

Maine Archives & Museums Advocacy Policy

Approved by Board Meeting June 16, 2022

Mission

The mission of Maine Archives and Museums (MAM) is to actively stimulate the flow of knowledge and support among organizations and individuals in Maine who identify, collect, interpret and/or provide access to materials relating to history, living collections, and culture, in order to support all collecting institutions in Maine.

Policy

Guidelines for Advocacy

- MAM advocates on behalf of its members and the wider community of museums, archives, historical societies, and collecting institutions they represent.
- MAM engages in ongoing advocacy as described in [Advocacy Activities](#). These activities do not require special authorization from the Board of Directors.
- MAM may take a position on specific legislation or public policy issues using the process outlined in [Process for Responding to a Public Policy Issue](#).
- MAM may not engage in partisan political activities such as supporting or opposing a candidate or aligning with a political party.

Advocacy Committee Membership

- To better represent Maine's collecting institutions, the Advocacy Committee will recruit members from across the state and from institutions of different types and sizes.
- The Advocacy Committee will also seek members who work with organizations that are engaged in similar advocacy efforts.

Identifying Issues of Concern

- A standing agenda item at Advocacy Committee meetings will be a review of issues and actions that may impact its members (see: [Sources for Advocacy Alerts & Legislation Tracking](#)).
- The Advocacy Committee may identify issues of concern through various methods, including input from the Board of Directors, surveys to MAM members, and listening sessions at conferences.

Working with Partners

- MAM welcomes partnerships with other organizations (local, regional, or national) that are engaged in similar advocacy efforts.
- These partnerships may include working together to organize events such as Maine Museums Day, present at conferences, and coordinate responses to public policy issues.

Economic Impact Statement

- MAM regularly collects and compiles data about Maine's collecting institutions. This data is published as an Economic Impact Statement and used in MAM's advocacy efforts.
- MAM encourages its members to use the Economic Impact Statement for grassroots advocacy and to promote their own missions.
- The Advocacy Committee will recommend updating the Economic Impact Statement based on changes in the state and wider field, or at a minimum every five years.

Communication

- Only MAM's President, Executive Director, or a board member specifically delegated on a case-by-case basis, may state a position on a public policy issue on behalf of MAM.
- Messages about MAM advocacy will be issued through the Communications Committee.

Reviewing the Advocacy Policy

- MAM welcomes suggestions from members regarding its advocacy efforts. A copy of this policy will be maintained on the Advocacy section of the MAM website.
- MAM will review and revise its Advocacy Policy as needed based on significant changes in how it advocates, or at a minimum every five years.