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## One Way to Foster Diversity in Public History

by Robert R. Weyeneth  
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NEH summer institute participants at the opening reception on Spring Branch Pond, Columbia. Courtesy of Cammie Sublette.

The challenge of how to bring greater diversity to the field of public history came up repeatedly at our Louisville meeting in April, as it has over the years at previous NCPH conferences. Clearly, it is a multi-faceted problem that needs to be approached from many different directions. One promising avenue may be the pioneering initiative organized last summer at the University of South Carolina, which hosted a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute devoted exclusively to public history.

As co-directors of the university's Public History Program, Connie Schulz and I organized and directed a summer institute entitled "African-American History as Public History: South Carolina as a Case Study." At the Louisville meeting, institute participants made a formal presentation on their experiences, and the organizers gave an informal report at the Public History Educator Breakfast. We believe that we have developed a model for promoting diversity within the public history profession that could be replicated elsewhere in the country. We hope that the 2007 institute may inspire others to try something similar, improve on our concept, and adapt it to their circumstances. If the idea strikes anyone as having merit please copy, duplicate, plagiarize.

### Goals of the Onsite Summer Experience

To begin with a point of clarification, NEH Summer Institutes are geared toward teaching, not research, which is the province of the NEH Summer Seminar. Teaching, then, was our mandate and the primary goal of the onsite summer experience was helping college faculty learn how to teach public history in their undergraduate courses. For some time now the NCPH has become a forum for conversations—among individual members and as an organization—about whether the quality of public history training is keeping up with the admirable proliferation of public history programs in the United States. The rapid growth of public history within history departments



NEH summer institute participants at the Mann-Simons Cottage, a museum property of Historic Columbia Foundation. Courtesy of Cammie Sublette.

is one of the most heartening developments of the last decade, but questions of quality control remain. As a program that has been teaching public history at the graduate level for almost 35 years and produced over 200 alumni, we thought the University of South Carolina had a special responsibility and a particular capacity to make a contribution on this front.

The African-American historical experience provided the thematic focus around which the content of the institute was developed. This theme reflected our own research and teaching interests, as well as the expertise of colleagues within the USC history department upon which we could draw. As much as anything, the focus enabled us to take advantage of the wide range of rich resources related to African-American history within the state of South Carolina, from archival repositories to museums and historic sites. I should emphasize that the purpose of the institute was not to teach African-American history, as such, but to use African-American historic resources to illustrate how faculty can teach public history to their undergraduates.

Our hope was that a focus on African-American history would be especially appealing to African-American faculty and that we could recruit them to the applicant pool (and the institute) in significant numbers. This indeed proved to be the case, and it is one way we believe we have sowed some seeds of diversity within the profession.

> continued on page 22

### Read TPH Online

To read current and recent back issues of *The Public Historian* on the web, you will need to register at the University of California Press "Caliber" login page, <<http://caliber.ucpress.net/>>. The Caliber system will recognize your email address if you are a current member of NCPH. New NCPH members will need to wait 5-10 days after joining to be added to the Caliber system. Full-text article PDFs going back to Winter 2001 are available. Back issues from 1978 to 2001 are on *JSTOR*, which may be available through your local university or other library.

# LOUISVILLE — 2008 ANNUAL MEETING



Coffee break in the exhibit hall.



Meeting planning chairs, Donna Neary, Marla Miller, and Patricia Mooney-Melvin with NCPH President Bill Bryans.



Graduate Students Mariko Ehrhart and Vickie Lindsey at the Friday evening Endowment Fundraiser at the Farmington Historic Home.



Welcoming remarks from Patrick Moore and Glenn Crothers at the Graduate Student Reception.



Conference attendees network before Sunday's Plenary.

## LOUISVILLE 2008



University of West Florida Students served as technology gurus for the duration of the conference.



Calinda Lee and Bob Weible at the Sunday Capstone Plenary.



Attendees perusing projects at the Poster Session.



Patrick Moore and Connie Schulz talking at the Public History Educators Breakfast.



An informal forum with new National Park Service Chief Historian Robert Sutton.

# "The Free Food Was Also a Plus!"

## Evaluation Results of the 2008 Annual Meeting

by Sarah Koepfel  
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Another successful NCPH meeting took place April 10-13, in Louisville, Kentucky. The second largest conference to-date, 427 people from the United States and Canada, as well as representatives from Israel, Latvia, and South Africa, descended upon the bluegrass state despite more than 3,000 American Airline flight delays and cancellations. Conference attendees were pleased with the amount, type, and content of sessions and enjoyed new presentation formats in Working Group sessions and movie/documentary screenings. Approximately 48% of conference attendees responded to a meeting evaluation emailed the Monday following the conference. Selected data and summaries are below for your consideration and enjoyment.

### Registration and Attendance

- For the second year, NCPH offered online registration as an option. More than 78% of all conference attendees pre-registered online.
- Of the 427 registrants, 66% were members. The majority of attendees were university faculty followed by students, consultants, and museum employees (Figure 1).

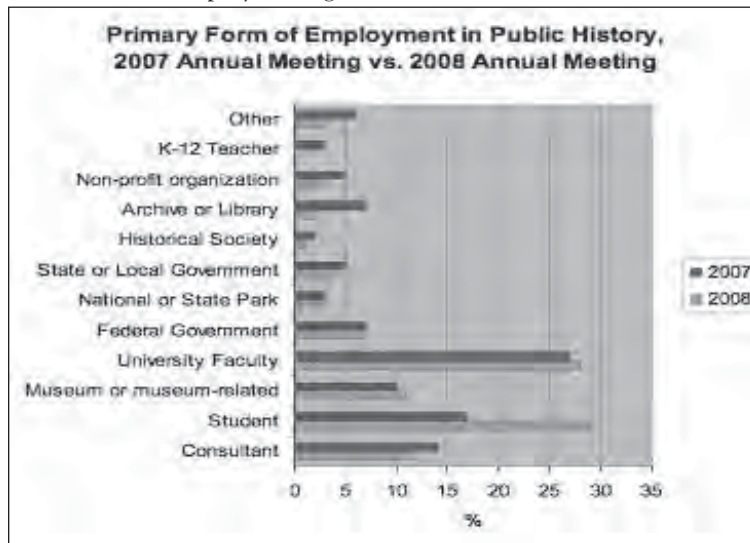


Figure 1. What is your primary form of employment in public history? 2007 vs. 2008 Annual Meeting Evaluation results.

- Fifty-three percent of respondents reported this as their first time attending an NCPH annual meeting.
- Ninety-nine percent of the evaluation participants either agreed (24%) or strongly agreed (75%) that the conference was well organized. Below is a sampling of suggestions from participants:

*More working groups. Anything that promotes dialogue rather than just listening is good.* • *Drop the working groups because they excluded people.* • *Fewer panels and better descriptions of what the panels actually are.* • *I would have loved more guidance and information about Louisville, especially in regards to Thunder over Louisville.* • *It seemed like a lot was overlapping and packed in the Program.* • *Arrange a time that's just for field trips so that everyone can participate.* • *Include meals with registration.* • *Provide a place for job postings/interviews.* • *Beginning*

*with a morning keynote speech was a great idea.* • *Keep the off site events closer.* • *Too many choices rather than too few.*

### Sessions

- More than 16 individual proposals, 46 group proposals, 3 workshop proposals, 37 Working Group proposals, and 38 Poster Session proposals were submitted to the Program Committee. Out of these, 43 sessions were formed with over 200 presenters. The average attendance at each of the 43 regular sessions counted was 24 people.
- There were eight time slots with sessions, three workshops, five committee meetings, and two plenary sessions. Evaluation results show that 89% of respondents attended three or more sessions and 49% attended five or more.
- Approximately 98% of respondents either agreed (27%) or strongly agreed (71%) that the conference sessions were appropriate and informative.

### Liked most about conference

*The location- Louisville and the Brown hotel- were ideal. The conference venues highlighted the best of the city and the hotel was proximate enough to facilitate our own explorations of the area.* • *Good keynotes, friendly staff, good food, excellent Program.* • *Opening the talks at breakfasts and lunches to those who paid for general registration, but not for the food. The program clearly stated the approximate time when the meals ended and when extra seats would be available.* • *I thought that this year, NCPH seemed more inclusive of other public historians than those who work for the government or who teach at universities.* • *I enjoyed the varied methods of presenting information in the conference: films, roundtables, plenaries, and traditional papers. I look forward to the intellectual content of this conference, and the relative egalitarian nature of the conference. Although I was not able to attend the Working Groups, or the roundtable on Climate Change, I was very pleased that such discussions were occurring. The session that was based on The Public Historian issue (Sites of Conscience) was very interesting. I commend the journal and the conference chairs for putting this together!* • *The format of having fewer sessions really worked -- there were very few under-attended sessions and I thought the discussions were better than at other conferences. Secondly, the poster session was a big success -- it really brought students and professionals together. The free food (thanks, Connie and USC!) was also a plus. The other thing I loved, and this is a small point, was the canvas bags! The bag will do doubt accompany me on trips to both the library and the grocery store!* • *The exchange of vital ideas and practices for doing public history, both from the US as well as from Canada, South Africa and Latvia.* • *The interdisciplinary nature of things brought out a lot of new people and younger professionals. It was nice to see the NCPH community looking to the 21st century and not just praising themselves for all the wonderful things they did back in the 1970s. The timing with the Thunder fireworks was probably a headache to work around but was a nice ending to events.* • *Program schedule (logistics), longer coffee breaks, layout of the hotel that facilitated networking. New variety of session formats to promote conversations.* • *New attendees breakfast was very helpful; particularly helpful was the inclusion of a "facilitator" at each table to provide helpful insights to new attendees.*

# "The Free Food Was Also a Plus!"

## Evaluation Results of the 2008 Annual Meeting > continued from page 3

### Liked least about conference

- Some of the topics and presentations were a bit repetitive, some of the same people are called upon to present again and again. There is a need to broaden out the presenters and the topics. Too much stuff about community participation that does not contain perspectives from the communities themselves.
- High cost of attending events. Aren't there more sponsors out there?
- I would like to see panels that would feature the research that is recognized by the NCPH at the awards ceremony. Being able to keep up with some of the latest scholarship in public history would be important to me.
- The exhibit space seemed better than past years, but it would be great to have even more in the way of resources represented - books to consider, software to learn about, other materials (or even grant opportunities or funders) that I don't know about but should.
- The Muhammad Ali Center is one of the best new concept museums in the country and it was treated like a simple boxing museum ... only on a sports tour. THIS is a place that all conference goers should have attended. WHY did host committee not see the importance of this new institution?

“ Oh fie!! ”

- The disjointed locations of the session rooms, exhibit hall, and casual meeting spaces. The hotel layout wasn't conducive ever looking up... At a conference focused on public history you'd think we could get away from traditionally read papers and emphasize "audience friendly" presentations.
- A few of the panels I attended were a let-down. The participants really did not talk about what was listed in the program. I think this is important - moderators need to get a copy of the presentations or papers in order to make sure that the presenters are going to do an adequate job.
- There were not enough workshops. That's one thing I think everyone can benefit from. And some of them were extremely expensive, which made it impossible for students to attend.
- The schedule was very tight with little chance to see some of Louisville unless you intentionally skipped sessions which I don't like to do.
- Perhaps more organization for informal group dinners and tours could be arranged. It's a small community that can be VERY cliquish. That can be off-putting for newcomers-especially people outside of the field or students not traveling with a group.
- In a number of presentations, I wrote down the words "pompous" and "narrow." I disliked very much hearing statements such as "as public historians we must use our power to teach history the right way." Or, "it is our responsibility to teach justice." Meaning, the notion that there is a right and wrong to the presentation of history. And that "the public" must succumb to the "experts" view because, well heck, historians are experts. Oh fie!!

### Additional Comments

- I enjoy this group and this conference. The meeting size is manageable, yet large enough to where you meet many interesting people. I also think the mix between scholars, graduate students and non-academic PH professionals is improving. I feel that when I joined about 10 years ago, it was far more slanted to the academic side.
- The opportunity to sit in on the NPS historians' discussion with Bob Sutton was great. I learned a lot about what is going on at NPS in terms of history work. It would be nice to hear similarly from chief historians at the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies/entities for whom a number of public historians work or contract.
- Thanks for organizing a very inspired time. I loved knowing about Zotero, too. It's always great to

see colleagues who live across the country. The hotel was excellent! Everything worked smoothly. I commend you all!

- The NCPH focuses on racial diversity, and I would like the NCPH to encourage its members to broaden issues of diversity, to include interpreting disability and sexuality. The Public Historian has been a wonderful resource for these issues, and I would like to see it extended into the sessions. I would also like some sort of discussion about self-censoring within museums and historic sites.
- Strongly suggest that catering at endowment, other events have as part of contract that caterers must recycle glass, etc. Also, in registration, would like to see carbon offset purchase option or links to carbon offset sites where individuals can purchase this.
- It would be great to see NCPH choose conference themes with a bit more "edge," rather than the fairly vague topics that always seem to come up (although this problem is not unique to this group by any means). Overall, though, this was a terrific program, and the NCPH conference is always a highlight of my year.
- The off-site locations discouraged attendance.
- All in all, a great a conference. I worried whether we would be able to sustain the enthusiasm generated in Santa Fe, but we did. Onward to Providence!
- Thanks very much. I feel much more connected with the field of public history - and I've been able to meet people who will collaborate with me in the future.
- Having the poster session and award-winner signing in the Bluegrass Room on Friday was a terrific idea, luring lots of people into the exhibit hall at the same time. But you might consider spreading this event over two days.
- I was very impressed with the quality of the meals, which usually are not so good at conference hotels. The blogging added great energy, as did news from the concurrent conference in Liverpool. The foreign visitors added a deeply enriching aspect to our community - let's do more of this!
- This was my first NCPH conference, and I enjoyed it. People were for the most part friendly, but attendees should definitely be encouraged to find someone they don't know and talk with them. It will make the conference better for everyone.
- Tours looked good, hope I can go to some next year. I liked the alternate hotels that were very close to the main hotel.
- I know the conference is not designed for grad students, but it would be nice if they felt included in events. Please also remember we want to participate in events, but have limited resources.
- Absolutely one the most well-organized events I have attended. I appreciate everyone's hard work.
- I'd really hoped to see a "meet the professionals" period or round table. I think there are a lot of institutions and organizations needing interns or possibly looking to hire. I brought a stack of resume's and had hoped to hand many out but there wasn't really an appropriate time. I think that if time was made appropriate this could be a massive draw for the Council membership and for the conference itself.
- I am an undergraduate student who joined NCPH and attended the conference in order to learn more about the Public History field. I am trying to choose a graduate program, and I was very disappointed the conference did not have many colleges promoting their schools. I would have loved to have been able to speak with representatives from schools with Public History programs, in order to facilitate my decision.
- The mentoring process was great. I enjoyed spending time with my "mentee."
- This was a great conference. I loved the Brown Hotel as a conference center. I returned home thoroughly inspired! Thank you.
- Not sure what my registration money paid for, but would it have been that expensive to have coffee?
- I thought combining a wine reception with the poster session was a good idea. It led people to linger longer and be more willing to stand and chat about the posters rather than rush off. This was my first NCPH conference and my first poster presentation - it was a very good experience that I hope to do again! Thanks for the committee's hard work on it.

# PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



by Marianne Babal  
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## NCPH CONFERENCE 2.0

As I write this, it has been exactly a month since 427 public historians came together in Louisville, Kentucky. Since then, issues and topics raised there continue to reverberate in my mind. The NCPH conference never fails to invigorate me as I reconnect with colleagues, participate in sessions, and generally soak in what others are doing in practicing public history. Reflecting back on NCPH's 30th annual meeting, what is evident to me is the continued energy and vigor of NCPH as a membership organization and the growing popularity and outstanding quality of our conferences. The experience of Kentucky equaled and in some ways surpassed our successful 2007 meeting in Santa Fe.

In Louisville, our program included several new elements such as Working Groups on interpretation, historic preservation, and public history and civic life. By most accounts, these Working Groups fostered in-depth discussion on issues of importance, and the Working Group experiment will, I predict, be repeated next year and in conferences to come.

Also in Louisville, for the first time public historians blogged onsite about our conference sessions, events, and tours. The blogposts added a new dimension to our meeting, launching the NCPH conference into the blogosphere and making it accessible to a wider audience. On the NCPH website during and after the conference, visitors could find posts about sessions in Louisville and link to blogs from the public history conference happening simultaneously in Liverpool, England. On YouTube video clips, our Keynote speaker Ed Linenthal spoke eloquently about history, memory, language, and reconciliation. Another clip showed our Public Plenary, where we invited the Louisville community to join us to hear *Land of Lincoln* author Andrew Ferguson enthral an overflow crowd of hundreds at the Louisville Free Public Library.

This interface between historians and the public is, I believe, the essence of public history practice. Increasingly, historians will be challenged to think in broader terms and communicate to their audience through digital channels. User-generated content such as videos and blogs are increasingly becoming the standard for communication and information sharing on-line. A year ago, World Live Web tracker Technorati estimated new weblogs were being created everyday, worldwide, at a pace of 1.4 per second. Since then, mass adoption of social networking led by populist phenoms Facebook and YouTube has accelerated at an even faster pace. Blogs, vlogs, podcasts, and wikis are just a few of the so-called "Web 2.0" features that allow people to share information and collaborate on-line and may someday

soon replace the one-way conversations emanating from static websites, broadcast emails, or listservs. The participatory nature and ethos of openness embedded in social networking are particularly well adapted to the community of public historians, who have by and large always been more open and willing to share information, methodologies, and approaches than our more insulated academic colleagues, as well as reach out to communities beyond the professional ranks.



Travis Patterson and Cathy Stanton synchronize their videocasting and blogging efforts.

That sense of community, that invitation to participate, blooms every spring at the NCPH annual meeting. In Louisville, one first-time conference attendee pulled me aside at one of the meal events, and excitedly told me how much she was enjoying her first NCPH meeting, delighted, she said, to have "finally found a home" in public history. The National Council on Public History is that kind of organization: welcoming, inclusive, intellectually stimulating, and dare I say it—homey.

## Thank You

A hardworking group of volunteer bloggers and videographers made NCPH's launch into the blogosphere possible. Thanks to University of West Florida public history students Travis Patterson, Roy Oberto, and Tim Roberts, who filmed and posted video clips of our plenary events. Our blog team of Cathy Stanton, Denise Meringolo, Kelly Britt, and Tony Cherian added their insights on conference activities. Tony, grounded in Austin, decided to turn airline lemons into lemonade by virtually attending both the NCPH conference and the concurrent Liverpool public history conference, commenting on feeds from both conferences. And as always, our executive office staff of John Dichtl, Sarah Koeppel, and Amy Powell worked hard before, during, and after the conference to make it all happen.

# Congratulations Award Winners!

## Robert Kelley Award



Kelley Award winner Alan Newell with President Bill Bryans.

This biannual prize recognizes distinguished and outstanding achievements by individuals, institutions, or other nonprofit or corporate entities for having made significant inroads in making history relevant to individual lives of ordinary people outside of academia.

**Alan S. Newell**, former president and current senior historical consultant at Historical Research Associates, Inc.

For more than thirty years Alan S. Newell has been one of public history's leading practitioners. He has founded and led public history businesses, conducted exhaustive research projects on behalf of state governments throughout the western and Midwestern United States, advised federal agencies and courts on issues of timely importance, and made significant contributions to the NCPH. Few public historians of his generation have done more to improve the use of history in American public life. Perhaps Newell's most important contribution was the founding, in 1974, of Historical Research Associates, Inc., (HRA) one of the pioneering public history consulting firms. Alan has made a distinctive and lasting contribution to NCPH. He has served on the editorial board of *The Public Historian*, the Board of Directors (1992-1995), as vice president (1999), and finally, as president (2000). It was through his commitment to helping young historians that NCPH began offering travel grants to the annual meeting. Newell was also a leading figure in the creation and growth of the NCPH Endowment Fund and played a critical role in NCPH's receipt and fulfillment of a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant.

## NCPH Book Award



NCPH Book Award Winner Robert Hayashi receiving his award from President Bill Bryans.



**Robert T. Hayashi**, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

*Haunted by Waters: A Journey through Race and Place in the American West* (University of Iowa Press)

Hayashi's book is a haunting personal meditation, at once scholarly and poetic, on the symbiotic ecology of western American places and Asian-American people. Hayashi argues that in the West race and place—in this case Japanese-Americans identities in Idaho—help explain each other. Hayashi is an all-too-rare kind of public historian who combines archival knowledge with landscape savvy and literary grace. His text moves effortlessly between academic discourse and his own personal experiences of past and place. He brings a writerly sensibility to his task, inviting the reader to savor his double-voice as both story-teller and as subject of his tale. *Haunted by Waters* as a book is an unusual read, more historically informed than the usual memoir, and more accessibly compelling than the typical public history monograph. Hayashi leads us on journey through race and place where, on every page, the personal informs the public.

## Honorable Mention

**James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton, eds.** *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory* (The New Press)

The Hortons' anthology illuminates both the tragedy of slavery and race as exhibited in historic sites, libraries, and museums, and the hope rising from the evolution of its public representation. This breaking of the silence on the topic brings crucial recognition of its necessary central place in the historiography of the U.S. and its public discussion amongst society at large. The contributors, all leading practitioners in their fields, offer conceptual frameworks, accounts of public programs successful and less so, and helpful lessons learned in their efforts to confront the tough stuff of American history head-on in the public arena.

## Finalists:

Sanora Babb and Dorothy Babb, and Douglas Wixson, ed., *On the Dirty Plate Trail: Remembering the Dust Bowl Refugee Camps* (University of Texas)

Guy Beiner, *Remembering the Year of the French: Irish Folk History and Social Memory* (University of Wisconsin Press)

Barbara J. Little and Paul A. Shackel, *Archaeology as a Tool of Civic Engagement* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.)

Eric Meeks, *Border Citizens: The Making of Indians, Mexicans, and Anglos in Arizona* (University of Texas)

Davinna Pomaika'i McGregor, *Na Kua'aina: Living Hawaiian Culture* (University of Hawaii Press)

Kim Lacy Rogers, *Life and Death in the Delta: African American Narratives of Violence, Resilience, and Social Change* (Palgrave MacMillan)

Ruth Sandwell, ed., *To the Past: History Education, Public Memory, and Citizenship in Canada* (University of Toronto Press)

Anita Waters, *Planning the Past: Heritage Tourism and Post-colonial Politics at Port Royal* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.)

## Outstanding Public History Project Award



Kathleen Hulser from the New York Historical Society accepting the Outstanding Public History Project Award from Bill Bryans.

*For excellence in work that contributes to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serves as a model of professional public history practice*

### Slavery in New York

The New York Historical Society

Among a field of high-quality projects, *Slavery in New York*, impressed the judges with its multi-year timetable, breaking down of the North/South stereotype about slavery, suitability of the interpretive media documenting the “workings” of slavery, interdisciplinary strength, and clear effort to teach students in various age categories as well as the general public. This project contributes to a broader public appreciation of the past and serves as a model of professional public history practice as specified in the award criteria. We congratulate the New York Historical Society and select *Slavery in New York* as the first recipient of the Outstanding Public History Project Award.

## Consultant Award

*A new award for excellence in consulting or contract work*

**Douglas R. Littlefield**, Littlefield Historical Research, Oakland, CA

Dr. Littlefield, since 1984, has consulted extensively throughout the West, especially in water rights and navigability issues, and has done extensive original research, written reports for his clients, and served as an expert witness.

**Marya Annette McQuirter**, consultant, Washington, DC

Dr. McQuirter, since 2000, has worked actively in the Washington, DC, area on numerous local projects researching, writing, and presenting the history of the region while collaborating with local organizations and the Humanities Council.

## Consultant Award Honorable Mention

**History Associates Incorporated**, Rockville, MD, for its extensive and groundbreaking research work in identifying for the J. P. Morgan Chase & Company potential connections of that company and its predecessors to slavery or the slave trade.

**Edward G. Salo**, principal in the consulting firm of Brockington and Associates, Inc., of Mt. Pleasant, SC, and formerly of Geo-Marine, Inc., of Plano, TX. Since 2000, Mr. Salo has worked extensively in overseeing cultural resources studies, including National Register of Historic Places nominations, and environmental reviews.

## G. Wesley Johnson Award



Bill Bryans presenting Susan Bachrach with the G. Wesley Johnson Award.

**Susan Bachrach**, National Holocaust Memorial Museum

“Deadly Medicine,” *The Public Historian* 29:3 (Summer 2007): 19-32.

In *Deadly Medicine*, Susan Bachrach has offered us a view into the work of the National Holocaust Memorial Museum’s conceptualization and development of the exhibit, *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race*. We acknowledge the museum’s work to involve the medical profession in the exhibit and to develop a program to use the exhibit to explore medical ethics, clearly exemplifying the prize’s criterion of demonstrating public history’s “explicit application to the needs of contemporary life.” *Deadly Medicine* challenges us to see the horrors of Nazi medical experimentation not as an

# Congratulations Award Winners!

> continued from page 7

aberration, but as the result of following and implementing certain theories of eugenics that were widely accepted in the United States and elsewhere. *Deadly Medicine* clearly reveals the dark side of early 20th-century medical theory and practice and serves as a cautionary tale for the medical profession today by pointing to the “dangers of seeking human perfection.”

## HRA New Professional Travel Award



Peter Friesen interpreting tobacco at Historic St. Mary's City.

**Peter Friesen**, Assistant Site Supervisor, Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation at Historic St. Mary's City

*Editor's note: New Professional Award recipients are asked to write about their work and about their time at the NCPH Annual Meeting.*

Attending the 2008 NCPH conference in Louisville was an exciting opportunity for many reasons. The conference encouraged me to continue the work that I started in graduate school and allowed me to present my work in a professional setting. I am also extremely thankful for receiving the award, which allowed me the opportunity to travel to Kentucky, a state with an important history of hemp production.

Starting as an undergraduate and then as a graduate student I studied living history as a way of interpreting the past to a general audience. Living history is also a format of interpretation that offers visitors a unique opportunity to better understand the emotions and decisions of people from the past. In graduate school I focused my interest in living history by beginning to research the early hemp industry in the United States and its interpretation at living history museums. I have continued this research at the two places that I have interpreted, Colonial Williamsburg and Historic St. Mary's City.

Presenting the research I have done on hemp also fulfilled a small dream of mine to visit Kentucky, the largest producer of this important crop in the United States during the nineteenth century. Although I was unable to travel thoroughly through the “Bluegrass State,” I was able to see the city of Louisville, where much of the hemp was sent off to market. I also had the pleasure of meeting

local Louisville historian, Kathy L. Nichols. She not only moderated my session, she also studies the history of hemp and the importance of being able to interpret the crop's production, despite the subject matter being somewhat taboo. This meeting gave me hope that one day it will be possible to grow hemp at a living history museum without fear of legal repercussions.

Attending the conversation titled *What Does My Work as a Public Historian Have to Do with Climate Change?*, facilitated by Cathy Stanton and Martha Norkunas, provoked many interesting thoughts on museums and conservation of natural resources. The discussion caused me to think about the similarities and differences between the ideologies toward the environment of the present and the seventeenth century, and how best to interpret these ideas to visitors. This is a topic that I would like to confront further with other historians, and in my own continuing hemp research.

Overall, attending the 2008 NCPH conference was a wonderful experience, and I would not have been able to fully enjoy the conference without the HRA New Professional Travel Award. I would also like to thank Jon Hunner, who supported me as a graduate student and also as a presenter at the conference. The Louisville conference revitalized my work and made me proud of what I have done up to this point. I look forward to my future in the field of public history and to attending many more NCPH conferences.

## NCPH New Professional Travel Award



John Dickinson receiving the NCPH New Professional Award.

**John Dickinson**, Oral Historian, Georgia Historical Society and Coastal Oral History Project

*Editor's note: New Professional Award recipients are asked to write about their work and about their time at the NCPH Annual Meeting.*

I would like to thank the NCPH for granting me one of this year's New Professionals Awards. Without this generous assistance I would not have been able to attend the annual conference in Louisville.

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# The Best in Public History—2009 Awards Program

**Outstanding Public History Project Award** – A \$1,000 award recognizing excellence in work completed within the previous two calendar years (2007 and 2008) that contributes to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serves as a model of professional public history practice. Media/digital, exhibit, public programming, and written work are eligible for consideration. Deadline: January 8, 2009.

**Book Award** – A \$1,000 award for the best book about or “growing out of” public history published within the previous two calendar years (2007 and 2008). Entries may be monographs, edited collections of articles or essays, or any other published work of comparable scope. Deadline: December 1, 2008.

**G. Wesley Johnson Award** – A \$750 award for the best article in *The Public Historian* for the previous volume year. Deadline: January 8, 2009.

**Consultant Award** – This \$500 prize is intended to recognize professionals whose primary engagement with public history is through consulting or contract work within the past five years. Deadline: January 8, 2009.

**Michael C. Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis** – A biennial award of \$500 for excellence in historical studies that contribute directly to the formation of public policy. Deadline: January 8, 2009.

**New Professional Awards** – Two \$500 travel grants to encourage new professionals to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting in Providence, RI. Applicants must be members of NCPH, have been practicing public historians for no more than three years, and have no institutional travel support to attend the annual meeting. Deadline: January 8, 2009.

**Student Project Award** – For projects initiated as academic coursework and then implemented and recognized beyond the classroom as a contribution to the field, this \$500 travel grant helps support the student author(s) attendance at the annual meeting. Deadline: January 8, 2009.

**Student Travel Award** – Five matching travel grants of \$300 each to graduate students who have a paper, poster, or other presentation accepted for inclusion in the program of the 2009 Annual Meeting in Providence, RI.

All award winners receive complimentary annual meeting registration and a meal ticket for the Awards Luncheon.

National Council on Public History  
327 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI  
425 University Blvd  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Phone: (317) 274-2716  
EMAIL: [neph@iupui.edu](mailto:neph@iupui.edu)

Full award submission information is at [www.neph.org](http://www.neph.org)

## AN ENDOWMENT AT WORK



Agrita Ozola, Director of the Tukums Museum in Latvia, with NCPH Vice President Marianne Babal.



Recipients of the inaugural Graduate Student Travel Awards, Linda Verhoef, Margo Shea, Patricia Roeser, Kate Priessler, and Laura Miller.

NCPH is committed to promoting professionalism and best practices in public history. In the past several months interest on NCPH investments has helped in the following ways:

- Funded the creation of the Consultant’s Award (\$500) to recognize outstanding work and contributions by consultants or contractors. In its inaugural year, 2008, NCPH gave two of these awards.
- Added a prize amount of \$1,000 to the NCPH Book Award
- Expanded the prize amount to \$1,000 for the Outstanding Public History Project Award, which had already been endowed by donors as a \$500 award
- Increased the G. Wesley Johnson Award prize amount to \$750 for the best article in *The Public Historian*, building on the annual gift of Stan Hordes
- Provided five \$300 Graduate Student Travel Grants for individuals presenting at an annual meeting
- Made possible an advertising campaign to promote the NCPH’s expanded Awards Program
- Subsidized the “Measuring Performance” and “Digitizing History” workshops at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Louisville
- Supported travel to the 2008 Annual Meeting for two international participants who contributed unique perspectives on emerging issues in the field during their formal sessions and during many other informal conversations in Louisville:
  - > Agrita Ozola, the director of the Tukums Museum in Latvia, was a panelist for “Presenting Controversy in Living History Museums”
  - > Bonita Bennett, acting director of the District Six Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa, was a panelist for “Reading Public History: A Discussion of *The Public Historian’s* Special Issue, ‘Civic Engagement at Sites of Conscience’”
- Funded the development of a video project proposal that will create a new means of conveying how public history, in its many forms, is practiced today

Your contributions to the endowment are appreciated and meaningful to NCPH, and will help expand on these and other new initiatives.

# NCPH Board of Directors Spring Meeting

On Wednesday and Thursday, April 9-10, 2008, the NCPH Board of Directors convened during the 2008 NCPH Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY, and took the following actions:

- Approved the Minutes of the Fall 2007 Board Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island.
- Approved a six-month transitional budget, for July 1 to December 31, 2008. The organization is moving from a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year to a January 1 to December 31 fiscal year. The first such calendar-based fiscal year will begin in 2009.
- Discussed ways in which the organization can increase involvement of graduate students in NCPH programs and initiatives.
- Accepted the report of the Outreach Committee which outlines a new video project to promote public history.
- Approved an initial proposal to amend the bylaws to 1) simplify the committee oversight structure by eliminating the Coordinating Committees and 2) create a Development Committee to replace the Endowment Fundraiser Committee. As required by the NCPH Bylaws, the board met thirty days later (electronically) and formally adopted the bylaw changes by email vote.
- At the request of the Consultant Award Committee, remanded the new Consultant Award guidelines back to the Consultants Committee and the Consultant Award Committee for clarification of the award criteria and policies.
- Selected Pensacola, Florida, as the site for the 2011 Annual Meeting.
- Selected Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as the site for the 2012 Annual Meeting.
- Heard the status report of the joint NCPH, Organization of American Historians, and American Historical Association Working Group on Evaluating Public History Scholarship.

- Adopted a statement of thanks to Dean Robert White of the School of Liberal Arts, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, for his support of the NCPH Executive Office and the work of the organization.
- Heard the report of the editor and editorial board of *The Public Historian* and the Marketing & Circulation Report presented by the University of California Press.
- Planned board-cosponsored sessions for the Oral History Association's 2008 Annual Meeting, which coincides with the board's fall meeting.
- Approved creation of ad hoc committee to plan and coordinate NCPH's 30th Anniversary celebration.
- Received an advocacy update from Lee White, executive director of the National Coalition for History.

## NCPH Book Discussions at AASLH

For the past few years NCPH has provided in-depth book discussions for the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). When AASLH meets in Rochester, NY, September 9-12, the following conversations will take place:

- Christopher Clarke will moderate a discussion with 2008 NCPH Book Award winner Robert Hayashi on his book, *Haunted by Waters: A Journey through Race and Place in the American West* (University of Iowa Press, 2007).
- Bob Weible will moderate a discussion with 2008 NCPH Book Award Honorable Mention recipients, James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton, eds., for their work, *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory* (The New Press, 2006)

Attendees are encouraged to read the books before the conference.



## 2008 SPONSORS

We would like to extend another thank you to our meeting sponsors.

The Brennan House & Heritage Center  
The Carnegie Center for Art & History  
C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, Washington College  
Farmington Historic Home  
The Filson Historical Society  
Heaven Hill Distilleries, Inc.  
Historical Confederation of Kentucky  
Historic Locust Grove  
Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission  
Kentucky Archaeological Survey, the Friends of the Farnsley-Kaufman House, the Portland Museum, and Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremen Landing  
Kentucky Heritage Council and Kentucky Historic Preservation Office

University of Louisville, Department of History and Oral History Center  
University of Louisville, College of Arts and Sciences  
The Louisville Free Public Library  
Loyola University Chicago, Department of History  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of History  
Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History  
New Mexico State University, Department of History  
University of South Carolina, Department of History  
University of California Press

If your organization, company, department, or institution is interested in advertising, exhibiting, or event sponsorship at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, please contact Sarah at (317) 274-2716 or [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu).



by John Dichtl  
jdichtl@iupui.edu

Many of us noticed a higher than usual energy level during the annual meeting in Louisville. Beyond the conference's stimulating content, amid the program and local arrangements committees' many expressions of creativity, there was another reason for the animated feel of the 2008 meeting. Graduate students turned out in unprecedented numbers. (28% of all registrants were students, compared to an average of 18% in recent years.) Their presence infused the conference with an added sense of potential.

Being able to reach so many of the next generation is a great opportunity for NCPH. It is also something at which we work hard—and we cannot afford to slow down. Just last week I attended the annual meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies, where one of the major topics of discussion was how to get more graduate students involved in scholarly and professional associations. For many associations, students—and more senior members of the profession—have been drifting away as journals become increasingly available for free through libraries and as the Internet is able to provide more kinds of professional networks and contacts.

Building on our experience in Louisville, the 2009 Program Committee for Providence is working with the Curriculum and Training Committee to form an *ad hoc* advisory group to help make the conference even more student-friendly. The group will draw on its own ideas and feedback from the post-conference evaluation survey.

We heard many positive comments from the newer members of the profession when they responded to the online conference evaluation. These graduate students also offered some critical observations. For example, they valued the numerous opportunities to speak with and observe other public historians during the Louisville meeting, noting, as one respondent wrote, “how absolutely friendly and helpful everyone was.” Many also appreciated the

wide variety of public history topics and types of employment represented at the Louisville meeting. Of course, some of these strengths were perceived as problematic: “There was not enough time to fully enjoy the experience which comes at you at 100mph when you're a new member and a student,” wrote one. Many other students and non-students recognized that such a—shall we say—richly scheduled conference presented attendees with lots of tough choices about what good stuff they would have to skip. On the other hand, many respondents also acknowledged that having a lot to do at a conference was a good thing.



There were two other general areas of concern that graduate students expressed. First, that there could be more structured events for promoting networking, particularly for newer members of the profession who have not yet learned how to use the annual conference to full advantage. This is something on which 2009 Program Chair Melissa Bingmann and the *ad hoc* graduate student advisory task force are already working. More experienced members forget what it was like to be both brand new to an NCPH conference and to the whole idea of attending any conference. In other words, NCPH can do much more to accelerate the professionalizing, apprenticeship aspect of the conference experience. Individual public historians can do more to reach out to new members. Remember, those new faces are the future of public history and NCPH.

The expense of attending the annual meeting was another common worry for students. And this, they will not be surprised to learn, will probably be a concern throughout their careers. Responding to the online evaluation, many cited the price of tours, meal events, and registration, and asked NCPH to “remember, we want to participate

in events but have limited resources.” Some respondents, not necessarily graduate students, thought NCPH should be able to provide, among other things, more free coffee, given the money they had handed over for registration.

NCPH continues to work to keep conference fees down while dealing with a resurging convention industry. Would readers be shocked, however, to know that coffee at The Brown Hotel cost NCPH \$44 per gallon? This is typical for conference hotels. Still, we tried to make some complimentary beverages available in the exhibit hall all day, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. While the hotel charged NCPH \$22 per person at breakfast, we priced the First-Time Attendee/New Member Breakfast at \$8 per ticket and the Consultant, Public History Educator, and Capstone breakfasts at \$20. All of the meals and tours, in fact, were presented nearly at cost or subsidized.

The overall registration fee for graduate students is, in fact, heavily subsidized by the other attendees, just as annual NCPH membership dues for students are subsidized by other NCPH members. To secure the “free” meeting space in which to hold the conference and sleeping rooms below the “rack rate” for the city, NCPH must contract with a good-sized hotel and guarantee that its members will fill a large block of rooms. In the end, it is the generosity of sponsors and the growing attendance numbers that make the meeting modestly priced and financially profitable.

The return on the annual meeting goes right back into covering a portion of the staff time and other NCPH overhead required to organize the conference. In a sense, we are always reinvesting the financial, as well as the intellectual, social, and professional products of the conference—including new members' feedback—into the next year's meeting. We also are always working on the next conference. Providence in 2009 and Portland in 2010.

# CONSULTING COMMENTS

NCPH is committed to promoting the interests of its members who provide historical services as consultants. This column seeks to highlight new developments and achievements in historical consulting and contract work. Please send news of events and accomplishments to Heather Lee Miller, Consultants Committee, at [hmiller@hrassoc.com](mailto:hmiller@hrassoc.com). Be sure to include your full name and address.

## Two Receive New Consultant Award



Doug Littlefield receiving the first annual NCPH Consultant Award

NCPH bestowed its first ever Consultant Award—two of them, in fact—at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Louisville. The award committee chose Douglas R. Littlefield, of Littlefield Historical Research in Oakland, CA, and Marya Annette McQuirter, an independent consultant in Washington, DC. Honorable Mention went to History Associates Incorporated, in Rockville, MD, and to Edward G. Salo, of Brockington and Associates, Inc., of Mt. Pleasant, SC.

## We Look to Providence for a How-To Session

Members of the NCPH Consultants Committee are organizing a session for the 2009 Annual Meeting in Providence, with the working title, “Launching and Sustaining a History Consulting Practice.” Participants representing a variety of approaches to history consulting, from one-person operations to large consulting firms, will offer brief comments on how their consulting practice operates, what kinds of clients they serve, and how they have adapted to changing conditions in the consulting marketplace. At least one half of the time allotted to the session will be devoted to an informal agenda of current concerns and issues that the session participants will create at the beginning of the session. This session will offer information of use both to individuals currently working as

consultants and to public historians who may be considering a career in or a transition to consulting. NCPH consultant members who are interested in presenting in this session are invited to contact Christopher Clarke at [clarkecc@gmail.com](mailto:clarkecc@gmail.com).

## Consultants’ Web Listing

Send your name and contact information to be included on NCPH’s free web listing of consultants. Currently the list covers twenty-five states and Canada. Members who are history professionals working freelance or in established firms on projects ranging anywhere from National Register nominations, to corporate histories, to advising neighborhood associations, local government, and museums, are welcome. Please contact the executive office at [nph@iupui.edu](mailto:nph@iupui.edu) for more information or visit the web page at <http://www.ncph.org/PublicationsResources/Resources/tabid/322/Default.aspx>.

## BEST PRACTICES IN PUBLIC HISTORY EDUCATION

*A Report from the Curriculum and Training Committee*

by Ann McCleary  
[amcclear@westga.edu](mailto:amcclear@westga.edu)

The number of public history course offerings and programs has grown dramatically over the past decade. To provide guidance and support for public history educators, the NCPH Curriculum and Training Committee has been developing “best practices” documents for several key aspects of public history curriculum and program development.

The goal of this process is not to provide strict guidelines or to create an accreditation process for public history. Rather, the committee has chosen to offer a set of “recommended” practices that reflect the “best practices” in the field of public history. The committee recognizes that each program has its own goals, resources, and needs and will thus develop its own distinct personality. We hope that these guidelines

will accommodate the diversity of interests in public history education across the country. However, we also hope that these documents will highlight some of the core elements to which every program should aspire.

**“We want and need your help.”**

To develop these guidelines, we began with the survey that the Curriculum and Training Committee prepared a few years ago, under the direction of Pat Mooney-Melvin. This report is summarized on the NCPH website’s “Graduate and Undergraduate Education” page. The committee spent a year of research and discussion to prepare four of these “best practices” documents and presented these at the NCPH’s Louisville annual meeting.

Now, we want and need your help. We have put the first four of these documents on the NCPH website’s “Graduate and Undergraduate Education” page at <http://www.ncph.org>. We hope to gather input from you over the summer months and then to prepare a draft reflecting those changes to present at the NCPH board meeting in the fall. We ask

that you send your comments and suggestions to [nph@iupui.edu](mailto:nph@iupui.edu) by September 30.

Our four initial proposals cover major curriculum areas in public history education:

- the M.A. program in public history,
- graduate certificates related to public history,
- the public history internship, and
- undergraduate programs in public history.

We currently are developing recommendations for the introductory course in public history and will add this document to the website when it is completed.



Ann McCleary speaking at the Public History Educators Breakfast in Louisville.

# FINDING COMMON GROUND BETWEEN INTERPRETERS AND HISTORIANS

by Charlene Mires and Chuck Arning  
charlene.mires@villanova.edu  
Chuck\_Arning@nps.gov

The NCPH Working Group on “Finding Common Ground between Interpreters and Historians” has established new avenues for communication and future action as a result of its session during the annual meeting in Louisville. Members of the Working Group contributed case studies about their work, participated in an online discussion prior to the meeting, and developed a summary of issues and possible actions for forging greater interaction between historians and interpreters.

Establishing this Working Group created important new partnerships between the NCPH and two groups that co-sponsored the session, the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) and the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR). Work is underway to implement NAI Executive Director Tim Merriman’s proposal to devote a special issue of his group’s *Legacy* magazine to public history. In addition, we have established a listserv to implement ANPR representative Emily Weisner’s suggestion for continuing conversation among the Working Group participants, observers, and interested organizations.



Historic Locust Grove, the venue for the “Interpreters and Historians” Working Group, is also home to 18th-century re-enactments.

The charge for this Working Group called for a focus on creating bridges between historians and interpreters working in the National Park Service:

“Are there ideas, methods, and experiences that National Park Service interpreters and policy makers, on the one hand, and public historians, on the other, can exchange that would mutually enhance the work of each? ... This group working group will address [the] issues of contrasting but complementary professional attributes ... and begin to map out ways of facilitating future exchanges, such as seminars, training courses, publications, workshops, and other possible activities.”

To help focus on this challenge, group members read two books: Freeman Tilden’s *Interpreting Our Heritage* and, as an example of current scholarship, Eric Foner’s *The Story of American Freedom*.

The group has identified areas to bridge between historians and interpreters. Among them are the need to assure opportunities for interpreters to be trained in history and historiography, including assuring institutional support for such training. The group noted the

challenges that interpreters and historians both face in balancing clarity and complexity; identifying and understanding audiences; and communicating effectively. It was also observed that interpretation is shaped not only by historians and front-line interpreters but also by exhibit designers and cultural resource management firms.

The Working Group generated several ideas for future consideration, including:

- College-affiliated history centers offering programs for interpreters
- Project-based collaborations
- Techniques of interpretation that translate historical scholarship into story-telling
- An “interpreters bookshelf” of key readings or tool kit to aid understanding of scholarship
- “Professionals in residence” exchanges to allow interpreters to spend time in university graduate programs and to allow historians to participate in interpretation
- “Best practices” of historical interpretation posted on a website
- An introduction to historical method for the existing NPS training course for interpreters
- A roster of individuals who already bridge scholarship and interpretation so that they can be trainers and coaches
- Programs with “friends” organizations to bring historians and interpreters together
- An organization to raise funds and sponsor training for historical interpretation
- Exhibit booths at conferences of other organizations related to history and interpretation

This Working Group was facilitated by Chuck Arning (Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor) and Charlene Mires (Villanova University). Members participating in the discussion in Louisville were Tom Richter and Todd Arrington (NPS Midwest Regional Office); Johanna Miller Lewis and Laura Miller (Central High School National Historic Site); Joan Zenzen (independent scholar); Daryl Black (Chattanooga Regional History Museum); Bruce Craig (University of Prince Edward Island); Emily Weisner (Association of National Park Rangers); Stephen Mark (John Day Fossil Beds National Monument); Susan Ferentinos (Organization of American Historians); Anne Whisnant (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); Tim Merriman (National Association for Interpretation). Working Group members also include Mark Anderson (University of Northern Colorado); Carol Kelly (National Mall); Jill Oglie (Washington College); and Dwight Pitcaithley (New Mexico State University).

# HOW HEALTHY ARE THE HUMANITIES?

For the first time, in one place (on the web, of course!), there soon will be a comprehensive set of resources providing a holistic view of education, funding, research, and even public participation in the humanities. Numerous indicators, taken together, will reveal more clearly than ever the lifecycles of the “humanities consumer” and the “humanities producer.”

A consortium of organizations, with the American Academy of Arts & Sciences (AAAS) in the lead, has been gathering and analyzing the data and will soon launch the website, Humanities Resource Center Online (HRCO). The framework for the data being collected is broad, encompassing five subject areas (Primary and Secondary Education, Undergraduate and Graduate Education, the Humanities Workforce, Funding and Research, and Humanities in American Life). Seventy-seven indicators, and more than 200 accompanying tables and charts will be available on the HRCO site.

Perhaps most interesting for public historians are the indicators in the fifth subject area, “The Humanities in American Life.” These include data sets about the following:

- Public Participation in the Humanities
  - Book Reading
  - Book Sales
  - Reading/Book Groups
  - Creative Writing
  - State Humanities Council Programs
  - Family Literacy
  - Adult Education Course-Taking in the Humanities
  - Historic Site Visits
  - Museum Attendance
- Public Opinion & Impact of the Humanities
  - Public Attitudes Toward the Humanities
  - Adult Literacy
  - Multilingualism in the United States
  - Americans’ Use of Libraries

Public historians might also be interested in the perennial questions, “What Happens to Humanities Majors,” and “What Happens to Humanities PhDs?” The project addresses these with the following indicators:

- Careers Fields of Humanities Graduates
- Salaries and Job Satisfaction of Humanities Graduates
- Undergraduate Majors in the Professions
- Occupations of Humanities PhDs
- Career Paths for Specific Disciplines

A central goal of the project is “to emulate the effort of the science and technology community and build an infrastructure to support the ongoing collection of data about the humanities that will influence decision making by educators and policy makers.” Trying to sway the “deciders” is a noble effort. Meanwhile, the curious among us might be able to explore the relationship between variables in K-12 history education or graduate training, for example, and museum attendance, library holdings, or even book sales. However the data are used, there is an abundance to pore over.

For more information, see the AAAS website at <http://www.amacad.org/projects/indicators.aspx>



Courtesy of Flickr.com user cesarastudillo. See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/> for license terms of this work.

## Upcoming NCPH Annual Meetings

2009 — Providence , RI  
April 2-5, at the Biltmore Hotel

2010 — Portland , OR  
March 10-14, at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower  
A joint meeting with the American Society for Environmental History

2011 — Pensacola , FL  
Dates TBD

2012 — Milwaukee , WI  
April 19-22, at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center  
A joint meeting with the Organization of American Historians

# Congratulations Award Winners!

> continued from page 8

From the time I returned to school to pursue a degree in history, I recognized the importance of integrating the fields of history and technology. Now that I have graduated and teach part-time for Armstrong Atlantic State University, I strive to bring those two fields together in a way that stimulates learning and provides access to history that might otherwise not exist. For instance, I often hear my students complain that history is a boring subject. By the end of each semester the students have learned that history itself is not boring, but it is the method by which the information is traditionally conveyed that has not piqued their interest.

The NCPH always endeavors to bring technology to its conference participants, and this year's conference was no exception. In addition to the excellent keynote speeches, planned meals, and outside activities, a variety of options existed for individuals who wished to learn more about technology integration. The two-day workshop on digitizing history offered something to everyone looking for ways to make their collections available on the World Wide Web. With two separate sessions dedicated to XML, participants received a thorough understanding of how easy it can be to develop online content. Additionally, the presentations from George Mason University showed how technology can be integrated into a historian's everyday research.

I have been able to take all the information I gathered at the conference and use it in a variety of projects. My full-time job with the Georgia Historical Society will benefit from the sessions on XML. Currently I am finishing an IMLS grant project updating legacy finding aids, and we are working on a project to put our finding aids in EAD, giving us the ability to share our archival collections with a wider audience.

Two other digital technology sessions proved invaluable. The Omeka project from George Mason will help me with my own company, Coastal Oral History Project. I have been collecting oral histories from individuals in the Low Country of South Carolina and Georgia and am working to create an online digital archive where anyone can access the interviews. Zotero, also from George Mason, has already helped me organize my online research and compile bibliographies for all of my projects.

Finally, I return to my students, who still claim to be bored with history. By showing them how to search through online finding aids and digital archives, many of them have realized that they were not bored with history, but bored with the droning professor feeding facts from a prepared lecture. Sharing these tools with my students has helped me help them understand and appreciate all history has to offer by allowing them to discover history for themselves.

Thank you again to the NCPH and everyone who made this award possible. Not only did it benefit me, it will serve my colleagues and students as well.

## Student Project Award



Santi Thompson receiving award in Louisville.

**Santi Thomson**, University of South Carolina-The LGBTQ Archive at the South Caroliniana Library

*Editor's note: Student Project Award recipients are asked to write about their work and about their time at the NCPH Annual Meeting. Santi Thompson's article will appear in the next issue of Public History News.*

## Graduate Student Travel Award

*The new Graduate Student Travel Award program provides modest assistance with travel costs for graduate students who have a paper, poster, or other presentation accepted for inclusion in the program of the NCPH annual meeting.*

**Laura Miller**, University of Massachusetts Amherst – *The Valley Women's History Collaborative: Bridging the Divide between Activists and Academics*

**Kate Priessler**, University of Massachusetts Amherst – *The Valley Women's History Collaborative: Bridging the Divide between Activists and Academics*

**Patricia Roeser**, Arizona State University – *Closing the Gap: The Arizona State Archives' Legislative Oral History Project*

**Margo Shea**, University of Massachusetts Amherst – *Working Group on Public History and Civic Life, and the conference's Capstone Plenary*

**Linda Verhoef**, University of West Georgia – *Bringing the Cold War to Life: A Traveling Trunk Exhibit*

For weekly updated information on jobs, fellowships, internships, awards, conferences, and calls, please visit [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org).

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

**Urban History Association** is accepting nominations for the Kenneth Jackson Award for Best Book in North American Urban History in 2007. UHA will award a prize of \$500 for the best book in North American urban history with a publication date in 2007. Submit three copies of the book. <<http://uha.udayton.edu>> Deadline is June 16, 2008.



**Association of Midwest Museums** is seeking nominations for the following awards: The Distinguished Service Award, The Distinguished Career Award, The Promising Leadership Award, and The Best Practices Award. <[www.midwest-museums.org](http://www.midwest-museums.org)> Deadline is June 30, 2008.

**Western History Association** is accepting nominations for the Autry Public History Prize, given annually to media, exhibits, public programs, or written works that contribute to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past. Selected nominee will receive \$1,000 prize. <[www.westernhistoryassociation.org](http://www.westernhistoryassociation.org)> Deadline is July 31, 2008.

**Daughters of the American Revolution Museum** in Washington, DC, is accepting applications for fall internships, available for undergraduate and graduate students interested in American history, decorative and fine arts, education, collections management, and public relations. <<http://www.dar.org/museum/edprogms.cfm#interns>> Deadline is August 1, 2008.

**Organization of American Historians** is accepting submissions for the 2009 Louis Pelzer Memorial Award. Candidates for graduate degrees are encouraged to submit essays dealing with any period or topic in United States history. The winning essay will be published in *The Journal of American History*, and the winner will receive \$500. <<http://www.oah.org>> Deadline is November 30, 2008.

**Organization of American Historians** is accepting applications for the John Higham Travel Grants to the annual meeting. Travel grants of \$500 are awarded to three graduate students to help cover the costs of attending the OAH/IEHS annual meeting. <<http://www.oah.org>> Deadline is December 1, 2008.

## WORKSHOPS

**Rural Heritage Institute** at Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, VT, is holding a four-day workshop, June 11-14, 2008. Each of the four days of the event will highlight and strengthen connections between scholarship on rural communities in northern New England and field experience with and in working communities throughout the region. <<http://www.sterlingcollege.edu/rhi.html>>

Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, MI, is hosting **Henry Ford and the History of American Industry, Labor, and Culture** workshops held June 8-13 or June 15-20, 2008. The workshops will explore the nature and relevance of the cultural, social, and commercial revolution generated by Henry Ford. <<http://www.hfcc.edu/landmarks/>>

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts is sponsoring the workshop **"A Race Against Time: Preserving Our Audiovisual Media,"** July 24-25, 2008, in Boston, MA. A limited number of stipends are available to help with travel, lodging, and registration costs. <<http://www.ccaha.org/uploads/media/d45877b85ed384cb8954655895e3caba.pdf>>

**Civil War Preservation Trust** is holding the 2008 Teacher Institute, July 25-27, 2008, in Hagerstown, MD. The workshop will include "field trip" tours of Antietam and Harpers Ferry, focusing on techniques teachers can use to make a battlefield visit a central part of their Civil War curriculum. <[http://www.civilwar.org/history-classroom/hc\\_anttechinst.htm](http://www.civilwar.org/history-classroom/hc_anttechinst.htm)>



## CALLS FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES, PROPOSALS, AND PRESENTATIONS

**Great Lakes History Conference**, October 17-18, 2008, in Grand Rapids, MI, is accepting proposals from all fields of history on the theme, "Gender and Society: Explorations, Discoveries, and Revelations in a Gendered World." <<http://h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=161769>> Deadline is June 15, 2008.

**Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association**, October 31-November 1, 2008, in North Dartmouth, MA, is accepting submissions on a variety of topics dealing with American, global, and popular culture. <<http://users.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html>> Deadline is June 15, 2008.

**Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association**, October 30-November 2, 2008, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, is accepting submissions on the topics of travel and tourism. <<http://www.mapacagazette.net>> Deadline is June 15, 2008.

**American Society for Ethnohistory**, November 12-16, 2008, in Eugene, OR, is accepting proposals about ethnohistorical work. <[http://www.ethnohistory.org/sections/meetings/2008/call\\_for\\_papers.html](http://www.ethnohistory.org/sections/meetings/2008/call_for_papers.html)> Deadline is June 15, 2008.

**Gulf South History and Humanities Conference**, October 1-4, 2008, in Galveston, TX, is accepting proposals for individual papers and panels. <[http://www.selu.edu/acad\\_research/programs/cs/gulf\\_south/conference/index.html](http://www.selu.edu/acad_research/programs/cs/gulf_south/conference/index.html)> Deadline is July 1, 2008.

**Conference on Religion & Religious Identities in Africa and the African Diaspora**, October 9-12, 2008, in Kalamazoo, MI, is accepting submissions on the broad theme of religion. <<http://www.wmich.edu/blackamericanstudies/conferences.htm>> Deadline is August 29, 2008.

**Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Symposium**, February 2009, in Emporia, KS, is accepting submissions from graduate students who are working on any aspect of Abraham Lincoln and his involvement in issues such as race, law, politics, and campaigning. <<http://h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=161633>> Deadline is October 1, 2008.

## CONFERENCES AND LECTURE SERIES

**5th Annual Lincoln Institute for Teachers**, "A House Dividing: Lincoln and the Emergence of Modern Politics," June 19-20, 2008, Evansville, IN. <<http://www.usi.edu/hsi/events/LincolnInstitute08.asp>>

**"The West and Beyond: Historians Past, Present, Future,"** June 19-22, 2008, Alberta, Canada. <[http://www.events.ualberta.ca/details.cfm?ID\\_event=11308](http://www.events.ualberta.ca/details.cfm?ID_event=11308)>

**Communicating the Museum**, "Communicating Strategies: How to Make an Impact," June 25-28, 2008, Venice, Italy. <<http://www.communicatingthemuseum.com/home.html>>



**American Library Association**, June 26-July 2, 2008, Anaheim, CA. <<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferences/annual/2008a/home.cfm>>

**Australian Historical Association**, "Locating Histories," July 7-10, 2008, Melbourne, Australia. <<http://www.history.unimelb.edu.au/locatinghistory/index.html>>

**"History and Crisis,"** July 7-9, 2008, Grahamstown, South Africa. <<http://www.zuidafrika-huis.nl/main.php?nlang=en&item=calendar>>

**League of Historic American Theatres**, "Thinking Outside the Fox," July 16-19, 2008, Atlanta, GA. <<http://lhat.org>>

**"The World of the Model T International Conference,"** July 17-19, 2008, Dearborn and Detroit, MI. <<http://dalnetconsortium.wordpress.com/2008/03/13/the-world-of-the-model-t-international-conference/>>

**History of Records and Archives**, August 3-5, 2008, Perth, Australia. <<http://www.archivists.org.au/ichora/ICHORA4/index.html>>

**International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection**, "Getting Your Hands Dirty – Taking the Extra Step," August 17-20, 2008, Boston, MA. <<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=df05cb80-b13f-433f-bae2-c91f0761f332>>

**Society for American Archivists**, August 26-30, 2008, San Francisco, CA. <<http://www.archivists.org/conference/sanfrancisco2008/>>

**Association of African American Museums**, "Reflect, Reinvest, Revitalize," August 27-30, 2008, Chicago, IL. <[www.blackmuseums.org](http://www.blackmuseums.org)>

**American Association for State and Local History**, "Relevance = The Bottom Line," September 9-12, 2008, Rochester, NY. <<http://www.aaslh.org/anmeeting.htm>>

**Preserving the Historic Road**, September 11-14, 2008, Albuquerque, NM. <<http://www.historicroads.org/>>

Western Museums Association, "No Limits: Museums Define the Future," September 17-21, 2008, Anchorage, AK. <<http://www.westmuse.org/>>

**Stan Hywet Symposium**, "On Display: Historic Homes and Great Estates," October 17-18, 2008, Akron, OH. <<http://www.stanhywet.org/record/record.aspx>>

**International Oral History Association**, "Oral History – A Dialogue with our Times," September 23-26, 2008, Guadalajara, Mexico. <<http://www.ioha.fgv.br/ioha/english/index.html>>

**American Cultural Resource Association**, "Doing Business in Changing Times," September 25-28, 2008, Tucson, AZ. <<http://acra-crm.org/>>

**"Cultural Respect in Preservation and Conservation,"** November 20, 2008, Chapel Hill, NC. <<http://www.ncpreservation.org>>

## JOBS AND POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Loyola University Chicago** invites applications for an instructor of Public History. The position is a one-year, full-time, non-tenure track position beginning in fall 2008. PhD in history and strong potential for excellence in teaching and research preferred. Candidates must register their application and submit a letter of interest and electronic CV to [www.careers.luc.edu](http://www.careers.luc.edu). In addition, a writing sample should be sent to Prof. Theodore Karamanski, Department of History, Loyola University Chicago, 6525 Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

**Museum of African American History** is seeking a Collections Manager who will be responsible for manuscripts, books, photographs, prints, paintings, furniture, sculpture, and other artifacts, including some archaeological materials. Position funded through August 2009, and more funding is being sought and expected. Master's degree in Library Science, Museum Studies, or a related field is strongly encouraged. <<http://www.afroammuseum.org/jobs.htm>>

**Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum** is seeking a candidate to fill the newly created position of Vice President, Development, responsible for creating a development department that oversees corporate fundraising and foundation relations, planned gifts, and membership. A successful candidate must be seen as an expert in the field and have a minimum of ten year's experience in institutional advancement or development positions. <<http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/pages/employment>>

**University of North Carolina, Charlotte**, is looking for an applicant to fill the position of Associate Librarian for Special Collections. Successful candidate will be responsible for helping collect, preserve, and promote the use of Special Collections resources. A Master's degree in Library and Information Science or other relevant master's degree is required. <<https://jobs.unc.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/frameset.jsp?time=1210131666018>> Job position number is 8730.

**Texas Tech University** is seeking an Education Program Manager–Lubbock Lake Landmark. The Education Program Manager is responsible for effective execution and implementation of a full range of interpretive programs and other activities. Applicants should have a Bachelor's degree plus three years supervisory experience, but a Master's degree in Museum Science is preferred. <<https://jobs.texas-tech.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/frameset.jsp?time=1210132760179>>. Job posting number 75173.

## NCPH Welcomes New Staff Member



Angenita Childs joined NCPH in May 2008 as the membership assistant, a new half-time position. Angenita comes from a background of human service non-profit organizations, varying from community education to assisting young adults with mental illnesses. She is pursuing her B.A. degree in English, with a concentration in creative writing, and a minor in media and communications at IUPUI.

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## Richard West Sellars Receives Hartzog Award

The Coalition of National Park Service Retirees (CNPSR) has presented its George C. Hartzog, Jr. award to Dr. Richard Sellars for his "unparalleled past contributions to understanding and advancing the cause of natural resource management in the NPS" over a 35-year career. The award notes that Sellars's book, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks* (Yale University Press, 1997), which had begun as an administrative history in 1987, "gave impetus to a multi-year, \$500,000,000 Natural Resources Challenge which has vastly improved the Service's professionalism, understanding of, and capability to manage the natural resources under its stewardship." Over the past decade, Sellars has been working on a parallel study, this time looking at cultural resources management within NPS. The CNPSR award announcements notes that "the fact that his contributions were not always in concurrence with conventional wisdom and self-image of the Service, nor congruent with the aims of its political overseers, make the lessons [drawn from his work] all the more important."

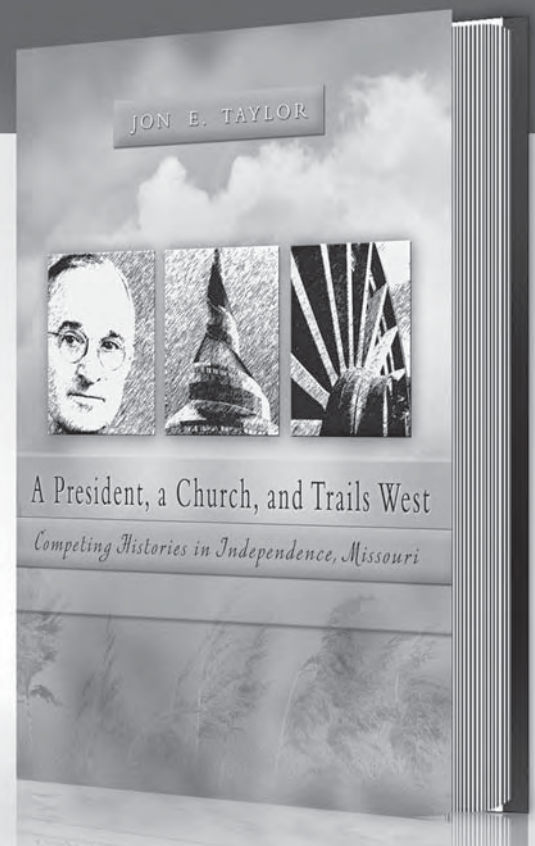
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*Jon E. Taylor*

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## Show 'em what you do!

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## CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING SITE PROPOSALS

The National Council on Public History seeks site proposals for its annual meeting after 2012. Proposals should include the following information:

- A statement of why the site is appropriate for the NCPH annual meeting.
- Information regarding support from local individuals, institutions, and agencies that could work together to plan a successful conference. Letters of intent would strengthen the proposal.
- A commitment from the individual(s) NCPH member(s) making the proposal to serve as the primary liaison(s) with the NCPH office and as Local Arrangements chair(cochairs) for the meeting.
- Potential arrangements for meeting facilities, hotels, and transportation, with approximate costs.
- Proposed dates for the meeting, generally between 15 March and 1 May.
- Any other details that might strengthen the proposal.

Since the NCPH Board of Directors considers proposals at its spring and fall meetings, a representative or representatives of the host institution(s) should plan to be present and discuss the site proposal. For more information, please contact the NCPH Executive Offices.

Send completed proposals to [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu) or

NCPH Executive Office  
327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI  
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# NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

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For more information contact the Director of Public History, Dr. Philip V. Scarpino:  
 (317) 274-5983 or [pscarpin@iupui.edu](mailto:pscarpin@iupui.edu)

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When you become a NCPH member, you'll obtain access to:

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# One Way to Foster Diversity in Public History > continued from page 1

## Goals after Institute Participants Returned Home

The 2007 institute at the University of South Carolina brought 21 participants to Columbia for four weeks in July and August. The participants included twelve African-Americans, eight whites, and one Hispanic. There were twelve men and nine women. Most participants were in history departments, but also represented were faculty in political science, English, sociology, Women's Studies, and African-American Studies. All are now back at their home institutions in the South and the Northeast, in the Midwest, and even in the Far West, spreading the gospel of public history.

As we reported at our panel presentation in Louisville, upon returning to their colleges and universities, institute participants tried in a variety of creative ways to invent new public history courses, revamp old ones, and integrate public history components into traditional history and literature courses. Many are implementing African-American public history projects beyond the university setting and providing inspiration and support to other efforts. In so doing, these alumni of the South Carolina institute are becoming ambassadors of public history in their home communities.

As significant as anything, this cohort of college faculty is now in a position to help their undergraduate students (1) understand what public history is, (2) see public history as a potential career path, and (3) think about the value of graduate training in public history.

This last goal represents what might be called a "pipeline" approach to bringing diversity to the field of public history. It takes the long view. It

focuses on cultivating undergraduates who have an interest and aptitude for public history and encouraging them to pursue post-graduate education. Thus, someone who discovers public history as a sophomore in her studies at an historically black college might enter the profession five or six years later, after getting some experience in the field and completing a two-year Master of Arts program in public history.



Institute participants having lunch at the former Kress 5 & 10 store that was a focus of civil rights protest in Columbia in the 1960s. Courtesy of Constance Schulz.

## A Portable Model

South Carolina's NEH Summer Institute represents a model that is readily portable to other parts of the country. If transported elsewhere, the pedagogic emphasis on teaching public history would remain, but the thematic content focus could easily be shifted to other historically disadvantaged groups in American society. An NEH

Summer Institute in the Southwest, for example, might focus on Mexican-Americans. An institute in California could examine Asian-Americans. One in the Southern Plains might look at Native Americans. A Chicago-based institute could be centered on African-Americans. The key is to develop a thematic focus that targets local resources, expertise, and sites.

Although organizing the NEH Summer Institute consumed large amounts of our time—and running it provided memorable ways to be bushwhacked by bureaucracy and new opportunities to see how the right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing at our university—the month-long experience proved enormously rewarding for all. If our experiment intrigues anyone as a way to help put more people in the pipeline, take a look at what we tried to do. We have kept the website for the 2007 institute up and running: <http://www.cas.sc.edu/hist/neh/>. For a copy of our original NEH grant application, contact Professor Constance Schulz at [schulz@sc.edu](mailto:schulz@sc.edu). If you find any good ideas, feel free to make them your own.

*Robert R. Weyeneth is Professor of History and Co-Director of the Public History Program at the University of South Carolina. He can be reached at [weyeneth@sc.edu](mailto:weyeneth@sc.edu) or 803.777.6398. This institute was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the "We the People" initiative. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this essay do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*



## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

Given the essential value of historical understanding, the National Council on Public History promotes professionalism among history practitioners and their engagement with the public.

*Public History News* is published in March, June, September, and December. Individual membership orders, changes of address, and business and editorial correspondence should be addressed to National Council on Public History, 327 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). Tel: 317-274-2716. New members are welcome. Join online or renew at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org).

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We welcome submissions to *Public History News* sent to John Dichtl, Editor, at the above address. Articles are 400-800 words in length; announcements and bulletin items are up to 100 words. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization.

[www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org)



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Thank you for your commitment to public history.



## 2009 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### Toward Broader Horizons

Recognizing Providence, Rhode Island's legacy of global connections, dissent, activism, and innovation, the 2009 NCPH Program Committee invites proposals that explore how expansive visions have shaped and might continue to transform the practice of public history. The committee encourages dialogue that transcends boundaries of geography, academic discipline, and tradition in the spirit of looking outward from our existing vantage point to broader horizons. We look forward to proposals that connect local stories to international issues, capture the role of activism in public history and related disciplines (i.e. public anthropology, folklore, art, economics, and sociology), speak to social justice and environmental politics, commemorate individuals who have brought about change, and, more generally, innovative ideas in the content and practice of museums, historic sites, archives, and other public venues.

The Program Committee prefers the submission of complete session proposals (including panels and roundtables), but will accept individual presentations for consideration as well and will make every effort to construct sessions from topically related single proposals. The committee also invites proposals for sessions in formats beyond the usual paper session, and encourages presenters in more traditional sessions to dispense with the reading of papers.

NCPH will be using an online proposal submission form this year, available at <http://www.ncph.org>. Please have all of the following information ready at the time of submitting your proposal.

- Name and contact information for session/event organizer, the person who will be the main liaison with the NCPH office and 2009 Program Committee

- Complete mailing address, email, telephone number, and affiliation for each participant
- Format of the session/event/presentation (single paper, session, roundtable, working groups, or alternative format. This year's theme lends itself to experimental formats.)
- If an offsite location would strengthen the session/event/presentation, what particular site(s) do you have in mind and have you made initial contact?
- Abstract of no more than 500 words for the session as a whole together with brief summaries of no more than 150 words for each paper or presentation
- A two-page (maximum) c.v. or resume for each participant
- Audio-visual/technology requests (It is important to note any special A-V, technology, or room setup requests early so that the conference organizers can try to address them.)

All conference attendees, including presenters and other participants, are expected to register for the annual meeting. The Program Committee discourages individuals from appearing on more than one proposal. Some Program Committee funds may be available to assist participants, such as individuals from outside the United States, who might not normally attend a public history conference and whose presence would increase the diversity of the program. Proposals must indicate if anyone on the panel will be requesting NCPH assistance from the committee.

Please submit proposals using online form at <http://www.ncph.org> by September 3, 2008.



### National Council on Public History

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