



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

Fiscal Year 2018

Oct. 1, 2017–Sept. 30, 2018



ACOR
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AMERICAN CENTER OF
ORIENTAL RESEARCH
المركز الأمريكي
للأبحاث الشرقية

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Above: Tawahin as Suhar site at Ghawr as Safi, the heart of the Jordan valley, with new trails as supported by SCHEP

ACOR is a US-based international non-profit organization that was established in Amman in 1968 by a group of archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians as a permanent base of operations to support research within Jordan. Since our founding, ACOR has awarded fellowships to hundreds of local and international students and researchers, conducted and supported hundreds of archaeological excavation and conservation projects throughout the country, and served as an invaluable partner to the Jordanian government and international organizations for the study and protection of Jordan's cultural heritage. ACOR's center of operations in Amman also contains an extensive research library containing over 40,000 physical publications on a wide variety of topics, a valuable resource for local and international researchers.

In recent years, ACOR has developed a strong focus on supporting and engaging with local communities to assist them in becoming stewards of their own heritage, benefiting from Jordan's growing tourism sector and blazing a trail for sustainable site management. Much of this work has been conducted through our flagship USAID project, Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP).

As befits our 50th Anniversary year, FY2018 (October 2017—September 2018) was a year of growth for ACOR. With the help of our donors and partners, we have achieved a great deal over the course of this year, and we are pleased to share some key points of success with you in this, our first Annual Report.



2018: OUR MISSION

ACOR – to advance knowledge of Jordan past and present.

ACOR promotes study, teaching, and increased knowledge of ancient and Middle Eastern studies with Jordan as a focus. ACOR's permanent headquarters opened in 1986 near the University of Jordan. ACOR's dedication to this mission appears in all of its activities.

- To provide a large library and residential and hostel facilities, creating a stimulating environment for researchers.
- To offer fellowships and scholarships to faculty and students.
- To connect foreign scholars pursuing research with Jordanian academic and government institutions.
- To sponsor public lectures mainly on archaeology and other outreach programs.
- To publish books and newsletters.
- To facilitate teaching and training programs.
- To assist archaeological field projects in Jordan.
- To undertake cultural research management and conservation initiatives as well as excavation and documentation projects.

Above: Documentation Assistant Halemah Alnawafleh mortaring column 34E in December 2017 at the Temple of Winged Lions (TWL) in Petra as a part of ACOR's TWL Cultural Resource Management Initiative.

Adopted by the ACOR Board of Trustees in 2011. Please note the latest mission statement is always available on the ACOR website.

FY 2018 PROGRAMS IN NUMBERS

- In FY2018, ACOR provided **21 fellowships and awards**, including 9 to Jordanians.
- As part of our public programs, ACOR held **5 public lectures** at our headquarters in Amman, **attended by over 500 people**, including academics, students, diplomats, heritage professionals, and interested members of the public. ACOR public lectures are recorded and made available to the public online.
- By year's end, ACOR's flagship USAID project, SCHEP, had conducted **27 capacity-building activities and workshops for over 300 Jordanians** to date, helping participants develop important skills for archaeology, cultural resource management, and tourism development.
- **6,451 children and youth have** participated in USAID SCHEP's awareness-raising activities since the program's start through 2018, including site visits, heritage-related crafts, and workshops.
- ACOR's Photo Archive team **digitized over 11,000 images** from Jordan and beyond this year, making them available to the public on our digital platform.
- Over **2,700 people used ACOR's library**, which contains over **40,000 publications** and is one of the premier research libraries in the region.



A group of students participates in one of SCHEP's hands-on heritage preservation workshops.

Below: NEH Fellow Geoff Hughes presenting an ACOR Public Lecture on social media



ACOR FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED SPRING 2018

National Endowment for the Humanities Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship

Bridget Guarasci (Anthropology, Franklin & Marshall College)

Ecologies of War: Restoring Iraq's Marshes in Counterinsurgency

ACOR-CAORC Post-Graduate Fellowship

Kimberly Katz (History, Towson University)

Law and Society: Jordanian Rule in the Hebron District, 1951–53

Michael Morris (Independent Conservator)

The Conservation and Restoration of the Petra North Ridge Aphrodites

Jennifer Olmsted (Economics, Drew University)

Gender, Displacement, and Economic and Social Sustainability: A Study of Two Refugee Communities

ACOR-CAORC Pre-Graduate Fellowship

Josephine Chaet (Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago)

'Homeland's Daughter, Everyone's Sister': Women's Organizations, Political Participation, and the Jordanian State

Julia Gettle (History, Brown University)

Popular Politics in Greater Syria: Marxism and the Clash of Nationalisms, 1948 to 1970

Amy Karoll (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA)

Between Collapse and Mobility: Environmental Refugees in the Third Millennium B.C. Southern Levant

Allison Anderson (International Studies, University of Washington)

Seeing the Invisible Economy Online: Women's Entrepreneurship in Jordan

Fellowships Awarded FY2018 (continued from previous page)**Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship****Joseph DiManno** (History, SUNY Brockport)

The Petra Garden and Pool Project

Jordan Dopp (Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia)

The Petra Garden and Pool Project

Brittany Ellis (Anthropology, Harvard University)

A Developing Field: Public Archaeology at Tall Hisban

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship**Emily Edwards** (Anthropology, East Carolina University)

Hesban Skeleton Sample from the Ottoman Era

Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship**Michelle Heeman** (Anthropology and History, SUNY Brockport)

The Petra Garden and Pool Project

Harrell Family Fellowship**Maria Magdalena Gajewska** (Archaeology, University College London)

Hisban Cultural Heritage Project, Tall Hisban

James A. Sauer Fellowship**Salama Kassem** (Archaeology, Bonn University)

Technology and Provenance of Glazed Pottery from Tall Hisban during the Middle Islamic Period

ACOR Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship**Lama Al Hayek** (Epigraphy, Yarmouk University)

The Aramaic Dead Sea Scrolls at the Jordan Museum

Neda'a Al Khazali (Epigraphy, Yarmouk University)

The Late Aramaic Tomb Inscriptions from Ghor al-Safi in the Historical, Religious, and Linguistic Contexts

Esam Al Omari (Epigraphy, Yarmouk University)

New Old North Arabian Inscriptions from Wadi Salhub

Wafaa Al Shalabi (Epigraphy, Yarmouk University)

Epigraphy Study

Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship**Wurood Abu-Mahfouz** (Epigraphy, Yarmouk University)

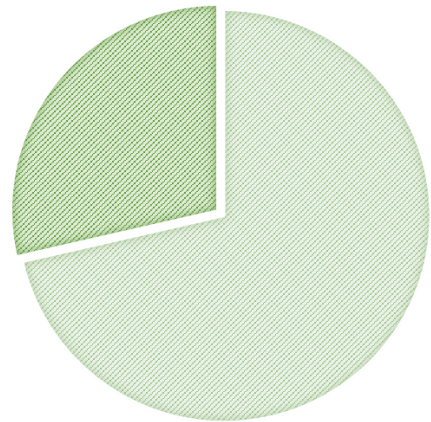
University Study

Frederick-Wenger Jordanian Educational Fellowship**Mariam Mufleeh** (The Hashemite University)

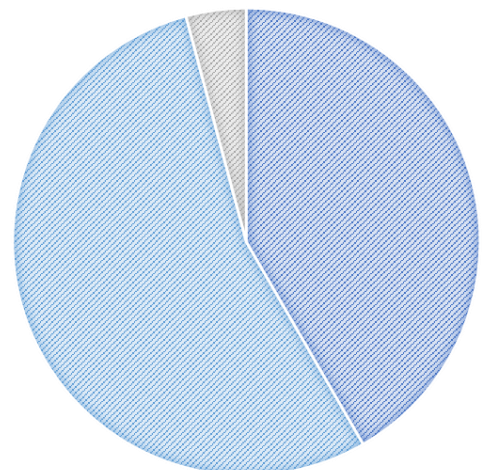
Bergesh Cave, University Study

SUBJECT MATTER

- Archaeology, Preservation, & the Ancient World
- Contemporary Humanities & Social Sciences

**NATIONALITY**

- U.S.
- Europe
- MENA

**FELLOW SPOTLIGHT: Bridget Guarasci, NEH Fellow 2018–2019**

"The ACOR administration's care was the magic ingredient that enabled me to accomplish more writing and research than I thought possible."

Bridget Guarasci's NEH Fellowship, awarded in Spring 2018 and carried out in 2019, was not her first from ACOR. Dr. Guarasci previously received ACOR-CAORC Predoctoral Fellowships in 2006 and 2011 to conduct research for her dissertation on the restoration of Iraqi marshlands post-2003. During her time as an NEH Fellow in FY2019, Dr. Guarasci focused on expanding this research into a book manuscript.

ACOR fellowships provide valuable opportunities for scholars at all stages of their careers to do important research and writing in a wide variety of fields related to the ancient or modern Middle East.





Seated from left: John P. Oleson, Edward W. Gnehm, Jr., Nancy Lapp, Barbara A. Porter (ex officio), Randolph B. Old, Abdelelah Al Khatib, Mohammed Asfour, and Reem Habayeb. Standing from left: Bethany J. Walker, Jennifer Ramsay, Morag Kersel, Megan Perry, Bert de Vries, S. Thomas Parker, Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh, Jenna Morton, Anne Aarnes, Claus Gielisch, Anne Dunn, David Nickols, and Øystein S. LaBianca.

ACOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES (June 2018)

Officers

Mr. Randolph B. Old (President)
 H.E. Mr. Abdelelah Al Khatib (First Vice President)
 Dr. S. Thomas Parker (Second Vice President)
 Mrs. Anne H. Aarnes (Secretary)
 Mr. David Nickols (Treasurer)

Class of 2019

Prof. Bert de Vries (Grand Rapids, Michigan)
 Mrs. Jane F. Genisse (Washington, D.C.)
 Mrs. Reem Atalla Habayeb (Amman, Jordan)
 Dr. Morag Kersel (Chicago, Illinois)
 H.E. Mr. Abdelelah Al Khatib (Amman, Jordan)
 Mrs. Nina J. Köprülü (New York, New York)
 Dr. Jennifer Ramsay (Brockport, New York)

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Ms. Anne H. Aarnes (Washington, D.C.)
 Mr. Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh (Amman, Jordan)
 Mrs. Anne M. Dunn (Vero Beach, Florida)
 Mr. Claus Gielisch (Düsseldorf, Germany)
 H.E. Mr. Edward W. Gnehm, Jr. (Washington, D.C.)
 Dr. Mary Ellen Lane (Washington, D.C.)
 Mrs. Jenna de Vries Morton (Las Vegas, NV)
 Mr. David Nickols (Surrey, U.K.)

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H.E. Mr. Mohammed Asfour (Amman, Jordan)
 Dr. Moawiyah M. Ibrahim (Amman, Jordan)
 Dr. Øystein S. LaBianca (Berrien Springs, Michigan)
 Mr. Hazem Malhas (Amman, Jordan)
 Dr. John P. Oleson (Victoria, B.C., Canada)
 Dr. Megan A. Perry (Greenville, North Carolina)
 Dr. Seteney Shami (Beirut, Lebanon)
 Dr. Bethany J. Walker (Bonn, Germany)

Trustee Emeriti

Mr. Artemis A. W. Joukowsky, President Emeritus
 (Providence, Rhode Island)
 Mrs. Widad Kawar (Amman, Jordan)
 Prof. Nancy Lapp (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
 Prof. David McCreery (Salem, Oregon)
 H.E. Senator Leila Sharaf (Amman, Jordan)
 Prof. James R. Wiseman (Glen Allen, Virginia)
 H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeid (Amman, Jordan)

Ex officio / ACOR Director

Dr. Barbara A. Porter (Amman, Jordan)



Seated from left: Akemi Horii, Miriam Saleh, Humi Ayoubi, Barbara Porter, and Sarah Harpending. Standing from left: Steve Meyer, China Shelton, Razan Ahmad, Jack Green, Samya Kafafi, Starling Carter, Rabab Samawi, Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh, Ghassan Adawi, Abed Adawi, and Said Adawi.

ACOR STAFF (June 2018)

Director	Barbara A. Porter
Deputy Director & CFO	Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh
Associate Director	John D.M. (Jack) Green
Assistant Director, Amman	Sarah Harpending*
Assistant Director, U.S.	China P. Shelton
Assistant Director Designate, Amman	Akemi Horii
Development Officer	Miriam Saleh*
Development Assistant	Starling Carter
Accountant	Danah Al Shanteer**
Administrator	Rabab Samawi
Head Librarian	Carmen (Humi) Ayoubi
Assistant Librarian	Samya Kafafi
Library Archival Assistant	Razan Ahmad
Facilitator	Said Adawi
Building Manager	Abed Adwai
Chef	Ghassan Adawi
Conservation Technician	Naif Zaban**
Title IV Project Archivist	Steve Meyer
Head Housekeeping	Cesar Octavo**
Housekeeping Staff	Norma Costales**
Housekeeping Staff	Janet Lumbang**

USAID SCHEP Team

Chief of Party	Nizar Al Adarbeh
CHR Projects Lead	Jehad Haron
Tourism Development Lead	Hussein Khirfan
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	Zaid Kashour
Capacity Building Lead	Fareed AlShishani
Capacity Building & Research Assistant	Balqees AlMohaisen
Communication Consultant	Sofia Smith
Communication Officer	Shatha Abu Aballi
Awareness & Outreach Intern	Raneen Naimi
Creative Producer & Editor	Njoud Abu Hweij
Communications Assistant & Videographer	Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb
Administrative Assistant	Dina Al Majali

*At the end of June, both Sarah Harpending and Miriam Saleh finished their time at ACOR, after ten years and two and a half years, respectively.

**Missing from photo

New U.S. Headquarters

FY2018 also witnessed the move of ACOR's U.S. Office to our new permanent address in Alexandria, VA. The move was facilitated by ACOR's U.S. Assistant Director China P. Shelton.

DEVELOPMENT

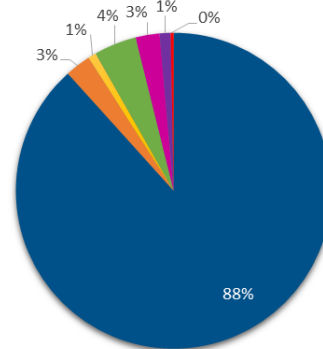
ACOR relies on multiple funding sources including government and foundation grants as well as a sizeable portion of our budget covered by individual donations. We are grateful to our annual donors and generous grantors but also looking to new sources of funding for program expansion and long-term support for the ACOR Annual Fund.

Donation Distribution:

The vast majority of donations made in FY2018 went to the Annual Fund. The ACOR Library, our named fellowship funds, and our Jordanian Graduate Student Fellowship Fund also received generous contributions.

The chart to the right shows the overall distribution of donations by type of fund.

DONATIONS BY FUND (FY 2018)

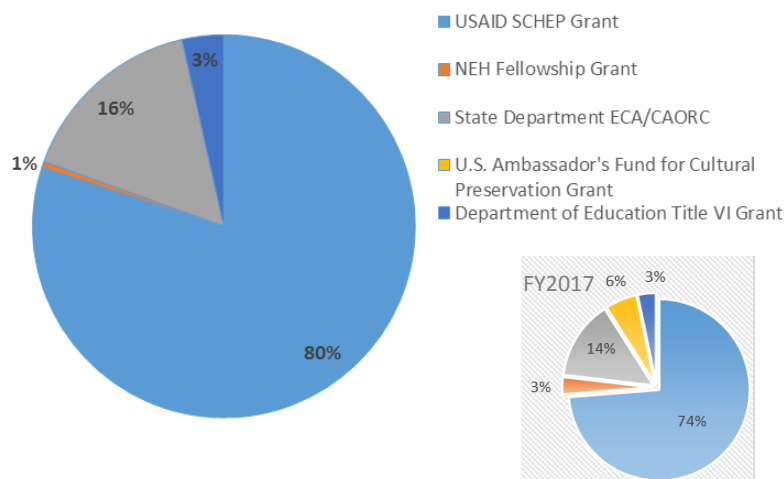


A significant portion of ACOR's funding comes from grants, primarily from U.S. federal agencies and affiliates, which support specific programs activities, such as fellowships, the Photo Archive digitization project, and USAID SCHEP. Since our founding in 1968, ACOR has received over \$20 million in grants and other contributions from U.S. federal agencies. ACOR is proud of this long history of 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.



The below chart gives an overview of grant funds disbursed for ACOR programming and activities during FY 2017 and FY 2018.

Grants Disbursed by ACOR in FY2018



Key Development Figures:

- Number of individual donors FY2017: 192
- Number of individual donors FY2018: 245
- Number of first-time donors FY2018: 54
- Average Gift Size FY2018: \$1,357
- Median Gift Size FY2018: \$200



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Joy Hebert

In August 2018, ACOR received a generous legacy donation from Joy Hebert, an educator from the Chicago area. Ms. Hebert's six-figure gift exceeded any single individual donation ACOR has previously received, and we are deeply grateful for her generosity. Joy Hebert (1938–2017) received her B.A. from Pomona College, her M.A. from Columbia University, and her Ph.D. in English education from Northwestern. She taught in many places and programs and was active in developing educational materials for the Encyclopedia Britannica Education Corporation and as editor-in-chief of Follet Publishing Company. She was involved in philanthropy but usually anonymously, as in the example of two substantial previous gifts to ACOR. Among her many interests was a love of travel.



DONATIONS TO ACOR IN FY 2018

\$250,000 and Above

Joy Hebert

\$10,000–\$19,999

Connie Christensen
The Violet Jabara Charitable Trust

\$5,000–\$9,999

Aina E. Boraas Nancy Habib Carol Harper	Jenna Morton Thomas Pickering Thomas C. Ragan	The Selz Foundation John and Theresa Sprague
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\$1,000–\$4,999

Anne H. Aarnes Ahmad and Sirine Abu Ghazaleh Mohammed Asfour Stephen Bache TRH Prince Raad Bin Zeid and Princess Majda Raad Frances Cairncross Nirmal and Ellen Chatterjee Joyce Chelberg Geoffrey Clark Bert and Sally de Vries Miriam and Ralston Deffenbaugh Emme and Jonathan Deland Elisabeth Dudley	Anne Dunn Sumio Fujii Jane F. and Robert L. Geniesse Reem Attala Habayeb Gemma Hall Edgar and Paula Harrell Valerie Hird Ellen Honnet Linda K. Jacobs Donald Keller and Margaret Sablove Morag M. Kersel and Yorke Rowan Cecily Klingman James Knight Øystein and Asta Sakala LaBianca	Albert Leonard, Jr. Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation Michel Marto Moors C. Myers David Nickols John P. Oleson S. Thomas Parker Barbara A. Porter SAD Foundation Lola and Lita Semerad Peter and Sylvia Sauer Sandra Smith Peter and Penelope West James R. and Margaret L. Wiseman
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\$500–\$999

Susan Ackerman The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) William G. and Penelope K. Bardel Jim N. Barnhart Laurie Ann Brand Joseph A. Bruder IV Cari Jo Clark Vanessa Diebold Fred Donner Christine Faltermeier Paul Fitzpatrick Julia Frane and Steven Mansbach	Edward W. and Margaret S. Gnehm Ann Kincaid Carol Landes Nancy Lapp Helen Lovejoy Guillaume and Christina Malle Freia Mitarai Julie Nettek Dan Onstad and Deborah D. Winters Megan Pickering Dwight A. and Christina L. Porter Jennifer Ramsay Benjamin B. Rauch and Margaret Scott	Suzanne Richard David and Sarah Roberts Elizabeth Barlow Rogers Gary Rollefson Bonnie Sampsell Susan Sauer Stephen Savage Suha and Aysha Shoman Suzanne and Jaroslav Stetkevych Anne and Ed Strauss Sally Strazdins Bethany J. Walker Randy Younger
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\$250–\$499

Abdelelah Al Khatib Mitchell Allen Roger and Whitney Bagnall Douglas R. and Carmen L. Clark Glenn J. Corbett Bonnie Crosfield Victoria Rubin de Klerk and Piet de Klerk Wesley W. and Virginia W. Egan Meryle Gaston David Hale	Spencer Harper III Brooke and Phillip Harrell Timothy Harrison Ray Hemphill Jo Kurth Jagoda Carol Kobs Herbert Krosney Ji Young Lee Joan Porter MacIver and David MacIver Lysbeth A. Marigold Julie Peteet	Diana B. Putman and Adam Messer Emily Rafferty Barbara Reeves Mohammed Sawaie Edwin Schick James Schryver Warren C. Schultz Bill Slivka and Lisa Citron Joseph Stanik Nicholas and Patricia Veliotas
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Kindly note that donors who gave in amounts under \$250 as well as In-Kind donors to ACOR are listed on our website at: www.acorjordan.org/honor-roll-of-donors-fy-2018/

In FY2018, ACOR received donations from a record-breaking number of individual donors, 246 in total. We are ever-grateful for this wide circle of supporters and their consistent generosity.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Years ending September 30, 2017 and September 30, 2018

	Year Ended September 30, 2018	Year Ended September 30, 2017
<u>Assets</u>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	244,771	313,571
Investments	6,910,304	6,617,318
Grants remaining (unspent amounts)	932,203	2,343,675
Other current assets	<u>544,065</u>	<u>255,048</u>
Total current assets	<u>\$8,631,343</u>	<u>\$9,529,612</u>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	<u>624,134</u>	<u>698,617</u>
Total assets	<u>\$9,255,477</u>	<u>\$10,228,229</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Total liabilities	<u>\$81,093</u>	<u>\$98,508</u>
<u>Net assets</u>		
Unrestricted	2,221,508	2,019,516
Temporarily restricted (including Grants remaining)	5,403,274	6,575,936
Permanently restricted	<u>1,549,602</u>	<u>1,534,269</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$9,174,384</u>	<u>\$10,129,721</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME

	Year Ended September 30, 2018	Year Ended September 30, 2017
Income		
Grants revenues	1,442,647	1,246,600
Contributions	439,212	167,886
Local revenues	137,459	130,871
Investment income	353,230	650,710
Other	<u>46,379</u>	<u>16,759</u>
Total revenues	<u>\$2,418,927</u>	<u>\$2,212,826</u>
Expenses		
Grants expenses	(1,167,447)	(1,001,600)
Occupancy	(84,184)	(82,937)
Management and general expenses	(794,449)	(655,597)
Depreciation	(124,008)	(125,466)
Fundraising and program development	<u>(36,729)</u>	<u>(55,908)</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$(2,206,817)</u>	<u>\$(1,921,508)</u>
Surplus/(shortfall) for the year	<u>\$212,110</u>	<u>\$291,318</u>

ACOR'S STRATEGIC PILLARS

Any anniversary provides opportunity both for reflection on the past and planning for the future, and our 50th has done just that for ACOR. ACOR has come a long way since its founding in 1968. We stand today as an internationally recognized center for scholarship, cultural heritage preservation, and academic community with a world-class research library and a long-standing record of partnership with Jordanian institutions and communities—and we have big plans to expand our offerings and programming well into the future.

With this in mind, In November 2017, the ACOR Board of Trustees determined that it should undertake a strategic planning process. A survey in English and Arabic was sent out to hundreds of stakeholders, who provided valuable feedback. A strategic planning committee supported by an external consultant, many ACOR staff members, and others led the development of a Strategic Plan, which was approved by the ACOR Board of Trustees on June 26, 2018 in Amman. The Pillars (below) serve as the aspirational summary of our Strategic Plan, defining ACOR's focus over the next three to five years.

Pillar I: Advancing Knowledge

ACOR is a center for scholarly excellence in the field of archaeology and in other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. ACOR serves a diverse set of scholars and students from North America, Jordan and other regional countries 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 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 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, ACOR 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.

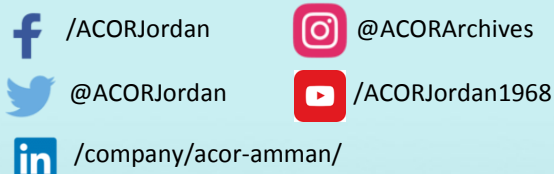
Pillar V: Supporting Our Future Needs

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

We look forward to implementing our future vision, and invite you to join us in doing so. Learn more about ACOR's work and how you can become a supporter at www.acorjordan.org.

To receive electronic or physical newsletters from ACOR, please provide your preferred address at www.acorjordan.org/mailling-list

You can also follow ACOR on social media:



Please direct inquiries to acor@acorjordan.org.

Double-arched windows in House XVII at Umm al Jimal, a SCHEP-supported heritage site

