



AIA Strategic Vision 2026-2029

OUR MISSION

The Archaeological Institute of America promotes archaeological inquiry and public understanding of the material record of the human past to foster an appreciation of diverse cultures and our shared humanity. The AIA supports archaeologists, their research and its dissemination, and the ethical practice of archaeology. The AIA engages people of all ages with the significance of archaeological discovery and advocates for the preservation of the world's cultural heritage.

OUR VISION

We seek to achieve an archaeology that broadens our vision, deepens our understanding, and expands our humanity. The Archaeological Institute of America is committed to action by:

Preserving, protecting, and interpreting the record of the human past by employing the highest ethical, professional, and intellectual standards;

Exploring and understanding the dynamic transformations and achievements of past human cultures and environments through the material record;

Examining ways that the material record answers urgent questions about our present-day cultures, societies, and environment;

Strengthening support for the work of archaeologists and the sharing of their findings in the field, the lab, the library, and the museum;

Seeking an ever-richer understanding of the human past through the integration of multi-disciplinary perspectives;

Embracing a collaborative and inclusive view of archaeology that recognizes the interests of practicing archaeologists, community stakeholders, and curious minds;

Inspiring audiences to engage with the past to better understand the present, and in support of a more informed future.

OUR VALUES

Exploration, Knowledge, Analysis, Interpretation. Archaeologists investigate the material record of past human cultures, analyze the processes that formed them to reconstruct past human activities and environments, and interpret their findings to help us understand the present.

Professional Expertise, Ethics, and Accountability. The AIA expects archaeologists to commit to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism and deploy their expertise with integrity. Archaeologists



are responsible for sharing their findings with other researchers, community stakeholders, and the public.

Connectivity, Engagement, Collaboration, Integration. Understanding our shared past brings the public and archaeologist together for the benefit of all. Archaeology is a collaborative enterprise that is strengthened by the engagement of multiple perspectives. Insights from many academic disciplines as well as community stakeholders ensures a comprehensive understanding of the human past. In understanding this past, archaeological perspectives can also help achieve a more just, inclusive, and equitable society.

Passion, Inspiration, Stewardship. Archaeologists and the public share a passion for exploring the past. Knowledge of the past informs and inspires people in the present. Responsible stewardship of archaeological heritage will ensure that it is preserved and interpreted for the common good.

OUR GRAND CHALLENGES

Excavate: Strengthening Archaeology. As the professional home of nearly 3,000 archaeologists, academics, museum professionals, and graduate students primarily focused on the material culture of the broader Mediterranean world, we will leverage our resources to forge new directions in archaeological research, to foster present and future communities of practice, and to collaborate with archaeologists and archaeological societies representing projects around the globe.

Advocate: Enhancing Archaeological Practice. We will advance our knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the meaning of the past to contemporary societies by amplifying ethical practice in fieldwork, research and publication, supporting heritage preservation and emergency protection efforts, fostering responsible museum collection and display, articulating the value of archaeology to communities at home and abroad, and supporting best practices in archaeological projects around the world.

Engage: Sharing Global Archaeology. As a trusted source of archaeological knowledge for the public, with an estimated 700,000 readers of *Archaeology* magazine, over 100 affiliated societies in North America, dozens of annual archaeological tours, critical connections to museums and their staffs, and outreach to schools and schoolteachers, we will present the diversity of the material record and world cultures with accuracy, nuance, and insight.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Broadening Access. Expand public and professional audiences with integrated programming across the AIA that promotes pathways to engage the next generation in archaeology.

Sustaining Excellent and Ethical Research. Support fieldwork opportunities, funding, and ethical research about the material record that contributes insights to our shared humanity and the diversity of past and present cultures, societies, and environments.



Enabling Organizational Excellence. Develop the organizational services, fiscal strength, and oversight processes that allow the AIA to deliver on its mission.

Strengthening Fiscal Sustainability. Build the strategies and diversify the revenue profile of the AIA so that it can succeed in the challenging environments represented by media change, donor priorities and financial markets.

Grand Challenges	<i>Excavate</i>	<i>Advocate</i>	<i>Engage</i>
Broadening Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance engagement across traditional print and digital media.• Develop an integrated public programming strategy across the magazine, lecture programs, and other local initiatives that expand opportunities available to AIA societies and the public at large.• Cultivate engagement between public and professional programs.• Foster the next generation of archaeologists and passionate supporters of archaeology.		
Sustaining Excellent and Ethical Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue building and expanding capacity to fund archaeological research and heritage preservation initiatives in the Mediterranean and around the globe.• Support the long-term research, publication, and preservation of archaeological heritage in the <i>American Journal of Archaeology</i> and other scholarly venues.• Integrate processes that enhance accountability and ethics in archaeological practice.		
Enabling Organizational Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optimize AIA resources and human capacity by clarifying relationships between AIA public and professional programming.• Cultivate the AIA as a service organization committed to responsible stewardship of archaeological heritage.		
Strengthening Fiscal Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop fiscal strength and ensure accountability.• Promote openness, inclusion, innovation, and cost efficiency in business operations.• Implement up-to-date software for financial and donor tracking.• Expand the profile of donor and foundation giving.		
Signature Initiatives	New professional frameworks for archaeology	Enhanced support for AIA-affiliated projects and Wilkie emergency support	Dedicated funds for <i>Archaeology</i> and public engagement initiatives