

A LETTER FROM IASA'S PRESIDENT

Patrick Midtlyng, Library of Congress, USA

Dear Members of IASA,

As I write my first President's Letter, I find myself reflecting on the concept of service—what it means to me, what has come before, and the work that lies ahead. The legacy of dedication and achievement from past IASA directors sets a high bar, one that the new Executive Board and I are committed to meeting and exceeding.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the previous E.B. for their efforts and support during the post-election transition. Special thanks to President Tre Berney, Past-President Toby Seay, Vice-Presidents Margarida Ullate i Estanyol, Perla Olivia Rodríguez Reséndiz, and Judith Opoku-Boateng, Secretary-General Elisabeth Steinhäuser, Treasurer Yuri Shimoda, Editor Jennifer Vaughn, and Web Manager Richard Ranft. Your contributions have been invaluable.

The newly elected board, consisting of Tre Berney, Bronwyn Officer, Rosie Rowe, Andrew Martin, Pedro Félix, Nadia Lai, Jennifer Vaughn, and Bright Joshua, has already demonstrated an inspiring commitment to our shared mission. Despite the logistical challenges of coordinating meetings when we have an 18-hour difference across time zones, the camaraderie and dedication of this team have been remarkable. I am particularly grateful to Tre and Jennifer for their guidance and continuity during this period of change.

As we look forward, our focus is clear: addressing the pressing issues of sustainability, inclusivity, and expanding IASA's reach. The next three years will pass swiftly, but our ambitions are significant. We aim to modernize our operations and infrastructure, enhance membership engagement, and ensure financial stability. Alongside these operational goals, we remain steadfast in celebrating the hard work and achievements within our community.

This year, we honored Ezekiel Korley with the Carl Fleischhauer Award, Somaya Langley with the Lars Gaustad Award, Pio Pellizzari with the IASA Award of Recognition, and Ketevan Davitashvili with the inaugural Dietrich Schüller Award for Audiovisual Training. These accolades reflect the significant contributions of our members and highlight the vibrant spirit of our community. I'd also like to encourage IASA members to take advantage of the grants and awards we offer, all of which you can read about here: <https://iasa-web.org/awards>. Research Grants in particular have been underutilized: the Executive Board has responded by increasing publicity for this grant and trying to encourage more applicants.

Looking ahead to our 55th annual conference, we invite you to join us in Valencia at the La Nau Cultural Center of the University of Valencia from 23-26 September, 2024. The theme, "Interweaving Disciplines: Connecting Collections and Communities Through Sound & Audiovisual Archives," promises to foster rich dialogue and collaboration. For the first time, we will highlight LGBTQ AV archives and archival work, marking a significant milestone in our history. We are honored to have Elena Oroz, Assistant Professor at Carlos III University of Madrid, Department of Media Studies, as our Keynote Speaker. Special thanks to Vice-president for Conferences Rosie Rowe, Erwin Verbruggen, and our host Jorge García, along with the staff at the L'Institut Valencià de Cultura, for their diligent preparation.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I eagerly anticipate connecting with many of you in Valencia, but for those unable to attend in person, please know that my virtual door is always open at president@iasa-web.org.

In closing, I would like to share a few thoughts on the broader context in which we work. The world in 2024 presents numerous challenges to our work—climate change, political division, war, and attacks on basic human rights. In this landscape, the role of associations like IASA is more critical than ever. Our commitment to preserving time-based media and to serve as a medium for international co-operation among audiovisual archives holds profound importance. We are a diverse community united by our dedication to memory preservation. By embracing this mission, we can indeed make a meaningful impact. Together, we will rise to meet these challenges.

Sincerely,
Patrick Midtlyng
IASA President
July, 2024