

Inaugural Meeting of the International Federation for Public History

On behalf of the interim steering committee of the new International Federation for Public History, we write to invite you to an inaugural meeting of the group to be held in Pensacola, Florida, 8:30-10:00 a.m., April 8, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel.

The Federation was established August 26, 2010, as an Internal Commission by the General Assembly of the International Committee of Historical Sciences/ Comité International des Sciences Historiques (ICHS/CISH). CISH itself was launched shortly after the First World War to encourage international cooperation among scholars; its secretariat currently is located at the University of Paris. (For additional information about the International Congress please see its website at <http://www.cish.org/GB/introgb.htm>. For further background and information of the new Federation please see Arnita Jones' article in the December 2010 issue of Public History News at <http://ncph.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2010-Dec-Newsletter-FINAL-compressed.pdf>.)

Our organizational meeting will be held during the annual meeting of the National Council on Public History (NCPH), which has kindly made space available to us. The NCPH has also established a listserv for the steering committee and officers of the Federation, as well as a webpage which will publish information on public history programs internationally.

According to the Federation's bylaws its purposes are to

- Create an international network of public history programs and schools;
- Facilitate the international exchange of information on teaching and research in public history;
- Foster participation of public historians and their organizations in international congresses and other meetings of scholars in the field; and
- Encourage the formation of national committees of historians working in public history

In Pensacola we plan to

1. Establish a nominating committee to select a list of candidates for a permanent steering committee and an initial set of officers;
2. Identify national groups, committees or institutions wishing to become members of the Federation and discuss a proposed category of individual membership;
3. Amend the existing by-laws as needed to bring them up to date and reflect decisions that may be made at the Pensacola meeting;
4. Begin process of appointing a Program Committee in the near future to facilitate the inclusion of Federation members in the next meeting of the International Congress of Historical Sciences (CISH) in Jinan, Shandong, China in 2015; and
5. Discuss other priorities/initiatives for the Federation, as well as potential sources of support.

The new International Federation for Public History will embrace the widest possible range of public history practice, including museums, historical sites, academic programs, government historical offices and other venues where historians are engaged in public history. We write

now both to encourage you or a representative of your organization to attend the meeting in Pensacola, Florida, on April 8. Whether you are able to attend the Pensacola meeting in person or not, we are particularly interested in your nominations for steering committee or program committee members and/or your own interest in volunteering for a leadership position in the new Federation.

We look forward to hearing from you at ncph@iupui.edu.

Anna Adamek, Chair
National Council on Public History International Task Force

Arnita A. Jones, Executive Director Emerita
American Historical Association