

Scholarly Research and Writing in the Digital Age

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It's been a long time since I've done research-intensive historical research and writing. So when I had the opportunity to write an article using some of the new technologies of scholarship, I kept track of what's changed. After all, I send students off to write research papers. I should be reflexive about my own work, in order to better teach them. I was curious to see how new digital tools would change the way I work, and if they would change the questions I might address in my research.

My topic is the United States Naval Lyceum, a library and museum at the Brooklyn Naval Yard from 1833 to 1891. I'm interested in the ways that the naval officers who created the Naval Lyceum used artifacts to represent their ambitions, and the ways that the public understood their work. My hope is that the final paper will be a contribution to scholarship in the history of museums.

Discovery is the stage of scholarship that has seen the largest change. Scholars of the nineteenth century have

a remarkable amount of material available online, much of it word-searchable. These sources would have been all but impossible to use earlier—I might have spent months reading on microfilm just the newspapers closest to the Navy Yard. There were indexes to periodicals—a knowledge I've now lost. But now it's remarkably easy to check out a few hundred newspapers, or a few million books, vastly expanding my understanding of how the public understood the Lyceum.

This comes with a new challenge. The profusion of low-grade primary sources is distracting—it's fun to keep looking for more bits of evidence. There are dozens of newspaper and magazine articles that mention the Naval Lyceum, but perhaps half of them are simply reprints, and a great deal of what they report is not very important. Newspapers are the first draft of history, and a lot gets cut out. I looked at every article—I thought a complete archive might be useful, though looking back I'm not sure for whom—and found this a problem in writing: too many details.



Naval Lyceum building, U.S. Navy Yard, Brooklyn. *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing - Room Companion*, September 13, 1851. Courtesy of the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

There's also a new skill required to track down these sources. I started with Google Books because it's so easy. Give it my search term, and it returns an amazing range of material. But Google Books is a very miscellaneous collection. The American Periodical Series (available through my library) is much more systematic—you know what you're searching—but not as diverse. And then there are online sources that I didn't find until late in the process, for example the *Brooklyn Eagle* (it's only available

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Brooklyn Public Library stacks. Courtesy of Flickr user Pedro Layant.

The answers I found: Yes, I could ask different questions. Yes, a research plan is still necessary; Googling won't find everything. No, digital is not enough; it's still necessary to visit libraries. And a good reminder: research is only the first part of writing a scholarly paper. It is also about knowing the big picture, puzzling out connections, making sense of relationships, and creating meaning. That part hasn't changed. Nevertheless, the final step in the process, publication, has changed.



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The National Council on Public History 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. Individual membership orders, changes of address, and business and editorial correspondence should be addressed to NCPH, 327 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: neph@iupui.edu. Tel: 317-274-2716. New members are welcome! Join online or renew at www.ncph.org. Institutional subscription matters should be addressed to Journals and Digital Publishing Division, University of California Press, 2000 Center St., Ste. 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223. Or visit www.ucpress.edu. Individuals interested in submitting content to *Public History News* should contact the editor at jdichtl@iupui.edu. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Headquartered on the campus of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, NCPH benefits greatly from the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts.



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The Next 28 Months: Onward

I am pleased to report that the National Council on Public History has now signed a formal Interim Agreement to house the editorial offices of *The Public Historian* at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) through December 2014.

What's in the agreement?

For those of you who have followed the “breaking news” of the ongoing negotiations closely, the particulars may be of interest. UCSB will hire a new Managing Editor for *The Public Historian*, who will begin this January. Randy Bergstrom will remain as Editor and may be joined by a co-editor from within UCSB or a public historian from outside the university. UCSB and NCPH agree that they jointly own the trademark of *The Public Historian*, with each party having a 50 percent ownership share of trademark. UCSB and NCPH further agree that they co-own the copyright in all past issues of *The Public Historian* and will co-own the copyright of the issues created through the term of the agreement. Beginning January 2013, each party will receive 50 percent of revenues from institutional subscriptions to *The Public Historian*. NCPH will continue to receive 100 percent of the individual membership/subscription revenue associated with *The Public Historian*. The current Editorial Board will continue to operate *The Public Historian* as in the recent past, and the NCPH president will continue to appoint new members in consultation with the Editor, Managing Editor, and any co-editors. NCPH members will continue to receive *The Public Historian* as a benefit of membership through the term of the agreement.

Why is the agreement necessary?

For those of you who have followed the story less avidly, here's some brief background on why the agreement is important. Most significantly, the Interim Agreement keeps the editorial offices at UCSB, where they have been located since the journal was founded in 1978. The agreement extends and modifies the contract between NCPH and UCSB that expired in 2009 and which was the subject of continuing discussions over the three years since then. The most recent round of negotiations, in 2011, was eventually unsuccessful in producing an extension of the contract. As a result, the NCPH Board of Directors voted to terminate the relationship with UCSB, effective January 4, 2013. (For more on the history of the negotiations, with all its ups and downs, see the “Update on the Journal” posting to *History@Work*: <http://publichistorycommons.org/update-on-the-journal/>.) The idea of an Interim Agreement was broached in a face-to-face meeting at the NCPH-OAH meeting in Milwaukee, and the formal document now unites NCPH and UCSB for an additional twenty-four months, from January 4, 2013, to December 31, 2014.

What happens next?

We will be exploring various options for the future of the journal: (a) continuing the partnership between NCPH and UCSB beyond 2014, (b) adding additional institutions to the partnership during the interim as well as beyond, or (c) going separate ways in a prepared and amicable transition. The negotiations helped both parties identify issues on which there are differences of opinion and, mindful of these potential obstacles down the road, both have pledged their reasonable best efforts to move forward. The cordial and constructive working relationship that characterized the discussions that produced the Interim Agreement bodes well in this regard.

NCPH has formed a task force charged with envisioning a journal for the 21st century. It will work with the current Editorial Board—and all public historians, both NCPH members and non-members—to imagine what a public history journal should look like as the field becomes increasingly global and digital. An important component in planning for the future will be the information collected through this summer's “Public History Readers Survey,” by which NCPH is trying to better understand how public history publications and media are used today. The survey has gathered information on how public historians stay informed about the field, opinions about the present state of the journal, and how public historians imagine the future of both the field and the journal.

Drafting the Interim Agreement and developing and distributing the Readers Survey have been our journal-related priorities this summer. The agreement is now formalized, and the survey has concluded. We are ready to turn to a proposal that had various incarnations during the negotiations in 2011 and which has been kept alive in the Interim Agreement: the prospect of bringing on board one or more co-editors as part of the journal's editorial leadership. NCPH and UCSB will want to think systematically and in partnership about this idea. What could such an arrangement contribute in terms of intellectual or material resources? What are the practical and logistical challenges of such a collaboration? Could it be implemented as early as 2013? To get a sense of the possibilities out there, NCPH and UCSB have prepared a formal Request for Proposals that seeks to identify academic or public history institutions interested in providing a co-editor and institutional support for *The Public Historian*. The RFP can be found on page 7 of this issue.



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What the Reader Wants

Under the new Interim Agreement for *The Public Historian* (TPH), we have a little over two years to figure out what changes, if any, we want to make in the journal's production. By "we," I mean the members of NCPH, the TPH editorial staff, the Editorial Board, the History Department at the University of California Santa Barbara, the special Journal Task Force that will be making recommendations to the NCPH Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors itself. How do individual readers use the journal and other public history publications? What compelling new features or formats are necessary? And beyond the NCPH membership, what are other audiences for TPH and related NCPH publications and venues, such as *History@Work*, and what are their expectations?

The Public History Readers Survey, which opened July 10 and closed August 15, was an attempt to scoop up ideas from across the readership of *The Public Historian*. It's going to take some time to pore over the responses. More than 600 individuals answered the SurveyMonkey questionnaire in which 56 questions and sub-questions were embedded. Most of those questions required a simple check-the-box response. Others were open-ended, demanding qualitative answers. Probably the one that best captured the essence of the survey was this: "In the proliferating world of publishing venues today, is there a unique role or niche that the NCPH journal should play?"

I'd also emphasize the gravity of another of the questions: "In what ways would you like to see the possibilities of digital history and digital publishing transform the NCPH journal?" In creating the survey and analyzing the results, many of us are hoping for clear direction about how to build a journal for the 21st-century. Can we hybridize TPH so that it continues to be "the journal of record" for the public history field, providing peer-review of new scholarship and serving the needs of an expanding profession, while also marrying this traditional core with aspects of the digital realm? Given sufficient resources, TPH can begin to incorporate new media to enhance the articles and provide supplementary materials. One can also imagine the journal being closely integrated with *History@Work*, or other social media, so that conversations begun in one place become the basis of new scholarly or professional advancement in the other. There also are ways that through the nexus of the journal and blog, we can more regularly draw from, point to, and keep track of gray literature.

The fact that I refer to "digital realm" in the previous paragraph reflects a generational divide which will need to be considered carefully as we analyze survey responses. It's also a challenge in thinking about what it means to "publish." For increasing numbers of public historians, particularly those coming into graduate school or jobs in the past few years, the "digital realm," and "digital history" for that matter are not separate at all from—or something to be integrated into—public history or historical practice. Many of our graduate students and their work are "born digital." They communicate, read, and learn increasingly or nearly completely by digital means. When they read journal articles, they find them in JSTOR or ProQuest or other digitally aggregated searches, and the article is seen without the context of the rest of the issue. In shaping a future for *The Public Historian* and NCPH's other publications and communication venues, we must keep these current and future readers in mind.

Of the 622 respondents to the survey, 20 percent are 30 years-old or younger. Stacked up another way, 11 percent of respondents identified themselves as MA students and 8 percent as PhD students. These numbers suggest the survey results will give us a pretty good window on the population of future journal readers and authors. I think we also were able to reach sufficiently outside the membership of NCPH with the survey, and that the results will suggest new ways of broadening the audience of the journal, *History@Work*, the NCPH Annual Meeting, and other of NCPH's services, including this newsletter. Nearly 30 percent of the respondents either have never been members of NCPH, or are lapsed members.

Whatever their membership status, the important thing for our readers is that we continue to provide scholarly and professional publications that foster the most interesting, useful, and important conversations in public history. *The Public Historian*, this newsletter, H-Public, the NCPH Annual Meeting, and other public history related conversations going on across Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter all involve an overlapping array of NCPH members and non-members. The danger is that discussions take place in these separate silos or are cross-posted in so many ways that good ideas are lost in the resulting flood. The work of keeping up with the field becomes more difficult as publication and discussion venues proliferate. My guess—not yet having read the survey responses extensively or intensively—is that we all want more coordination and efficiency across a range of publications.

Big Changes at NCPH

Between July 1 and September 24 all three staff positions in the NCPH Executive Office—besides that of the executive director—will have undergone a transition in personnel.



Carrie Dowdy will be leaving the position of NCPH Program Director on September 14 to become an educator with Oklahoma County Cooperative Extension Service promoting youth development programs, including 4-H, in the Oklahoma City area. Carrie came to NCPH in July 2009, and has been responsible for many improvements across the organization. From revamping the website and of the conference proposal process, to overseeing and continually refining membership services, the awards program, and all financial procedures, Carrie has been the bones and sinew of the NCPH office. Under her direction, the NCPH Annual Meeting has grown more innovative and expanded in size every year, setting an NCPH record of approximately 700 NCPH attendees this past spring. Carrie would like members and committee and board volunteers to know that she is grateful for the time she had with NCPH, and the degree to which she would miss all those with whom she has worked during her tenure. We at NCPH wish her the best and will miss her dearly!



Noah Goodling will be serving as the new Graduate Assistant for the 2012-2013 academic year. Originally from southwestern New York, Noah is now a second-year graduate student in the Public History program at IUPUI in downtown Indianapolis. He previously attended Allegheny College, where he received a BA in History. Noah brings a wealth of previous experience to this position from institutions like the Indiana Historical Society, the Chautauqua Archives, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center Foundation, and the Robert H. Jackson Center.



Alice Smith is the new Membership Assistant at the NCPH offices. She replaces Angenita Childs, who left the Membership Position in November 2011. Alice's responsibilities include maintaining and expanding the membership roster through planned initiatives, targeted mailings, and promotional opportunities. She also is involved in many of the day-to-day operations of the office. Alice joins the NCPH team after four years as an Administrative Specialist with the Africana Studies Program in the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Prior to that, she performed administrative duties for Dow Agrosiences, Eli Lilly and Company, the American Cancer Society, and other employers. Alice has a Secretarial Certificate from the Indiana Business College in Muncie, Indiana.



Stephanie Rowe will be stepping in as the new Program Director for NCPH on September 24. She comes to the office after five years as the Program Coordinator and Regional Archivist at Museumwise (formerly Upstate History Alliance), a non-profit organization that provides support to the historical field in New York State. In that position, she strengthened membership and development programs, helped create and evaluate a diverse range of educational resources, and assisted in transforming the Museums in Conversation conference into a dynamic gathering of museum professionals. Stephanie will have similar responsibilities at the NCPH office, where she will be overseeing business and membership operations, managing staff, coordinating the website and other digital presences of NCPH, working with committees, and coordinating the awards program as well as the annual meeting. Stephanie received her BA in Social Studies from Ithaca College and her MA in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program.

Ten, No, Eleven Things NCPH Does for You

Your continued membership is important. With your support, NCPH is able to offer better resources for public historians at all stages of their careers. NCPH...

1. Publishes *The Public Historian*, which for more than 30 years has been THE definitive voice of the public history profession.
2. Serves the interests of the community of consultants and other members of the public history profession who put history to work in the world and seek opportunities to discuss entrepreneurial approaches.
3. Provides "best practices" guidelines for public history programs, covering internships, the M.A. program, the undergraduate program, and graduate certificates related to public history.
4. Every year, NCPH offers \$7,000 in awards recognizing outstanding projects, consultants, books, articles, students, and new professionals.
5. Stretches the boundaries of critical reflection on historical practice, through initiatives such as *History@Work*, a public history commons blog. <http://publichistorycommons.org/>
6. Advocates for public historians in Washington, D.C., as a major contributor to the National Coalition for History.
7. Stays abreast of changes in publishing and communication. A special NCPH Task Force, along with the Editorial Board of the *The Public Historian*, is reviewing hundreds of responses to this summer's Public History Readers Survey. The outcome will be an even stronger journal, more fully integrated with digital media and changes in public history as a scholarly and professional community.
8. Provides opportunities for public historians at all stages of their careers to learn new digital tools, skills, and approaches in annual meeting workshops and sessions, working groups, THATCamps, Digital Drop-Ins, and Lightning Talks!
9. Maintains the Guide to Public History Programs, a comprehensive and evolving directory of more than 140 graduate and 80 undergraduate programs in the field.
10. Takes seriously the value of new voices in the profession. NCPH has broadened the purview of its Graduate Student Committee to include New Professionals and continues to improve related offerings at the annual conference, such as Speed-Networking, travel grants, mentoring, and the Poster Session.
11. Provides a regularly updated NCPH Jobs page, which has become the go-to place for new positions, internships, fellowships, and contract work in public history.

Request for Proposals

The National Council on Public History (NCPH) and the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) Department of History seek proposals from academic or public history institutions to provide a co-editor and institutional support 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 at the UCSB Department of History. The journal has been edited at Santa Barbara ever since, is the official publication of NCPH, and is published by the University of California Press. A quarterly print and electronic publication (on JSTOR), the journal provides historians with the latest scholarship and applications from the field and serves as one of the primary benefits of NCPH membership. More than 400 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 managing editor, a graduate student assistant review editor, all on the UCSB campus, and a review editor (with course release support), who is in the Department of History at California State University Sacramento. 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. By adding a co-editor and augmenting organizational and institutional resources, the two publishing partners are eager to expand the scope of *The Public Historian*, enhance its digital media aspects, and broaden its 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. A partnership with an academic or public history institution with similar goals and vision is key to strengthening the work of NCPH and UCSB and the essential services they provide to practitioners of public history. Proposals are invited from public history agencies, as well as academic institutions, based in the United States or elsewhere. (The NCPH Long Range Plan is available at <http://ncph.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2012-2017-NCPH-LONG-RANGE-PLAN-final.pdf>.)

The start date is negotiable, although UCSB and NCPH prefer January 1, 2013. The term is similarly negotiable, but UCSB and NCPH prefer a co-editor arrangement that extends at least through much of 2013 and 2014.

How to Submit a Proposal

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

Dr. John Dichtl, Executive Director
National Council on Public History
327 Cavanaugh Hall - IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 274-2718
jdichtl@iupui.edu

2. By **October 15, 2012**, send an initial letter of interest to NCPH at the address above. The letter should identify the potential

co-editor, summarize her/his relevant public history qualifications, and include a brief preliminary explanation of how hosting the office of co-editor would benefit the co-editor's institution/agency and the two publishing partners. It is expected that this initial letter of interest will be short (less than 5 pages) and create a framework for specific discussions of partnership possibilities.

3. By **November 30, 2012**, submit to the same address a full proposal that includes the following:
 - a) C.V. and a statement from the proposed co-editor on what he/she, as co-editor, would bring to the editorial team and his/her intellectual and professional vision for *The Public Historian* going forward
 - b) Statement of institutional resources and commitment, explaining:
 - 1) Why the institution/agency would like to provide a co-editor and how such a relationship with NCPH and UCSB will advance that host institution's mission;
 - 2) Why the institution/agency and its geographical, intellectual, cultural, and professional environment would provide a uniquely suitable home for *The Public Historian* co-editor office;
 - 3) The financial and in-kind resources and other factors that the host institution/agency could provide for the office of co-editor, including at a minimum:
 - i) release time for the co-editor (be as specific as possible);
 - ii) staff or graduate student support, as appropriate;
 - iii) office and communication expenses (e.g., telephone, Internet access, and IT support);
 - iv) travel expenses for the co-editor to attend the Fall meeting of the Editorial Board, its Spring meeting at the NCPH annual conference, and other professional/scholarly conferences;
 - v) cash or in-kind resources that would allow the partners to enhance the journal by:
 - improving paper stock (for more compelling images) or otherwise enhancing graphic appeal (add spot color, more images, etc.)
 - expanding the journal's digital presence (e.g., by incorporating multimedia enhancements in its online archive of articles, integrating content with NCPH's digital projects such as its website and *History@Work* blog)
 - incorporating editorial management system (or journal management system) software to expand the collaborative process of editing and production
 - c) Letter of support from the administrative supervisor or department chair. Please include an indication of time-frame: how soon could the institution/agency and co-editor be ready to participate and for what minimum duration could they commit?
 - d) Optional: As appropriate, letters of support from individuals, academic departments, offices, agencies, institutions, or other entities that can contribute to a collaborative environment, in-kind support, cultural and intellectual resources, or to other forms of assistance to the co-editor and the journal.

Please contact the NCPH office at (317) 274-2718, or ncph@iupui.edu, with questions.

Introducing Scripto: A Tool for Community Transcription

The Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media (RRCHNM) at George Mason University is pleased to announce the release of its newest open source tool, Scripto, which opens up the possibilities of community transcription for digital humanities projects in universities, libraries, archives, and museums. Scripto allows administrators for any project with collection materials requiring transcription to enlist a community of enthusiasts to participate, through an open-source tool that permits registered users to view digital files and transcribe them with an easy-to-use toolbar. The tool includes a versioning history and editorial controls to make public contributions more manageable, and supports the transcription of a wide range of file types, both images and documents. Volunteers transcribe collection materials, correct the mistakes made by other transcribers, and make that data searchable and accessible. A Comprehensive User's Guide, available on the Scripto website, offers advice on project planning, software installation and setup, transcription editing and oversight, and community outreach. Scripto is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. For questions or comments, Sharon M. Leon (Director of Public Projects at CHNM) is the director of the Scripto project and can be reached via email: sleon@gmu.edu, or phone: 703-993-3831.

Preparing Humanities Grad Students for Alternative Careers

The Scholarly Communication Institute (SCI) at the University of Virginia is conducting two confidential surveys on “alternative academic career paths” (that is, people with graduate training in the humanities and allied fields working beyond the professoriate). One survey is for individuals who have graduate training in the humanities; the second is for their employers. Both are part of a larger study on career preparation in graduate programs and will be open until October 1, 2012.

As public historians know well, humanities scholars from a wide array of backgrounds embark on a variety of careers in areas such as libraries, museums, archives, higher education and humanities administration, publishing, and research and technology. SCI anticipates that data collected during the study will contribute to a deeper understanding of the diversity of career paths that humanities scholars pursue after graduation, while also highlighting opportunities to better prepare students for a range of careers beyond the tenure track.

The study complements the public database that SCI recently created as a way to clarify the breadth of the field, and to foster community among a diverse group. (See at <http://altacademy.wufoo.com/reports/who-we-are/>.) Dr. Katina Rogers (katina.rogers@virginia.edu) is administering the database and the surveys, and will be making a summary of the survey findings available on the SCI website at <http://uvasci.org>.

- Complete the main survey: <http://alt-academy.questionpro.com/>
- Complete the employer survey: <http://alt-academy.employers.questionpro.com/>



IMLS To Perform “Museums Count” Survey



National Museum of the American Indian. Courtesy of Flickr user Allie Caulfield.

On July 2, 2012, notice was published in the Federal Register announcing that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has submitted a proposed survey for Museums Count to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. In addition to making grants and providing policy advice, IMLS is responsible for identifying national needs for, and trends of, museum and library services funded by IMLS; reporting on the impact and effectiveness of programs conducted with funds made available by IMLS in addressing such needs; and identifying, and disseminating information on, the best practices of such programs. Currently there is no source to access information about the

characteristics of museums—to address this deficit, IMLS established Museums Count to create a comprehensive, reliable database about the size, distribution and scope of the museum sector in the U.S. “There is great power in good data,” said Susan H. Hildreth, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. “We know that museums make a significant impact on lifelong learning, cultural and civic engagement in the U.S. But without better information about the size and scope of the U.S. museum sector, we are at a great disadvantage in being able to assess its true impact.” To view the proposed survey, see: www.imls.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/MuseumsCountSurveyInstrument.pdf.

NPS Seeking Comments on Qualification Standards

The National Park Service intends to revise the Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualifications Standards, which are authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) 16 U.S.C. 470, *et sec.* Your input can help guide this effort.

A proposed version of these standards was last published on June 20, 1997. It is available for review from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training at <http://ncptt.nps.gov/wp-content/uploads/Notice-1997-pdf.pdf>. Even though comments were received, it was not possible at that time to proceed with the requisite analyses and revisions sufficient for publication of the final standards.



Courtesy of the Presidio.

Professional qualifications standards were first addressed in 1983 when the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation were published according to the

statutory provisions then in place. Five disciplines were covered: archaeology, architecture, architectural history, historic architecture, and history. Amendments to the NHPA, since 1983 and especially in 1992, added more disciplines to be considered. Specifically, the professional disciplines altogether now include archeology (prehistoric and historic), architectural history, conservation, cultural anthropology, curation, engineering, folklore, historic architecture, historic landscape architecture, historic preservation, historic preservation planning, and history.

The Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards apply to each statutorily-identified discipline as it is practiced in historic preservation nationwide; that is, in the identification, evaluation, documentation, registration, and treatment of historic

properties. While they are mostly advisory in nature, they may be used by anyone hiring personnel or consultants or appointing advisory boards or commissions. However in certain situations, the standards are required expressly in statute or regulation for organizations such as State Review Boards, Certified Local Government Review Commissions, and governmental historic preservation offices. They also directly affect grant-assisted work or work accomplished for the purposes of obtaining Federal benefits such as tax incentives.

The professional qualifications standards do not apply to entry level positions. Rather, they outline the minimum education, experience, and products that together provide an assurance that the program and project manager, applicant, employee, consultant, or advisor will be able to perform competently on the job and be respected within the larger historic preservation community. Work at specific locations or upon specific resources may require specialized knowledge and skills, and these standards can be used to tailor qualifications for those identified needs. While all staff in an office or organization does not need to meet these standards, historic preservation activity that is supported by the congressionally-appropriated Historic Preservation Fund must have supervision, oversight, evaluation, or signatory approval by someone who meets the applicable professional qualifications.

To be sufficient for publication in the *Federal Register* as proposed guidance, the standards will address applicability and usage. There will be generalized statements regarding the nature of proficiencies (i.e., knowledge, skills, and abilities) in disciplines and proficiencies within the context of professional practice in historic preservation. The standard for each profession will address the qualifications, academic background, and documentation of professional experience.

NPS greatly appreciates your careful consideration of these standards that will help to accomplish the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities to provide guidance and information in the national historic preservation program. Please send your input to Dr. Constance Ramirez, National Park Service, 1201 Eye Street, NW, Room 932, Washington, DC 20005, by the end of September.



CALIFORNIA on the MOVE: 32nd Annual CCPH Conference

October 18-20, 2012

Woodland, California

California has always been a land of movement – from its native peoples, to its explorers and settlers, to its promoters and exploiters. The shift and changes of land and water, migration of flora and fauna, and the waves of social movements have all shaped California. Join us as we explore “California on the Move,” in October 18-20, 2012. www.ccpghistoryaction.org

Next Steps for the International Federation

Serge Noiret | Serge.Noiret@EUI.eu

Elected in January, the Steering Committee of the International Federation for Public History (IFPH, or FIHP in its French acronym) met twice in 2012. The first meeting was held in Luxembourg, thanks to the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance de l'Europe (CVCE), on 21-22 March; the second was during the NCPH annual meeting in Milwaukee, April 20.

The IFPH Luxembourg steering committee meeting was embedded into a digital history conference, the 2nd Digital Humanities Symposium. Our discussion concentrated on the IFPH Membership and Finances. Until now, IFPH members had only to express their interest for the field and for the federation by sending an email to the chair of the IFPH. So it was essential that a proper membership and fee be decided for individuals and organizations. For the moment, to avoid more complicated and expensive matters, the Steering Committee decided to rely on the NCPH's long experience for collecting its own money and will use the NCPH website and office for membership fees in 2012-2013. The official address will be:

IFPH c/o National Council on Public History (NCPH)
327 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Meanwhile, the IFPH Steering Committee has been working to foster public history issues and the IFPH-FIHP presence worldwide by participating in and organizing international conferences. The April 2013 NCPH Ottawa annual meeting will give a chance to present IFPH-oriented public history panels and roundtables. Thomas Cauvin, a former member of the 2011 IFPH Nominating Committee, proposed a roundtable comparing public history programs, and other panels are awaiting the Ottawa selection process. A 2014 European conference on digital public history is also planned. In June 2012, the IFPH made an agreement with the University of Amsterdam Public History program and the NIOD (the Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies) to organize a conference in Amsterdam in 2014.

The IFPH became an Internal Committee of the International Committee of the Historical Sciences (ICHS, or CISH in its French acronym) during the Amsterdam meeting of the ICHS in August 2010. The federation answered the call for papers for the 22nd Congress of the ICHS in 2015 in Jinan, China. Unfortunately, none of the five proposals presented by the IFPH were selected. Amended proposals were discussed at an ICHS subcommittee meeting in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, in May 2012, and the proposals have now been submitted to the General Assembly of the ICHS in Budapest, 6-8 September 2012. Proposed themes were classified as follow: 3 or 4 major themes, 30 specialized themes, 19 joint sessions, 21 roundtables and 1 special session. But there is still hope that one of the selected roundtables, "What is Public History?" (an IFPH partnership with the British National Committee of the ICHS) will be accepted.

Because communication is a very important issue when dealing with international organizations such as the IFPH, Jean-Pierre Morin (IFPH Vice-Chair) created an IFPH website—www.publichistoryint.org. The contact e-mail is info@publichistoryint.org. This website will promote



The Dutch Institute for War Documentation in Amsterdam. Image from Wikimedia Commons.

better communication with the membership and offer an informative platform for a worldwide public interested in IFPH activities. Our Twitter account is "@IFPH," and we recommend the use of the hashtag "#IFPH." The IFPH Steering Committee also has created a membership email listserv, courtesy of NCPH and Indiana University, and will be launching a Facebook page soon.

The IFPH presence in Ottawa in 2013, the Amsterdam conference in 2014, and participation in the International Committee of the Historical Sciences 2015 conference in Jinan, China, are all occasions to promote activities and discussions about the disciplinary field and its differences worldwide. So let's meet during the NCPH annual meeting in Ontario in April 2013 for an IFPH convention. In the meantime, we need everybody's input and collaboration on this young federation.

Serge Noiret is Chair of the IFPH Steering Committee and is History Information Specialist at European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

IFPH Steering Committee

- Chair, Serge Noiret**, European University Institute, Italy
- Vice-Chair, Jean-Pierre Morin**, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Treasurer, Michael Devine**, Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, United States
- Secretary, Arnita Jones**, Historian/Consultant, Arlington, Virginia, United States
- Delegate, Anna Adamek**, Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, Canada
- Delegate, Andreas Etges**, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Public History and Sustainability

Leah Glaser | glaserles@mail.ccsu.edu
Will Ippen | wippen@luc.edu

According to the Brundtland Commission in 1987, the word sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own need. Historians incorporate this philosophy by preserving and interpreting history and historical resources for present and future generations. Public historians augment this work with civic engagement. At the 2012 NCPH Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, our Working Group discussed ways that public historians, by integrating the ideology of sustainability into our training, our research, and our practice could have a role in addressing complex problems related to the environment, energy, and to creating livable communities. We produced a point paper as a starting place for NCPH members to formally consider this relationship and have offered case studies on the *History@Work* blog. Our case studies, such as The Plant project in Chicago, described below, provide models and hopefully inspiration for these ideas.

Sustainable Agriculture, Social Enterprise, and Industrial Preservation at The Plant in Chicago

In 2010, John Edel purchased a recently shuttered 93,500 square foot meat packing facility. This facility had been in operation since 1925 in the economically distressed Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago, IL. Edel's aim was to convert this vestige of a once thriving meat packing industry and its associated landscape into a vertical farming complex operating under the principles of social enterprise and sustainable, zero waste food production. The Plant (<http://www.plantchicago.com/about/>) is currently undergoing massive retrofitting, but operates in a limited

capacity. By 2015, it will create 125 jobs without consuming fossil fuels or emitting waste.

Devin Hunter and Will Ippen recognized the preservation potential of this project and contacted Edel in

2011. The Plant's revolutionary adaptive reuse integration provides an encouraging model for sustainable industrial preservation. As it turns out, Edel is an industrial history buff. In retrofitting, he is extremely conscious of the structure as a historical asset and seeks to preserve and reuse as much of the materials on site as possible. While a historical interpretation project is only at the stage of discussion, Hunter and Ippen will be nominating the building to the National Register of Historic Places and will advise on interpretive installations in The Plant's public space. A Back of the Yards oral history project is also likely.

Leah Glaser is an associate professor of history at Central Connecticut State University specializing in public history, the 20th-century U.S., and the American West. Will Ippen is a graduate student of public history, American history, environmental history, and social history at Loyola University at Chicago.



The Plant Chicago, NFP/Rachel Swenien.

Time Travel

Jon Hunner | jhunner@nmsu.edu



NMSU graduate student Stephanie Steinhorst signs up new recruits for women's suffrage in a 1912 Time Travel.

History is full of literal and metaphorical crossroads; people, ideas, and nations meet at these spaces in time and place that uniquely shape our futures. These crossroads are found around the world and offer interesting opportunities for historians. How can public historians use the nearby crossroads in local places to make history come alive in classrooms and museums? As Benjamin Filene noted in his article in the February 2012 issue of the *The Public Historian*, "outside history-makers offer a way to understand what makes our potential audiences care about the past." An international organization, Bridging Ages, is exploring ways to use local resources to

understand life and the societies of today by recreating the past in educational settings.

This innovative technique, called Historic Environment Education, explores a variety of issues and topics, including the use of local history (both inside and outside of classrooms); immigration (past and present); memory studies (how nearby history and local places influence how we remember); museums (the utilization of local heritage for exhibits and programs, especially through living history and "Time Travel"); and place history (how nearby landscapes and historic preservation impacts our understanding of history and society).

An example of successful use of Historic Environment Education is Time Travel. This living history method makes interpreters and their audiences work together. The interpreters research the time period and the people who lived back then, create appropriate activities for the audience, and then for several hours, hold a Time Travel event where the interpreters and the audience recreate living in that past. Since 1980, when

Kalmar Läns Museum in Sweden developed Time Travel, more than 130,000 learners and adults have directly experienced the past at such events in over twenty countries.

This year, Bridging Ages will hold its annual conference in the United States. From April 15-18, practitioners of Historic Environment Education will meet in Las Cruces, New Mexico, to have interdisciplinary and multi-national exchanges on using the past to understand our history and to improve the future. The title of the conference is "Crossroads in History." So make it a public history conference week—Bridging Ages during the first part of the week, and NCPH in Ottawa for the rest of the week.

To learn more about Bridging Ages, Historic Environment Education, and the "Crossroads in History" conference, please visit our website at <http://www.bridgingages.com>.

Jon Hunner is head of the Department of History and director of the Public History Program at New Mexico State University.

→ National Coalition for History Update



Lee White
lwhite@historycoalition.org

NCPH Joins History and Archival Groups in Opposing Federal Court FOIA Decision

NCPH has joined the National Coalition for History, and eleven other history and archival organizations, in requesting a Federal appeals court to review a lower court ruling that would prohibit the release of CIA records pertaining to the Bay of Pigs invasion that occurred over fifty years ago. If upheld, the decision could have a potentially chilling effect on historians, political scientists, academics and researchers gaining access to CIA files.



President and Jackie Kennedy greet members of the 2506 Cuban Invasion Brigade, December 1962, in Miami. Courtesy of John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

The National Security Archive sued the CIA to declassify the full “Official History of the Bay of Pigs Operation.” However, a U.S. District Court judge sided with the Agency’s efforts to keep the last volume of the report secret in perpetuity. In her ruling, Judge Gladys Kessler accepted the CIA’s legal arguments that, because Volume V was a “draft” and never officially approved for inclusion in the Agency’s official history, it was exempt from declassification under the “deliberative process privilege” of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), despite having been written over 30 years ago.

Among the significant and unresolved legal questions raised by this case are the circumstances under which draft histories are subject to withholding under FOIA exemption 5, and how the passage of time affects an agency’s rationale for withholding historical information.

Government lawyers have taken the unusual step of asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for “summary affirmance,” a process that allows it to decide the case without a hearing on the merits and full briefing and arguments.

In asking the Federal Appeals court for a full hearing, the NCH letter notes the precedential impact of this case could have devastating consequences on future access to records and materials for research, especially in the areas of national security, foreign relations, military history and presidential history. In addition, the district court’s decision could have a chilling effect on access to historical materials at other federal agencies, which could rely on the district court’s overly broad interpretation of exemption 5 to deny similar FOIA requests in the future.

The Court is expected to rule on this motion in the fall.

Overhaul of Federal Record-Keeping Ordered by National Archives and OMB

On August 24, a major overhaul in the way federal departments and agencies manage and preserve their records was ordered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

In a directive to reform records management for the 21st century, NARA and OMB said that all agencies must begin to manage their records, including emails, in electronic format by the end of the decade.

The directive also requires each agency to designate a high-ranking agency official to oversee its records management programs and to ensure that all appropriate staff receive records management training.

Deadlines for complying with various parts of the directive are spread over the coming years.

Among the highlights of the directive issued are:

- Federal agencies must manage all permanent electronic records in an electronic format by December 31, 2019, and must have plans to do so by December 31, 2013.



- All agencies must manage both permanent and temporary email records in an accessible electronic format by December 31, 2016.
- NARA will issue updated guidance on managing, disposing of, and transferring email by December 31, 2013.
- By December 31, 2014, all agencies must have records management training in place for appropriate staff.
- By this November, each agency must designate a senior agency official to oversee its records management program. The Archivist will convene the first ever meeting of senior agency officials before the end of 2012.

Overall, the directive lists a dozen actions to be taken by NARA and other agencies to assist all Federal departments and agencies in meeting the requirements set forth in the new directive.

Among the most important will be the Archives’ work with the Office of Personnel Management to establish a formal records management occupational series to elevate records management roles, responsibilities, and skill sets for agency records officers and other records professionals.

The directive is available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2012/m-12-18.pdf>

NCPH is a member of the National Coalition for History (NCH), a Washington, DC-based nonprofit educational organization providing leadership in history-related advocacy. Consisting of more than 60 organizations, NCH serves as the historical profession’s national voice in the United States and acts as a clearinghouse of news and information. Anyone may subscribe to the weekly NCH newsletter, The Washington Update, by visiting <http://historycoalition.org/subscribe/> or subscribe to the RSS feed by going to <http://feeds.feedburner.com/historycoalition>

Scholarly Research and Writing in the Digital Age (cont. from page 1)

through the Brooklyn Public Library) and the Library of Congress's Historic American Newspapers project. Google does not index these. You have to know where to look. Memo to self: ask a librarian first!

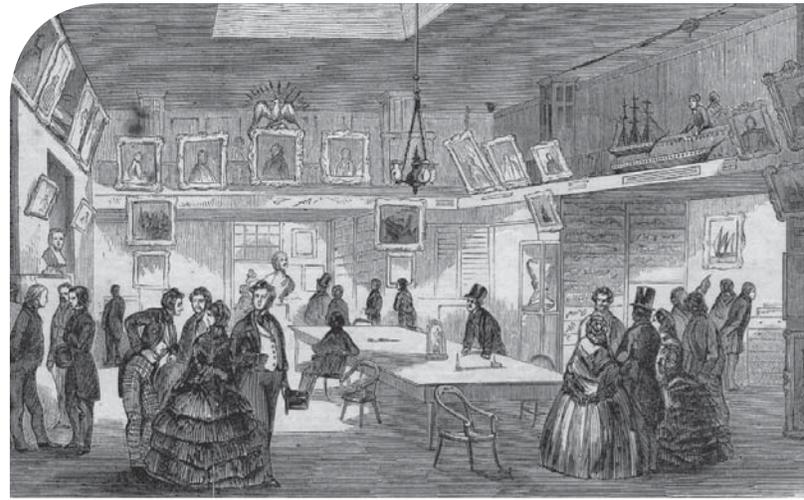
While tracking down primary sources has changed drastically, in ways that alter the kind of research that's possible, tracking down secondary sources seems very familiar. It's easier to find the articles. (Thank you, JSTOR.) I think that a sophisticated user of scholarly databases can more easily get a 10,000-foot view of the scholarly literature now. But overall, secondary literature searches still seem open for reinvention.

I was surprised by how often my sources sent me to the library. Word-searching online sources is so easy that it's tempting to stick with them. Why look at a book when the dissertation that it's based on is online, word-searchable? Why not simply look at the articles that an author wrote in the process of working on a book? I used these shortcuts—but also found myself wandering the aisles of the library, mostly sent there by footnotes in articles rather than library catalogs.

Specialty libraries, I'm pleased to note, are still necessary. The American Antiquarian Society has remarkable materials, much not online. (They do, however, have a wonderful new catalog and online request system.) A trip there for a journal that is only in a very few libraries reminded me of the serendipity that's essential to scholarly work. While waiting to sign in, I noticed an exhibit on their John Fennimore Cooper papers—and sure enough, that collection had material for me. I checked out a copy of the Lyceum's constitution even though I had already read it on Google Books—and was delighted to find that its first owner, a young officer at the Navy Yard, had written many marginal notes that let me read the text through his eyes. (And my digital camera let me capture all of this quickly so that I could spend the time necessary to decipher it at home.)

Writing. A new tool made it possible to keep track of my sources. I've used Zotero before, in a desultory way, but had never committed to it at the beginning of the project. As important, I'd always cut corners

by making footnotes without putting the sources into Zotero first, and then using Zotero to make the note—tempting though that is. Zotero saved me days of footnote cleaning up, searching for page numbers and bibliographic details. As with finding online sources, I'm sure there is more that Zotero might do for me. Can I sort books and articles, or notes in them, not by date of publication but by date of material they're about? I'm sure I could have set up tags to help me



Interior View of the Naval Lyceum, U.S. Navy Yard, Brooklyn. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, August 1, 1857. Courtesy of the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

know what to look for in the library. More to learn here. New tools require new skills.

The abundance of sources, so much of it in readily cut-and-paste format, makes possible new ways to write badly. It's sorely tempting, I found, to paste together descriptions, to let the historical actors, or the newspapers reporting them, speak for themselves. But that's no substitute for the hard historical work of figuring out what writings mean. It's odd to wish for fewer sources, but making choices is hard, and the most recent draft of my paper is still too much quotes, too little analysis.

It might be that in some fields quick and easy communications between scholars makes a difference in scholarly work. I kept my Twitter followers informed, mostly through entertaining quotes on the nature of museum work in my sources, and posted a bit on my blog. But the topic's pretty esoteric; not much response there. A paper written over a longer period, with presentations of preliminary work, might get more from the online community. I did email libraries and museums, and found important material that way. I've made my Zotero library public, but it's unlikely to attract a crowd. It does present a new kind of openness: my notes are there, and it should, in theory, make it easy for anyone to check my footnotes, and my sources.

The paper is just about done now. Still, the web beckons. Every so often I Google some new phrase that seems like it might give me new sources. But that's more about procrastination than serious research. New technologies bring new ways to procrastinate, perhaps the most serious problem of writing in the digital age. I needed to get out of range of wi-fi to actually write.

Publishing. The next step is to publish this, to turn manuscript into article. The digitization of all things has changed this in interesting ways. One question: why publish in a journal at all? It's easy enough simply to put the manuscript onto Scribd.com and my blog, tweet about it, and move on. Over the course of a few months it will be seen by a few hundred people, which is more people than will see it

continued on next page →



Brooklyn Public Library. Courtesy of Flickr user pellesten.

Scholarly Research and Writing in the Digital Age (cont.)

in most journals. True, it won't be indexed—but it will be Googleable, which might be more important. It won't get me official credit in my job, but I'm at the stage in my career where that doesn't matter.

And publishing means taking it off the open web. Scholarly publishing has changed enormously in the last decade. Ten years ago I wouldn't have thought to read the fine print on rights to articles published in journals. Now, because there's a choice, we know to do that. And it does seem that it really is a choice, either freely open, or published and closed. I can post a draft online, but not the final version; the publishers want to sell that through their website. I understand their economics, and I appreciate the value-added that vetting and editing provide, but as a public historian I don't like the end result. No answer to this question here; it's a conundrum that the world of scholarly communications needs to work out, and a choice each scholar needs to make.

And it will certainly all look very different in another decade.



Seeking More Participants for Ottawa

Now that the Program Committee has worked through the session, workshop, and working group proposals for the 2013 NCPH Annual Meeting in Ottawa, NCPH will open calls for Poster Sessions and for Working Group discussions this month.

Call for Working Group Discussions

Each Working Group has two facilitators, who proposed the topic and who will be looking for 8-12 individuals to join them in pre-conference, online discussion, to exchange brief case statements, and to meet in session during the conference. Look for the call in late September; it closes October 15.

Information about NCPH Working Groups can be found at <http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/working-groups/>

Call for Posters

The Poster Session is a format for presenters eager to share their work through one-on-one discussion, can be especially useful for work-in-progress, and may be particularly appropriate where visual or material evidence represents a central component of the project. Watch for the call starting September 13. Poster proposals are due November 1.



An Endowment for Public History

Your financial support enables the NCPH to **build community among public historians, expand professional skills and tools, foster critical reflection on historical practice, and publicly advocate for history and historians**. The primary purpose of the NCPH endowment fund is to generate earned income that can be used to:

- Build a more inclusive membership and public history community
- Increase the reach of our journal and other print and digital publications
- Provide professional guidelines and other resources for public history practitioners in all corners of the field and at each stage of their careers
- Increase conversations across constituencies within NCPH and among public history practitioners

Contributions (checks made payable to NCPH) may be sent to NCPH, 327 CA – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202. Visit www.ncph.org to make a contribution online.



Legacy Circle

Joining the Legacy Circle of the NCPH returns the gift of permanency to an organization that has not only provided an intellectual foundation for professional development, but also a home for public history practitioners. The Legacy Circle invites donors who will pledge significant in-hand or deferred donations. NCPH already has received pledges totaling nearly \$200,000 in deferred gifts. More are needed to ensure the organization can continue to serve public historians for decades to come.

Please contact the executive director (317.274.2716 or jdichtl@iupui.edu) or see the NCPH website for information about supplying NCPH with a letter of intent or to learn more about the Legacy Circle giving levels and their benefits.

Look for History@Work!



A public history blog from the National Council on Public History



www.publichistorycommons.org

Conference
New Views

Consultants
Academy

Projects
Activism

International
NCPH

2013 Awards - Call for Nominations

NCPH awards recognize excellence in the diverse ways public historians apply their skills to the world around us. We invite you to nominate a colleague or submit your own work and join us at the 2013 award breakfast in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, during the annual meeting of NCPH.

Excellence in Consulting Award—Two \$500 awards recognize outstanding work and contributions by consultants or contractors.

Graduate Student Travel Award—Five travel grants of up to \$300 each for graduate students presenting (session or poster session) at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Outstanding Public History Project Award—\$1,000 recognizing a project that contributes to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serves as a model of professional public history practice.

Student Project Award—A \$500 travel grant to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting recognizes the contributions of student work to the field of public history.

NCPH Book Award—A \$1,000 award for the best book about or “growing out of” public history published within the previous two calendar years (2011 and 2012).

New Professional Award—Two \$500 travel grants to encourage new professionals, practicing public history for no more than three years, to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Michael C. Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis—A \$500 award and a certificate to honor a historical study that directly contributes to the formation of public policy.

NCPH Book Award nominations must be received by November 1, 2012. All other nominations must be received by December 1, 2012.

Questions? (317) 274-2716; <http://www.ncph.org>; ncph@iupui.edu



Courtesy of Library of Congress, DIG-fsac-1a34201.

Public History News

National Council on Public History

327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5148

ISSN 08912610

Editor: John Dichtl

Editorial Assistant: Noah Goodling

Design: Brooke Hamilton



Join NCPH Today!



2013 NCPH Annual Meeting

Delta Ottawa City
Center

Ottawa, Ontario

April 17-20, 2013

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 the NCPH groups on Facebook and LinkedIn

Discounts on the Annual Meeting

- Ottawa 2013, Monterey 2014, Nashville 2015 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 Graduate Programs, best practices, consultant listings, and weekly Job postings

Membership Dues

- Patron: \$600
- Partner: \$400
- Sustaining: \$125
- Individual: \$70
- New Professional: \$40
- Student: \$30

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