

UNCOVER THE UNEXPECTED IN INDY!

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Photo courtesy of Kevin Foster.

Indianapolis is ready to welcome NCPH attendees next month, and we can't wait to show you around our hometown! Festivities will kick off on Wednesday, April 19 with an opening reception hosted and sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society (IHS), located just a few minutes' walk from the conference hotel, The Westin Indianapolis. Beginning at 5:15 pm, IHS will host a live performance of an original historical play developed by Conner Prairie Interactive History Park in collaboration with Asante Children's Theatre. "The Rhodes Family Incident," written by Crystal V. Rhodes and funded by the Indianapolis Art Center, is a 30-minute interactive museum theater play about two contemporary college students from Westfield, Indiana who discover a historic racial incident that challenges their notions of identity and their hometown. Immediately following the play, attendees will have the opportunity to explore the intersections of public history and performance in a Q&A.

Following the play, the reception will kick off with light appetizers and a cash wine and beer bar (with the first drink covered by your free ticket to the opening reception), and the opportunity to explore IHS after dark. All exhibits will be open for attendees, including the innovative *You Are There* series, which allows you to "walk into" select photographs from the Indiana Historical Society's collections and interact with period interpreters. The current slate of *You Are There* exhibits will allow you to "time travel" to 1877 to visit with Colonel Eli Lilly in Indiana's first Eli Lilly and Company start-up; converse with Italian prisoners of war being held at Camp Atterbury circa 1943; and meet the women working at the Ball Brothers community canning center in Muncie, Indiana in 1948.

The opening reception is an excellent start to a conference packed with ways to dig deeper into Indy. The 2017 Local Arrangements Committee has put together thirteen tours and service trips that are designed to take attendees beyond the stereotypes and into the true Indianapolis. These include a rare opportunity to go inside the walls of the Indiana Women's Prison to hear inmates present their groundbreaking research on the history of women's prisons, gynecology, and eugenics in the 19th century; a hands-on service trip to help the Indiana Deaf History Museum sort its collections; and a bus tour to one of Indy's weirdest and coolest museums—the Indiana Medical History Museum, formerly the research center of Central State psychiatric hospital. Those willing to get their hands dirty can help clean up a downtown stretch along the bank of the White River while learning about the 1913 flood that devastated sections of the city.



Photo courtesy of the Indiana Medical History Museum and Thomas Mueller Photography.



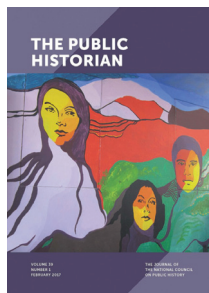
Photo courtesy of Visit Indy.

There are also several featured events which will bring NCPH attendees together with the Indianapolis public. On Thursday, April 20, attendees are invited to the local opening of the Humanities Action Lab's traveling exhibit *States of Incarceration* at Indianapolis Central Library. On Friday morning at 10:30 am, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art will be hosting the special off-site session "The Indigenous Middle: Native Perspectives on and Participation in Public

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INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING EDITORS JOIN THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN

JAMES F. BROOKS / JBROOKS@HISTORY.UCSB.EDU



The editorial team of *The Public Historian* (TPH) is honored to welcome four new international consulting editors to the journal. Responding to our call for representatives who can enhance the international content and reach of TPH, Ben Houston, Na Li (Lina), Olwen Purdue, and Juliane Tomann assumed their duties March 1st. Our four new

consulting editors succeed Manon Parry and Paul Knevel from the University of Amsterdam, who served as the journal's inaugural international consulting editors from January 2013 through December 2016. We thank Manon and Paul for their service and look forward to the contributions of Ben, Lina, Olwen, and Juliane during their terms.

Ben Houston, Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, trained at the University of Florida while working in the

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HISTORY supports the **NCPH** for promoting the value and significance of history every day.



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 – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: ncph@iupui.edu. Tel: 317-274-2716. Join online or renew at 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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2017 NCPH ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you to the voters and the Nominating Committee, and special thanks to all of the individual candidates who agreed to allow their names to be placed on the ballot!

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In 2016, you provided a total of \$10,289 for the Annual Fund, \$2,535 for the Endowment, and \$1,262 for the Digital Integration Fund. Thank you all!

NCPH is also deeply grateful for the many sponsors of the annual meeting, and the Patron, Partner, and Sustaining members who provide additional support for the organization.

\$300 AND UP

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If we have overlooked your name, please let us know. For more information about contributing in 2017, write to ncp@iupui.edu.

Ψ IUPUI Graduate Program in Public History

Established in 1984, the Graduate Program in Public History at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) trains historians in the research, analytical, and communications skills needed to apply their work in the public arena. Students benefit from a combination of classroom instruction and practical experiences that prepare them for a wide range of public history occupations. Campus adjacent to downtown Indianapolis, which serves as a learning laboratory for public history students.

Program highlights include:

- A nationally-recognized public history degree program, with opportunities for students to pursue additional qualifications and certifications in Library Science, Museum Studies, and Documentary Editing
- Two academic years of half-time paid internships in local institutions provide significant practical training (interns also receive a substantial tuition remission and health insurance)
- Situated near several long-time partner institutions and research repositories (including the Indiana Historical Society, Indiana State Library and Historical Bureau, and Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art)

Graduate public history courses include: Digital Humanities, Historical Administration, Historic Preservation, Historic Site Interpretation, Introduction to Archival Practices, and Local and Community History

For more information, contact Dr. Philip V. Scarpino, Director of Public History:

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: HISTORY RELEVANCE AND THE MEDIA



ALEXANDRA LORD /
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In 2004, when the American Historical Association met in Washington DC, the *Washington Post* ran a headline

that said “Historians Talk...but Is Anyone Listening?” The answer, the reporter concluded, was no one. Today, things have changed. In early February, the *Post* ran a piece discussing how people have increasingly turned to history to understand the events of the last few months. Suddenly, knowing what Andrew Jackson did or exploring why the Founding Fathers feared religious tests has become the hot new thing.

Who knew history could be so fashionable and relevant?

Well, we historians did, of course. We have always discussed and debated the idea of a “useable” past and we have always known that history is more than a few interesting stories.

Using history to understand the past and the present is difficult. Using history to plan for the future is even trickier. For me, this lesson became abundantly clear when I was the historian for the United States Public Health Service during the early 2000s.



St. Louis Red Cross Motor Corps on duty Oct. 1918 Influenza epidemic. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

As fears about avian flu and smallpox swept the nation, history suddenly seemed incredibly important. I often joked to my colleagues that our office was, at least on most days, “1918 Flu Pandemic Day”—off-days were reserved for “Smallpox Before 1947 Day.” As a medical historian, I found the conversations I had with reporters and others about these topics fascinating.



News room of the New York Times newspaper, 1942, FSA/OWI Collection (Library of Congress).

But even as reporters pushed me to think about and to explain and analyze the past in new ways, I struggled with the assumptions non-historians made about the ways in which the past could be used to plan for the future. I fell back, repeatedly, on the historian’s stock response—“it’s very complicated”—when I was asked how we could use information from the past to plan for a potential flu outbreak.

I found myself walking a fine line. On the one hand, I explained, the rapid spread of influenza in 1918 was probably shaped, in part, by the failure to understand that a virus causes influenza. Today, physicians, scientists, and public health experts have a knowledge and understanding of influenza our ancestors lacked. But unlike in 1918, travel across borders

is extremely common today, meaning that a disease can jump across continents faster than it ever could before. Pointing out that other lesser-known pandemics (such as those in 1957 and 1968) might provide a more provocative insight into a new pandemic helped slightly, but even that approach had its issues.

I became a master of deflection. I steered reporters toward what I saw as some real parallels between the present and the historic event which they were focused on, but I also worked hard to encourage them to see and cover historic events which I thought might be more relevant.

In turn, they pushed me to think more deeply about how their readers understand the past and how we—the reporter and the historian—could educate people about the meaning of the past. This was a steep learning curve for me. Thinking like a reporter had not been a part of my training in graduate school. This was unfortunate because reporters are natural partners for historians—especially if we want to make sure that the vast majority of Americans can find and learn about historic events which are relevant to us today.

Like historians, reporters do fantastic research; they also use story-telling in a sophisticated way. In fact, I would argue that we have a lot to learn from reporters in terms of how to use a story to make a complicated point.

Unlike many academic historians, reporters work to deadline. Becoming comfortable with that culture was very difficult as reporters pressed me to answer questions quickly. But while deadlines were real, they were also flexible if the story warranted it. What was important to the reporter, I came to realize,

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INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING EDITORS JOIN *THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN* // CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, and later directed the Remembering African American Pittsburg oral history project sponsored by Carnegie Mellon University, which will be the focus of an exhibit at the Great North Museum: Hancock, in Newcastle. He brings a European eye to the US Civil Rights and the history of race in America and will provide important bridging connections for the journal.

Na Li (Lina), of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences at Chongqing University, China, is a proven leader in bringing public history into Chinese universities, from the first national conference in Chongqing in 2013 to the first faculty training program in Shanghai in 2014, followed by a

second at Chongqing in 2015. She continues to build connections with an array of museums, libraries, archives, and heritage sites.

Olwen Purdue, of Queen’s University, Belfast, specializes in the history of poverty, welfare, and public health in Ireland, with special emphasis on urban history. She has served on numerous public history projects, including consultation on the Ulster Museum’s exhibits, the *Titanic Belfast* monument, the six-part *Big House Reborn* UTV documentary, and as producer and writer for the documentary *Belfast: a Tale of Two Cities*. She has particular interests in the teaching of public history across race and class in the UK.

Julianne Tomann, who earned her PhD from Freie Universität Berlin in 2015, is a Post-Doctoral research associate at the Imre Kertész Kolleg at Friedrich Schiller Universität in Jena, Germany, where she runs the “History in the Public Sphere” initiative and the online publishing platform “Cultures of History Forum.” Her areas of specialization include the impact of political and economic transitions to public life in central east and southeast Europe, and is a founding member of the Institute for Applied History in the Polish-German border town of Frankfurt (Oden).

James F. Brooks is editor of *The Public Historian* and Professor of History & Anthropology at University of California Santa Barbara.

2016 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

KRISTINE NAVARRO-MCELHANEY, SECRETARY/
TREASURER / KNAVARR5@ASU.EDU

STEPHANIE ROWE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /
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The 2016 fiscal year was a good one, with a strong budget surplus. The organization saw increases in the number of partner-level members as well as individual members. Total membership in 2016 topped 1,600 and was complimented by strong subscription numbers for *The Public Historian*. The 2016 joint conference with the Society for History in the Federal Government also saw record attendance (topping 1,000) and thus record income. The joint meeting was a success for both organizations with income well over-budget. The board was successful in surpassing its fundraising goal for the

2016 Annual Fund, bringing in just over \$10,000. Administrative costs for the organization came in under budget. Despite hiring an acting director for the summer months while Stephanie Rowe was on maternity leave and hiring additional staff support for the joint annual meeting, the organization saved overall because of an IUPUI staff hiring freeze which has kept NCPH from hiring a full time program manager to fill the position vacated when Stephanie Rowe was appointed executive director. Board and staff travel expenses also came in under budget because the Fall 2016 board meeting was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, home of the NCPH Executive Office. The 2016 Annual Meeting expenses exceeded the budget, but that was due to increased attendance. It should be noted that actual meeting expenses do not include an accounting for the amount of staff



time put into organizing the meeting. Many of the organization's costs, such as portions of staff salaries and benefits, as well as office space and computers, are covered by our generous host institution, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and do not appear in the figures below.

NCPH 2016 Operating Budget

January-December

	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual
Income				
Memberships & Partners/Patrons	\$96,400	\$122,477	\$108,600	\$125,114
Institutional Subscriptions	\$16,500	\$3,010	\$16,500	\$18,109
Annual Meetings & Mini Cons	\$126,000	\$158,099	\$135,200	\$183,847
IUPUI Projects & O'Brien Lecture	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,400	\$11,155
Interfund Transfer from DIF & Endowment Earnings	\$41,358	\$37,875	\$34,358	\$28,779
Miscellaneous	\$45,975	\$46,486	\$975	\$1,430
Contributions to Annual Fund	\$15,000	\$11,205	\$7,000	\$10,122
Total Operating Budget Income	\$351,733	\$389,652	\$313,033	\$378,556
Expenses				
Membership	\$17,750	\$20,624	\$17,950	\$17,752
Annual Meeting	\$89,200	\$85,381	\$90,700	\$122,558
Publications	\$45,705	\$41,267	\$27,250	\$28,990
Awards	\$7,358	\$6,984	\$8,358	\$7,835
Administration	\$175,966	\$158,517	\$153,899	\$143,181
Board & Committees	\$2,850	\$4,070	\$3,850	\$2,584
Biannual Audit/Review	\$3,600	\$3,800	\$0	\$0
Advocacy & Participation in Other Associations	\$6,615	\$6,390	\$6,615	\$7,880
Total Operating Budget Expenses	\$349,044	\$327,033	\$308,622	\$330,780
Net Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	\$2,689	\$62,619	\$4,411	\$47,776

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: HISTORY RELEVANCE AND THE MEDIA // CONT. FROM PAGE 5

was my readiness to engage in a dialogue—to begin to answer questions and to show a willingness to conduct additional research which could nuance the story. I learned that if I wanted to work with reporters, I needed to understand and work within their culture.

Sometimes I found myself conducting research which never made it directly into the article (there was a blow to my ego!) but that research often provided an important, if invisible, scaffolding for the piece. Similarly, I also found myself making what I thought was an important connection between the past and present, only to discover (as I am not a public health or policy expert) that the connection I thought I saw was overly simplistic or even erroneous.

In other words I made a lot of mistakes.

Given the recent attention to the past, I suspect that the media will approach many of us in the coming months. For some of us, working closely with the press will be nothing new, but for others, this will be something not only new but also deeply challenging.

We will all have different responses to the questions reporters ask us. And you will discover, as I did, that no reporter relies on just one historian (I was amused to discover when I worked with a reporter on a piece about smallpox that the reporter went to one of my dissertation readers as well).

Regardless of how reporters approach us and what they ask, this historic moment presents, for many of us, an incredible opportunity for us to demonstrate what we all know—history is fundamental in helping us to understand who we are as a nation and where we have been.



Radio room of the New York Times newspaper, 1942, FSA/OWI Collection (Library of Congress).

NCPH AWARD WINNERS FOR 2017

Please join us in congratulating the recipients of this year's awards for outstanding achievement in a variety of public history formats. Full details about the award winners' projects will be released in conjunction with the NCPH Annual Meeting in Indianapolis next month. We hope you will celebrate with us at the Awards Breakfast on Saturday, April 22, at The Westin Indianapolis, 8:00 am – 10:00 am.

ROBERT KELLEY MEMORIAL AWARD

For distinguished service to the field of public history.

Lonnie G. Bunch III, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

NCPH FOUNDERS AWARD

The NCPH Council of Past Presidents developed the Founders Award in 2015 to recognize those individuals who were present at the creation of NCPH and who played critical roles in the organization's success.

Jack M. Holl

Darlene R. Roth

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECT AWARD

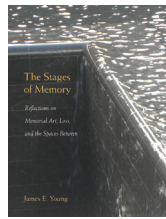
NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf that makes this award possible.

Mann-Simons Interpretive Enhancements, **John Sherrer**, Historic Columbia

HONORABLE MENTION

Prisons Today: Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration, **Annie Anderson** and **Sean Kelley**, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site

NCPH BOOK AWARD



James E. Young, University of Massachusetts Amherst, *The Stages of Memory: Reflections on Memorial Art, Loss, and the Spaces Between* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2016)

HONORABLE MENTION

Michelle Moon, Newark Museum, *Interpreting Food at Museums and Historic Sites* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016)

MICHAEL C. ROBINSON PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

Awarded biennially for historical studies that contribute directly to the formation of public policy.

Robert Lee, Florida Gulf Coast University and **Joseph Vonasek**, Auburn University, *Police and Fire Pensions in Florida: A Historical Perspective and Cause for Future Concerns*, Florida League of Cities and Florida City and County Management Association

G. WESLEY JOHNSON AWARD

For the best article in *The Public Historian*.

Phillip Sietz, "History Matters: What Happens When African Americans Confront Their Difficult Past," *The Public Historian* Vol 38, No 2

HONORABLE MENTION

Anne Mitchell Whisnant, East Carolina University and **Marla Miller**, University of Massachusetts Amherst, "Pulling from Outside, Pushing from Inside: *Imperiled Promise* and Change in the National Park Service," *The Public Historian* Vol 38, No 4

STUDENT PROJECT AWARD

The Chrysler Village History Project, **Rachel Boyle**, **Chelsea Denault**, **Maggie McClain**, and **Kelly Schmidt**, Loyola University Chicago

NEW PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS

HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC. NEW PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AWARD

Lily Anne Welty Tamai, Japanese American National Museum & University of California, Los Angeles

NCPH NEW PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AWARD

Alyssa Constad, General Federation of Women's Clubs

HONORABLE MENTION

Victoria Throop, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

Aiden M. Bettine, DePaul University; **Chris Fite**, University of Pennsylvania; **Cheryl Jiménez Frei**, University of California, Santa Barbara; **Leslie J. Leonard**, University of North Carolina at Greensboro; **Harvee White**, University of West Georgia

UNCOVER THE UNEXPECTED IN INDY! // CONT. FROM PAGE 1

History." Finally, on Friday evening NCPH will host several speakers to talk about "Making LGBTQ History American History: A Public Conversation on Stonewall and Beyond." We welcome both attendees and the public to join in this moderated conversation on the evolving landscape of LGBTQ historical memory.



Indiana Historical Society. Photo courtesy of Visit Indy.

We hope you'll get a chance to investigate our city on your own. Check out pages 8-11 of the conference *Program* for recommendations from the Local Arrangements Committee about what to do, where to eat, and where to unwind at the end of the day. Check out www.visitindy.com/ncph2017 for hotel reservations, local discounts, and great guides and maps of the city. Have a drink at Indianapolis' oldest bar, The Slippery Noodle, founded in 1850; take a stroll along the canal, home to some of the city's finest public art, monuments, and museums; or grab a bite to eat at the historic Indianapolis City Market, opened in 1886. Downtown is rich with cultural heritage, so whether you choose to investigate the city by bus, bicycle, or on foot, you'll always be right in the middle of history.



Photo courtesy of Drew Endicott Photography.

Kyle McKoy is Vice President, Education & Exhibits at the Indiana Historical Society and Philip Scarpino is Director of IUPUI's Graduate Program in Public History. McKoy and Scarpino serve as co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2017 NCPH Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN.

PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

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Call for Proposals



“Power Lines”

Las Vegas, Nevada, April 18-21, 2018

Renaissance Las Vegas

Left: Las Vegas by night, courtesy of Ville Miettinen for Wikimedia Commons and made available by Creative Commons 2.0 license.

Right: Transmission towers redistributing power from Boulder Dam to Basic Magnesium Incorporated near Las Vegas, 1942. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection, LC-DIG-fsa-8d36060.

Public historians want our work to matter. We use our skills at uncovering, sharing, facilitating, and collaborating to advance a vision of a rich, variegated collective past that contributes to shared interests in the present. For decades, “community” has been our catchphrase and our aspiration. How does our field’s longstanding embrace of the collective stand up in a time of divisiveness? Do our commitments to individual agency, group identity, social justice, and civic engagement reinforce or, perhaps, strain against each other? In drawing lines between past and present, delineating distinctive communities, and underlining the contributions of overlooked actors, how can public history bring us together and when does it pull us apart?

NCPH invites proposals for its 2018 conference in Las Vegas that address the power of public history to define, cross, and blur boundary lines—work that explores public history’s power in all its complexities, idealism, and, perhaps, unintended consequences.

The online proposal system opens in April; proposals are due by **July 15, 2017**.