

## **SASS 2017 Presidential Theme: Nordic Connections Old and New**

We'd like to extend our warmest invitation to SASS 2017, which will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the traditional capital of Scandinavian America. While the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century connections between the Nordic countries and the Upper Midwest have always run long and deep, we faculty here in the Twin Cities have in recent years been witness to something remarkable, namely what appears to be the birth of a new and vibrant Scandinavian American scene out of the foundation of the old immigrant-based community. Everywhere there are signs of new connections forming between young Minnesotans and their counterparts in Norden, in music, in the visual arts, in food and in design and in numerous other cultural endeavors. And we have most certainly seen this in our classrooms as well, in an extraordinary infusion of young people from the widest variety of backgrounds who come together out of an abiding interest in all things Nordic, whether they originate from as long ago as the Viking Age or from the present—thus our 2017 Presidential Theme, “Nordic Connections: Old and New.” While all Nordic-themed submissions are welcome, we particularly invite both thematically linked streams, seminars and individual panels or presentations that explore the wealth of connections between our intimately linked corners of the globe.