

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



ALEXANDRA LORD  
LORDA@SI.EDU

This spring in Indianapolis, NCPH will be diving deep into “the middle.” In many ways, this approach makes sense as NCPH approaches middle age (40). But as everyone who has experienced it knows, middle age is not simply a time to reflect on where we have been and where we are. It is also a time to begin planning for the future, with an eye to the past.

So, it should come as no surprise to NCPH members to learn that the board is thinking more assertively about long range planning for the organization. NCPH’s most recent Long Range Plan, which is set to expire next year, was developed five years ago. Given the tremendous growth NCPH has experienced in the intervening years, the plan that we are currently working under reflects a much smaller and rather different organization from what NCPH is today. As a result, we need to approach the development of a new Long Range Plan with a very open mind. We should be prepared to make substantive changes to the existing plan if necessary.

The extensive changes NCPH has experienced over the last four and a half years mean that we need to begin by taking stock of who we are as an organization, what our members want and need, and how and why the field of public history is growing and changing.

We know that your inbox is probably already overflowing with requests that you take a survey. And we can’t promise you a coupon for 15% off if you take our survey! But we can promise you that responding to our survey request will help us to make NCPH into an organization that will serve you better. And really, isn’t that a better offer than 15% off your next purchase?

We talk a great deal about who our members are, and each time we begin to dig deep to see if our impressions of our membership are correct, we come up against a series of uncertainties. Where do NCPH members work? Do NCPH members frequently move into and outside of the academy? What do NCPH members want and need from the organization? What are the backgrounds of our members and how did they come to public history?

Understanding the answers to these questions will help us to begin to think about how we should approach a new Long Range Plan. This



Members of the NCPH Board of Directors work on a long range planning exercise at the fall board meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

information will also provide us with baseline data which we can use in the coming years to help us understand how the organization is, or is not, changing.

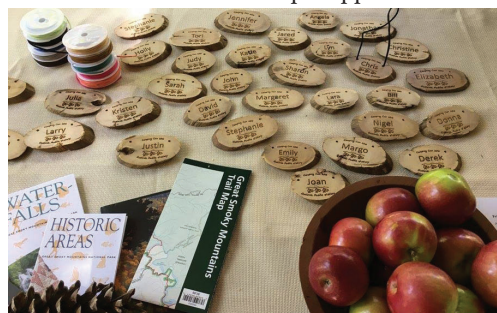
While collecting the data is, as every historian knows, one of the most crucial steps in developing a new Long Range Plan, other work is also necessary to develop a comprehensive and useful plan. In October, the NCPH Board of Directors used its fall

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## CAMPING CON 2016: OUTSIDE PUBLIC HISTORY [AN NCPH MINI-CON]

TAMMY GORDON / TSGORDO2@NCSU.EDU

*Camping Con 2016: Outside Public History* met October 7-9, 2016 at the Cades Cove Campground in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Convened by Anne Whisnant and Tammy Gordon with a commitment to programmatic innovation and creativity, the Mini-Con consisted of unique opportunities



Laser-cut name tags awaited attendees at Camping Con 2016.

to explore history in outdoor spaces. In addition to NCPH, other funders included the Public History Program at North Carolina State University, Young Harris College, and the History Department at East Carolina University.

The event departed significantly from the traditional conference forum. Tents and hammocks replaced the usual academic conference’s airless hotel rooms, and as campers got to know one another, a spirit of good humor and sharing extended from ideas to practicalities like tents, equipment, and food. When hard rains came on Friday evening, campers came together to help those who had taken a soaking. Communal meals involved the entire group dining (and

cleaning up!) together. Campers adored Jared Champion’s Newfoundland pooch Cady, who attended meals, walks, panels, and campfires and answered to “Miss Cady.”

Our forty-five participants found inspiration in the surroundings and in one another as they explored topics focused on history, the National Parks, the relationships between historians and communities, teaching public history, and the inequities in parks and outdoor spaces. One- and three-hour walks, such as Angie Sirna’s “War on Poverty Hike” to Tremont and Danny Bernstein’s walk around Elkmont, allowed participants to engage in extended discussions with facilitators. Other activities included creating artistic works to understand the history of art in the National

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NCPH inspires public engagement with the past and serves the needs of practitioners in putting history to work in the world by building community among historians, expanding professional skills and tools, fostering critical reflection on historical practice, and publicly advocating for history and historians. *Public History News* is published in March, June, September, and December. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Individual membership orders, changes of address, and business and editorial correspondence should be addressed to NCPH, 127 Cavanaugh Hall – IU/PUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). Tel: 317-274-2716. Join online or renew at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org). Headquartered on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, NCPH is grateful for the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts and the Department of History.

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**Stephanie Rowe**  
Executive Director

# CANDIDATES FOR THE 2017 NCPH ELECTION

Full candidate info at <http://bit.ly/NCPH2017Slate>

Current board and committee members are listed at [ncph.org/about/governance-committees/](http://ncph.org/about/governance-committees/)

## Secretary/Treasurer (two candidates for one position)

Sharon M. Leon, Roy Rozenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason University

Amy H. Wilson, Independent Consultant

## Board of Directors (six candidates for three positions)

Richard Cooper, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Catherine Gudis, University of California, Riverside

Paul Knevel, University of Amsterdam

Na Li, Chongqing University

John M. Sherrer III, Historic Columbia

Joan M. Zenzen, Independent Scholar

## Nominating Committee (four candidates for two positions)

Christopher Cantwell, University of Missouri - Kansas City

Rebecca A. Hunt, University of Colorado Denver

Melinda Marie Jetté, Franklin Pierce University

Michelle Moon, Independent Museum Professional

Ballots and candidate biographical information were distributed by email to members in late-November. Please contact [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu) if you are a member and did not receive an electronic ballot. The election closes **January 22, 2017**. Your vote counts!



Courtesy of the State Library of Western Australia on flickr Creative Commons.

## Welcome New Members!

|                                          |                                          |                                          |                                       |                                                |                                       |                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amy Allen<br>Columbia, SC                | Austin Clark<br>New Boston, NH           | Ellen Yutzy Glebe<br>Kassel, Germany     | Thomas Langland<br>High Point, NC     | Sophia Nelson<br>Atlanta, GA                   | John Sherrer<br>Columbia, SC          | Aimee Wehmeyer<br>Cortland, OH                                                            |
| Sara Apenowich<br>Avoca, NY              | Benjamin Clark<br>Indianapolis, IN       | Kaitlyn Griffith<br>Fairborn, OH         | Kyle Lariviere<br>London, Canada      | Tristan Nelson<br>Harrisonburg, VA             | Mary Sherrer<br>Columbia, SC          | Margaret Weitekamp<br>Washington, DC                                                      |
| Deborah Arenz<br>Lincoln, NE             | Jennifer Coggins<br>Carrboro, NC         | Kirsten Hankins<br>Waldorf, MD           | Martin Law<br>Bloomington, IN         | Dan Newland<br>Houston, TX                     | Marina Shimer<br>Houston, TX          | Jamin Wells<br>Pensacola, FL                                                              |
| Marieka Arksey<br>Merced, CA             | Richard Cooper<br>Cincinnati, OH         | Katherine Hensel<br>Fairport, NY         | Katelyn Legacy<br>Quincy, MA          | Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan<br>New Brunswick, NJ | Karherine Simmons<br>Greensboro, NC   | Lance Wheeler<br>Greensboro, NC                                                           |
| Joana Arruda<br>South Amboy, NJ          | Samantha Cutrara<br>Toronto, Canada      | Melissa Hermes<br>Fergus Falls, MN       | Kathleen Leonard<br>Sleepy Hollow, NY | Frank Perez<br>El Paso, TX                     | Christopher Slaby<br>Williamsburg, VA | Winona Wheeler<br>Saskatoon, Canada                                                       |
| Laura-Michal Balderson<br>Greensboro, NC | Lucille Delatte<br>Lafayette, LA         | Christian Hill<br>Fayetteville, GA       | Charles Lester<br>Fond du Lac, WI     | Dennis Picard<br>Westfield, MA                 | Suzanne Slye<br>Henrico, VA           | Gregory Wiker<br>Ephrata, PA                                                              |
| Barbara Batson<br>Richmond, VA           | Kathleen DeMerite<br>Greensboro, NC      | Stephanie Holyfield<br>Dover, DE         | Deborah Lilton<br>Nashville, TN       | Patrick Pospisek<br>Grand Rapids, MI           | Mary Spinks<br>Windsor, Canada        | Tracy Wilson<br>Somerville, MA                                                            |
| Jean Bergey<br>Washington, DC            | Mariaelena DiBenigno<br>Williamsburg, VA | Benjamin Houston<br>Columbus, OH         | Audrey Maier<br>Colton, CA            | Kendra Proctor<br>Cleveland, OH                | Carol Stapp<br>Washington, DC         | Rachel Wimpee<br>Sleepy Hollow, NY                                                        |
| Aimee Bernard<br>Pittsburgh, PA          | Heidi Dodson<br>Chapel Hill, NC          | Karen Hudson<br>Lexington, KY            | Michella Marino<br>Hastings, NE       | Jacki Rand<br>Iowa City, IA                    | Raymond Sumner<br>Fort Collins, CO    | Kairen Wong<br>Stanford, CA                                                               |
| Carlo Bitossi<br>Ferrara, Italy          | D. Stephen Elliott<br>St. Paul, MN       | Kyle Huskins<br>Indianapolis, IN         | Gary Marquardt<br>Salt Lake City, UT  | Renae Rapp<br>Troy, NY                         | Jennifer Sweeney<br>Tempe, AZ         | Karen Wood<br>Indianapolis, IN                                                            |
| Thomas Black<br>Ambler, PA               | Emily Esten<br>Somerset, MA              | Maria Iacullo-Bird<br>Mountain Lakes, NJ | Tracy McFarlan<br>New York, NY        | Lauren Rever<br>Washington, DC                 | Cheri Szcodronski<br>Hillsborough, NC | JonDavid Wyneken<br>Renton, WA                                                            |
| Jennifer Bonnell<br>Toronto, Canada      | Taylor Ewald<br>Norfolk, NE              | Angela Indik<br>Bensalem, PA             | David McKenzie<br>Arlington, VA       | Justin Risner<br>Kettering, OH                 | Lily Anne Tamai<br>Oxnard, CA         | K York<br>Fullerton, CA                                                                   |
| Virginia Bowman<br>Luling, TX            | Evan Faulkenbury<br>Cortland, NY         | Victor Jew<br>Madison, WI                | Sarah McPhaul<br>Knoxville, TN        | Hannah Robinson<br>Las Vegas, NV               | Angela Tate<br>San Bernardino, CA     | <b>NCPH would like<br/>to extend a special<br/>thanks to our new<br/>Partner members:</b> |
| April Braden<br>Chicago, IL              | Rachael Finch<br>Spring Hill, TN         | Maggie Moss Jones<br>Fort Collins, CO    | Hannah Mooney<br>Mount Pleasant, SC   | Paula Royster<br>Fredericksburg, VA            | Selma Thomas<br>Washington, DC        | IEEE History Center<br>at Stevens Institute of<br>Technology<br>Hoboken, NJ               |
| Olivia Brown<br>Columbia, SC             | Jonathan Foster<br>Elko, NV              | Richard Jones<br>Queens, NY              | Jeremy Moss<br>Santa Fe, NM           | Esperanza Sanchez<br>Los Angeles, CA           | David Vail<br>Kearney, NE             | Wright State University,<br>Public History<br>Concentration<br>Dayton, OH                 |
| Michael Burns<br>Reston, VA              | Jill Found<br>Columbia, SC               | Zachary Kaufman<br>Cambridge, MA         | Paul Mullins<br>Indianapolis, IN      | Eileen Sanders<br>Surrey Hills, Australia      | Jameyrea Valdivia<br>Rock Falls, IL   |                                                                                           |
| Ellen Bushong<br>Chicago, IL             | Adam Fullerton<br>Sioux City, IA         | Elizabeth Koele<br>Columbia, SC          | Elizabeth Nelson<br>Indianapolis, IN  | Marc Sanko<br>Morgantown, WV                   | Khanh Vo<br>Williamsburg, VA          |                                                                                           |
| Elizabeth Charles<br>Arlington, VA       | Denise Gallagher<br>Murfreesboro, TN     | Jerrie Jean Lamb<br>Vail, AZ             | Kelli Nelson<br>Starkville, MS        | Harlan Seyfer<br>Plattsmouth, NE               | Lindsey Waldenberg<br>Austin, TX      |                                                                                           |

# NCPH COMMITTEE UPDATES

*These updates give a sampling of what NCPH volunteers are doing for the organization and the field of public history. The committees encourage your input throughout the year; contact information for committee chairs and members can be found at: <http://ncph.org/about/governance-committees/>.*

## COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The committee had a productive meeting in Baltimore. Our goal is to keep environmental sustainability at the forefront of the profession's discussions. We developed a working group titled "Public History Education and Environmental Sustainability" for the 2017 conference to develop a workshop/webinar on public history education for fall 2017 or the 2018 annual meeting. In addition, committee member David Glassberg organized the upcoming conference session, "Engaging Neighborhoods in Climate Change Planning with Public History."

This spring we advised the NCPH Board about socially- and environmentally-responsible bond funds. While researching "socially responsible" investments, we found that the term is broadly used and encompasses investments in categories such as public transportation, water projects, urban economic development, education, natural resource conservation, alternative energy research, and health care. We suggested that the socially responsible bonds we recommended should be reevaluated on a regular basis.

We hope to pursue how to carbon audit future meetings. Maren Bzdek and Will Ippen have been working on a checklist for future annual meeting decisions so the board can rate proposals based on issues of environmental/carbon reduction. One conclusion we came to is that sustainability concerns regarding city and vendor (including local venue) selection are distinct enough to merit different evaluation. We discussed collecting data to identify

impact areas shaping the conference footprint and using that to inform a questionnaire or checklist.

## CONSULTANTS COMMITTEE

The Consultants Committee is excited to welcome our new co-chair, David Benac. In addition to working as a consulting historian, David is an associate professor of history and the Public History Coordinator at Western Michigan University. The committee also welcomed new members Alicia Barber, Bruce Harvey, and Ryan Shackleton. Bruce was recently interviewed for *History@Work's* "Ask A Consulting Historian" series.

We're busy preparing for the annual meeting in Indianapolis. We are offering a workshop, "Starting and Staying in Business: How to Start a Career in Consulting" on April 19th which will feature executives, sole proprietorships, small business leaders, marketing advisors, an accountant, and a lawyer offering their insights to those interested in historical consulting careers. Committee members will be in attendance to share their experiences as consulting historians. Join us for the annual Consultants' Reception on April 20. It is a great event to network with established historical consultants as well as to meet those interested in consulting work. Be sure to register for both events!

## CURRICULUM AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

The committee is working on the best ways to tackle its charges and how best to assist educators. First, we are studying new ways to cultivate discussion on the Public History Educators' Listserv; this will include reminding members of its existence at the start of every semester. The committee is completing two new "Best Practices" documents (under review) and examining how to prepare two additional "Best Practices" documents related to working with community partners. The committee is also planning to update the recommended reading lists and create mini-bibliographies on special topics or issues. Finally, we have begun initial planning on the Public History Educators' Forum at the 2017 conference.

If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer, please email committee chair Ed Salo at [esalo@astate.edu](mailto:esalo@astate.edu).

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee met this fall to discuss fundraising efforts for the upcoming year. Efforts are focusing on building up NCPH's Endowment fund, creating a plan for the 2016 annual fund appeal, and the possibility of hosting a fundraising event at the annual meeting in Indianapolis. The committee came together to assist the office in developing an appeal letter to be mailed to membership this fall in an effort to reach our annual goal of providing additional operating funds. In discussions relating to the Endowment fund, the committee focused on ways to bring the Endowment to the forefront and remind the membership of the importance in continuing to increase that fund to provide for future operating funds. The committee also discussed the possibility of hosting an event for the Legacy Circle members in an effort to raise awareness of the Legacy Circle as a vehicle for giving.



Joint meeting of *The Public Historian* editorial board and the NCPH Digital Media Group at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

## DIGITAL MEDIA GROUP

Members of the Digital Media Group have been working diligently on generating and editing new content for the *History@Work* blog as well as for NCPH's social media. Our Facebook and Twitter

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# ACTIONS OF THE NCPH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*After the March 17 meeting of the NCPH Board of Directors in Baltimore, MD, and prior to the fall meeting in Indianapolis, IN, the board convened electronically and by telephone and took the following actions:*

- Voted to approve new institutional subscription pricing for *The Public Historian* through University of California Press.
- Drafted and sent a letter to Governor Malloy of Connecticut urging him to restore funding for Connecticut Humanities and the competitive grant fund it administers.
- Upon final approval from Indiana University, formally appointed Stephanie Rowe as Executive Director.
- Moved NCPH Endowment funds from a Vanguard Prime Money Market Fund into a

Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund upon recommendation of the Finance Committee based on new Securities and Exchange Commission regulations.

*On Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, the board met in Indianapolis, IN and took the following actions:*

- Approved the Minutes of the spring 2016 board meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Voted to pursue proposals from Julia Brock, Jennifer Dickey, Ann McCleary, Amy Wilson, and Kathryn Wilson to host the 2020 NCPH Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia and from Gregory Smoak and the American West Center at the University of Utah to host the 2021 NCPH Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Reviewed a proposal to split the Secretary/Treasurer position in two, expanding the

board and Executive Committee but did not approve.

- Conducted an annual review of the Executive Director.
- Engaged in a Long Range Planning exercise to review the organization's mission, assess its progress toward goals outlined in the existing plan; and discuss future challenges and opportunities needing to be addressed in a new plan.
- Voted to adopt the 2017 Operating Budget.
- Heard reports from the Digital Media Editor and *The Public Historian* editorial team and discussed issuing a Request for Proposals for a new International Consulting Editor(s) for *The Public Historian*.
- Reviewed a report from the Consultants Committee.

# PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS // CONT. FROM PAGE 1

board meeting to initiate a conversation assessing NCPH's strengths and weaknesses. Although this was a lightning-fast exercise, it was provocative to see that when board members were asked to write down these strengths and weaknesses, many of us made similar comments. But does that mean that we were correct in our assessments? Or were we simply repeating beliefs that NCPH members, rightly or wrongly, have long held about the organization?

It will fall on the Long Range Planning Committee, ably led by Jean-Pierre Morin, to begin to assess the data we receive from you to

ascertain whether these perceptions are correct — or not.

As part of this process, NCPH committees will also be asked to share their goals and views. This will ensure that the voices of specific public history constituencies, such as consultants and government historians, are heard. Additionally, we are planning to engage our sister organizations so that we can better understand the many issues which historians face overall (it's all about the context, as we historians know!). And finally, we are considering using a sample "virtual focus group" to participate in a visioning

questionnaire that could allow us to glimpse a different perspective on the future of NCPH.

Once this data is collected and assessed, the committee can draft a plan to enable us to move forward. Here, too, we hope to hear from members as we begin to explore in depth the ways in which we can ensure that NCPH's continued growth is healthy and beneficial to you — its membership.

After all, NCPH is your professional organization, here to serve you. We look forward to hearing your input when we send the survey out via email soon!

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS, INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING EDITORS

**THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN | THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY  
& THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA**

The National Council on Public History (NCPH) and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Department of History seek proposals from non-US public history scholars to serve as international consulting editors for *The Public Historian*, a journal of public history.

### Background and Context

The publishing partners wish to enhance the international scope of *The Public Historian* and its digital presence.

*The Public Historian*, the definitive voice of the public history profession and the flagship journal in the field, was founded in 1978, two years after the UCSB Department of History founded the discipline with a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to train historians for public and private sector careers beyond conventional academic employment. The journal, the official publication of NCPH, has been edited at Santa Barbara ever since and is published by the University of California Press. A quarterly print and electronic publication (on HighWire), the journal provides historians with the latest scholarship and applications from the field and serves as one of the primary benefits to NCPH's 1,600+ members. More than four hundred college and university libraries carry institutional subscriptions. The audience for the journal is comprised of practicing public historians working inside and outside of the academy.

The current editorial team includes the editor, who is a faculty member in the UCSB Department of History (with course release support), a co-editor at Rutgers University–Camden's Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (a supporting institution for the journal), a managing editor and a graduate student assistant review editor (both on the UCSB campus), and a book review editor (with course release support; this position is not tied to a specific campus). NCPH itself is headquartered at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). The editorial office is advised by the journal's editorial board, which is appointed by the NCPH president in consultation with the editorial office.

Public history—as a scholarly field and as a profession—is booming, as membership in NCPH has grown by twenty-five percent in just three years. In the interest of continuing to expand our content and network beyond the US, four years ago we appointed two international consulting editors. These editors served ably for two terms, and we now seek new voices. We aim for consulting editors who will aid us in expanding the international scope of *The Public Historian* by

alerting us to international exhibits, locating international reviewers, recruiting authors from conferences abroad, and connecting us with global trends in public history. The ideal consulting editors will aid us in broadening our publication's appeal, while preserving and strengthening its role as the journal of record for public historians, both academic and non-academic, in the United States and internationally.

The start date is March 1, 2017. The term is two years, with one chance to renew.

### How to Submit a Proposal

1. Contact the *TPH* Editorial Office to receive more detailed specifications of what UCSB and NCPH are looking for.

Dr. James F. Brooks (Editor) or Dr. Sarah Case (Managing Editor)  
*The Public Historian*  
Department of History  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
jbrooks@history.ucsb.edu; scase@history.ucsb.edu

Stephanie Rowe, Executive Director  
National Council on Public History  
127 Cavanaugh Hall - IUPUI  
425 University Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 274-2716  
rowes@iupui.edu

2. By **Jan. 10, 2017**, send a letter of interest and a CV to NCPH at the address above. The letter should identify the potential international contributing editor, and summarize her/his relevant public history qualifications.

Letter should include a statement about institutional commitment. At minimum, international consulting editors should secure from their home institution office and communication support (e.g., telephone, Internet access, and IT support), and travel expenses for the co-editor to attend either the fall meeting of the editorial board and/or its spring meeting at the NCPH annual conference, and other professional/scholarly conferences.

Please contact the NCPH office at (317) 274-2716, or [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu), with questions.

reach continues to expand by the double digits each year, but our longest-running digital project, the H-Public listserv, has been much less active in recent years. We've been discussing stepping away from moderating the list so that we can concentrate our efforts more fully on our in-house platforms (H-Public is housed with the H-Net Commons, an updated digital environment that was developed during the same time that NCPH was expanding and integrating the pieces of its own online communications). We welcome feedback from H-Public subscribers and NCPH members about this possible change; email us at [historyatwork@ncph.org](mailto:historyatwork@ncph.org). We've also been discussing changes to the Digital Media Editor position to make it more sustainable over time and better coordinated with communications efforts based in the executive office. Finally, we're beginning to recruit an expanded cadre of regular authors for *History@Work*, with the goal of maintaining a steadier flow of new material that reflects perspectives from around the field, including at its leading edges.

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

In order for NCPH to remain responsive to the needs of our members as well as the leading voice of public history, a long range planning committee has been created and tasked with reviewing the existing, and developing a new, five-year Long Range Plan for NCPH. We are undertaking a comprehensive consultation of members, committees, leaders, and affiliated organizations to ensure that we capture the interests and concerns that will allow NCPH to continue to remain relevant to an ever-growing field. For this plan to be successful, we need to hear from you! We especially ask that you participate in the survey of the membership (coming soon to your email), as this will help the Long Range Planning Committee guide the development of a plan that best responds to your needs and interests. We look forward to reading your comments and working with you to make NCPH an ever better organization.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is working hard to find creative ways to expand membership benefits. Co-chair Krista McCracken and a sub-committee are actively exploring new ways to expand, coordinate, and develop procedures for NCPH Mini-Cons. We anticipate this initiative really taking hold as a major way to extend NCPH outreach efforts.

We are continuing to make the Résumé Review Workshop a staple of our annual meeting. At past meetings the opportunity to share your resume with leaders in the field has really resonated with our members. We are also exploring creative ways to make new member events at the annual meeting more affordable and welcoming to NCPH's newest members.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee had a productive year compiling a slate of candidates for NCPH's elected offices. Public historians' dedication, generosity, and willingness to serve were, as always, a heartening testament to the vitality of the field. This was, however, a challenging season personally and

professionally for some of our potential candidates, and we had a relatively high number of people decline to run. The committee is interested in developing better education and communication about what NCPH Board members, Officers, and Nominating Committee members do and why their service matters. We would like to start a larger conversation about how to better nurture and develop leaders within the organization who are willing to make these kinds of serious commitments to NCPH.



Attendees of the 2016 New Professional and Graduate Student Social enjoy a night out in Baltimore.

## NEW PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE

The New Professional and Graduate Student Committee is excited to announce that the new version of the *Public History Navigator* is now available. We updated our advice and refreshed links. You can find the most current version on NCPH's website.

In accordance with our most exciting new charge, our committee will soon be personally welcoming each new graduate student and new professional member to NCPH. In doing this, we will foster a stronger community of young professionals.

We have also been busy planning our social in Indianapolis. We arranged the venue (what could be more fitting than the oldest bar in Indiana?) and now are brainstorming fun ways to stimulate relevant conversations. If you have suggestions, please tweet us at @NCPHnewgrad.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Professional Development Committee is pleased to welcome two new committee members: Bill Adair, Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Philadelphia and Sharon Leon, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at the George Mason University, Virginia. We would also like to thank Michelle Hamilton for her leadership and dedication as chair of the committee for the past five of years. In early 2016, committee members Nick Sacco and Jessica Knapp were pleased to take over the role as co-chairs of the committee.

Inspired by conversations at the 2016 Annual Meeting, the committee has started an organization-wide review of all professional development activities. This review will assist the committee

as they strategize the development of future professional development activities for NCPH members. In preparation for the 2017 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, committee members had the great pleasure of reviewing and selecting workshops, as well as identifying public historians to participate in the Speed Networking event. We look forward to seeing which workshops you choose to attend and how quickly you can break the ice!

## THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN EDITORIAL BOARD

Last month, the Editorial Board met at the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, DC. Thank you to board member Deborah Mack, who arranged the meeting room and also provided passes to the museum. We welcomed new board member Estee Rivera Murdock, as well as John Welch of the NMAAHC.

Editor James Brooks updated us on some changes to the line-up of special issues. The international women's history issue will be replaced with an issue on international industrial heritage. Deborah will take on a special issue on the African American museum movement. There is also a proposal for a special section or a special issue on "history harvesting" and community collecting, its many forms and its benefits and possible pitfalls.

We discussed how best to approach digital reviews and talked about digital collaborations with NCPH and *History@Work*, and James updated the board on the current status of the search for two new international consulting editors (see the RFP on page 5). We brainstormed a number of ideas about topics that warrant the journal's attention. They included: public archaeology, the senses, design, conflict memorials and their changing interpretations, national historic trails and rivers, how to start a consulting business (a possible roundtable), and LGBT history.

## AASLH-AHA-NCPH-OAH TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC HISTORY EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

The Joint Task Force on Public History Employment and Education continues to make progress with its examination of trends in hiring and education. A draft report on the public history employer survey is currently under review. The report summarizes the findings of the survey and recommends steps for public history educators and professional organizations to take to improve graduate-level education and address growing challenges in the field. The task force expects to finalize the report in the coming weeks and will then make it available to the four sponsoring organizations. In the meantime, the public history alumni survey remains open. Graduates of M.A. programs in public history and related fields are encouraged to take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/phalumni>. The information obtained will be used to chart the career paths of public historians. In combination with the results of the employer survey, this data will provide a comprehensive view of trends in public history careers since the mid-1980s.

# STUCK IN THE MIDDLE WITH YOU: APPROACHING CONSENSUS IN INDIANAPOLIS

JOHN H. SPRINKLE, JR. / [JOHN\\_SPRINKLE@NPS.GOV](mailto:JOHN_SPRINKLE@NPS.GOV)

As I write this on November 1, one week from today voters in the United States will have elected the person who will serve as the 45th President of the United States. The 2016 national campaigns have demonstrated, as John Oliver likes to note, that no matter how low we think “rock bottom” might be, in terms of the depths of our current political discourse, there are still undiscovered layers of muck which have been now sprayed across the American electoral system. What might have been a season of civil discourse on the relevant issues and challenges that confront the United States was replaced by a cacophony of incomprehensible diatribes that have no place in the American experiment. The lyrics of a 1970s pop tune by Steelers Wheel seem all too appropriate: “Clowns to the left of me, Jokers to the right, Here I am, stuck in the middle with you.”

My Program Committee co-chair Peter Liebhold and Local Arrangements co-chair Philip Scarpino deserve most of the credit for coming up with the theme for 2017: “The Middle: Where did we come from? Where are we going?” To me the theme evokes an expression of consensus (not in any historiographical sense), a commonality perhaps first articulated by President John F. Kennedy in a 1961 speech to the Canadian Parliament: “Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature hath so joined together, let no man put asunder. What unites us is far greater than what divides us.” Seeking agreement, rediscovering what binds us as a community, approaching the middle ground: each of these movements seems all too important for a discipline that is committed to social activism,

accountability, and the lessons of history. As you will see from the conference program, this year’s examination of “the middle” is in no way considered a counterweight to discussions of diversity. Every year the NCPH membership strives to include new voices and to see the conference theme explored from innovative angles. Just as we are seeking consensus, our goal is to encourage exciting new collaborations and engaging and unique experiences. Throughout the work of the Program Committee, we have been amazed and impressed by the range of proposals put forward by our members and others. Each has interpreted the conference theme in their own way, an approach that will certainly ensure a lively and enterprising gathering.

For our 2017 keynote speaker, NCPH has engaged Devon Akmon, Director of the Arab American National Museum, a participant in the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. The museum, located in Dearborn, Michigan, documents, preserves and presents the history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans. They have told an important story during challenging times and we will all benefit from Mr. Akmon’s unique perspective on the role of public history in creating and enhancing community, knowledge, creativity, dialogue, and inclusion. The keynote address will be during the NCPH Awards Breakfast on Saturday, April 22, at The Westin Indianapolis.

The 2017 NCPH public plenary, “Making LGBTQ History American History: A Public Conversation on Stonewall and Beyond,” will focus on the two-decades-long path toward federal recognition of the Stonewall National Monument, which President Barack Obama created last summer



Stonewall Inn, Pride Weekend 2016 from user Rhododendrites on Wikimedia Commons, accessed 11/22/2016.

using his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906. This site commemorates a 1969 uprising where a police raid in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City helped to spark the modern LGBTQ civil rights movement in the United States. Dr. Susan Ferentinos, Historical Consultant and author of the 2016 NCPH Book Award winner *Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites*, will moderate a discussion on Friday evening, April 21.

As with our 2016 meeting in Baltimore, next spring’s NCPH conference embraces the past, present, and future of our host city, Indianapolis, Indiana. Deep in the heart of Middle America, Indianapolis illustrates many of the challenges of approaching consensus within an increasingly bifurcated world (such as the controversial 2015 Religious Freedom Restoration Act for one example). By April 2017, as we gather in the Midwest, perhaps we will all have a better understanding of what defines the middle. “Where did we come from? Where are we going?”

*John Sprinkle is co-chair of the 2017 NCPH Annual Meeting Program Committee, member of the NCPH Board of Directors and Bureau Historian for the National Park Service (NPS) focusing on the history of the NPS and its diverse programs.*

## CAMPING CON 2016: OUTSIDE PUBLIC HISTORY [AN NCPH MINI-CON] // CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Parks and utilizing one’s surroundings to talk about kinesthetic learning in history and STEM classes. Margo Shea and her students shared their experiences developing a tour of the Highlander Folk School, while Brian Forist modelled a collaborative approach to the outdoor tour. When they issued the Call for Papers a year ago, the conveners asked participants to be creative in proposing presentation formats, and Camping Con demonstrated that the call had been taken seriously.

Keynotes took place around campfires and were followed by s’mores. On Friday evening, Nigel Fields, Chief of Resource Education at Great Smoky Mountains National Park talked about the importance not only of gaining new visitors to the National Parks, but also of drawing on the cultures, ideas, and leisure

habits of new visitors to better serve the Park Service mission. Discussion continued until well after dark and into the s’mores social. Saturday evening’s keynote, a book discussion led by Tamera Warren, an environmental specialist at Fort Hood, engaged Carolyn Finney’s *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors*. The discussion inspired the group to commit to taking concrete steps to eliminate the barriers preventing genuine and open access to learning in outdoor spaces.

On the final morning, campers met around the campfire to brainstorm ways to use our new knowledge of utilizing outdoor spaces to better facilitate dialogue about historical topics. Additionally, participants brought a great deal of enthusiasm to the idea of transforming the

medium of the academic conference. At that point, campers started referring to Camping Con not as a conference but as the beginning of a movement to make our conferences more reflective of our values: more committed to a sense of place, more collaborative, and more creative. The conference closed with a flurry of ideas for future Camping Con venues.

More information may be found at the Camping Con website: <http://tsgordo2.wixsite.com/campingcon>

For additional insight from campers, see [#campingcon16](#) on Twitter.

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# PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

## National Council on Public History

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## Join NCPH Today!



Hartford at sunrise. Photo courtesy of Christine Crosby.

### Upcoming Meetings

Indianapolis, IN  
April 19-22, 2017

Las Vegas, NV  
March 21-24, 2018

Hartford, CT  
March 27-30, 2019

NCPH inspires public engagement with the past and serves the needs of practitioners in putting history to work in the world. We build community among historians, expand professional skills and tools, foster critical reflection on historical practice, and advocate for history and historians.

#### Members of NCPH have access to:

##### *The Public Historian*

- a print and online journal offering the latest original research, case studies, reviews, and coverage of the ever-expanding international field of public history

##### Professional Development

- continuing education in workshops, working groups, and critical reflection on practical and theoretical issues

##### News of the Field

- *Public History News*, email updates, and other NCPH reports will keep you current

##### Community

- connect to thousands of other public historians through our blog, *History@Work*, listservs, and on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn

##### Discounts on the Annual Meeting

- Indianapolis 2017, Las Vegas 2018, Hartford 2019

##### Leadership Opportunities

- help to shape the profession and field by serving on committees and task forces

##### Advocacy Efforts

- NCPH, with the National Coalition for History, speaks on behalf of the profession and in the public interest on historical issues.

##### Online Resources

- Statement on Ethics and Professional Conduct, Tenure & Promotion guidelines, *Guide to Public History Programs*, best practices, consultant listings, weekly job postings, and discounted JPASS access to journals

##### Membership Dues

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