



The western face of ACOR's main building in Amman, with the ruins of Khirbet Salameh in the foreground. Photo credit Steve Meyer, 2018.

ACOR

Annual Report 2019

The American Center of Oriental Research

October 1, 2018–September 30, 2019



ACOR
أكور
AMERICAN CENTER OF
ORIENTAL RESEARCH
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للأبحاث الشرقية

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Image: Site visit to Madaba. Party includes SCHEP Chief of Party Nizar Al Adarbeh (second from left) and ACOR Associate Director Jack Green (third from right). Image courtesy of USAID-SCHEP.

OUR MISSION

Established in 1968, **The American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan** is an international, non-profit academic organization, which advances our understanding of Jordan and the Middle East, past and present. ACOR facilitates the acquisition of knowledge through research and dialogue with an extensive library and archive, fellowship and scholarship programs, and residential facilities. ACOR promotes archaeological research, cultural heritage preservation, and knowledge-sharing through lectures, digital resources, publications, workshops, and training programs. ACOR serves as a conduit for cultural exchange among students, professionals, and the public in Jordan and beyond.

ACOR is a nonprofit academic organization registered with the government of Jordan and as a tax exempt public charity 501(c)(3) organization by the United States Internal Revenue Service. It is supported by governmental grants, contributions from foundations, corporations, and individuals, as well as by ACOR endowments.

For more information about Development and our Strategic Plan, please see pages 8–10 of this report.

In 2019, the Jordanian Department of Antiquities loaned this idol, discovered at the Temple of the Winged Lions in Petra, to The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, for exhibition.



FY 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

Figures below reflect achievements from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

- In FY 2019, ACOR provided **24 fellowships and awards**, including 7 to Jordanians.
- ACOR held **6 public lectures**, which over **700 attended**, among them academics, students, diplomats, heritage professionals, and interested members of the public.
- ACOR's Photo Archive team **digitized and described over 10,000 images** from Jordan and the Middle East, bringing the year-end total of photographs freely available and searchable online to **21,572**.
- More than **2,890 people used ACOR's library**, which houses more than **45,000 publications** and is one of the premier research libraries in the region. Library logins this year represented a variety of academic fields, including: Archaeology (22%), History (12%), International Studies (8%), Journalism (7%), Arabic Language (7%), and Medicine (6%).
- **65 professionals** from **18 GLAM institutions** (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) and **9 countries** participated in the **ACOR Archival Methods Workshop 2019**.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



ACOR
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ORIENTAL RESEARCH



SCHEP
Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through
Engagement of Local Communities Project

A project implemented by ACOR and funded by USAID, **the Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP)**, was officially renewed in November 2018. The USAID SCHEP team spent most of FY 2019 preparing to undertake the next phase of SCHEP activities, signing memoranda of understanding with key partners such as the Department of Antiquities (DOA), Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA), Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority (PDTRA), and the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA)/Wadi Rum Protected Area (WRPA).

SCHEP 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

- **Awareness activities** : **2,869 students and youth** participated in awareness activities supported or implemented by SCHEP. These included mosaic workshops for Girl Guides from throughout the Arab region, an archaeology festival implemented by the Friends of Archaeology and Heritage, and a two-day hands-on awareness program for students in Bayt Ras (pictured at right; for more on the site of Bayt Ras, see the Site Story box below).
- **Capacity-building programs**: More than **50 cultural heritage employees and recent graduates** participated in SCHEP capacity-building programs, receiving training in heritage museum planning, wall-painting conservation, analysis of Roman pottery, and other specialized skills. With SCHEP support, **twelve DOA employees and early-career cultural heritage experts** participated in the International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan 14 (ICHAJ) in Florence, Italy.
- **Jordan Archaeological Heritage Strategy 2020–2024** : SCHEP held **two interactive workshops** to prepare the new strategy for Jordan's archaeological heritage management, with the **active participation of 62 employees** of the DOA, PDTRA, MOTA, and other essential Jordanian heritage institutions.
- **New and renewed grant agreements**: SCHEP signed new grants with **three community-based tourism MSEs (micro- to small-scale enterprises)** and continues to support the development of sustainable, culture-based tourism and economic empowerment of local communities. SCHEP also signed start-up grant agreements with the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS-Jordan) and renewed a grant with Friends of Archaeology and Heritage.



Image: Students participating in a SCHEP awareness activity at the heritage site of Bayt Ras in December 2018. A guiding tenet of our work is that local engagement must also include the rising generation.

Key Partners and JAHS Stakeholders

For more information about the Jordan Archaeological Heritage Strategy (JHAS), please see text at left.



SITE STORY | Bayt Ras: Unearthing the Romans in Northern Jordan

In November 2016, builders in the province of Irbid were digging to prepare a site for a new foundation when they accidentally unearthed an ancient Roman tomb, ornately decorated with millennia-old murals. An international consortium of experts was quickly established to spearhead the preservation and study of this remarkable find. The Bayt Ras tomb is now one of the premiere sites of its kind, both in Jordan and on the world stage, and ACOR is proud to participate in its sustainable preservation. ACOR has provided support for documentation and training efforts at the tomb, greatly enhancing the capacity of scholars and raising awareness of this heritage among the local community. In January 2019, the largest audience yet had the opportunity to learn about the site thanks to SCHEP-supported presentations at the International Conference on the Heritage and Archaeology of Jordan. Further documentation and conservation missions took place at the tomb in September. Bayt Ras continues to contribute to global scholarly knowledge about the Roman period, and such work will ensure that both specialists and public audiences have safe, sustainable means to appreciate and benefit from this miraculous glimpse of the past.

Image: SCHEP Chief of Party Nizar al Adarbeh (right) along with Italy's Giorgio Sobr of the Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro (ISCR) (left).

For more on Bayt Ras, we encourage you to visit SCHEP's YouTube channel and watch "Site Results."

ACOR Fellowships Awarded 2019–2020

*An asterisk denotes authorship on the ACOR Blog (www.acorjordan.org/blog).

National Endowment for the Humanities Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Dylan Rogers (Assistant Director, American School of Classical Studies at Athens) Sensing Water: Public Water Displays of the Roman Empire

ACOR-CAORC Postgraduate Fellowship

Najib Hourani (Anthropology, Michigan State University) Urban Reconstruction in Syria: Toward a Positive Peace?

José Ciro Martínez (Politics, Trinity College, University of Cambridge) The Politics of Bread: Performing the State in Hashemite Jordan* (see Spotlight at bottom of page)

Konstantinos D. Politis (Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies) Khirbet Qazone: A Nabataean to Early Christian Community on the South-Eastern Dead Sea Littoral*

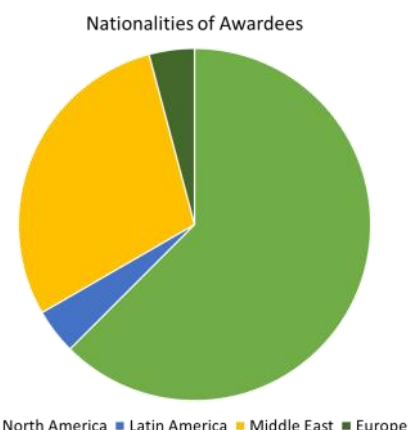
Christine Sargent (Anthropology, University of Colorado, Denver) Medicine, Technology, and Uncertainty: Navigating Pre-Natal Diagnosis in Jordan*

ACOR-CAORC Pre-Graduate Fellowship

Kyle Craig (Anthropology, Northwestern University) “This City is So Empty”: Street Art, Youth, and Urban Futures in Amman, Jordan

Melissa Scott (Ethnomusicology, University of California, Berkeley) Sounding Place: Classical Arab Music and Humanitarian Sentiment in Jordan

William Tamplin (Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University) Apocalypticism in the Modern Jordanian Novel*



Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship

Craig Harvey (Roman Archaeology, University of Michigan) Humayma Excavation Project*

Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship

Lara Curasev (Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Wilfred Laurier University) Town of Nebo Archaeological Project

Sarah Dengler (Anthropology, University of Idaho) The Dhiban Excavation and Development Project

Andressa Leitzke (Accountancy and Archaeology, La Sierra University) The Balu’a Regional Archaeological Project

Darcy Stubbs (History, Classics and Archaeology, Calvin College) Umm el-Jimal

ACOR Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship

Dana ElFarraj (Urban Planning and Studies, Jordan University of Science and Technology) Impact of Enhanced Tourism at the Umm el-Jimal Archaeological Site on the Socio-Economic Development of the Local Community

Mais Haddad (Architecture, The University of Jordan) A Paradigm for Ecclesiastical Architecture in Jordan: Comparative Study of Three Churches at Umm el Jimal

Rawan Al Rabadi (Conservation and Management of Cultural Resources, Yarmouk University) Conservation of Textile Icon of Epitaphion Thronon/Coffin of Christ from Baptism (Al-Maghtas) Museum

Arzaq Abu Eid (Anthropology, Yarmouk University) Pottery Alleviation Strategies in Jordan

Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship

Adriano Odello (Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz) Epipaleolithic Foragers of Azraq Project at Kharaneh IV

Burton Macdonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship

Jeremy Beller (Archaeology, University of Victoria) Azraq Marshes Archaeological & Paleoecological Project

ACOR Fellows study
ecology, economics,
tourism, health systems,
language, art history,
music, literature,
politics, archaeology...
and so much more.

(Continued on next page)

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT | José Ciro Martínez, ACOR-CAORC Post-doctoral Fellow

José Ciro Martínez is a Title A Research Fellow at Trinity College at the University of Cambridge, studying comparative politics in Jordan and the MENA region. He was awarded an ACOR-CAORC postdoctoral fellowship for summer 2019 to further develop his ethnographic research on Jordanian bread subsidies. Dr. Martínez appreciated the immersive experience offered by ACOR, writing in his final report: “the value of overseas residence to the completion of this project is unquantifiable.... [ACOR Library staff] were of great help in identifying primary sources and recent publications on topics related to Jordanian history, politics and society.... [T]he opportunity to interact with the diverse group of scholars who visited ACOR during my time of residence was extremely beneficial to the development of my ideas and methodology.”



Fellowships (continued from previous page)

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship

Betty Adams (Near Eastern Archaeology, La Sierra University) Cosmetic Adornment during the Iron Age in the Southern Levant; Balu'a Regional Archaeology Project

Julia Maczuga (Islamic Archaeology, University of Bonn) Islamic Graffiti

James A. Sauer Fellowship

Bilal Al Boorini (Department of Conservation and Management of Cultural Resources, Yarmouk University) A Proposed Master's Dissertation in Conservation and Restoration of a Lead Coffin from the Store of Jerash Archaeological Site*

ACOR Jordanian Travel Scholarship for ASOR Annual Meeting in San Diego

Mohammad Alazieze (University of Jordan, Aqaba) Preservation Versus Use: A Comparison of Tourism Stakeholders' Value Perceptions Toward the Petra World Heritage Site

Sahar al Khasawneh (Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University) Luminescence Dating of a Transitional Chalcolithic/Bronze Age Site in Jordan*

TWL Publication Fellow

Pauline Piraud-Fournet (University of Paris IV-Sorbonne)*

Frederick-Wenger Jordanian Educational Fellowship

Obada Al Farajat (Tourism Management, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University) Tourism Management in World Heritage Site: Petra as a Case Study

Abbad Diraneyya (The University of Jordan, English Language and Literature) University Study

Harrell Family Fellowship

Aseel Najib (Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University) The Land Tax: Between Politics and Law in Early Islamic History

The ACOR Library: Growth and Expansion

Visiting library consultant Chuck Jones in discussion with Head Librarian Humi Ayoubi



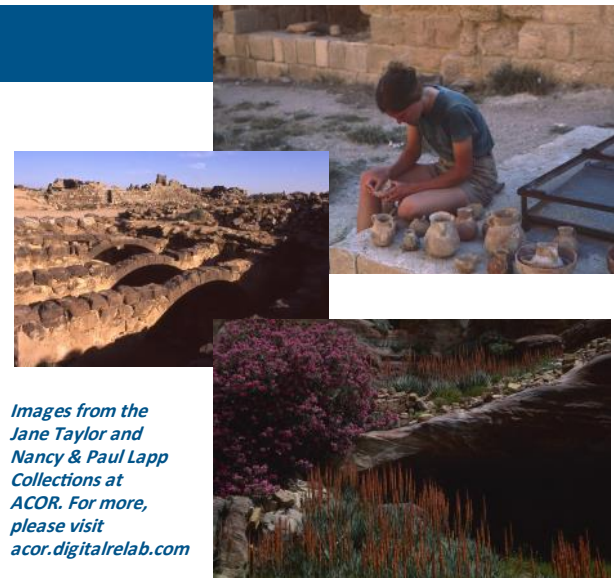
The ACOR Library is one of the region's **largest and richest** English-language book and journal collections, with 45,000 titles in our catalog. With increasing commitment to the principles of **open-access** scholarship, digital resources in particular are a major area of ongoing Library expansion. The ACOR Library saw some **3,000 visitors** in FY 2019, and new **partnerships and programs** accelerated library use. Between the stacks on a given day in fall 2019, you may have met *Jordan Times* **journalist** Saeb Rawashdeh drafting an article, pre-doctoral **ACOR Fellows** (maybe Josephine Chaet or William Tamplin), or volunteer "**Wikimedians**" seeking to improve the quality of online open-access resources, among many other library visitors. In FY 2019, ACOR organized and participated in training programs to **empower the next generation** of scholars—both local and North American—in library sciences and the **digital humanities**. Thanks to the expansion of Library and Archives staff, public programs and outreach began a **phase of growth**, with even higher goals for 2020.

"It ought to be possible ... to include everyone in the free, open and democratic exchange of ideas."

—Library consultant Chuck Jones (Penn State; *The Ancient World Online*), in a session with Library and Archives staff in fall 2019.

The ACOR Photo Archive Project

"ACOR has done a fantastic job managing a particularly complex metadata environment." This statement by Archival Evaluator Aaron Rubinstein, who spent a week at ACOR in summer 2019, serves as a perfect summary of the ACOR Photo Archive Project's **progress and quality enhancement**. This year the team cataloged and uploaded **10,000 additional images** (see right for a sample of ACOR's collections) and furthermore tackled thorny "**metadata**" issues—i.e., the collation of captions for archival photographs. Captions make the archive **searchable** by scholars and other users. This year's archival initiatives were undertaken by an expanded project team including **two new Project Archivists**. Library and Archives staff conducted substantial outreach this year and built relationships with partner institutions at ACOR-organized events (for example, the **Archival Methods Workshop III in July 2019**) and also through **external meetings**. Among the latter were the Jordanian School Librarian Association Annual Conference, the International Federation of Library Associations Annual Meeting in Athens, and CLIR's Digital Library Forum in Florida.



Images from the Jane Taylor and Nancy & Paul Lapp Collections at ACOR. For more, please visit acor.digitalrehab.com



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 Apr. 2019)

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Above: Associate Director Jack Green (far left), beside Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Director Nisreen Abu al Shaikh, presents to the Board of Trustees at their April meeting, held in Washington, D.C. At right, Development & Communications Officer Starling Carter takes notes.

Dr. Megan A. Perry (Greenville, North Carolina)
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 H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeid (Amman, Jordan)

Ex officio / ACOR Director

Dr. Barbara A. Porter (Amman, Jordan)

Right: ACOR leadership at the 50th Anniversary Gala in Washington, D.C., celebrated in April 2019. From left to right: President of the Board Randolph B. Old, First Vice President H.E. Mr. Abdelalah al Khatib, Director Barbara A. Porter, and Amb. Edward Gnehm, Jr., Board President-Elect.



ACOR celebrates the life and legacy of long-serving Trustee Mary Ellen Lane (1946–2019; pictured left), who served as Executive Director of the Council for American Overseas Research Centers for 28 years (1986–2014) and as an ACOR Trustee since 2015. Her guidance and passion will be greatly missed.





ACOR STAFF (2019)

Photo by Abed AL Fatah Ghareeb (USAID SCHEP).

Director	Barbara A. Porter
Deputy Director, CFO	Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh
Associate Director	John D. M. (Jack) Green
Assistant Director, Amman	Akemi Horii
Assistant Director, U.S.	China P. Shelton*
Administrator**	Rabab Samawi*; Zovi Mananian
Administrative Assistant	Saja Adawi
Development and Communications Officer***	Starling Carter; Jacqueline Salzinger
Accountant	Danah Al Shanteer
Head Librarian	Carmen (Humi) Ayoubi
Assistant Librarian	Samya Khalaf Kafafi
Archivist	Jessica Holland
Archival Assistant	Razan Ahmad
Library & Archives Assistant	Eslam Dawodieh
Library Assistant (Saturdays)	Yousef Abu Ali*
Project Archivist	Ashley Lumb
Project Archivist	Rachael McGlensey*
TWL Publication Project Trainee	Safa' Joudeh*
Conservation Technician	Naif Zaban
Head Chef	Ghassan Adawi
Facilitator	Sa'id Adawi
Building Maintenance Manager	Abed Adawi
Housekeeping	Nilda Cañada Onsing
Housekeeping	Judy Flores
IT Specialist	Ashraf Darwish

USAID SCHEP Team

Chief of Party	Nizar Al Adarbeh
Deputy Chief of Party;	
CHR Projects Lead	Jehad Haron
Tourism Development Lead	Hussein Khirfan
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Zaid Kashour
Institutional Development Lead	Hanadi Taher
Institutional Development Asst.	Farah Abu Naser
Accounts/Admin. Manager	Rawan Abu Salhieh
CHR Field Manager	Hisham Al Majali
Capacity-Building Coordinator	Balkees AlMohaisen
Communications Officer	Shatha Abu Aballi
Communications Specialist	Starling Carter
Awareness and Outreach Intern	Raneen Naimi
Creative Producer & Editor	Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb
Communications Assistant	Ala' Badareen
Administrative Assistant	Dina Al Majali

ACOR is proud to be represented by a diverse team of staff members. All are based in Amman, with the exception one Assistant Director at ACOR's U.S. Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Growing and changing alongside our programming, the ACOR team saw nine new additions during FY 2019.

*Missing from photo

**Zovi Mananian replaced Rabab Samawi as Administrator in summer 2019.

***Starling Carter transferred internally to the USAID SCHEP team in May 2019. The position was filled by Jacqueline Salzinger during the summer.

Change on the Horizon: A New ACOR Director

In 2019, Director Barbara A. Porter, Ph.D., announced her intention to retire from the helm of ACOR in 2020 after 14 years of leadership. Thus, in consultation with Development Resources, Inc., the ACOR Board initiated a search for her successor during FY 2019. Porter joined ACOR as Director in 2006, following decades of experience in scholarship and travel across the MENA region. She has overseen the start of many new projects and unprecedented growth of ACOR's program. In November 2019, Pearce Paul Creasman, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the University of Arizona (pictured left), was selected as new Director.

*Courtesy National Geographic.
Photo by Mark Thiessen.*



DONATIONS TO ACOR IN FY 2019

In FY 2019, ACOR received donations from over 210 individuals. We are ever grateful for our wide circle of supporters and their consistent generosity.

**Donations marked with an asterisk were made in honor of Barbara A. Porter.*

\$10,000 and Above

Jenna de Vries Morton
Miriam Boraas Deffenbaugh and Ralston Deffenbaugh in memory of Aina E. Boraas
Lawrence Geraty
Joy Hebert † (legacy gift)

\$5,000–\$9,999

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\$1,000–\$4,999

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Barbara A. Porter in memory of Paul Malik, James B. Pritchard,
and Tom and Marilyn Schaub
John P. Oleson
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Jerome C. Rose in honor of Dolores L. Burke
Peter and Sylvia Sauer in memory of James A. Sauer
Sandra A. Scham
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Deborah Winters and Daniel Onstad
The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)
The Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation
The SAD Foundation (through Anne and Stewart Dunn)

\$500–\$999

Raouf Abu Jaber
Susan Ackerman
Nizar Al Adarbeh
Maysoon Al Nahar in honor of Geoffrey Clark
William G. Bardel and Penelope K. Bardel
Elizabeth Bartman and Andrew P. Soloman*
Laurie A. Brand
Joseph A. Bruder IV
Connie and Roger Brummel in honor of Sally de Vries
Cari Clark
Geoff Coll
Jonathan and Emme Deland
Wesley and Virginia Egan
Samuel Fall in memory of Barbara H. Fall
Paul Fitzpatrick
Charles O. and Ellen Porter Honnet
Herbert Krosney*

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Elizabeth Stryker
Bethany J. Walker
Andrews University

(Continued on next page)

*Donations received in FY 2019 (continued from previous page)***\$250–\$499**

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Betty Anderson	JoAnne and Samuel Juett
Talitha Arnold*	Mary Ellen Lane
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Tom and Francesca Bennett	Lysbeth A. Marigold and Skye Qi Marigold in honor of Marguerite van Geldermalsen
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Jill K. and Nelson G. Harris in memory of Jennifer C. Groot	Joab Simon
Timothy P. Harrison	Bill Slivka and Lisa Citron
Ray Anita Hemphill	Suzanne and Jaroslav Stetkevych

Kindly note that donors who gave in amounts under \$250 and in-kind donors to ACOR are listed on our website at: www.acorjordan.org/honor-roll-of-donors-fy-2019

DEVELOPMENT

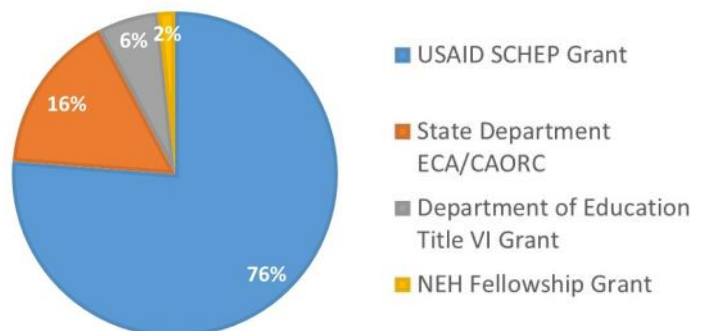
ACOR relies on multiple funding sources that include government and foundation grants, but individual donations cover a sizable portion of our activities. We are grateful to our annual donors and generous grantors, but are also looking to new sources of funding for program expansion and long-term support for the ACOR Annual Fund.

Grants, which come primarily from U.S. federal agencies and affiliates, support specific programs activities (fellowships, the Photo Archive digitization project, and USAID SCHEP). Since our founding in 1968, ACOR has received over \$20 million in grants and other contributions from federal agencies. ACOR is proud of this longstanding collaboration, and we extend our gratitude especially to the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development for their partnerships.

Key Development Figures FY2019

- Number of individual donors: **210**
- Number of first-time donors: **32**
- Average Gift Size: **\$1,044**
- Median Gift Size: **\$250**

Grants Disbursed by ACOR in FY 2019



DONOR SPOTLIGHT | Marilyn McNamara Schaub (1928–2018)

Dr. Marilyn McNamara Schaub and her husband, Dr. Thomas Schaub, were close friends of ACOR for decades. In 2019, Marilyn left a generous legacy donation to ACOR to help secure its future. A native of Chicago, she received her Ph.D. from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. After several initial years of teaching at Dominican University in Illinois, she set out for postgraduate study in Jerusalem. Her research explored the notion of friendship in St. Augustine's writings. Though dedicated to her studies, in the words of her daughter, Helen Schaub, "friendship was not only her academic interest, but one of her true gifts." Marilyn was known among graduate students as a loyal mentor, and her life partnership with Thomas comprised 46 years of mutual support that served as a foundation for their scholarly legacies of archaeology in Jordan and Jerusalem. Marilyn's legacy gift to ACOR will carry her spirit of mentorship forward into future generations of archaeological teaching and research.

Have you considered ACOR for a Legacy Gift?

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Years ending September 30, 2018 and September 30, 2019

	Year Ended September 30, 2019	Year Ended September 30, 2018
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	255,312	244,771
Investments	7,163,673	6,910,304
Grants remaining (unspent amounts)	5,015,929	932,203
Other current assets	<u>266,775</u>	<u>544,065</u>
Total current assets	<u>\$12,701,689</u>	<u>\$8,631,343</u>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	<u>542,400</u>	<u>624,134</u>
Total assets	<u>\$13,244,089</u>	<u>\$9,255,477</u>
Liabilities		
Total liabilities	<u>\$106,573</u>	<u>\$81,093</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	6,196,588	2,221,508
Temporarily restricted (including Grants remaining)	5,375,384	5,403,274
Permanently restricted	<u>1,565,544</u>	<u>1,549,602</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$13,137,516</u>	<u>\$9,174,384</u>

INCOME STATEMENT

	Year Ended September 30, 2019	Year Ended September 30, 2018
Income		
Grants revenues	1,392,326	1,684,169
Contributions	219,247	439,212
Local revenues	145,624	137,459
Investment income	170,440	353,230
Other	<u>26,161</u>	<u>46,379</u>
Total revenues	<u>\$1,953,798</u>	<u>\$2,660,449</u>
Expenses		
Grants expenses	(947,660)	(1,167,447)
Occupancy	(88,314)	(84,184)
Management and general expenses	(754,613)	(794,449)
Depreciation	(115,038)	(124,008)
Fundraising and program development	<u>(114,414)</u>	<u>(36,729)</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$(2,020,039)</u>	<u>\$(2,206,817)</u>
Surplus/(shortfall) for the year	<u>\$(66,241)</u>	<u>\$453,632</u>
Surplus/(shortfall) for the year excluding unrealized investment income and depreciation	<u>\$(2,955)</u>	<u>\$(109,852)</u>

ACOR'S STRATEGIC PILLARS

For ACOR's 50th anniversary (2018), the ACOR Board of Trustees spearheaded a strategic planning process to ensure fulfillment of long-term goals. Both Arabic and English surveys were distributed to incorporate feedback from hundreds of diverse ACOR stakeholders. Fiscal Year 2019 represents the first full year of strategy enactment, outlined by the pillars below.

Pillar I: Advancing Knowledge

ACOR is a center for scholarly excellence in the field of archaeology and in other disciplines within the social sciences and humanities. ACOR serves a diverse set of scholars and students from North America, Jordan, and other countries in the region and has strong cooperative relationships with North American universities.

Pillar II: Preserving Jordan's Cultural Heritage with Communities in Jordan

Through externally-funded programs, ACOR fosters cultural heritage activities as a significant part of its mission by assisting the national government and local communities in the preservation of significant sites through training and knowledge-sharing with cultural heritage/tourism scholars, and shares Jordan's rich history with global audiences.

Pillar III: Engaging Our Host Nation

ACOR has broad relationships in Jordan, as well as deep relationships with key Jordanian national and local governmental agencies and academic institutions. ACOR strategically communicates with these agencies/institutions and more broadly in Jordan to ensure that its mission and activities are understood by a diverse set of stakeholders. ACOR reaches out to and engages with many Jordanian academics and universities. Public outreach is focused on ACOR's lecture program. While ACOR communicates primarily in English, it also communicates in Arabic with some local audiences.

Pillar IV: Information Services—Library and Archive

ACOR's library and archive are key resources for visiting scholars and students, Jordanian scholars and students, and remote users. ACOR has a solid infrastructure, including high-speed internet connections, appropriate digital tools, investments in scholarly materials and select staff, concise and up-to-date policies on acquiring and preserving materials, and well-designed research/learning spaces.

Pillar V: Supporting Our Future Needs

ACOR has the necessary financial, human, and other resources (including infrastructure) to underpin its programs and needs and to allow ACOR to serve its diverse stakeholders in Jordan and elsewhere.

Jordanian schoolchildren celebrate at the Our Heritage Our Identity Video Competition awards ceremony, May 2019. Photo by Bidaya Corp.



ACOR conducted additional planning in 2019 via USAID SCHEP, serving as a key supporter of the Jordan Archaeology and Heritage Strategy 2020–2024 (JAHS). Development of the Strategy was kicked off in September 2019 through a series of interactive workshops with key governmental stakeholders. This process will be continued over the next fiscal year with stakeholders from other sectors in an effort to craft a holistic strategy that will serve as a guide for the sustainable management of Jordan's cultural heritage.

ACOR—To advance knowledge of Jordan past and present.

ACOR warmly invites you to join us in carrying this mission onward. To learn more about our current initiatives and how you can become a supporter, please visit www.acorjordan.org.

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Image courtesy of USAID SCHEP.
Members of the international consortium working at the Roman tomb of Bayt Ras.
More information on Bayt Ras is included on page three of this report.



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