

The Virginia Archaeology Charitable Trust (VACT) will maintain a close relationship with the Commonwealth of Virginia's two long-established state-wide archaeological organizations. These groups, the Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) and the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV), represent Virginia's professional and avocational archaeology communities, respectively. The VACT's articles of incorporation specify that four (4) of its board members shall be appointed by COVA and four (4) shall be appointed by the ASV. These eight members shall appoint up to three (3) additional board members at large. More specifically, the VACT is related to these two organizations as follows.

COVA and the VACT

The Council of Virginia Archaeologists (COVA) is Virginia's professional archaeology organization. COVA was founded in 1975 as an organization dedicated to the preservation and study of Virginia's archaeological resources. The Council's mission is to: (1) foster public awareness, knowledge, and support for the preservation of Virginia Archaeology; (2) advance knowledge through dissemination of information on Virginia's archaeological resources; (3) facilitate interaction between the communities of professional and avocational archaeologists in Virginia; and (4) act as an independent professional advisory group for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. COVA's support of the VACT is particularly in alignment with the first two parts of its mission – support for and advancement of knowledge of Virginia archaeology. The VACT will provide a crowdsourced, web-based platform to support Virginia archaeology through preservation and study. To that end, COVA provided financial support to purchase software and will designate four VACT Directors. Additionally, COVA's Statement of Ethics and Standards of Performance will provide the foundation for conduct on the part of the Board of Directors. Principal investigators leading projects that receive VACT funding must be members in good standing of either COVA or the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

ASV and the VACT

The Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) is a 501(c)3 organization established in 1940. The purposes of the Society are:

1. To promote the study of archeology and anthropology, especially but not limited to, the prehistoric and historic periods in Virginia.
2. To work for the proper conservation and exploration of archeological sites and materials.
3. To encourage the scientific study of archeological sites and materials and to discourage careless, misdirected or commercial collecting of artifacts.
4. To promote the spread of archeological knowledge through the media of publications, meetings, lectures, exhibits, etc.
5. To collaborate with individuals, organizations and agencies that serve the same purposes as those of this Society.

Part 1 of the ASV's purpose, to promote the study of archaeology in Virginia, strongly aligns with the mission of the VACT. In keeping with its goal of supporting like-minded organizations, the ASV has provided financial support to the VACT to purchase software and marketing materials. The ASV will be responsible for designating four (4) of the VACT's board members. Additionally, the VACT shall designate a small portion of each donation collected to be distributed on an annual basis to the ASV specifically to support archaeological research on Virginia archaeological sites threatened by destruction. The ASV shall then distribute these funds to worthy projects in consultation with the Virginia Department of Historic Resource's (VDHR's) Threatened Sites Program committee.