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## 2012 Election - Candidates

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### Vice President / President-elect

(Serves two years as vice-president, two years as president, and two years as past president on the Board of Directors.)

#### Patrick Moore

University of West Florida

Serving the past six years as your secretary-treasurer and heading the Local Arrangements Committee for our annual meeting in Pensacola, FL, I was indeed humbled and honored when I received word of my nomination as your next vice president/president-elect. After working in field for several years, I became the director of the public history program at the University of West Florida in 1998. Beyond simply teaching public history inquiry skills to my students, I have employed those approaches through projects including a study of Cuban exiles and commuters at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, the impact of Hurricane Katrina on Gulf Coast fishing communities, the creation of the Next Exit History™ program for bringing historic information to smartphones, and serving as a Fellow at NASA's Kennedy Space Center preserving the history of the U.S. space program.

During the last decade with the NCPH, I have worked closely with a string of remarkable presidents, board and committee members, and executive staff. Through that time, I have watched the NCPH re-imagine its role in serving public historians across the globe. While our core mission and the excellence of our journal remain consistent, considering our new focus on member services, professional recognition, digital media and networking, advocacy, and meaningful conferences that have more than doubled in attendance, clearly the NCPH accepted the goal of reinventing itself.

Now, however, is no time to rest on our laurels. As vice president, I intend to embrace the organization's long-term planning goals in listening to the changing needs of our membership and working with your board and committees to meet those demands. As our membership continues to grow, many of our fellow professional organizations watch their numbers decline. Facing a difficult economy, dwindling support for the humanities, and attacks on the value of social sciences, now is the time to come together and redouble our efforts. In recognizing regional, national, and international opportunities and through enhancing collaboration with both existing and new partner organizations, we can reassert the imperative nature of our profession. While this will no doubt be an arduous task, witnessing just how far we have come I know that working collectively we can continue propelling the NCPH into the future.

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### Board of Directors

(You may vote for up to three individuals. Board members serve three-year terms.)

#### Dee A. Harris

National Archives at Kansas City

For the past fifteen years, my career has focused on exhibits, education, and administration within the field of museum services. Watching how people, places, things, and stories can come together to impact a visitor's life is truly inspiring, whether that's achieved through an amazing artifact, remarkable life story, or a vibrant educational experience.

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I currently work as an exhibits specialist for the National Archives and Records Administration in Kansas City, where I am responsible for a regional exhibits program. Prior to that, I served as the director of visual

arts and humanities for the Mid-America Arts Alliance, overseeing two national traveling exhibits programs, including NEH on the Road, a program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. We created traveling exhibits for small and rural audiences across the United States from large NEH-funded exhibits and projects. I also spent six years as director of the Smoky Hill Museum developing exhibits, projects, and programs that engaged community members in dialogue about shared pasts. In addition, I have served as a grant reviewer, an IMLS Field Reviewer, and as a consultant in strategic planning, exhibition review, and organizational development.

I have been an active member of NCPH since 1993, and have been impressed with the willingness of the membership to embrace all areas of public history and public historians at all levels of their careers. Over the years, I have served as a member of the Long Range Planning Committee, the Program Committee, and co-chair of the Membership Committee. Currently, I serve on the Finance Committee. NCPH is a vital organization for bringing together a diverse array of practitioners, educators, scholars, and consultants to create tangible connections between the past and the present. My goals for NCPH include audience diversity, active membership growth, and increased organizational capacity. I am honored to be nominated, and welcome the opportunity to serve on the NCPH Board of Directors.

### **Modupe Labode**

Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

As a member of the NCPH since 2001, I have greatly valued the organization's activities and publications. Important initiatives, such as the "Tenure, Promotion, and the Publicly Engaged Historian" report and the embrace of digital projects, indicate that the NCPH continues to meet the evolving needs of its members. If elected to the board, I am interested in developing strategies to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of public history professionals. I am also committed to helping implement the NCPH's goal of promoting professionalism and best practices among public historians.

I served as the chief historian of the Colorado Historical Society from 2001-2007 and had the good fortune to experience the breadth of public history, from supervising the historic marker program to observing NAGPRA consultations. I learned that members of the public have a desire for historical knowledge, but traditional strategies—such as exhibitions and lectures—sometimes fail to meet their needs. Since 2007, I have taught at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, and have enjoyed working with public history and museum studies students. This experience has given me insight into the experiences of public historians based in the academy. With my colleague Calinda Lee, I have co-convened two working groups at NCPH annual meetings on increasing diversity of public history professionals. I would be honored to continue my service to the NCPH by serving on the board.

### **Mary Rizzo**

New Jersey Council for the Humanities

Although I didn't know to call it public history at the time, I started working in the field through an exhilarating summer job at a lighthouse/museum during college. After completing a PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota, I returned to public history in New Jersey as a career. From serving as a curatorial assistant at a historic house museum to being the curator of education at the state capitol, I learned about the needs of and challenges facing museums and historic sites. Currently, I am the interim executive director of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a nonprofit state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. As our mission is to promote the public humanities, we are necessarily engaged in projects that, at times, fall outside the purview of public history. I feel that this is a

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strength as my experience includes working with organizations and projects that are interdisciplinary, something I'd encourage public historians to embrace. I have been actively involved in NCPH since my first conference in Louisville, serving on the Program Committee, the Development Committee and as a guest blogger for Off the Wall. I've also been engaged in scholarly research, having published an article in the *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, and participating in several NCPH working groups.

I'm honored to be nominated for the NCPH board. One of my interests would be forging better relationships with organizations such as the state humanities councils, with which many public historians work although there are not institutional connections. Creating such connections—through practical activities like attending conferences as well as through conversations regarding advances in our respective fields—would extend NCPH's reach. Simultaneously, I'm deeply invested in continuing to bring together public historians who work inside and outside the academy in order to insure that the insights and experience of each group is valued within the field.

### **Jennifer Ross-Nazzal**

NASA Johnson Space Center History Office

I have been the JSC Historian since 2004; prior to that time I served as an oral historian and researcher for the Center's oral history project. I started out my PhD program hoping to combine my interest in public and women's history, but I found an even more interesting position with America's space program. As an historian for a technological and scientific organization, I have tried to balance my interest in social and women's history with the need to understand the technical details of our nation's human spaceflight program. I believe I have successfully blended the two, especially in terms of research and writing. As Center historian I have authored or co-authored numerous articles about the Space Shuttle, the NASA community, and the Center's history. This spring the University of Washington published my first book, *Winning the West for Women: The Life of Suffragist Emma Smith DeVoe*.

Prior to working for NASA, I interned with the Women of the West Museum. In that capacity I helped to gather research about woman suffrage in the West, which resulted in the online exhibit, "This Shall Be the Land for Women: The Struggle for Western Women's Suffrage, 1860-1920." I also served as an archives assistant at Washington State University's Manuscript and Special Collections.

I am honored to be considered for the NCPH Board of Directors. I have attended many annual meetings, presented at several sessions over the years, and most recently served on the New Professional Award Committee. My experience in different fields of public history provides me with a unique perspective of the field. I believe I would provide a new voice on the board, representing the views of public historians who work for scientific and technical agencies. I am enthusiastic about serving public historians and the NCPH, and I hope that as a board we can address paramount issues facing public historians, in particular how to adapt to an age of increasing austerity for programs and projects or the ever-increasingly challenging job search for recent graduates.

### **Pamela Sanfilippo**

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site

I have been fortunate to work in public history since 1995, when I first started at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site following completion of a MA in history at Washington University in St. Louis. As park ranger and then historian at a small unit of the National Park Service established only five years before I started working there, I have conducted historical research, presented interpretive programs, developed exhibits, established the site's library, managed the web site and developed educational programs. It has been extremely rewarding to work with staff, volunteers, and others within the NPS and to advance the mission of the site and the public history profession. My work has brought me into contact

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with many other public historians, history educators, and related organizations throughout the country, providing opportunities for developing partnerships that benefit individuals, organizations, and the publics we all serve.

I am excited and honored to be considered for the board of NCPH. I have attended annual meetings and participated in sessions over the years. The conferences are excellent ways to stay current with trends in public history, and publications such as *The Public Historian* keep readers informed throughout the year. My goals as a board member include working to implement the Long Range Plan, especially in the areas of developing partnerships, engaging the public in conversation about the relevance of history, and supporting history education. As a member of other related organizations, I would work to advance these partnerships to further enhance the shared mission of facilitating historical learning and relevance.

### **Jeff Sturchio**

Rabin Martin

As I write this, the top two books on the *New York Times* Best Sellers list are a biography of Steve Jobs and an account of Lincoln's assassination. This is just one of many indicators that history appeals to a wide public. This creates both opportunities and challenges for NCPH. It's an honor to be nominated to join the Board of Directors and, if elected, I look forward to helping our organization to meet the challenges ahead and capitalize on the opportunities.

In the thirty years since receiving my PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, I have been a college history professor, worked on the Thomas A. Edison Papers, helped to direct a research center focused on the history of chemistry and the chemical industries, edited journals, created museum exhibits, worked as an historian and corporate archivist at AT&T and Merck, spent nearly twenty years in public policy and external affairs roles at Merck (establishing its Office of Corporate Responsibility and leading The Merck Company Foundation), chaired the Corporate Council on Africa and served as president and CEO of the Global Health Council. I'm currently senior partner at Rabin Martin, a management consultancy, where I focus on global health issues.

A unifying theme through the various roles I've had is that I've always seen the world and its possibilities with an historian's sensibilities, informed by the analytical perspectives and tools acquired through my training and continued engagement with the history profession. I've continued to write and publish, building on the experiences and skills obtained in my business and NGO roles.

NCPH faces a wide range of possibilities. As a long-time member and former member of the Development Committee, I am committed to helping NCPH define its core audiences and services, so that we can find the resources necessary to expand opportunities for NCPH members and persuade our many constituencies outside of academe just how important public history is in putting the past to work.

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**[Nominating Committee](#)** (You may vote for up to two individuals. [Nominating Committee members serve three-year terms.](#))

### **Chuck Arning**

John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, National Park Service

As a member of the governing council for the American Antiquarian Society and a member of the Executive Committee of the New England Historical Association, I have learned firsthand the value of an engaged and passionately committed volunteer board and committee members. As a National Park

## Nominating Committee

Service interpretive ranger and audio-visual specialist for eighteen years in a National Heritage Area Park, where the federal government does not own anything and all projects are driven by partnerships, I understand the importance of communicating mission, goals, and a shared organizational perspective. As part of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2009 NCPH Annual Meeting in Providence, RI, understanding relationships, connecting resources, and looking for team players were just some of the skill sets I brought to the table.

While many organizations are struggling to stay relevant in this digital age, the NCPH has broadened its appeal, expanded its membership including an expanded international membership base, sought diversification, and continued to ask the difficult questions regarding the role of public history in an increasingly complex world. This has happened due to a talented, committed staff and an equally committed, visionary board.

I consider it an honor to be a candidate for the NCPH Nominating Committee, but the position bears a lot of responsibility for continuing to bring committed talent into the organization. Each year brings new challenges and new challenges require fresh faces with fresh ideas—all are critical to NCPH's continued growth and relevancy. I like to think that my experience in the corporate world (Data General), public education (Montclair, NJ, Public Schools, and Fitchburg, MA, Public Schools), the National Park Service, and as a board, council, or general member in a wide variety of organizations provides me with the necessary perspective to uncover and tap the visionary future leaders of the NCPH.

### **Sheila Brennan**

Center for History and New Media, George Mason University

My experience in public history began fifteen years ago in the museum world and continues now into the digital world. I started as a research assistant at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and then moved to the National Museum of the U.S. Navy. I began as an educator and advanced to serve as the Director of Education and Public Programs for seven years. To concentrate on my doctorate in American history at George Mason University, I left the Museum and transitioned to a position at the Center for History and New Media (CHNM) in 2005. CHNM's founding director Roy Rosenzweig championed using new media to "democratize history" and his influence solidified my dedication to public history work.

Currently I serve as the associate director of public projects at CHNM where I work primarily with museums, libraries, and archives to build collaborative digital projects. Some projects increase access to primary source materials and scholarship, while others collect and archive stories and digital materials from individuals, such as the Hurricane Digital Memory Bank and September 11 Digital Archive. I also manage outreach and end-user support for Omeka, the free and open-source software that makes building digital history projects accessible for anyone. I am involved in history and humanities professional communities through attending and presenting at conferences (including NCPH), unconferences, and workshops, and by participating in online discussions. In addition to digital history work, I also present my own research on stamp collecting and the postal service. For many years I have judged for the MUSE Awards (presented by the Media and Technology Committee of the American Association of Museums) and at National History Day national and regional contests.

If elected, I will work closely with the other members to identify candidates with a variety of life experiences and approaches to public history work. I will seek candidates who embrace the principles behind open access for scholarship and resources shared in both digital and traditional media. The more open we are with our history, the more accessible and visible this work will be to the broadest audiences possible. While relatively new to the organization itself, NCPH is the professional association where I feel most comfortable and where I feel I have a true professional home. I hope to contribute to this robust and supportive organization through the Nominating Committee.

## Nominating Committee

### Steven Burg

Shippensburg University

Thirteen years ago, Shippensburg University hired me as the university's first public historian. I was a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin, and I had also worked part time for nine years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; first in the archives, then in the Division of Public History.

I joined the National Council for Public History in 1999, and it was one of the best decisions of my career. I eagerly awaited each new issue of *The Public Historian* and *Public History News*, and then attended my first NCPH annual meeting in Houston in 2003. I remember being welcomed warmly by complete strangers (and some public history "superstars") who seemed eager to provide guidance and support to a new public historian. I left Houston brimming with new ideas, and buoyed by a sense that I had become part of a community of public historians. From that time forth, I have considered the NCPH my professional home.

I have been deeply engaged with the National Council for Public History over the last decade, attending meetings, presenting at conferences, publishing and reviewing articles for *The Public Historian*. Since 2007, I've served on the NCPH's active Curriculum and Teaching Committee.

It would be a great privilege to serve on the Nominating Committee of the NCPH and to help the organization to identify future leaders capable of guiding the organization as it grows and changes, and who also reflect the diversity of public historians here and abroad. Yet equally important, I would hope to find leaders who understand the unique character of the NCPH as a vital community for public historians, and who will keep the organization as open, welcoming, and useful to new and veteran professionals alike as it has been in the past.

### Joan Zenzen

Independent Public Historian

While serving on the Editorial Board of *The Public Historian*, I have collaborated with fellow board members to translate new ideas and approaches to the pages of the journal. I have also worked diligently to recommend women, minority scholars, and professionals in the field to peer review articles. For the Michael C. Robinson Historical Analysis prize, I have helped redefine its criteria and encourage potential nominations beyond NCPH. I have sought when organizing sessions for the annual meeting (I have attended NCPH conferences since my graduate school days in the 1990s) to have conversations among academics, federal government historians, consultants, and others to build bridges.

I also have extensive volunteer experience with a local historic preservation organization, building a reservoir of new leaders there. While president of the board, I secured the smooth transition of the longtime executive director to a new one while also overseeing a significant campaign to restore a historic property. I encouraged other volunteers to take on new positions of responsibility so that the organization had committed and trained leaders when I stepped off the Board.

I work independently as a public historian, writing histories for the federal government, most recently histories of the preservation and management of national battlefield parks. I am honored to stand as a candidate of the Nominating Committee. I would use my skills to ensure that this great organization continues to grow and meet the needs of all public historians. Past board members have built a strong financial base while extending the focus internationally. I would work to identify and nurture new leaders from diverse specialties and backgrounds, who will build on this legacy and have their own visions for taking NCPH further in service of public history.