

# IN THE LOOP

## Student and New Professional Dispatch

By NCPH's New Professional and Student Committee

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first issue of ***In the Loop: Student and New Professional Dispatch!*** This quarterly newsletter is written by members of NCPH's New Professional and Student Committee (NPSC), all of whom are current students or new professionals in all areas of public history.

**The NPSC meets monthly**, giving updates on the projects we're working on (some of which we're sharing below!) that we hope will help create a community for students and new professionals. It's an uncertain and stressful time in the field, and for those just starting out, it can seem even more daunting. This newsletter is a dedicated resource for you to learn about upcoming programming and events from the committee, empowering you to build connections with fellow emerging public historians.

**Check out our repeating columns!** We have an advice section to share our tips, tricks, and thoughts about the challenges we experience as students and new professionals, including prepping for an interview, what to look out for in internship and job descriptions, finding your first job, and everything in between! We also have a funding section, which includes information about scholarships, fellowships, stipends, and conference funding specifically for new professionals and students. *In the Loop* will evolve over time, but it will always remain a place where you can find community and opportunities to grow professionally.

### MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

#### ***Alyssa Moore***

Meet Alyssa! Since 2022, Alyssa has worked with her colleagues on the NPSC committee to connect GLAM (Gallery, Library, Archive, and Museum) professionals locally and nationally. Alyssa lives in New York City and recently started a new role as a Historian and Collections Analyst for the JPMorgan Chase Corporate History Program. She is responsible for helping to preserve and exhibit the many thousands (and counting!) of historical artifacts, media, and archives the Program maintains in its collections. Prior, she was the Collections Specialist at Intrepid Museum, a decommissioned aircraft carrier that is moored in the Hudson River. In 2025, Alyssa presented a poster based on her graduate thesis at the NCPH conference in Montréal, where she also accepted the New Professional Award. A highlight was helping to plan and execute the Student and New Professional conference meet-up, where she met new professionals from across the United States and Canada. Alyssa graduated with an MA in Archives and Public History from New York University in 2024. When she is not browsing the many museums of NYC, you can find Alyssa reading for her local book club and trying to nab cheap concert tickets with her friends.

## CALL FOR STUDENT SHOWCASE SUBMISSIONS

If you're a current student or new professional, we want to feature you on our Student Showcase! Introduce yourself and tell NCPH's [@publichistorians](#) Instagram followers about your research, projects, or work in the field. Share your social media handles to connect with other public historians across the country. It's not bragging, it's networking! Check our Instagram for examples of previous student showcases.

## SUSTAINING OURSELVES SERIES

We're excited to announce the next installment of the "Sustaining Ourselves: Practical Tools and Community Conversation" coming soon. Join three current humanities and cultural heritage professionals for a virtual panel discussion to demystify the hiring process in the cultural heritage field. Our guests will share information and advice about job interviews, writing cover letters, the best places for cultural heritage professionals to look for job openings, and more. Stay tuned for more information later this year!

The NCPH "Sustaining Ourselves" series offers resources for cultural heritage professionals experiencing unprecedented attacks on the field. [Past conversation topics](#) have included mutual aid and meditation.

## JOIN OUR DISCORD

Join us in a Discord server for current and prospective New Professional and Student Committee members. Our committee meets each month in a voice channel on Discord and all are welcome to join. You can also hang out and chat with colleagues in the field, share resources, and arrange local or regional meetups with committee members and other students and new professionals! Here is the link to join:

<https://discord.gg/caB8mYPktU>

## GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Our committee recently updated and published *The Graduate Student Handbook: Choosing and Thriving in a Public History Program*, and we're excited to share it with you! This free resource available on NCPH's website is designed to help those interested or enrolled in a graduate public history program. It covers important topics such as applying to and choosing a public history program and how to succeed as a student. The *Handbook* also has a list of resources ranging from creating an online presence to taking care of your mental health to make sure you're supported and informed during the earliest stages of your public history career. Check it out here: <https://ncph.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/NCPH-Graduate-Student-Handbook-2025.pdf>.

## ADVICE

In this section committee members will share tips, tricks, and things they wished they knew. Anyone can ask us questions, share challenges, or reach out for new perspectives regarding school, jobs, internships, or professional development. If you've ever wondered what it's like to attend a conference, how to reach out to somebody on LinkedIn, or simply want to hear how we're navigating the public history field, we're here! If you have a question or topic you want to see discussed, ask us here:

<https://forms.gle/Z3GFt7fDF6p81YXY9>.

This issue's advice column was written by committee member Elise Schrader:

*For the first issue, I wanted to talk about how I got my first job. I currently work as the Collections Associate at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but it's definitely not where I expected myself to be when I was in grad school. I took extra time to graduate while finishing my final paper, but I started applying for jobs in April of 2022. I didn't think I would get a job from my first couple of applications, but I wasn't prepared for*

*just how long I would be looking. I officially graduated in December 2022, and I still didn't have a job.*

*Eventually, one year and three months after submitting my first application, I received a call that I got a job. It was a one-year, grant funded collections position. A temporary position was not what I originally wanted; the lack of stability and not knowing what was coming next was stressful. The position ended up providing me with invaluable professional skills and development, however, and I wouldn't have gotten the job I have now without it.*

*There are some things I learned from that experience that I hope can provide support and solidarity to others. The first is that this field is filled with so many talented and passionate people that finding a job—especially when the field is experiencing so much uncertainty—can be hard. Even if it takes you a while to find your place, that doesn't mean your skills and experience aren't valuable. The second is being flexible with your goals and job path. A job might not be ideal or what you expected, but it may be just what you need to get that perfect job the second time around. The last thing I want to say is that everybody's experience finding jobs after school is different. I looked for over a year, but I know somebody who got a job a couple months out of grad school. Don't be discouraged by someone else's journey!*

***Ultimately, be kind to yourself and do whatever you think is best for you, even if it's not what you had originally pictured for yourself.***

## FUNDING & MORE

The [Association of Midwest Museums](#) is holding their conference, “We Hold These Truths,” virtually July 22, 2026, and in-person in Chicago, Illinois, July 26-29, 2026. They are offering students and unemployed workers free virtual access with registration or in-person and virtual attendance for a reduced cost of \$50 with advanced registration. Advance registration for in-person and virtual attendance ends **July 13, 2026**, and virtual only advanced attendance ends **July 17, 2026**. Register here: <https://www.ammconference.org/registration/>.

The [Southeastern Museums Conference](#) (SEMC) will be hosting their conference, “Forged in Culture, Focused on the Future,” September 28-30, 2026, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and they are currently accepting submissions for their Student Work in Museums (SWIM) poster and presentation session. To be eligible, the applicant must be currently enrolled or recently graduated from an accredited college or university and have participated in an internship, practicum, or similar activity at a museum in the SEMC region. If selected, the applicant will be provided with free registration for the conference and will present their work to attendees. Applications are due **August 28, 2026**. For more information about SWIM and how to apply, check this link: <https://www.semcdirect.net/student>.

The [Mountain Plains Museum Association](#), in partnership with the [Oklahoma Museums Association](#) (OMA) and the [Institute of Library and Museum Services](#) (IMLS), is now accepting applicants for its new program, Engage Forward: 21st Century Museum Professionals LEAD. This program will select 30 applicants to take part in an elite cohort to receive advanced training from industry-renowned museum and relevant content experts in the four foundational pillars essential to museum leaders of today and tomorrow: Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy, and Development (L.E.A.D.). Selected participants will also receive a complimentary MPMA membership, ongoing access to digital learning modules, and invaluable networking opportunities. Applications are due **August 31, 2026**. For more information, check this link: <https://www.okmuseums.org/lead/>.

The [Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums](#) (MAAM) is holding their annual conference in New Brunswick, New Jersey, October 6-8, 2026. They are currently accepting applications for their 2026 MAAM Fellowships, and students and new or emerging professionals are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants that are selected will receive complimentary registration to the conference, a \$150 stipend, and a one year membership. Applications are due **September 11, 2026**. For more information about the fellowship and how to apply, check this link: <https://midatlanticmuseums.org/annual-meeting/registration/>.

**LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?**

*In the Loop* is made through the hard work of our volunteer committee members. If you have someone who could benefit from this newsletter, share this email and have them subscribe here: [https://ncph.org/subscribe-to-newsletter\\_v2026/](https://ncph.org/subscribe-to-newsletter_v2026/)

*Thank you for reading and we hope you continue to stay in the loop with us!*  
*- The New Professional and Student Committee*



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