

Revised Assessment and Recommendation on the LCP from Andy Vaughn

Background: In the summer of 2016, Susan Ackerman and I held conversations with Andrea Berlin about ASOR being involved with the Levantine Ceramics Project (LCP). Subsequently, in October 2016, the EC voted unanimously for ASOR to be a sponsor of the LCP on a 5-year trial basis. The original proposal from Andrea and the relevant pages from the minutes from October 2016 EC meeting are included in the Board packet. I was a strong supporter of the original proposal, and I remain impressed with the LCP.

As outlined in the minutes from 2016, the EC determined:

that funds can be found within our current budget for an initial five-year period during which ASOR could agree to house the project, but not to curate it in perpetuity at this stage, and during which ASOR could develop this partnership and assess how or whether other partnerships and affiliations might be possible with other projects.

Based on conversations with Andrea Berlin over the past three weeks, and based on further information, I feel the need to modify my original recommendation. I still recommend that we find ways to secure the gifts or revenue to support the maintenance costs (currently about \$10,000 per year). In light of Andrea making clear her wishes to turn over operation of the LCP over to ASOR in the next five to eight years, and in light of the tremendous success that the LCP has achieved in accomplishing many of the objectives outlined in our strategic plan, I strongly recommend that we should take three years to work towards that sustainability level and move closer towards assuming full responsibility of the LCP.

There are a few items that I recommend we address, and I am pleased that Andrea has expressed a desire to address these topics. I want to stress that these are not reservations, but rather this is a partial list of things that we will want to investigate as we work towards the time when it is appropriate to call the platform the ASOR Levantine Ceramics Project.

1. Identify and implement ways to make the LCP identified as project of ASOR. Andrea has already mentioned such ideas are rebranding on the LCP website, and in featuring ASOR with seminars and in the naming of the LCP. I am very grateful that Andrea is willing to consider ASOR as the home for the LCP, and I think we can explore ways to have the platform identified with ASOR over the next three years.
2. Higher level of ASOR membership in LCP editors and contributors. I think that we should explore ways have the LCP editorial board members be ASOR members like other ASOR publications. Similarly, we should find ways to encourage the community of LCP contributors (and it is truly a community) to feel like there are part of the ASOR family and community.
3. Sharing of information. Now that we are considering making the LCP a product of ASOR, it will be important for us to share (with reasonable confidentiality) all budget details (including donors, revenues sources, and direct and indirect expenses) so that ASOR and Andrea will be able to confirm that this is a good decision for all parties.