved through the room block on the MAC website and provided an email, will be notified. Those who reserved outside the room block or did not provide an email will need to cancel reservations directly. The hotel can be reached at [Des Moines Marriott Downtown](#), 700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, 515-245-5500.

Conference registration fees will be processed by MAC's member association management group, AMC Source, and may take 4-6 weeks to complete.

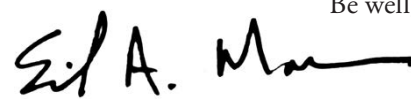
What about presenters who need this for tenure or promotion?

Many colleges and universities are dealing with similar cancellations for all of their faculty. Some are already implementing a pause on the tenure clock for this year. Please work with your promotion and tenure committees to understand how best to represent your accepted presentation for this annual meeting. You may also deposit a copy of your slides and/or paper to MAC's open access conference proceedings at <https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/macmeetings/collections/279/>. By depositing you can demonstrate a professional contribution shared widely with your peers.

I want to thank the Local Arrangement Committee and the Program Committee for their work and dedication to creating an outstanding meeting. I hope you'll join me in extending your gratitude. Thank you also to MAC Council and executive leadership for their guidance and wisdom. And, a thank you to our partners at AMC, especially Debra Nolan who has helped us navigate the ramifications of this decision.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am happy to respond or put you in touch with someone who can assist.

Be well,



Erik Moore
MAC President