

# Public History News

NATIONAL COUNCIL  
ON PUBLIC HISTORY

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## "What is Public History?" Redux

Cathy Stanton  
hneteditor@tiac.net

Following the April 2007 NCPH conference in Santa Fe, a lively discussion developed on the H-Public listserv about the NCPH board's proposed definition of the field. An annotated summary of some points from this discussion follows below. (The full archive of postings can be found via the H-Public website. Visit <http://www.h-net.org/~public/>, then click on "Discussion Logs" and choose May, June, and July 2007.)

The discussion began with a posting from Kathy Corbett and Dick Miller that challenged some features of the board's proposed definition and offered a somewhat different vision of the field. The board's draft definition is:

*"Public history is a movement, methodology, and approach that promotes the collaborative study and practice of history; its practitioners embrace a mission to make their special insights accessible and useful to the public."*

Corbett and Miller questioned whether public history really is a movement, methodology, or even an approach. "Movement" seemed to them to be apt for the element of social activism that helped to launch public history in the 1970s, but they wondered if the term was still applicable for a field that has become entrenched in graduate programs and professional organizations. They argued that public history neither has nor needs a distinctive methodology, and that "approach" was too broad to be meaningful.

More importantly, they were troubled by the implication that public historians had a mission to bring a special set of insights to the lay public. They proposed an alternative definition that emphasized public history as a joint endeavor in which historians and their various publics collaborated in trying to make the past useful to the public. This change in emphasis, they noted, would acknowledge the agency and creativity of all participants in history-making projects, not just the self-identified public historians.



Listserv members were divided in their opinions about whether public history does constitute a distinct set of methods or approaches. Some, like Bureau of Land Management Regional Historian Carl Barna, argued that, "Public History is not a movement, nor a methodology, nor an approach. Doing History in service to the public is simply doing History, no more and no less, and doing it no differently than doing History in the academy... Historians who work in the public area need to be, first and foremost, Historians..." Paul Sandul, a graduate student at the University of California/Santa Barbara and California State University/Sacramento, agreed: "[P]ublic history is not a distinct methodology... Indeed, it seems as if we are framing some of this discussion on the notion public history is a separate discipline from academic history instead of just another concentration in much the same manner as, say, economic history, social history, or cultural history."

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## New NCPH Web Site Coming this Fall

The entire NCPH web site has been redesigned to provide clearer access to resources and more useful information about public historians and the NCPH. Look for the new site in October!





Photo by Dan Dry, Courtesy of Greater Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**Loavul. Lulvul.  
Loeeyville. Louis-ville.**

However you pronounce it, we hope to see you at the 2008 NCPH Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

**April 10-13, 2008  
The Brown Camberly Hotel**

Conference registration opens December 1.

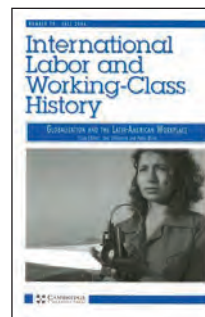
Don't forget to reserve your hotel room as soon as possible. Downtown hotels within the vicinity of the Ohio River are expected to sell out quickly due to the large crowds anticipated for the Kentucky Derby kick-off event, "Thunder Over Louisville," on April 12.

## "Labor History and Public History"

*International Labor and Working-Class History* (ILWCH) is soliciting articles for a special international thematic issue that will analyze initiatives in labor history that extend beyond the academic world to a broader public audience. The issue will engage questions that deal directly with the political and public aspects of the discipline of labor history. What is the relation of public labor history projects to academic research and debate? What is the impact of these projects? What are their political, historiographical, and theoretical implications? This issue will include articles and shorter descriptions of initiatives in public and labor history, such as reviews of films, plays, books, photo collections, and museum exhibits.

Possible topics for articles are educational and cultural projects organized by trade unions, governments, and immigrant and civil rights organizations, for example, and might include analyses of labor history websites, exhibits, tours and tourism, archives, oral history and education projects, etc., public celebrations of labor history, public history projects related to the history of slavery, and academic programs in public history.

For more information, please contact the editors of this thematic issue: Thomas Klubock [tklubock@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:tklubock@notes.cc.sunysb.edu) and Paulo Fontes [pfontes@mandic.com.br](mailto:pfontes@mandic.com.br). Submissions should be sent to ILWCH, New School for Social Research, 80 Fifth Avenue, #519, New York, NY 10011 or to [ilwch@newschool.edu](mailto:ilwch@newschool.edu). ILWCH style guidelines are at: <http://www.newschool.edu/gf/history/ilwch/framesetsubmission.html>. Deadline for receiving contributions is February 28, 2008.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following committee reports submitted for this issue of the newsletter are either an update provided by the committee chair or a summary of the vice president's charges to the committee for the coming year. We encourage you to contact the committees with your ideas. For a listing of committee members, please see the NCPH web site, <http://www.ncph.org>.

### 2008 Program and Local Arrangements

Our home for the 2008 meeting is the historic Brown Hotel, a beautiful 1923 building designed by Preston J. Bradshaw. Conference rooms at the Brown (which has offered a great room rate right in the center of downtown) line a balcony overlooking the spectacular Renaissance-revival lobby, a perfect setting for the kind of lively, collegial meeting NCPH members enjoy. The very-comfortable hotel provides free airport shuttle, free wireless throughout, and close proximity to cultural venues, museums, shopping and the Ohio River. The Saturday evening of the conference will also coincide with the largest fireworks display in America, on the Louisville waterfront (a celebration of the upcoming Kentucky Derby, or NCPH's 30th annual meeting—you be the judge).

In response to comments from past attendees about what public historians want to get out of our conference, we are building into the 2008 meeting more opportunities for networking and informal conversation. Coffee breaks will be longer, and table-top tents will invite participants to gather with others to discuss compelling issues. The meeting also will offer an innovative new feature: two Working Group sessions will enable attendees who share specific interests to engage in an extended conversation about common concerns. Working Group participants will be expected to submit in advance of the meeting a brief "case study" that summarizes a site or problem they would like to discuss, and come to the conference having considered the body of case statements for their session (which will be available on the NCPH website) as well as a shared reading identified by their facilitator(s)—groundwork for a substantive and focused discussion. For this first iteration of the Working Group sessions, one group will assess the present and potential role of public history in civic life; a second session will rely on historic buildings in downtown Louisville as the basis for discussion about the politics of historic preservation.

The 2008 program will also repeat some of the successful elements of the 2007 meeting in Santa Fe, including an opening plenary that will turn our collective attention to the conference themes of union, disunion and civic life, and a capstone plenary on Sunday morning that will help all of us digest the meeting's insights. And of course the program committee is eager to receive your proposals for panels, sessions and roundtables.

Tours in Louisville will include a "Discover Louisville" self-guided tour provided in each registration packet, a tour to Bardstown, the cradle of bourbon-making in the world, and a walk through Cave Hill Cemetery which features outstanding funerary art pieces. We are excited about the planned "Sports History" tour that will include the Louisville Slugger Museum and bat factory (<http://www.sluggermuseum.org/>), Churchill Downs's Kentucky Derby Museum (<http://www.derbymuseum.org/>) and the new Muhammad Ali Center, an "international education and cultural center . . . inspired by the ideals of its founder", opened in 2006 (<http://www.alicenter.org/>). A biking tour of the city will move participants through the landscape stopping

to explore early settlement, archaeological evidence of thriving river commerce, industrial impacts, and civil rights issues. By the end of the trail riders will have traveled through the story of Louisville and have gained an understanding of what makes this city tick. The pace will be moderate on flat terrain, and will cover 10 to 15 miles, with rest stops.



Renaming of Martin Luther King Drive, Frankfort, KY. Photo from Community Memories. Contributed by Ora Mae Cheaney, Kentucky Historical Society

The Friday night Endowment Fundraiser will take place at Farmington (<http://www.historicfarmington.org/>) the nineteenth-century plantation home of Abraham Lincoln's dear friend Joshua Speed and his brother James, Attorney General during his administrations. Visiting in 1831, Lincoln returned to his home state of Kentucky as a privileged guest of a prominent slave-holding family, prior to his marriage to Kentuckian Mary Todd Lincoln. The site's interpretation features ongoing archaeological investigation into the intertwined lives of the Speed family and the enslaved people who made this farm their home. Our event will feature bluegrass music, first-person interpreters, tours of the property and Kentucky fare. Ya'll Come.

Marla Miller, Program Cochair, [mmiller@history.umass.edu](mailto:mmiller@history.umass.edu)  
Donna Neary, Local Arrangements Chair, [Donna.Neary@ky.gov](mailto:Donna.Neary@ky.gov)

### Nominating

The Nominating Committee will identify, determine the eligibility of, and recommend to the Board of Directors persons to be considered for elected offices of NCPH, including one candidate for NCPH Vice president to run uncontested for term 2008-2010 as Vice president, and President thereafter 2010-2012. The committee will also produce a slate of six candidates to fill three vacancies on the Board of Directors (terms 2008-11) and a slate of four candidates for two vacancies on the Nominating Committee (terms 2008-11). In carrying out its duties the committee will keep in mind the goals and objectives of the recently adopted Long Range Plan. (If you are interested in serving on an NCPH board or committee, please let us know at [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu).)

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## 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).

Institutional subscription orders, changes of address, and business correspondence should be addressed to Journals and Digital Publishing Division, University of California Press, 2000 Center St., Ste. 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223. Or visit [www.ucpress.edu](http://www.ucpress.edu).

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)

## Membership

The Membership Committee will be busy this coming year continuing work on the NCPH Branding project, providing a report on key messages and audience strategies, and will also work in conjunction with the executive office to prepare a survey of membership demographics and preference of NCPH services and programs. At the annual meeting, the committee will organize and facilitate the New Member/New Professional Breakfast. The committee has also been charged to collaborate with the executive office to create a new membership marketing plan by focusing on new groups, such as alumni of public history programs.

## Finance

In addition to its regular duties of reviewing financial reports and helping to prepare the annual budget, the Finance Committee will be developing a statement of principles and policies for current and future investment of endowment funds for approval by the board of directors. The committee also will conduct fiscal oversight of Endowment-invested funds and their disbursement, while consulting as necessary with the Endowment Committee on issues related to fundraising, investment, and return on investment of endowment funds. Finally, the committee will coordinate with the Long Range Planning Committee in developing budgetary aspects for implementation of the Long Range Plan—2012.

## Long Range Planning

In 2006, the Long Range Planning Committee drafted a new five-year plan for NCPH and submitted it to the board for approval. It was approved at the April 2007 Board Meeting. In the course of this process the committee and NCPH staff discussed the need to make the plan the foundation of all of our activities. With this in mind, the committee will focus its efforts on seeing that the plan becomes an effective tool for the organization. It will work with the executive office to identify elements which can be used in NCPH marketing efforts. It will work to ensure that committees, the board, and the general membership have access to the plan and are aware of its contents. Finally, the committee will consult directly with committee chairs as needed to ensure that their work reflects the goals and objectives of the Long Range Plan.

Bob Weible, Cochair, [rweible@state.pa.us](mailto:rweible@state.pa.us)

Sharon Babaian, Cochair, [sbabaian@technomuses.ca](mailto:sbabaian@technomuses.ca)

## Endowment

For the fiscal year 2006-2007 the NCPH Endowment Committee continued to organize the annual meeting fundraising event while receiving an expanded charge at the conference in Santa Fe. The committee scheduled the annual fundraising event for April 13 of the annual conference. It was held at the historic La Fonda Hotel, with stellar views of the surrounding neighborhood. The crowd enjoyed local food, beer, and wine along with the musical sounds of Robert Martinez. Over seventy conference attendees came to the event, garnering almost eight hundred dollars for the endowment.

In Santa Fe, the Endowment Committee sat down with leadership of NCPH to sketch out new goals and direction for the committee. With the successful completion of our NEH Challenge Grant, the organization both needs to move forward with the new endowment and to keep the momentum and culture of giving continuing. With that in mind, the Endowment Committee, executive office, and other interested parties charged this group with: assisting the office with endowment responsibilities, recommending fundraising strategies for the Long Range Plan, creating guidelines for using endowment funds, continuing to organize the fundraising event at the annual meeting, and establishing a planned giving program, among other responsibilities.

Harry Klinkhamer, Chair, [hklinkhamer@fpdwc.org](mailto:hklinkhamer@fpdwc.org)

## Education and Professional Practice Coordinating

The committee is preparing a proposal for a model workshop or workshops that the NCPH would sponsor for members. This is in an early stage of development. In the next two months a draft proposal will circulate among the committee members before going to the board or executive committee for an initial review this fall. One concept under consideration will follow the example of the Great Lakes Public History Workshop, a series of workshops that the NCPH sponsored with the National Park Service and the Public History Program at Loyola University Chicago. This model provided a common ground for public history academicians and practitioners to share research and explore the practices and presentation of history at historic sites.

Don Stevens, Chair, [Don\\_Stevens@nps.gov](mailto:Don_Stevens@nps.gov)

## Consultants

The Consultants' Committee has been charged with developing submission guidelines for the new NCPH Consultants' Award, which will recognize outstanding work and contributions by public history consultants or contractors. The Board of Directors has approved \$500 for this award, and the Consultants' Committee is seeking funding for an additional \$500 annually. Interested donors can contact John Dichtl or Emily Greenwald.

Thirteen people attended the consultants' breakfast at the annual NCPH conference in Santa Fe. They discussed ways in which NCPH and the committee could better serve consultants. Ideas that emerged from the breakfast included using the NCPH website to raise the profile of consultants' work and conducting outreach with PhD students to educate them about consulting as a career option.

Breakfast attendees also recommended developing a workshop on the business of historical consulting that would address matters such as finding work, preparing scopes and budgets, the ethics of "history for hire," and the traits of a good consultant. I would like to organize such a workshop for the 2008 NCPH conference in Louisville, with an eye toward developing a panel that could be presented at other professional conferences or alternative venues.

Emily Greenwald, Chair, [egreenwald@hrassoc.com](mailto:egreenwald@hrassoc.com)

## Curriculum & Training



2008 Public History Educators' Breakfast in Santa Fe. Photo courtesy of Patrick Moore.

Over the past year, the Curriculum and Training Committee has had an ambitious charge, but our committee met the challenge.

At the Public History Educators' Breakfast in 2006, our colleagues requested an email listserv for discussion about issues that concern us. Kris Woll and Ivan Steen helped to establish a list of public history educators, and the listserv was launched in the spring of 2007. If you are interested in joining this electronic discussion forum, please contact the NCPH office at [nph@iupui.edu](mailto:nph@iupui.edu) to subscribe.

Denise Meringolo helped to establish a "review board" of public history educator volunteers who would be willing to advise programs when needed. Again, this idea came up at the breakfast last year. We expect that programs might want to do some sort of review when assessing their program, hiring new positions, or considering a new direction for the program. The list of reviewers, with their special interests and contact information, is now available on the NCPH web site.

Speaking of web sites, one of our primary goals was to create a new web page for public history educators. Thanks go to Marla Miller for helping develop the content for this site and to the NCPH staff for creating it. This web page, which has recently been launched at <http://www.ncph.org/trainingsanddegrees.html>, provides information ranging from articles on teaching public history to the list of reviewers and information about our new listserv. We plan to begin a series of articles related to teaching public history during the next academic year. If you are interested in writing or submitting an article, please contact me.

We thank Jon Hunner for taking charge of our idea to create a new type of "Careers in Public History" workshop at the 2007 annual meeting. Jon organized a tour for graduate students to meet public historians in Santa Fe. From all accounts, the tour proved to be a great success.

One of our most challenging charges for the coming year is to develop a set of "best practices" recommendations for public history programs. We will likely raise some of these issues on the listserv over the next year and look forward to hearing your thoughts. If you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like to share with the committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

## Professional Standards and Ethics

The Professional Standards and Ethics Committee has been charged to ensure the work of that committee is disseminated and incorporated into NCPH's activities. The promotion of the recently approved NCPH Statement of Ethics and Professional Standards both within the organization and in the practice as a whole is a worthwhile charge. The committee looks to fulfill this task within the organization by reviewing how the structure of the NCPH could absorb and express the statement principles and values in their work. The committee will also work to encourage Public History programs to use the Standards in their teaching.

David Neufeld, Chair, [Dave.Neufeld@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Dave.Neufeld@pc.gc.ca)

## Representatives to Other Organizations National Coalition for History



As NCPH's representative to the National Coalition for History, I have participated in three NCH Policy Board meetings over the past year, was elected to the NCH Executive Committee, and have chaired the NCH Strategic Planning Committee. In the latter capacity, I worked with Bruce Craig and representatives of seven other NCH member organizations to draft a new strategic plan, vet it through a series of committee and Policy Board meetings, and secure approval in September 2006. The plan builds on the previous strategic plan but employs a new framework to clarify priorities (advocacy, education, and organization building), establishing goals, strategies, and action steps under each area. The plan uses broader language than in the past (to better engage stakeholders other than historians), requires at least one additional Policy Board meeting annually outside the AHA and OAH meetings, and establishes a stronger role for the Policy Board in setting the priorities for NCH in collaboration with the Executive Director. That plan then became the basis for interviews with candidates to succeed Bruce, and I served on the search committee that selected Lee White as the new Executive Director. In sum, NCPH is "at the table" for all decision making by NCH and is a key player in the development of the advocacy and education agenda for the coalition—it continues to hold a pivotal leadership position in the history and archival community.

Jim Gardner, NCPH Representative to NCH, [gardnerj@si.edu](mailto:gardnerj@si.edu)



by Bill Bryans  
bill.bryans@okstate.edu

NCPH entered 2007 heralding success in meeting the NEH challenge grant for our endowment. Fulfilling this long-standing goal was a significant accomplishment, and I want personally to thank everyone who helped make this possible. The primary purpose of the endowment, of course, is to generate earned income that can be used to augment NCPH services to its members, and public history generally. This process, I am pleased to report, has begun.

At its meeting during the Santa Fe conference, the board approved allocating earnings from the endowment to fund a number of activities. Some involve recognizing the accomplishments of our members—a new Consultants Award, a prize increase for the Book Award, and the inauguration of an Outstanding Contribution Award designed to acknowledge work in public history beyond the publication of an article or book. We can also look forward to an increased graduate student presence at the annual meeting thanks to the five new travel grants made possible by the endowment. The conference itself will be enhanced as some of the earned income will be invested to bring greater diversity to the conference program, both in terms of participants and content. Monies too have been dedicated to invigorate the workshops offered in conjunction with our annual meeting. Endowment earnings will be used to better establish NCPH's identity, both externally and internally. Work is already in its early stages on a new video/DVD profile of public history designed to explain the field to a wide variety of audiences, and during the coming year a systematic, professionally developed survey of NCPH members and non-members will be undertaken to learn more about just who are "public historians."

If you are a faithful reader of *Public History News*, you already know about these projects; I mention them here collectively to underscore what having an endowment means. Of course, all of these new undertakings relate back to earlier long range plans which outlined each as an important goal for the organization. So, meeting the challenge grant affords an opportunity to celebrate both reaching a financial goal and bringing to fruition long stated aspirations to make NCPH an even more vital voice for public history.

In Santa Fe, NCPH adopted a new long range plan. Building on the momentum provided by earlier efforts, Plan 2012 seeks to reinforce the Council's place as the premiere professional organization for public historians. Like its predecessors, it also calls for an expansion of programs to serve our members and the public history profession as a whole. For example, the plan sets as a goal offering ongoing professional development opportunities for members and others, both

at the annual meeting and, ultimately, throughout the year elsewhere. It also declares that we will expand existing programs and provide new useful products and services to the public history community. This is just a sampling of what is in the plan, and I invite you to review Plan 2012 in its entirety on the NCPH web site. When you do, I am confident that you will agree that it provides a roadmap to a very bright future.

“ Meeting the NEH challenge grant was really just a beginning, not an ending, in making the endowment a tool for a stronger, more vibrant NCPH. ”

Obviously, bringing the goals of Plan 2012 into reality will once again require additional resources, at least some of which will come from the endowment's earned income. This means, to be equally obvious, we have to continue growing the endowment. Meeting the NEH challenge grant was really just a beginning, not an ending, in making the endowment a tool for a stronger, more vibrant NCPH.

You may have noticed all my columns invariably mention that NCPH is only as strong as its member's commitment to the organization. This includes helping to build the organization's future through the endowment. In the not-too-distant future, you will be receiving a letter asking you to contribute to the endowment. When you receive that request, I ask that you give it serious consideration. Think of what NCPH has done for public history over the past three decades and what it hopes yet to do. Based on that, I plan to invest in NCPH's future with a generous contribution. I invite you to join me.

### Your Support Counts

Contributions to the NCPH Endowment Fund are put to work immediately building new programs for public historians.

Please send your contributions to  
NCPH Endowment  
327 Cavanaugh Hall  
425 University Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

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



by John Dichtl  
jdichtl@iupui.edu

## Annual Report

How many of us have a concise, ready answer to that question from a family member or curious neighbor, "What is public history?" And what about a response to that occasional follow-up, "How is 'public history' different than 'history'?" Does it help to have a succinct response?

Most public historians probably don't have to mention the term "public history" in describing what it is they do. They simply are "a historian who works for the federal government," for example, or "a historical consultant," or someone "who works in a history museum" or in a state historic preservation office. But as an association of public history practitioners, we should continually address the question of what brings us together. And as an association with "public" in its name, we probably ought to find ways to communicate this common understanding to non-members. In other words, public historians ought to be good at public relations.

This is more than a matter of marketing. For me it is at the core of all efforts to strengthen the organization, to internally restructure it in preparation for what I hope will be a great push outward as we approach NCPH's 30th anniversary in a few years. During the past year, the board, Long Range Planning Committee, the committees, and the executive office have focused inwardly on the organization's infrastructure. As a result we have a new long range plan and mission statement, the membership database and all membership fulfillment responsibilities moved from the University of California Press to the executive office, the NEH Challenge Grant campaign for the Endowment came to a successful conclusion, a new editor arrived at *The Public Historian*, the Awards program has expanded, and soon—very soon—we will have a new web site.

Redesigned over the summer and ready for launch this fall, the new web site will directly address these questions of defining public history and introducing the field and our professional association itself to our wider publics. When we open the new site, I hope it will help to define the field and NCPH in an accessible, interesting way—one that draws inquiry, new ideas, and energy. The new web presence, like efforts over the past year to define public history, is not meant to be exclusionary or limiting, but inclusive, invigorating, and inviting to "the public."

Addressing fundamental questions is periodically necessary to bring us closer together and point out differences. It is the divisions and even tensions among us from which we can gain energy and ideas. Our 2007 Annual Meeting theme, "Many Histories, Many Publics—Common Ground," and the board's effort to offer a definition of the field in Santa Fe, have been both unifying efforts of this kind. Much of the conversation, in fact, continued on the H-Public listserv early this summer, and now spills onto the pages of this issue of *Public History News*. (See Cathy Stanton's summary article on page 1.) As board members observed and some participants on the H-Public thread decided, descriptions of public history have changed over time, will continue to change, and may in fact need to change. I hope as we talk—on H-Public, in the journal and newsletter, in committee meetings, and in conference sessions—we keep our non-public-historian audiences and colleagues in mind. Our answers about what public history is should make good, clear reading on a web page.

As their reports in this issue of the newsletter reveal, NCPH's committees plan to accomplish a lot in the next year. In his newsletter column, President Bill Bryans reports on new uses to which the endowment earnings will be put. To these various coverages of what NCPH is up to, I add the following brief report:

### Membership

Individual membership grew during the past year. The total number of individual members in the spring (965 in March) was more than 25 percent higher than the average over the four previous springs (2003-2006). At the end of our fiscal year, membership (977 on June 30th) was 14 percent higher than the average over the four previous years. Growth is likely

due to the careful attention we have been able to apply to the membership fulfillment and renewal processes now that the executive office controls the membership database. Approximately 14 percent of our members are consultants, 14 percent are in the federal government, 23 percent are students, 25 percent are college/university faculty, and 24 percent are in museums, libraries, other non-profit organizations or are K-12 teachers. Following a trend across scholarly journals, institutional subscriptions for *The Public Historian* continue to decline a few percentage points a year due to increasingly available electronic access. The University of California Press Journals Division will be exploring new ways to boost our institutional subscriptions, particularly in the international market. For the 2007 (Jan.-Feb.) election, we began electronic balloting, which raised our voter-participation rate past 20 percent.

### Annual Meetings

The Santa Fe conference was a success in several ways. This largest NCPH Annual Meeting ever drew 476 attendees. For about half, a mixture of members and non-members, it was their first NCPH conference. In terms of outreach, the meeting was a success in attracting some 230 non-members. Of the attendees who returned an evaluation form, 96 percent agreed or strongly agreed that the sessions were of high quality and 94 percent agreed or strongly agreed that the overall conference was well organized. Most important, the opening plenary panel and closing plenary town hall meeting provided crucial feedback from members and non-members about the future of NCPH and about issues in the field today.

The 2008 Annual Meeting in Louisville will include a wider range of workshops, plans for a bicycling tour of historic sites in Louisville, and experimental "working groups" led by "senior practitioners and involving up to twelve participants who will explore in depth a subject of shared concern." When registration opens in December, we encourage you to reserve a hotel room early. "Thunder over Louisville," which takes place on Saturday during our conference, is an airshow and massive fireworks display that opens the Kentucky Derby Festival and attracts a half million visitors.

> continued on page 8



by Patrick Moore, Secretary-Treasurer  
pmoore@uwf.edu

Mirroring the many successes of the NCPH during 2006-2007, the fiscal year proved positive as well. Although the numbers reflect the transition of membership income directly to the organization rather than through the University of California Press as in previous years, total income for FY 06-07 (July 2006 to June 2007) was \$266,087 in contrast to FY 05-06 at \$165,287. In keeping with the new costs associated with direct membership management, our expenses also increased during FY 06-07 to \$171,423 in contrast to FY 05-06 at \$138,118. Based on our preliminary budget numbers, this left the organization with a net income during FY 06-07 of \$94,664.

A major part of this very positive year stemmed from several successful initiatives orchestrated by the executive office and the Board of Directors. This included the extremely successful annual meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a surge in organization memberships, the successful completion of the NEH Challenge Grant, and sponsorship of the NCPH including a three-year commitment from *The History Channel*.

Rather than rest on these successes, the NCPH Board of Directors recognized this as an opportunity to enhance the organization and expand the services for its membership. In this, the Board's charge to the Finance Committee for 2007-2008 is to coordinate with the NCPH Long-Range Planning Committee in funding the criteria mandated in the 2006-2011 Long-Range Plan. Moving beyond the victory of the NEH Challenge Grant, we are actively working with the Endowment Committee to best maximize our existing resources and achieve future goals.

As of June 30, 2007, the NCPH endowment stood at just over \$394,998. Rather than simply reinvest all of our earnings back into the endowment, the Board elected to use a portion of the earned income for enhancing the mission of the organization. Although the investment markets have proven lucrative in the recent past, the Board approved the Finance Committee's recommendation of spending between 4% and 5% of the earned income on new activities with the remainder returning to the endowment principal. Based on the June balance, this would equate to approximately \$15,800 and \$18,750 annually. This moderately conservative approach should provide for ongoing spending while assuring that the endowment remains solvent even during lackluster investment years.

In Santa Fe, the Board approved a slate of new initiatives using the allocated resources from the Endowment. These improve the benefits to our membership and meet the needs of the full spectrum of Public History practitioners. These initiatives included the creation of several new awards for consulting, publications, and contributions to the field; travel resources for students to attend the annual meeting; funds to enhance the annual meeting programs; seed resources for a new Public History video project; and a comprehensive membership survey.

With continued growth in membership, developing opportunities for the organization, and an active and sound investment and expenditure vision, the NCPH should expect to have a variety of positive changes in the coming years. Special thanks for the success of this past year goes to John Dichtl and Sarah Younker-Koeppel and to the members of the 2006-2007 Finance Committee including Marianne Babal, Dianne Britton, Alan Newell, and Elizabeth Monroe.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK > continued from page 7

For 2009 we will meet in Providence, RI, where board member Steve Lubar will serve as chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. We are still soliciting proposals for a meeting location in 2010 and exploring potential partnerships with other organizations. Let us know if you are interested in suggesting a location.

### Advocacy, Outreach, and Collaborations

NCPH continues to provide substantial annual support for the National Coalition for History, in Washington, DC, which serves as "the profession's national voice" and "clearinghouse of news and information." We will be working with NCH this year to keep public historians better informed about Washington affairs that influence the practice of history.

NCPH will be sponsoring two book discussions and a reception at the AASLH Annual Meeting, September 5-8 in Atlanta. NCPH President Bill Bryans will moderate a discussion with Cathy Stanton on her book, *The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City*, which was selected as the NCPH Book Award winner for 2007. Past President Dwight Pitcaithley will moderate a discussion with David Blight on the book, *Legacy of the Civil War*, by Robert Penn Warren.

Both the American Historical Association (AHA) and the Organization of American Historians (OAH) contacted the NCPH independently this winter about working together to create standards by which public history work can be evaluated for tenure and promotion decisions in college and university history departments. NCPH responded by inviting the AHA and OAH to join a Working Group on Evaluating Public History Scholarship that will produce a set of guidelines or best practices to "help academic institutions define what constitutes public history work and how it should be accounted for in the academic reward system." NCPH, AHA, and OAH all have now officially joined the working group, whose members will begin their task this fall. Our plan is to begin with public history in the academic setting and eventually to develop guidelines that will help all public historians have their work valued in their job performance evaluations, whatever the type of workplace. This final effort at collaboration is one more method of defining public history and informing others about the work of public historians.

# NCPH 2006-2007 Year-end Financial Statement

## Income

	2006-07 Budget	2006-07 Actual
Memberships, Subscriptions & Sponsors/Patrons	\$83,397	\$111,845
Annual Meeting	\$37,168	\$77,289
Interest (non-Endowment)	\$1,500	\$3,652
IUPUI O'Brien Lecture Series	\$4,500	\$5,625
Miscellaneous	\$900	\$2,806
<b>Total Operating Budget Income</b>	<b>\$127,465</b>	<b>\$201,217</b>
Development Contributions		\$16,545
Unrealized Gain on Endowment		\$48,325
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$266,087</b>

## Expenses

Memberships, Subscriptions & Sponsors/Patrons	\$7,450	\$10,173
Annual Meeting	\$26,945	\$54,530
Public History News	\$15,280	\$15,027
Other Publications	\$0	\$730
Awards	\$1,050	\$1,800
NPS & TAH Grant Projects	\$0	\$10,343
Administration	\$65,014	\$67,002
Board Meetings	\$3,900	\$3,876
Committees	\$1,500	\$2,162
Dues to Other Organizations	\$6,325	\$5,780
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$127,464</b>	<b>\$171,423</b>

<b>NET OPERATING BUDGET SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$29,794</b>
(Total Operating Budget Income minus Expenses)		

## Welcome New Members!

Michael Brescia Tucson, AZ	Angelica Docog Denver, CO	Alphine Jefferson Richmond, VA	Kathleen Nawyn Durham, NC	Tina Sheller Baltimore, MD
Julie Cameron Lakewood, CA	Keith Eberly Bloomington, IN	Laura Kaiser Pare Los Angeles, CA	Michael Peters Havelock, NC	Helen Sheumaker Oxford, OH
Alan Carr Los Alamos, NM	Tiffany Fisk-Watts Wyomissing, PA	Jennifer Lemak Albany, NY	Paul Pipik Kalamazoo, MI	Sarah Sorenson Salt Lake City, UT
Nicole Cena Maple Ridge, British Columbia	Mira Foster Santa Barbara, CA	Amy Lowe Meager Fort Collins, CO	Edward Ragan Glen Allen, VA	Mark Steinback Buffalo, NY
James Collins Palo Alto, CA	Chris Goodlett Frankfort, KY	Nora Mitchell Woodstock, VT	Alan Ray, Jr. Warren, MI	Alexis Thompson Columbia, SC
Anthony Curtis Frankfort, KY	Cathy Hajo New York, NY	Hector Montford Tallahassee, FL	Angela Reed Austin, TX	Linda Verhoef Hampton, GA
Andrew Denson Cullowhee, NC	James Hillegas Portland, OR	Catherine Moore Fort Collins, CO	Matthew Seaman Canton, OH	Molly Woods Emporia, KS
Margaret Dias Pensacola, FL	Natalie Jaworski St. Paul, MN	Andrea Mott Emporia, KS	Sharad Shah Wilmington, NC	



by Lee White  
lwhite@historycoalition.org

## Fiscal Year 2008 Funding Levels Come into Focus

### TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY GRANTS

On July 19, 2007, the House of Representatives passed the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education fiscal year (FY) 2008 budget bill (H.R. 3043), by a vote of 276-140. The bill includes \$119.79 million for the Teaching American History grants program at the U.S. Department of Education, the same amount provided in FY2007. This amount is \$210,000 less than approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee (S.1710). However, the House amount is \$69.79 million more than the President's request.

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

On July 12, 2007, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY2008 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill. The bill includes \$313.9 million for operating expenses of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). This funding level is \$1.1 million above the President's request, \$1.1 million less than the House recently approved in its bill (H.R. 2829), and \$34.6 million above FY2007 budget.

The Electronic Records Archive program will receive \$58 million, the same as the amount provided in the House bill and the President's request. This is an increase of \$12 million over FY2007.

The Senate bill provides \$25.1 million for the Archives' repair and restoration account, which is \$9 million more than the House-passed bill. The Senate's allocation is \$16 million more than provided in FY2007 and \$16.5 million above the President's FY2008 request for this account. \$13.5 million of the

increase would be earmarked for construction projects at the Johnson, Kennedy, Nixon, and Franklin Roosevelt presidential libraries. \$9.6 million would go to ongoing repairs and restoration, and \$2 million would be allocated to the Anchorage, Alaska Regional Archives and Records Center.

On June 28, 2007, the House of Representatives approved its version of the Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (H.R. 2829). The Committee Report (H. Rept. 110-207) accompanying it directs that the \$2.1 million in additional funding be designated to restore evening and weekend hours for public research at the Archives that were eliminated last October. The Senate Appropriations Committee's report language is silent on restoring research room hours and mentions only "maintaining current service levels." The House report also mandates the hiring of additional archivists to help process public requests for access to historic documents. (The archivist workforce has been cut back over recent years.) Funding also is included for additional space to house archival documents.

### NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS COMMISSION

The House's Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (HR. 2829) also provides \$10 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), for grants to states, local governments, universities, local historical societies, and others to help preserve and archive materials of historic significance. The Committee Report accompanying the bill directs that the \$10 million will be split \$8 million for grants, with \$2 million allocated for administrative costs.

The President's proposed fiscal year (FY) 2008 budget had targeted the NHPRC for elimination. The \$10 million reflects a \$2.5 million funding increase over FY '07.

The Senate's version of appropriations bill includes \$10 million for the NHPRC, the same amount passed by the House, but does not direct how the funding should be allocated between grants and administrative costs.

As noted, the House has already passed its version of the funding bill for the Archives and NHPRC. However, the Senate is unlikely to take up the Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill until September. So it remains to be seen what the final levels will be.

### NARA FILMS FOR SALE ON AMAZON.COM

On July 30, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) announced that it had reached an agreement with CustomFlix Labs, a subsidiary of Amazon.com, Inc., to make thousands of historic films from the Archives' holdings available for purchase on Amazon.com. CustomFlix DVD on Demand service will initially make the NARA collection of Universal Newsreels, dating from 1920 to 1967, available on DVD. A limited number of titles are already available on Amazon.com.

In an article in the *Washington Post*, NARA spokeswoman Susan Cooper emphasized that the deal between the Archives and CustomFlix was non-exclusive. Last year the Smithsonian Institution was sharply criticized for entering into a semi-exclusive deal with the Showtime Networks, Inc. that limited access to the Smithsonian's holdings for filmmakers. No details were released concerning the financial arrangements made between the Archives and CustomFlix.

"Our initiative with CustomFlix Labs will reap major benefits for the public-at-large and for the National Archives," said Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States. "While the public can come to our College Park, MD research room to view films and even copy them at no charge, this new program will make our holdings much more accessible to millions of people who cannot travel to the Washington, DC, area. CustomFlix Labs DVD on Demand will provide the National Archives with digital reference and preservation copies of the films that are sold on Amazon.com. This is an important contribution to our preservation program."

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES TAKES CONTROL OF NIXON LIBRARY

On July 11, 2007, the legal transfer of the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace from the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) took place.

Concurrently with the transfer, the new Nixon Library opened approximately 78,000 pages of previously withheld materials. Approximately 58,000 pages come from the Special Files, which were created by the Nixon White House to segregate the most sensitive information from the White House Central Files. Included in the Special Files are the President's personal files, his office files, and the files of his closest aides such as John Dean, H.R. Haldeman, Charles Colson and John Ehrlichman. The remaining approximate 20,000 pages are from the White House Central Files.

165 tape-recorded conversations, totaling approximately 11 1/2 hours, were also released. The Nixon Foundation, as part of the transfer agreement, donated to the National Archives approximately 800 hours from the Nixon White House Tapes previously removed from the tapes according to the Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act (PRMPA) of 1974.

Selected documents and conversations from newly-released tapes are available at the Nixon Library's website ([www.nixonlibrary.gov](http://www.nixonlibrary.gov)). All of the newly-released tapes and newly-released documents are also available for research in the research room at the Nixon Library and at the National Archives facility in College Park, MD.

Lee White is executive director of the National Coalition for History.



Richard Nixon departing the White House after resigning, August 9, 1974. Photo by Oliver F. Atkins. Courtesy of Nixon Presidential Materials Project.

## Teaching American History Grant for NCPH Partnership



Independence Hall, one of the sites that TAH teachers will visit on the NCPH tour next year.

The U.S. Department of Education announced in June that its latest round of Teaching American History Grants includes a \$1.5 million award to a consortium of Pennsylvania school districts partnering with NCPH and other educational and cultural organizations.

The project, entitled "Link to Liberty: The Pennsylvania Connection to American History," is led by the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (located in Lewisburg) in partnership with school districts from Pittsburgh, Lancaster, Reading, and elsewhere. Other partners include the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Millersville University, NPR/PBS affiliate WITF, Inc., and NCPH.

NCPH will be taking responsibility for planning, administering, and managing field trips for Pennsylvania teachers to historic sites in Pennsylvania and surrounding states during the summers of 2008 through 2010. NCPH member Charles Hardy III of West Chester University will lead the field trips.

The grant will also support yearly professional development graduate courses at Millersville University, distance learning courses featuring American history content to promote literacy strategies and practices, and expansion of the award-winning PHMC/WITF web site [ExplorePAhistory.com](http://ExplorePAhistory.com). Former NCPH President and Director of Public History at The State Museum of Pennsylvania Robert Weible will serve as the project's Content Director.

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**

American Association of Museums is accepting nominees for their **Excellence in Peer Review Service Award**. Nominee must have received high evaluation ratings for his/her onsite performance and demonstrated a broad knowledge of general museum operations. <[http://www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/pr/award\\_details.cfm](http://www.aam-us.org/getinvolved/pr/award_details.cfm)>. Deadline is December 31, 2007.

Cornell University is accepting applications for **The Society for the Humanities Fellowships** at Cornell University for the 2008-09 academic year. Applicants should be working on topics related to the theme, "Water, A Critical Concept for the Humanities." Each Society Fellow will receive \$45,000. <<http://www.arts.cornell.edu/sochum/>>. Deadline is October 1, 2007.

Penn Humanities Forum of the University of Pennsylvania is accepting applications for the **Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship** for the 2008-09 academic year. The Forum has set "Change" as the topic for this year's applicants, and proposals on this topic are invited from different humanistic disciplines. <<http://www.phf.upenn.edu>>. Deadline for submissions is October 15, 2007.

The **DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Museum** has spring 2008 internships available for undergraduate and graduate students interested in gaining experience in American History, education, collections management, and public relations. Interns work at least 20 hours per week for a 3-4 month period and are unpaid, but academic credit can be arranged with your school. Deadline for submission is December 15, 2007. <<http://www.dar.org/museum/edprogrms.cfm#interns>>

**Institute for Learning Innovation** is accepting applications for spring 2008 interns. The internships are full-time, three-month positions, with a monthly stipend, and projects may include evaluating exhibitions, developing family resources, or organizing national seminars. Send a c.v./resume, three letters of reference, and a letter of intent to: Internship Coordinator, Institute for Learning Innovation, 166 West St., Annapolis, MD, 21401. For more information e-mail Dale Jones, [jones@ilinet.org](mailto:jones@ilinet.org) or visit <<http://www.ilinet.org/internships.html>>. Deadline for the Spring is November 30, 2007.

**History News Network** is looking for interns who will work about six hours a week on tasks for the HNN newsletter. Interns communicate with the editor through email and can work from home or the library. Internships last two quarters and are unpaid, however, interns can apply for class credit. Send resume to the editor of the newsletter, Rick Shenkman, [editor@historynewsnetwork.org](mailto:editor@historynewsnetwork.org). For more information visit <<http://hnn.us/articles/9749.html>>.

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

**Society for Applied Anthropology** invites sessions and abstracts for the 68th Annual Meeting, March 25-29, 2008, in Memphis, TN. The theme of the meeting is "The Public Sphere and Engaged Scholarship: Challenges and Opportunities for Applied Anthropology." Deadline is October 15, 2007. <<http://www.sfaa.net>>

**Society for Military History** invites panel proposals for the 75th Annual Meeting, "The Military and Frontiers," hosted by Weber State University, April 17-20, 2008, in Ogden, UT. Proposals should highlight the military's role relating to geographic, technological, political, social, and other frontiers. Deadline is November 1, 2007. <<http://www.weber.edu/History/WhatsHappening/SMH2008.html>>

**Saint-Petersburg State University** invites papers for the international scientific conference "Museum Studies in the 21st Century: The Problems of Research and Teaching." The conference will be held May 14-15, 2008 at St. Petersburg State University. For more information visit: <<http://attic-museumstudies.blogspot.com/2007/06/cfp-museum-studies-in-21st-century.html>>. Deadline is November 1, 2007.

**The University of Victoria Military Oral History Conference**, February 21-23, 2008, in Victoria, British Columbia, is seeking proposals. Papers should address any facet of military history that relies heavily upon oral history. Senior undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit. For more information or to send proposals, email Shawn Cafferky, [shawncaf@uvic.ca](mailto:shawncaf@uvic.ca). Deadline is November 15, 2007.

**Southwest/Texas Popular & American Culture Association** invites papers for the 29th Annual Conference, February 13-16, 2008, in Albuquerque, NM. Possible topics include, public health and indigenous peoples, popular culture and religion, native representations in popular culture, and indigenous resistance. <<http://www.h-net.org/~swpca/>>. Deadline is November 15, 2007.

**Australian Historical Association** Biennial Conference, July 7-10, 2008, Melbourne, Australia. Papers are invited on Australian as well as non-Australian topics that explore the various resonances suggested by the theme of history and locality—to connect the lineages of place and time. Deadline is December 31, 2007. <<http://www.theaha.org.au/index.html>>

**CONFERENCES AND LECTURE SERIES**

**Western History Association** 47th Annual Conference, October 3-6, 2007, Oklahoma City, OK. "Crossroads of the West: Meetings and Exchanges, Old and New." <<http://www.umsu.edu/~wha/conf>>

**Oral History Association** 41st Annual Meeting, October 24-28, 2007, Oakland, CA. "The Revolutionary Ideal: Transforming Community through Oral History." <[http://omega.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/org\\_am\\_oakland.html](http://omega.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/org_am_oakland.html)>

**California Council for the Promotion of History** 27th Annual Conference, October 25-27, 2007, Arcadia, CA. "History and Community in California." <<http://www.csus.edu/org/ccph/conference>>

**Society of American Archivists** 71st Annual Meeting, August 28-September 2, 2007, Chicago, IL. <<http://www.archivists.org/conference/chicago2007/index.asp>>

3rd Annual **Midwest Historical Archaeological Conference** November 2-3, 2007, Chicago, IL. "Engaged Archaeologies." <<http://condor.depaul.edu/~anthro/conferences/2007/overview.html>>

**National Association for Interpretation** National Workshop, November 6-10, 2007, Wichita, KS. "Broadening Horizons." Keynote speakers will be James Loewen and Erica Wheeler. <<http://www.interpnet.com/workshop/>>

**California Association of Museums** Annual Conference, February 25-27, 2008, Fresno, CA. <<http://www.calmuseums.org>>

**Organization of American Historians** 101st Annual Meeting, March 28-31, 2008, New York, NY. "Bringing Us All Together: The One-Hundred First Meeting of OAH." <<http://www.oah.org/meetings/2008/>>

**National Council for History Education** National Conference, April 3-5, 2008, Louisville, KY. "Leadership in History." Session proposals accepted until October 1, 2007. <<http://www.nche.net>>

**American Association of Museums** Annual Meeting, April 27-May 1, 2008. "Leadership: An Open Mic for New Ideas." <<http://www.aam-us.org/am/08/index.cfm>>

**JOBS AND POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**ABC-CLIO** has a position open for Editor of America: History & Life who will edit and index historical abstracts and bibliographic citations; select and evaluate material to be covered in publications; and enter bibliographic entries. B.A. in U.S. or Canadian history required; graduate work in history desired. To submit application and



resume online visit <<http://www.abc-clio.com/publishing/employment/jobdetail.aspx?jobid=243>>.

**Charlotte Museum of History** is seeking a Director of Education to supervise and coordinate the education and interpretive programs at the Museum and Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. A B.A. in U.S. History, Public History, or Education; special event experience; excellent writing skills, and a minimum of five years museum experience required. MA and classroom teaching experience is preferred. Send resume, cover letter, salary requirements, and references to: Kris Carmichael, Charlotte Museum of History, 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC, 28215; [kcarmichael@charlottemuseum.org](mailto:kcarmichael@charlottemuseum.org).

The **Berkshire Museum** in Pittsfield, MA, is looking for an Education Program Manager to be in charge of implementing education programs for K-12 students and teachers. A B.A. and three years of education experience, preferably in a museum setting, are required. Send resume, cover letter, and references to Deputy Director, Berkshire Museum, 39 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. For more information e-mail Maria Mingalone, [mmingalone@bershiremuseum.org](mailto:mmingalone@bershiremuseum.org).

**Museum London and Eldon House** in London, Ontario is seeking a Curator of Regional History to conduct research and initiate exhibitions related to the history of London, and also coordinate all aspects of regional history and artifacts exhibitions including all stages of planning, budget and

grant preparation, and proofreading and editing publications. Master's degree in history and five years museum experience required. E-mail [bmeehan@museumlondon.ca](mailto:bmeehan@museumlondon.ca) with questions or visit <<http://www.museumlondon.ca>>.

**Appalachian State University** invites applications for a tenure-track position for a professor of Public History, beginning in August 2008. Applicant must be able to teach World Civilization courses as well as Public History courses. Ph.D. in history, teaching experience, and evidence of scholarly potential expected. Send application, c.v., and three letters of recommendation to: Professor Michael L. Krenn, Chair, Department of History, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608. Review of applications will begin on November 26, 2007, and continue until the position is filled.

**Florida Historical Society** is seeking an Executive Director. Applicant must have managerial and fundraising skills. PhD is preferred. Submit four copies of application letter, c.v., employment history and three letters of recommendation to: Search Committee, The Florida Historical Society, 435 Brevard Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32922. Consideration of applications begins October 1, 2007, and the position will be filled prior to July 1, 2008. <<http://www.florida-historical-soc.org>>

# “What is Public History?” Redux > continued from page 1

Mary Rizzo, director of education at the New Jersey State House, saw the field as inherently interdisciplinary, like American Studies. She argued that “*rigorous interdisciplinary historical training with an intent to show students how to make scholarly research accessible to the public is necessary. It should also include a strong critical component that will give students the tools to analyze what is being done in the name of public history.*” Taking it a step further, Denise Meringolo, director of the public history program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County wrote, “*While...public historians MUST be trained first and foremost as historians—to conduct research, to craft an interpretation, to write well—I would argue that this training alone does not prepare someone for work in the public sector... “[P]ublic history” is closely related but distinct from traditional forms of historical professionalism.*”

Participants also explored the question of the various “others” and “publics” in relation to whom public historians attempt to define themselves. One obvious “other,” of course, is academic history, or the academy in general, and several list members spoke about that relationship. J.D. Bowers, history professor at Northern Illinois University, wrote that he envisioned himself as “*the historian in the middle’ between the academic historians and the general population,*” while independent scholar Jane Becker noted that she finds herself thinking of public history as “*part of the broad range of humanities scholarship and practice,*” which can span disciplinary and popular/academic divides. Pointing to another of public history’s “others,” Jay Price from Wichita State University stated, “*I think the real challenge of definition is not how public history fits against the academic world (we’ve done that pretty well), but rather, how it fits related to popular history—something that itself encompasses a wide range of people “with radically different goals and needs.” Benjamin Filene from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro saw this public/popular history relationship as a reflection of “the belief that history is not just the realm of the experts but of all of us. Moreover, I feel that the practitioners of these diverse sorts of history-making for varied publics benefit from talking with each other and reflecting on each other’s practices.*”

In terms of what role public historians can and should play in relation to popular history-making such as reenactment, genealogy, community celebrations, and so on, some subscribers spoke about helping to push the boundaries of how people were approaching their own history. Mary Rizzo felt it was “*absolutely essential that public historians try to push people in their understandings of their communities and their history,*” including thinking about issues of power and causation, while Denise Meringolo said, “*As a public historian, I’ve begun to think of myself as something akin to a community organizer.... While I have training and interests and curiosities that have led me to become a historian, I became a public historian when I began actively to look for ways to be of service, to listen and learn about the precise needs of a given community, and to gently challenge a community to push its own sense of boundaries and exclusiveness.*” As H-Public’s editor, I weighed in with the notion that another key role public historians seem to play in public projects is to continually broaden narrowly-defined agendas, with an eye toward keeping space open for possible other perspectives, including those that might arise in the future.

“... I feel that the practitioners of these diverse sorts of history-making for varied publics benefit from talking with each other and reflecting on each other’s practices.”

Although the discussion began with the aim of rethinking the NCPH board’s draft definition of public history, one idea that repeatedly emerged from the H-Public discussion was the importance of keeping that definition as open as possible. Ray Smock, a lifelong public historian and current director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, wrote, “*You would think that someone who has been a public historian for 40 years would have solved some of these definitional questions, but I haven’t, although I keep trying.*” Others saw the definitional dilemma as part and parcel of the enterprise of doing public history.

Debbie Ann Doyle, public history coordinator at the American Historical Association, wrote, “*Perhaps we should think of public history like gender—a category of identity, complicated, negotiated, and socially constructed in tension with and in opposition to other categories... [Public historical work] requires public historians to engage in a conversation about the nature, meaning, and uses of history of interest to all historians.*” Benjamin Filene concurred: “*In a field like ours, the act of definition should be about opening doors, not building walls... Part of the vitality of public history is that any definition we come up with will continue to be fluid.*”

Although the discussion never returned to the concrete task of offering alternative drafts that the NCPH board might consider, Jay Price approached this when he proposed that, “*Perhaps at its heart, public history is more of a ‘spirit’ that sees historical scholarship as part of a larger sense that includes both professionals of both academic and non-academic stripes as well as the various segments of the public at large.*” If I had to sum up the vision of public history that emerged from this online conversation, it might be that the participants saw themselves as “*historians in the middle*”—operating between various constituencies and disciplinary fields, grounded in the methods of the historical discipline, highly attentive to the social processes and political implications of their work, and resistant to too much closure when it comes to defining what they do!

*Cathy Stanton is currently the editor of the H-Public listserv, as well as teaching cultural anthropology at Tufts University in Boston and history and cultural studies online at Vermont College of Union Institute & University. Her book The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City (University of Massachusetts Press, 2006) won the 2007 NCPH Book Award.*

## Support Public History—Join the NCPH today!



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- Networks of other public historians
- *The Public Historian* and *Public History News*
- Advocacy on behalf of the profession
- Awards for students, new professionals, consultants, books, articles, and research
- Annual Meeting registration discount
- Up-to-date job listings, professional development offerings, conference and calls list, and a consultant’s directory

### Membership Levels


- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual: \$65.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ New Professional: \$35.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \$25.00

### Payment Options

- \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed (made payable to NCPH)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ American Express  
 Account \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

 National Council on Public History  
 327 Cavanaugh Hall  
 425 University Blvd.  
 Indianapolis, IN 46202



Join online at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org)



## The Best in Public History NCPH's Awards Program

### CONSULTANT'S AWARD

This \$500 award recognizes outstanding work and contributions by consultants or contractors.  
*New Award!*

### STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

Five matching travel grants of up to \$300 each for graduate students attending the 2008 Annual Meeting.  
*New Award!*

### NCPH BOOK AWARD

A \$1,000 award for the best book about or "growing out of" public history published within the previous two calendar years (2006 and 2007).  
*Prize increase!*

### G. WESLEY JOHNSON AWARD

A \$750 award for the best article in The Public Historian for the 2007 calendar year.  
*Prize increase!*

### ROBERT KELLY MEMORIAL AWARD

This \$500 award honors distinguished achievements by individuals, institutions, or nonprofit or corporate entities for making history relevant to individual lives of ordinary people outside of academia.

### NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Two \$500 travel grants to encourage new professionals, practicing public history for no more than three years, to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting.

### STUDENT PROJECT AWARD

The \$500 travel grant to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting recognizes the contributions of student work to the field of public history.

Please see full details at [www.nchp.org](http://www.nchp.org)

# Moving forward into the past . . .

## Graduate Studies in Public History

Ph.D. and Master of Arts at Middle Tennessee State University



### Practice-Based Education for Professional Careers

- Archival Management
- Heritage Tourism
- Historic Preservation
- Historical Administration
- Museum Studies
- New Media and History
- University Teaching



*Moving  
forward  
into the past  
is the key to  
your future.*

The Public History Ph.D. is offered through partnership of the Department of History, the Center for Historic Preservation, and the Center for Popular Music at MTSU, a flourishing major university with an enrollment of 24,000. The university is in historic Murfreesboro, 30 miles southeast of Nashville, Tennessee.

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STATE UNIVERSITY

[www.mtsu.edu/~pubhist](http://www.mtsu.edu/~pubhist)

## Your Help with a Survey?

The Center for the Study of Public History at the George Washington University has undertaken a project to further the discussion among public historians about the knowledge, skills, and experiences that are most important for those entering the profession. This information in turn will inform ongoing discussions about the development of public history programs. We would appreciate your participation in a brief survey about (1) your involvement in public history and (2) the ideas you have about the education of the next generation of public historians. The survey can be accessed through the link below and takes approximately 10-20 minutes: [https://survey.gwu.edu/index.cfm?SURVEY\\_ID=5938](https://survey.gwu.edu/index.cfm?SURVEY_ID=5938) If you would like a copy of the survey report, please e-mail: [csph@gwu.edu](mailto:csph@gwu.edu). Direct questions to Kathleen Anderson Steeves, Associate Professor, Secondary History Education and Associate Director, Center for the Study of Public History and Public Culture The George Washington University, 2134 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20052; 202-994-2773; or [ksteeves@gwu.edu](mailto:ksteeves@gwu.edu)

## CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING SITE PROPOSALS

The National Council on Public History seeks site proposals for its annual meetings, beginning in the year 2010.

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.
- 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, contact the NCPH Executive Offices at 317.274.2716 or by email: [nchp@iupui.edu](mailto:nchp@iupui.edu)

Send completed proposals to:  
NCPH Executive Office  
327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI  
425 University Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140

## HRA New Professional Travel Award Winner

### Lee Wittmann

Independent Consultant/Researcher, San Mateo, CA

I would like to thank Historical Research Associates, Inc. for sponsoring the NCPH New Professional Award that enabled me to attend and present at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Santa Fe.

As an Aboriginal professional (from Kitimat, BC, Canada) within the Museum/Public History field I feel that I have been enriched through an assortment of experiences over the past few years. My academic background in Anthropology, First Nations Studies, and Cultural Resource Management has led me to archival research, interviewing and transcribing oral testimony, researching material culture in public and private museum collections, and providing analysis of museum and repatriation policies for the Haisla Treaty Team through the ongoing British Columbia Treaty Process. Additionally, I lived and worked amongst the Mentawai peoples of Siberut Island, West Sumatra, Indonesia, conducting Participatory Rural Appraisal (historical inventory) through an indigenous Non-Government Organization, Yayasan Citra Mandiri.

In June 2005 I served as a consultant to the Gupsgolox Totem Pole Committee in Kitimaat Village, BC, to assist with a landmark international repatriation of a Haisla Memorial Pole from the Swedish

Ethnographic Museum. Upon completion of this project, I was accepted into the Aboriginal Training Program in Museum Practices at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec. During the program I worked alongside other museum professionals in various departments ranging from Archives, Public Programming, Public Affairs, Collections, Ethnology and as a researcher with the Canada Science and Technology Museum (CSTM) for an upcoming "Canadian Forests" exhibit.

My stint with CSTM resulted in further contract work, which included travel to the province of New Brunswick to interview Mi'kmaq and Maliseet community members with regards to traditional and contemporary forms of forest management, harvesting techniques, the use of timber and non-timber products, ecotourism initiatives, and the relationship between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people in Eastern Canada.

As a new NCPH member, I am thrilled to be involved in a national organization of public historians, community and oral historians, educators, consultants, historical preservationist and academic researchers alike. After perusing the meeting guide for Santa Fe, I was further impressed with the array of workshops, exhibits, sessions, special events, tours and other options for the conference.

Upon arrival at the La Fonda Hotel, I received a warm welcome and it became apparent to me that this was a well-organized and well-planned meeting in "the city different." Hours later my colleagues and I presented in a well-attended session, which led to rewarding, free-flowing conversation before we moved on to attend other sessions. The meeting's theme, "Many Histories, Many Publics - Common Ground?" provided windows of opportunity for a wide variety of exchanges over the next few days. Overall, I felt that the Opening Plenary set the tone for the meeting and carried momentum into the numerous scheduled events. The meeting also provided an opportunity to share our personal histories, experiences, identities and concepts in a spectacular setting.

I left Santa Fe inspired by Estevan Rael-Galvez's and Christopher Wilson's keynote speeches, open-minded professionals and academics, and stimulating conversations. I also want to learn more about NCPH and to develop new contacts and relationships.

As a direct result of attending the NCPH conference I have established rapport with other professional organizations, been invited to speak at various U.S. universities and attend ground-breaking symposiums, and received historical research contract offers from local county archives to conducting private interpretive tours of Northwest Coast culture and collections at the Stanford Museum.

Thank you to NCPH and everyone involved in making the annual meeting such a rewarding experience.

Lee Wittmann currently resides in San Mateo, CA, and works as an independent consultant and researcher. He is in charge of communications for an indigenous hip-hop band, El Vuh. The band's members use music to challenge stereotypes and to discuss their Mayan/Aztec/Native American histories and identities. This may result in a proposal for the 2008 annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.



"Cultural Diversity in Museums" session presenters at the 2007 NCPH Annual Meeting, Anna Ademek and Sharon Babaian, Canada Science and Technology Museum, Lee Wittmann, Independent Consultant, and Krista Cooke, Canadian Museum of Civilization. Photo by Ewa Kordula.

## New NPS Online Solicitation for Project Bids



The National Park Service has entered the electronic commerce arena and no longer will be providing paper copies of solicitations for bidding. Individuals will now be able to access the web site, <http://ideasec.nbc.gov> to retrieve solicitations. Users are asked to register using a DUNS number and business name to qualify to do business with the government. Solicitations for bids will also appear at <http://FedBizOpps.gov>. Instructions and a tutorial PowerPoint are available at the site; questions should be directed to Barbara Hurt at (701) 623-4730 ext. 3405.

## Show 'em what you do!



The 2008 NCPH Annual Meeting in Louisville is your chance to shine. Advertisements for the Annual Meeting Program, a booth in the exhibit hall, and sponsorships at the conference are great ways to:

- Advertise upcoming events
- Showcase new publications and productions
- Promote your organization, institution, or company
- Recruit potential students, employees, visitors, or customers

Marketing information is available online at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org), or contact us for more details at [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu).



*Thank you!*

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