

# **AZSITE Consortium Board Meeting Minutes**

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
10:01 a.m. to 11:07 am

*A quorum was obtained.*

## **A. CALL TO ORDER (WALSH)**

**Meeting called to order at 10:01 am.**

*Board members present:*

1. Mary-Ellen Walsh, Chair (2026), Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, (SHPO)
2. Jim Watson, Arizona State Museum (ASM)
3. Christopher Caseldine, Arizona State University (ASU)
4. Jeff Burns, Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA)

*Members of the public present:*

1. Gabe McGowan (AZSITE Manager)
2. Ellie Maria Renteria (AZSITE GIS Technician)
3. Regina Chapin Pyritz (AECOM)
4. Tim Goddard (ASM ARO)
5. Jenni Rich (Logan Simpson)
6. S. Bosch (AZTEC)
7. Sara Cullen (AZ DFFM)

## **B. INTRODUCTIONS**

1. **Members of the AZSITE Board were introduced**
2. **AZSITE Personnel were introduced**

## **C. AGENDA ITEMS**

*The Board may consider or take action on any of the following:*

### **1. Discussion and Approval of 1st Quarter 2026 Meeting Minutes (Walsh)**

- a. *Motion to approve (Caseldine)*
- b. *Seconded (Watson)*
- c. *Approved (Unanimous)*

### **2. Finance Report & User Fees (McGowan)**

McGowan invites Walsh to discuss a letter ([Appendix A](#)) sent to the Arizona Board of Regents concerning the frozen AZSITE funds, and a response letter from University of Arizona CFO John Arnold ([Appendix B](#)).

1. Walsh states she sent out a letter on behalf of the AZSITE Board to the Arizona Board of Regents and the University of Arizona President, copying AZSITE Board Members, and received a

response saying the money swept aside from AZSITE was erroneously taken and would be returned. About [\$389,000] over the last few years [was taken]. We have the funds to implement some of the projects that we've been talking about. It is huge that they've recognized that the money that AZSITE brings in is separate from any Board of Regents' funding, obligations and requirements. The UA recognized that, and the response came from the Treasurer/Finance Office.

2. Watson adds that the freezing of accounts, which began with the budget crisis at UA and has now happened at least two years consecutively, is across the board. The entire University [had] all the accounts frozen in that way, so the focus was that there are a subset of accounts that have a different designation and were not frozen. Our specific goal was to get the AZSITE account reclassified as one of those accounts that is recognized as independent of the University and can't be frozen. At a meeting on Friday with the UA Budget and Finance Office and the Office of Research Partnerships, which is the unit on campus that the State Museum reports to, [we learned] that that doesn't happen anymore. We don't need to reclassify the accounts. They provided assurances that based on both ORP and the University Finance Office that the [AZSITE] account moving forward will not be impacted. A new fund policy for ORP will prevent the [AZSITE] accounts from being frozen in the future, and they will not be subject to expenditure restrictions. The point is, the account is ours and there will be no future freezing, according to the University.

3. User Applications and Billing ([Table 1](#))

McGowan states that for calendar year 2026, we've invoiced about \$234,000, and our participation is similar to what we saw in 2025. It's slightly behind right now, but by the end of the year, likely will be roughly the same.

4. Fund Summary 4/15/26 ([Table 2](#))

- a. McGowan states AZSITE expenses for the fiscal year to date are about \$161,000. We have about \$90,000 in encumbrances remaining for the fiscal year, but some of that is for POs from ASU GRS from the past couple of years that have not been used in full. I wouldn't anticipate that we would spend all of those down, but if we did, you can see our total expense would be about \$250,000. Total FY spending is anticipated to be around \$230,000 - \$240,000.
- b. There are roughly \$36,000 in invoices that have not yet been, and we have some additional anticipated expenses that are not included in encumbrances yet. These include payments for training that [McGowan] attended recently and the [Renteria's] attendance at the [Esri User Conference] this summer.

5. Notes on Carryforward ([Table 3](#))

- a. McGowan states that on the issue of the fiscal year carry forward, there is the letter that we received from the UA CFO ... that states the AZSITE frozen balance, or most of it, because the number [stated in the letter] is not quite the same, but I assume it was intended to be the same as the [official AZSITE] number, has been made available to us at least through the end of FY27.
    - i. *See text of the letter in ([Appendix B](#))*
  - b. Watson reiterates that the subsequent meeting with ORP and UA Budget and Finance clarified that there will be no restrictions on fund access or FY carryforward freeze in future years.
6. FY26 Budget Projected vs Actual ([Table 4](#))
- a. Concerning supply costs that exceed the predicted amount, McGowan notes the purchase of a new portable workstation to support remote and off-hours work.
  - b. Concerning hosting and maintenance costs that exceed the predicted amount, McGowan notes we have now added another server dedicated to a new enterprise geodatabase to support our migration to ArcGIS Enterprise, increasing total server costs to \$12,000 while the migration is in process. Once the migration is completed, older servers can be decommissioned. Additionally, ASU GRS approved a request that they bill all server costs in June (rather than July and August) to ensure all server costs align with the state FY schedule.
  - c. Concerning conference and training expenses, McGowan notes it has increased due to additional training to support the ArcGIS Enterprise migration. In the last month, Renteria and McGowan completed an ESRI instructor-led training on advanced techniques in Experience Builder. Our total spending for the year looks like it will wind up around \$230,000.

### **3. AZSITE User Feedback Survey (Renteria and McGowan)**

*See attached Spring 2026 user Survey Priorities and Fees PowerPoint*

1. McGowan notes that at the request of the Board at the last meeting, Renteria put together and distributed to our user community a survey about AZSITE's priorities for spending moving forward, including how these relate to the fee structure and balancing a possible fee reduction against expanding project work. Obviously, recent developments have changed the calculus here, but we're still going to report on the results of the feedback survey because they will still play into our thinking.
2. Renteria states AZSITE presented users with five potential improvement projects and asked whether they agreed, disagreed, or were neutral regarding directing financial resources toward

each project. We then asked if they would like to reduce fees instead of expanding those projects. Lastly, we asked them to rank the potential projects and fee reduction in terms of prioritization from most important to least important.

### 3. Main Takeaways

See attached Spring 2026 user Survey Priorities and Fees PowerPoint for more detailed information concerning the user survey results

- a. 79 responses, increase of 146% from last user survey
  - b. Developing a Self-Service Data Clip Application was ranked 1<sup>st</sup>
  - c. Updating the Historic Districts and Researched Canals Layers ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - d. Reducing Fees ranked last
4. Renteria notes that even though there were plenty of user comments that focused on how expensive AZSITE is, reducing User Fees was not a priority overall. There were extra comments about what would be most useful would be to make AZSITE data up-to-date with ARO, making current data more accurate and complete, and that that is more important than any new project.
5. Comments from the Board
- a. Watson notes this gives us clear guidance to act upon
  - b. Walsh notes that we now have the budget for an extra person to work on more data, faster and more accurately.
6. McGowan notes that a key takeaway coming out of the User Survey was that hiring additional help specifically for data would have a lot of benefit. It could help free up Renteria to assist with the ArcGIS Enterprise migration while keeping up with ASM data uploads, generating data for new datasets as part of the migration, or updating existing data sets such as those mentioned in the survey.

### 4. FY 2027 Budget Proposal (McGowan)

1. Budget includes:
  - a. Personnel costs that anticipate proposed promotions for AZSITE personnel
  - b. Personnel costs include ASM DB Manager support, mainly for Quickbase applications
  - c. Personnel costs also add a UA student worker at .25 FTE
  - d. Operations costs include additional funds for AGE move (development of a custom Experience Builder widget to implement 30 Day account functionality)
2. Not included in budget currently:
  - a. Additional funds for development of a custom Experience Builder data clip widget (estimated at around \$10,000)

- b. Additional funds for development of the next generation entry module – this is in early discussions with ASM and potential contractor
3. McGowan states that within this budget the personnel costs have increased quite a bit. We've been told to plan for raises and or promotions that will potentially increase these costs by about ten percent. Also included is some effort from the ASM Database Manager to assist us with Quickbase tasks that could take several forms, including helping us improve the user management app we developed last year and expanding our Quickbase footprint to other functionality. For the additional personnel we've added a UA student worker at 0.25 FTE assuming a payrate of \$20.00 per hour for the class of student worker we are looking at. The pay ranges up to \$22.50 an hour, so the total cost for that is \$10-11k. Given our funding situation, we could increase the FTE depending on the availability of the student. We also have budgeted for another San Miguel High School Corporate Work Study intern.
  - a. Walsh asks for clarification on the San Miguel Program, and McGowan notes San Miguel is a high school in Tucson with a work-study program where the students go out into the community and work at a job one day per week to pay part of their tuition.
  - b. Watson adds that ASM has been utilizing this program for over a decade now in different departments. They have been in the ARO, photographic collections, and archaeological collections. They've been for the most part terrific for high school students.
4. McGowan notes that AZSITE's current San Miguel student worker, a junior, has expressed they would like to work with us next year as a senior. Given their experience they will continue to be a strong contributor. Total personnel costs are estimated around \$211,000
5. Concerning operation costs, McGowan notes we have about \$12k in hosting fees and 10k for support from GRS. The past couple of years it's been lower than that, but we are planning for a little more support as we make the transition to ArcGIS Enterprise.
6. McGowan notes that we will be able to completely move our user management into ArcGIS Enterprise Portal and as part of that, if we want to keep the thirty-day account type, we need to do some customization to facilitate that kind of tracking. There is a line item for \$6,200 to develop that piece of the app, bringing the total budget to about \$250,000
7. McGowan notes that additional projects not listed include a data clip tool within the new web app with a rough estimate of about \$10k, and the development of a next generation entry module. This could be a priority for unfrozen funds to get us off of Microsoft Access and into web-based forms. The Quickbase platform has many advantages for this type of application, and once we are able to scope this out a little more with ASM, we can request costs from Quickbase for development services.

- a. Walsh asks for a potential cost, and McGowan estimates around \$30k.
8. Caseldine asks if we are looking for an undergraduate or graduate student worker and if 15 hours a week would work better
  - a. McGowan notes that ideally it would be a GIS graduate student, and that we could sustain 15 hours if the student can handle that workload.
9. McGowan notes that we are in a “both/and” situation, where we can pursue new projects and reduce fees. He recommends that we reduce fees for the next calendar year, and requests to prepare a fee reduction proposal for the next Board meeting
  - a. Walsh and Watson comment that it is a good idea, and Watson notes it is worth making an effort to mitigate user costs even though it wasn’t a priority on the survey
10. Watson asks if Microsoft access is going away.
  - a. McGowan responds that he believes the older file format [.mdb] is out of service, and that there may be a sunset timeline for Access in general.
  - b. Watson notes that could make a next gen entry module a bigger priority.
11. Walsh asks how many users we have for 2026
  - a. McGowan notes we have around 410 users and have seen an increase in participation since 2023 despite the increase in user fees. The increased participation does coincide with the last round of application updates in late 2023.
12. Caseldine notes that if we lower fees, it will create an expectation of lower fees, then it would create a rubber band effect if we raised fees again
13. Walsh states that McGowan should go ahead and prepare a detailed proposal for fee decreases for discussion at the next Board meeting

## **5. Update on Mitigation Funds (Walsh)**

### Florence Copper Funds

- a. McGowan states that we had a meeting with representatives from Florence Copper, the EPA, and the ORP Business Center at UA concerning the proposed amendment for the Florence Copper mitigation funds, which would direct a certain proportion of the funds to AZSITE. There had been concern about the funding vehicle and how we would avoid having these funds frozen and having the UA take a very high rate of overhead from them. We identified in the meeting that it seemed amenable to all parties that the funds would be a donation to an AZSITE subaccount within the UA Foundation. This would make the funds ineligible for carryforward freeze with the overhead rate only 6%.

AZSITE would then bill as necessary against that subaccount for projects named in the proposed amendment, such as subsidizing Tribal Government accounts for AZSITE.

b. Walsh asks how many Tribal Government accounts we have and McGowan answers roughly 20

c. Walsh states that the amendment is likely to be finalized after a consultation period.

There will be additional funds for each year of data recovery. She notes that ideally the Tribes will identify a project that the funds should be used for, like putting some of their information in a secure location in AZSITE's database so they can access it. Hopefully we'll see more of this as we do more Section 106 consultation. If it doesn't get used, it goes back to the Tribes, which we don't have a problem with either.

## **6. UPDATE on ArcGIS Enterprise (McGowan)**

*See AZSITE AGE Migration 2026 Planning Document*

d. Expertise and Infrastructure

e. McGowan discusses the Esri instructor-led trainings that were completed by AZSITE personnel:

f. Sharing Content in AGE (July 2025)

g. Experience Builder – Advanced Techniques (March/April 2026)

h. McGowan notes that AZSITE's Enterprise Portal went online January 2026, and the new eGDB that serves as the data store went online early April 2026. We are now in the process of migrating data into the data store.

i. In February we published our park service Montezuma Castle/Tuzigoot data on our portal. We are awaiting feedback on how those data are structured and symbolized from the Park Service.

j. In March and April we've been working on updated reference data, including the most recent PLSS data published by BLM. The quads dataset has been updated with links to download the rasters user for AZSITE's basemap for each quad, as well as a link to view the same quad on the Government-to-Government Toolkit map.

k. The ASM data has been restructured with the goal of decreasing latency between ASM and AZSITE, including by exposing review statuses from the ASM database, so that we can directly integrate what people see in their database when they visit their office with our GIS data and digital records.

l. McGowan notes that we have also started scaffolding what will be the primary Experience Builder app, thinking about how to structure it and what will be the core functionality.

- m. Concerning the detailed Enterprise Migration Schedule, McGowan notes we're currently grinding our way through our data model refresh tasks with the goal of having those done by the summer, and phasing into our application development tasks as well.
- n. McGowan states the timeline goal of having an app available to our users is the end of the current calendar year. This somewhat aggressive timeline has been targeted due to increasing frequency of problems in the current applications, mainly due to Esri WebAppBuilder going out of service and problems with the different proxy configurations in the old architecture. The ArcGIS Enterprise migration will flatten many functions that are currently scattered across different servers into the same platform and will reduce the number of potential points of failure.

## **7. AZSITE Updates (McGowan & Renteria)**

*See the following tables for details*

- o. Summary ([Table 5](#))
- p. ASM New Fee Structure Items ([Table 6](#))
- q. Upload Metrics for ASU, MNA, USFWS ([Table 7](#))
- r. Data Clips and Fixes ([Table 4](#))
- s. 75 data clips processed in 2026 so far
- t. We have had 36 data fix requests in 2026
- u. AZSITE Committee
- v. McGowan notes that the AZSITE Advisory committee had its first meeting in many years in February 2026, with Sarah Cullen from AZDFFM elected chair. We discussed the financial situation and how it relates to AZSITE priorities, as well as operating procedures for the committee. The Tribal Preservation Office Representative position has not yet been filled, but is a review ongoing by the Governor's Office. The next meeting of the Committee will be on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and hopefully we'll have our Tribal Representative on board by then.

## ***D. PUBLIC COMMENT***

1. Watson notes that it will be important to set priorities now that we have unfrozen funds. It is good to have the timeline and expectations, most importantly recognizing that this transition to ArcGIS Enterprise will hopefully vastly improve functionality
2. Walsh notes that she will be having a conversation with Tim Goddard to identify sensitivity zones instead of consolidating sites. The idea of sensitivity zones might be something we add as a new agenda item next time.

3. Caseldine request we increase the UA student worker to 15 hours in the budget.

***E. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING***

Proposed Next Open Meeting: July 16th, 2026, time: 10:00:am

Location: Zoom (<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/88630572942>)

***F. ADJOURNMENT***

1. Walsh entertains a motion to adjourn
2. Watson makes a motion to adjourn

*Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am*

DRAFT

**G. APPENDICES**

**Table 1: AZSITE User Applications and Billing**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
User Organizations	109	114	117	132	142	123
Users	331	356	373	431	439	405
Mercator Users	218	237	259	281	272	260
\$ Invoiced	\$126,075	\$138,350	\$145,900	\$233,555	\$266,485	\$233,655
\$ Requested, not yet invoiced	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,650

**Table 2: AZSITE Fund Summary 4/15/2026**

	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Encumbrances	Open Invoices	Other Anticipated Expenses
FY 2026	\$389,462	\$217,275	(\$161,064)	(\$89,615)	\$36,525	(\$3,000)

**Table 3: Carry Forward Balance Summary**

	Beginning Balance	Annual Balance	FY Carryforward
FY 2024	\$111,860	\$21,859	\$133,719
FY 2025	\$0	\$90,585 from fees \$165,158 UITS transfer	\$255,743
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$389,462</b>

**Table 4: FY26 Budget Projected vs Current Actual**

Section	Description	Budget Amount Requested	Actual/Projected 4/15/2026
<b>Personnel</b>			
<b>Salaries</b>	McGowan	\$ 73,462	\$ 74,461
	Renteria	\$ 51,899	\$ 54,791
	ASM DB Mgr	\$ 5,000	\$ -
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 130,360</b>	<b>\$ 129,252</b>
<b>ERE</b>	McGowan	\$ 23,508	\$ 23,828
	Renteria	\$ 16,608	\$ 17,533
	ASM DB Mgr	\$ 2,000	\$ -
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 42,115</b>	<b>\$ 41,361</b>
	San Miguel Intern	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 7,500</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>
<b>Personnel Total</b>		<b>\$ 179,976</b>	<b>\$ 178,113</b>
<b>Operations</b>			
<b>General</b>	3d Cart	\$ 360	\$ 360
	Make	\$ 150	\$ 150
	Supplies	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,055
	GRS Hosting & Maintenance	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,000
	ArcGIS Enterprise Migration	\$ 11,725	\$ 11,725
	CC Fees	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 42,235</b>	<b>\$ 46,290</b>
<b>Travel/PD</b>	Conferences, training	\$ 5,540	\$ 6,480
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 5,540</b>	<b>\$ 6,480</b>
<b>Operations Total</b>		<b>\$ 47,775</b>	<b>\$ 52,770</b>
<b>Budget Total</b>		<b>\$ 227,751</b>	<b>\$ 230,883</b>

**Table 5: Updated Summary of Data Uploads by Year**

Mean Annual (past) Total Annual (current)	2004- 2014	2015- 2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Projects	951	109	452	2,225	172	220	421	503	11
New Sites	1,497	194	1,084	4,087	1,663	696	387	594	77
Site Updates	-	-	752	5,033	299	360	578	666	157
ASM PRFs	-	-	335	231	257	361	400	127	164
New/Updated ASM Site Cards	-	-	322	511	405	743	169	1,016	517
ASM Reports	-	-	-	-	4	3,975	2,401	566	29
ASU Site Cards	-	-	-	-	117	56	810	745	167
MNA Reports	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	1	0
USFWS Site Forms	-	-	-	-	-	-	171	52	4
USFWS Survey Reports	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	19	3
SHPO Site Info Entries	-	-	-	-	-	872	982	306	167
SHPO Project Info Entries	-	-	-	-	-	1,266	1,456	1,543	367
SHPO NRHP Eligibility Dets.	-	-	-	-	-	806	812	540	224

**Table 6: Summary of Upload Progress, ASM New Fee Structure**

Type	ASM Curation Queue*	Total Available to AZSITE	Uploaded	Outstanding
PRFs (ARO/PO/REPO)	71 [-91]	1,835 [+178]	1,808 [+169] (99%)	27 (1%)
Reports (ARO/PO/REPO)	54 [-108]	1,851 [+195]	1,474 [+3] (80%)	377 (20%)
Negative Surveys (ARO/PO)	159 [+55]	904 [+2]	902 [+1] (>99%)	2 (<1%)
Projects w/ Sites (ARO/PO) - project	52 [-44]	663 [+67]	594 [+4] (99%)	69 (10%)
Original Site Recordings	313 [-113]	1,107 [+117]	868 [+0] (88%)	122 (12%)
Site Update Recordings	126 [-91]	1,268 [+119]	814 [+83] (71%)	132 (10%)
<b>Site Cards</b>	<b>2,195 [+76]</b>	<b>552 [+0]</b>	<b>552 [+0] (100%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>

**Table 7: Upload Metrics for ASU, MNA, USFWS Data**

Document Type	Total Available to AZSITE	Document Uploaded	On Tribal Land (not uploaded)	AZSITE has GIS data?
ASU Site Forms	1,927 [+180]	1,895 [+167] (98%)	3 (0.2%)	1783 (93%)
MNA Project Reports	970 [+0]	54 [+0] (6%)	-	54 (6%)

Data Type	Total Available to AZSITE	Data Uploaded	Document Uploaded
USFWS Sites	449 [+7]	251 [+7] (56%)	224 [+4] (50%)
USFWS Projects	36 [+3]	32 [+3] (89%)	30 [+3] (83%)

**Table 8: Data Clip and Fix Requests**

Clips	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Requests	48	46	51	200	102	176	227	75 [+67]

Fixes	2023	2024	2025	2026
Requests	3	62	54	36 [+36]
Closed	3	61	53	33 [+33]

DRAFT

**Appendix A: Letter to Mr. Doug Goodyear, Chair, Arizona Board of Regents, RE: Concern Regarding the Freezing of AZSITE Consortium Funds**



30 March 2026

**Mr. Doug Goodyear, Chair**  
**Arizona Board of Regents**  
2700 N. Central Avenue, Suite 400  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Via email: [Doug.Goodyear@azregents.edu](mailto:Doug.Goodyear@azregents.edu)

**RE: Concern Regarding the Freezing of AZSITE Consortium Funds**

Dear Chair Goodyear:

On behalf of the AZSITE Consortium Board, I am writing to formally bring to your attention a critical situation regarding the management and accessibility of AZSITE funds currently held by the University of Arizona. Recent actions by the University of Arizona administration to freeze these funds have created an immediate and significant risk to the state's ability to comply with statutory mandates and support essential infrastructure development. The freeze is due to the University of Arizona's broader 2024-2025 financial crisis, however, AZSITE funds are restricted revenue (garnered through user fees) and should be insulated from general fund deficits.

As you may be aware, the AZSITE Consortium—comprising the Arizona State Museum, the State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona State University, and the Museum of Northern Arizona—is the executive decision-making body tasked with managing the state's electronic cultural resources inventory established under Executive Order 2006-03. The AZSITE database is not merely an academic tool; it is a vital state asset used daily by state agencies, tribal nations, and private industry to ensure compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes regarding cultural resource protection, including the State Historic Preservation Act, 41-861 et., seq, and the Arizona Antiquities Act, § 41-841 et seq.

The current freezing of AZSITE's operational funds by the University of Arizona has resulted in the following critical issues:

- **Delays for Critical Development Projects:** AZSITE records searches are required for environmental and cultural permitting for road construction, utility expansion, and housing development. The inability to fund system maintenance and data entry is creating a bottleneck for project review across the state.
- **Failure to Deliver Contractual Obligations:** The funds in question are primarily derived from subscription user fees paid by the private sector and government agencies specifically for the use and maintenance of this system. These are not tuition dollars or

general university operating funds, and their freezing undermines the services that customer/stakeholders have paid for.

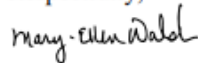
Without access to these funds, the Consortium cannot fulfill its mandate to provide a consolidated informational network of recorded cultural resources. This leaves the state vulnerable to legal challenges and potential loss of federal funding for projects that require timely cultural resource reviews.

AZSITE is hosted and managed by the Arizona State Museum (ASM,) which is a division of the University of Arizona (UA). The AZSITE Board has attempted to resolve this matter with the University beginning in June of 2025 with little success. The ASM Director, Dr. Patrick Lyons, has communicated our concerns to UA administrators many times since June of 2025, specifically the UA Office of Budget and Planning and the Office of Research and Partnerships (the UA unit to which ASM reports), and provided copies of the relevant state statutes and the executive orders associated with the services provided by AZSITE that are tied to these accounts. However, there has been no progress toward a solution. We are now requesting your office's intervention to ensure that these dedicated funds are unfrozen and remain available for their legally intended purpose: dissemination of critical information needed for compliance with Arizona's historic preservation laws and facilitation of residential, commercial, and infrastructure development statewide.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you or your staff to find a permanent solution that ensures the fiscal independence and stability of the AZSITE Consortium.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,



Mary-Ellen Walsh, Chair

cc Mr. Chad Sampson, Executive Director, ABOR (Chad.Sampson@azregents.edu)  
Dr. Suresh Garimella President, University of Arizona (president23@arizona.edu)  
Dr. Patrick Lyons, Director, ASM (plyons@arizona.edu)  
AZSITE Board Members (watsonjt@arizona.edu, Christopher.Caseldine@asu.edu,  
jburns@musnaz.org)

Arizona State Museum, P.O. Box 210026, 1013 E. University Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

The AZSITE Board



**Appendix B: Letter to Mary-Ellen Walsh, AZSITE Consortium Board Chair, from John S. Arnold, University of Arizona CFO**



**BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

Old Main  
1200 East University Boulevard  
PO Box 210021  
Tucson, Arizona 85721  
Ofc: 520-621-5977  
[businessaffairs.arizona.edu](http://businessaffairs.arizona.edu)

April 6, 2026

Mary-Ellen Walsh, Chair  
AZSITE Consortium  
1013 East University Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0026

Dear Chair Walsh,

Thank you for your March 30, 2026, letter alerting us to your concerns regarding funds within the Arizona State Museum provided through the AZSITE Consortium.

After reviewing the circumstances, we determined that there was an internal miscommunication. Upon becoming aware, my office initiated a process to rectify. That process was completed on April 1, 2026, and has resulted in approval for the Arizona State Museum to spend \$379,000 in balances to support their efforts over the course of FY 2026 and FY 2027.

This should provide resolution to this issue, and we have used the opportunity to strengthen understanding around university processes with our colleagues at the Arizona State Museum, Office of Research & Partnerships, and Finance & Budget.

Thank you again for your diligent advocacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John S. Arnold'.

John S. Arnold  
Chief Financial Officer  
The University of Arizona