



NATIONAL COUNCIL  
ON PUBLIC HISTORY

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# Public History News

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2007 NCPH Awards (continued)

A quarterly publication  
of the **National Council on  
Public History** in cooperation with  
the Department of History,  
Indiana University-Purdue  
University Indianapolis.

Bill Bryans, President  
Marianne Babal, Vice President

Robert Weible, Past President

Patrick Moore,  
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## CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNERS!

### NCPH BOOK AWARD



Cathy Stanton receives book award from NCPH President Bill Bryans.

#### Cathy Stanton

*The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City*  
(University of Massachusetts Press, 2006)

Since 1978 Lowell National Historical Park has been a ground-breaking experiment in revitalizing a deindustrialized city by converting much of it to a heritage site for interpreting the milltown capitalism that shaped its history. Taking cues from ethnography, Stanton immersed herself in the swirl of interpretive policy and community politics, public history professionalism, and visitor expectations playing out in an urban landscape rich in artifacts and memories. The product is a lively, street-savvy, insightful, and clearly phrased portrait of Lowell as a dynamic theatre of cultural performance where progressive public historians have played crucial, though sometimes ambiguous, roles. *The Lowell Experiment* will be widely read and discussed because it touches on pressing intellectual and emotional issues all of us face as we work with our varied publics to fashion a usable past.

### Book Award Finalists:

#### Lisa Breglia

*Monumental Ambivalence: The Politics of Heritage*  
(University of Texas Press, 2006)

#### Gaye Chan and Andrea Feeser

*Waikiki: A History of Forgetting & Remembering*  
(University of Hawai'i Press, 2006)

### G. WESLEY JOHNSON AWARD

#### Kathy Corbett and Dick Miller

"A Shared Inquiry into Shared Inquiry"



Dick Miller (second from right) accepts the G. Wesley Johnson Award for his joint article in *The Public Historian* with Kathy Corbett, "A Shared Inquiry into Shared Inquiry." Stan Hordes (first from left) and G. Wesley Johnson (right) assist in presenting the award.

Their article, which appeared in the "Public History as Reflective Practice" issue of the journal last year, has wide appeal to a broad audience of public historians. It is thoughtful, personal, and pertinent for those who pursue the practice of history with "publics." Well written and insightful, the article weaves tenets of public history with notable case studies, each illuminating the no-one-size-fits-all character of public history. Both for students embarking on careers and for those veterans in the field, the article is a "must" for public historians.

# SCENES OF SANTA FE — 2007 ANNUAL MEETING



Museum of New Mexico Director Sue Sturtevant welcomes conference goers at the Opening Reception in the Palace of the Governors.



Calinda Lee offers comments at the Closing Plenary town hall meeting.



The Exhibit Hall bustled with Poster Session and book exhibit activity on Friday.



NCPH President Bill Bryans (left) thanks Annual Meeting Program Chair, Rose Diaz and Local Arrangement Chair, Jon Hunner.



Awards Luncheon keynote speaker, Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez, New Mexico State Historian, delivers his address, "Walking in History."



Rebecca Conard (left), and Modupe Labode at the Closing Plenary town hall meeting.



Jon Hunner and Nancy Toff use the Awards Luncheon as an opportunity to network.



Benjamin Filene and Brian Horrigan collaborate on a project after a day of sessions.



Eight NCPH presidents—past, present, and future: (From left) Alan Newell, Michael Devine, Jeffrey Brown, Rebecca Conard, Marianne Babal, Bill Bryans, Patrick O'Bannon, and Sharon Babaian.



Jay Price, director of the Public History Program at Wichita State University, comments during the Public History Educators Breakfast.



Comerstone Community walking tour in downtown Santa Fe.



MTSU PhD student Susan Knowles discusses her poster "Two Paths to Progress: W.E.B. Du Bois, Charles J. Johnson and the New Negro Arts Movement."

# Final Thoughts on the 2007 Meeting

by Sarah Younker-Koeppel  
syounker@iupui.edu



Students and local community organizations participated in Friday's Poster Session.



Saturday's Public History Educators' Breakfast.



Greta Taylor from ASU discusses her poster, "Pioneer Arizona: Failing to Reach its Public(s)."



Jim Conway raises an issue from the floor during the town hall meeting.



Mingling at the Endowment Fundraising Event.

On the Monday following the annual meeting in Santa Fe, an electronic evaluation was sent to all 476 conference attendees. Much to the delight of the executive office, 205 attendees responded (43%) to the questionnaire and offered thoughtful comments and suggestions. Despite a brief snow storm, conference participants reported being pleasantly surprised by: the number and diversity of sessions; the depth of the keynote speakers on Friday and Saturday; the wide-range of tours and events; and the large number of attendees. We have compiled some of these comments and statistics for your review.

## Registration and Attendance

-- For the first time in the organization's history, online registration was an option. Approximately 64% of the total registrants selected this option as opposed to faxing, mailing, or calling in their registration information.

-- Out of the 476 meeting registrants, 47% were NCPH members. Students, Consultants, and University Faculty made up the majority of attendees (**Figure 1**).

-- Fifty-one percent of respondents reported this as their first time attending an NCPH annual meeting while 33% had attend six or more meetings.

-- Ninety-four percent of the evaluation participants either agreed (23%) or strongly agreed (71%) that the conference was well organized. Here is a sampling of suggestions from participants:

- Offer fewer sessions. Participation was too low and presenters worked too hard preparing
- Keep the amount and variety of sessions
- The opening and closing plenary session were a good idea. Continue to offer at future meetings
- The name tag printing was too small and should have location added
- Session descriptions would have been nice
- Signs in hotel need to be clearly marked
- Didn't receive a Program prior to the conference. Send these out sooner
- Keep the on-site booklet. It was convenient and saved paper
- Provide room assignments in the Program
- Appreciated the fact that the registration table was setup early and ready to accommodate attendees
- Don't change a thing!
- Provide a list of attendees.

## Sessions

-- NCPH and University of New Mexico Library staff attempted to count audience members in each session. The average attendance at each of the 47 regular sessions counted was 16 people.

-- There were seven time slots with sessions, four workshops, six committee meetings, and two plenary sessions. The results show that 83% attended three or more sessions and 47% attended five or more (**Figure 2**).

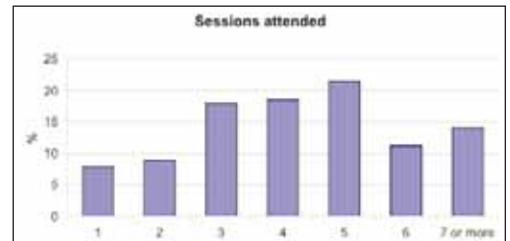


Figure 2: How many sessions did you attend?

-- Approximately 96% of respondents either agreed (29%) or strongly agreed (67%) that the conference sessions were appropriate and informative.

> continued on page 4

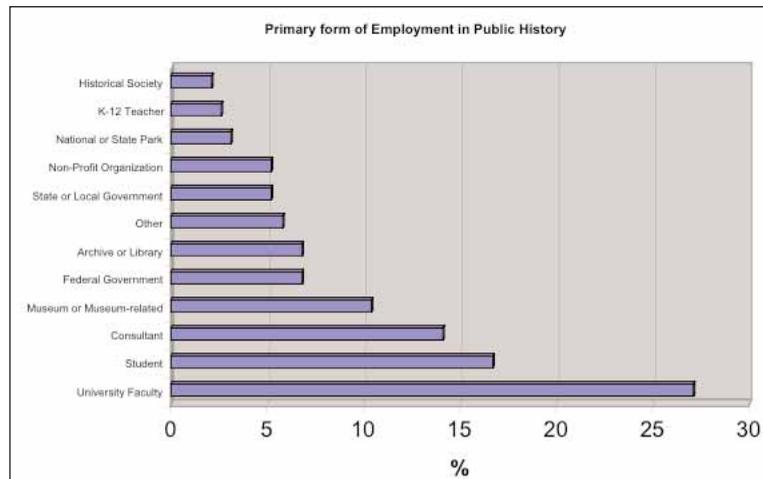


Figure 1: What is your primary form of employment in public history?

# Final Thoughts on the 2007 Meeting > continued from page 3

## Liked most about conference

• The location was beautiful, the food was great, and the atmosphere couldn't be beat. Even the T-shirts were cute • Collegiality, friendliness, and shared learning • The variety and content of sessions • The keynote speakers, tours, and off-site events connected to the area nicely • The work of the Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee • Opening and Closing Plenary Session • The fact that NCPH arranges its meetings in historic hotels and offers outstanding tours • Fresh voices and new attendees • Adequate AV provided and the room setups worked • The positive interaction between students and professionals.

## Liked least about conference

• Lack of a clear description of the workshops • Not being able to have discussions after sessions were finished • Having to travel between two hotels • Too many concurrent sessions • Limited focus on practitioners outside academia • High prices for dinners • Lack of time for networking. Not enough 'downtime' • The high cost of Santa Fe • Conference room locations were not well marked • The Opening Reception space was too crowded.



## Additional Comments

• Offer fewer traditional panels and more imaginative formats that would liven up the program! • NCPH needs to push the envelope on session structure and on some formats that build opportunities for conversation and information exchange into the main body of the session • I was disappointed that some people read their papers during a presentation • Thanks a bunch! • I was a conference mentor, and I enjoyed that a lot • More collaboration and inclusion of consultants • I had a wonderful time...as a new member, I look forward to attending and presenting at the next annual meeting in Louisville • This was quite possibly the worst conference experience I have ever had • Even in semi-retirement, I still like attending NCPH meetings • I found the 'public' lacking at this conference. Never once did I hear any discussion of audience or being outwardly focused! • I hope you are trying to hold conferences in historic hotels • I suggest that NCPH incorporate opening and closing plenary sessions at each annual meeting • Make one of the meals part of the conference registration package so all registrants can attend • I like the idea of having afternoon tours. I would also suggest more opportunities to mingle • As a presenter and first time attendee, I was very disappointed with the lack of attendance at our session. From what we understood the conference was looking to expand its subject matter and content is extremely relevant to the public history arena • Looking forward to Louisville in 2008 • Well worth the expense and time • There seemed to be a lot of confusion about sound systems. I think next time NCPH needs to make sure exactly what

equipment suppliers need to know, and then explain it clearly to participants • I had a good time and came away with a lot of respect and admiration for NCPH • A social hour after the last session would help keep the discussions going • Is there a way to get more graduate students at the MA level involved? • Good use of book exhibit. Great conference hotel • Best NCPH conference I have ever attended • All in all, very good. The New Mexico State historian who spoke at the business lunch was phenomenal!!!! • I think meeting separately from another organization encourages more people to attend. The fact that there were so many sessions brought more of us to the meeting. I found the meeting lent itself to a lot of informal conversations because one just kept running across people in the lobby or bar or sessions • The tour I took to Pecos was not presented as a tour for public historians. We received the straight tourist tour, which was interesting enough, but there were so many interpretive and management issues at the park, that I would have really liked to learn more about, in a behind-the-scenes approach • The layout of the hotels was very confusing, and the maps provided in the conference booklet did not really help. So, better maps would have been useful, as well as better signage for the rooms in both of the hotels! • I appreciate the scholarships for ethnic minority participation. It really made a difference in my ability to participate. The largest group seemed to be presenters and not attendees so I hope that is more balanced in the future. ... Despite my concerns I would say that this is the best NCPH conference I have attended to date. I went away encouraged, challenged, supported and with moments of inspiration-all to the better.

## 2007 Annual Meeting Sponsors

Albuquerque Historical Society  
Public Humanities Program, Brown University  
The Lensic Theater  
Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History  
Oklahoma State University, Department of History  
The Museum of New Mexico-Palace of the Governors  
Senator Dennis Chávez Foundation, New Mexico  
Santa Fe Convention and Visitors Bureau

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of History  
UNM, Center for Regional Studies  
UNM, Center for Southwest Research  
UNM, University Libraries, Office of the Dean  
UNM, School of Architecture and Planning  
UNM, University Libraries, Indigenous Nations Library Program  
University of South Carolina, Department of History  
Wells Fargo Bank

If your organization, company, or institution is interested in advertising, exhibiting, or sponsorship at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, please contact the Executive Offices at (317) 274-2716 or [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu).

Please visit [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org) for the 2008 Call for Proposals and information about the 2008 NCPH Awards program.

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



by Bill Bryans  
bill.bryans@okstate.edu

I am biased, but anyone who was unable to attend our recent conference in Santa Fe missed perhaps the best NCPH annual meeting ever. Santa Fe clearly set a high standard for future meetings. So, where do we go from here? In 2008, of course, we will be in Louisville, followed by Providence in 2009. I am confident that both will build on the momentum established in Santa Fe to make our annual meeting a professionally rewarding event attractive to all in public history, including those not yet NCPH members.

Where we will gather in 2010 remains to be determined. NCPH tries to establish the site of its annual meeting at least three years in advance. Solicitations seeking a location for 2010 have appeared in several venues, including *Public History News*, but have yet to garner a response. So, if you are interested in helping organize the 2010 annual meeting, please feel free to contact the executive offices.

While we may not know geographically where we will meet in 2010, we can begin to think about what future conferences might embody. We should especially consider how our annual meeting can further the goals of our recently adopted long range plan. By doing this, we will strengthen the conference and augment NCPH's service to its members and all of public history. There are many ways we do this already, but the opportunity to do more surely exists.

One of our primary objectives is to promote professionalism and best practices in public history. This includes offering professional development opportunities to members and others. Our annual meeting affords an excellent opportunity to do this. Workshops have been common at most of our conferences; they should become a regular component. With careful planning and input from members, stimulating workshops could be offered before, during, and after the meeting. If they work well at the conference and deal with a topic of wide interest, NCPH should seek to offer workshops beyond the conference.

Another of our objectives is to provide leadership in addressing the myriad of issues inherent in public history, both from the perspective of practitioners and the publics we serve. In part, this entails developing partnerships and relationships with other organizations, professions, professionals, and communities. Future annual meetings can achieve this by directly incorporating into the program local public history organizations and their audiences. This is something we already do, but we need to improve on this effort.

Similarly, NCPH has a tradition of periodic joint meetings with other organizations. I am aware that some members dislike joint meetings because they lack unity and focus, and in the case of the OAH, we seem to get lost amidst a much larger conference. Yet, it seems that for every opponent of joint meetings there is an advocate for them. These members assert that joint meetings enable interaction with colleagues we normally would not see at our conference. In the case of the OAH, some argue it provides a valuable forum for asserting public history's place in the larger discipline.

“While we may not know geographically where we will meet in 2010, we can begin to think about what future conferences might embody. We should especially consider how our annual meeting can further the goals of our recently adopted long range plan.”

I believe both separate and joint meetings are a good strategy for the future. When considering joint meetings, we should think strategically in reaching out and forming the partnerships and relationships stipulated in our plan. How can we partner more effectively with the public history community in the city where we meet? Also, are there any organizations—national, state, or local—we should consider partnering with as part of our conference, and even outside the conference? During the closing town hall meeting in Santa Fe, a suggestion arose that NCPH look into partnering in some fashion with the National Association for Interpretation. It sounds to me that we have something in common with these folks. Doubtless there are others.

In closing, I want to make emphatically clear that I recognize and appreciate the educational and outreach efforts that have always been part of NCPH and its annual meeting. Yet, I equally realize we can do more. More importantly, we will. Many of the ideas expressed above have been articulated at recent board meetings and are already being put into motion through charges to various existing committees. Some of the earned income from the endowment is being reinvested into the annual meeting to enhance workshops and bring to it a greater diversity of individual practitioners, organizations, and communities. For this effort to be successful, it needs the membership's support, and this includes sharing your ideas of how we can meet our educational and outreach goals. I encourage you to do so.

# NCPH Board of Directors Spring Meeting

On Thursday, April 12, 2007, the NCPH Board of Directors convened during the annual meeting in Santa Fe, NM, and took the following actions:

- Approved the Minutes of the Fall 2006 Board of Directors Meeting in Indianapolis, IN.
- Voted unanimously to endorse the new Long Range Plan 2012, which is available on the NCPH web site.
- As part of the Long Range Planning process, adopted the following definition of public history: Public history is a movement, methodology, and approach that promotes the collaborative study and practice of history; its practitioners embrace a mission to make their special insights accessible and useful to the public.
- Voted unanimously to begin spending a portion of the annual interest from the NCPH Endowment Fund on the following new initiatives:
  1. \$500 annually on a Consultants Award, with an additional \$500 sought from a sponsor. Guidelines to be established by the Consultants Committee and the Awards Coordinating Committee.
  2. \$1,000 annually for the Book Award, which currently carries no prize money.
  3. \$200 annually for the G. Wesley Johnson Award, which, in addition to the current prize amount of \$300 supplied by Stan Hordes, will bring the award to \$500.
  4. \$1,000 annually for an Outstanding Contribution Award, to recognize public history work other than an article in *The Public Historian* or a book. Guidelines to be established by the Awards Coordinating Committee.
  5. \$1,500 annually for five graduate student travel grants, contingent on student obtaining matching funds, to be used in attending the annual meeting. Guidelines to be established by the Student Project Award Committee and the Awards Coordinating Committee.
  6. \$1,000 in FY2007-2008 for promoting the awards program and announcing the new awards.
  7. \$4,000 annually for an annual meeting program chair's discretionary program development fund, to strengthen the meeting by increasing the diversity of participants, encouraging a more international conference, and bringing in special speakers and workshops, etc.
  8. \$2,000 annually to develop two professional development workshops for the annual meeting.
  9. \$1,000 in FY2007-2008 to begin production efforts for a new video/DVD profile of the public history field, which would be used in graduate and undergraduate classrooms and, possibly, in approaching foundations and corporations for development purposes.
  10. \$2,000 in FY2007-2008 to begin a survey effort of NCPH members and non-members.



Board of Directors spring meeting: (From left) Marla Miller, Alexandra Lord, Amy Williams, and Greg Smoak.

- Voted unanimously to adopt the proposed budget for FY2007-2008.
- Agreed to invite other associations to join NCPH in establishing a working group that will create guidelines or best practices for evaluating public history scholarship. The group will report on past and current efforts to create guidelines and propose a course of action for the associations to pursue that would result in wider recognition of public history activities as a meaningful basis for professional advancement.
- Authorized the NCPH Book Award Committee to decide from year to year whether or not it will divide submissions into subject categories from which to select finalists.
- Encouraged members to formally propose locations for the NCPH Annual Meeting after 2009, when the conference will be in Providence, RI.
- Voted unanimously to adopt the new Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, which the NCPH Professional Standards and Ethics Committee created in 2005 and had circulated for comment during the past year.

## NCPH Book Discussions at AASLH

For the past few years, NCPH has provided in-depth book discussions for the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History. When AASLH meets in Atlanta this September 5-8, the following conversations will take place:

- Dwight Pitcaithley will moderate a discussion with historian David Blight on Robert Penn Warren's book, *The Legacy of the Civil War: Meditations on the Centennial* (1961).
- Bill Bryans will moderate a discussion with 2007 NCPH Book Award winner Cathy Stanton on her book, *The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City* (2006).

Attendees are encouraged to read the books before the conference.

**Editor's note:** In "Intersections" our aim is to offer brief, reflective pieces illuminating how public historians interact with each other, with the public, or with other professionals.



## THE SPACE BETWEEN

Denise D. Meringolo  
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I became a public historian in 1996.

This is not to say that I took my first job that year. When asked to narrate my work history, I typically begin the story in 1989, the year I began working in museums. Over time, I accumulated the kinds of work experiences that have defined me as a museum professional: I managed collections; I wrote exhibit labels, catalogs, docent education packages and grant proposals. I answered seemingly endless visitor inquiries. But I did not become a *public historian* until I looked up from my research and my writing long enough to ask, "What exactly am I supposed to be doing here?" I knew how to behave like a historian and to work in museums, but I did not quite know what role I could or should play at the intersection between the history I protected and interpreted and the community of stakeholders I was supposed to serve. Those questions drove me back to graduate school and they have continued to shape all of my scholarship—both academic and public.

This year, I changed the institutional framework from which I work as a public historian, shifting from museums to a university. I find myself wondering anew what it is I am supposed to be doing. In my new role as the coordinator of my department's public history track, I have the opportunity to re-conceptualize our program's focus and develop a curriculum that will train young historians for public-oriented work. My original profession-defining question has resonance for me because it represents an ill-defined—but keenly felt—space between public history and museum studies.

I found myself thinking in Santa Fe again about this space between my professional identity and my work at the NCPH annual meeting. President Bill Bryans observed that our organization of public historians tends to fragment along vocational lines. He argued that we lack a sense of our common ground, a mutual understanding of our professionalism and our focus.

I sat in the audience during the opening plenary, furiously scribbling notes in the margins of my program. Each of the professionals who had been invited to speak on the topic of our common ground was passionate—sometimes poetic—in describing our essence as public historians. I kept a running list, trying to identify the central concept of each presentation with an eye toward crafting a new definition of public history that I might use to organize my program, educate my students, and defend my intellectual pursuits. I wrote: flexible, community-focused, sensitive to multiple perspectives, socially responsible, civically engaged, open to all possibilities of meaning and interpretation, creative.

In the moment, I was exhilarated.

The characteristics emphasized by the plenary speakers provide the bare bones of a definition of public history driven not by the mechanics of what we do, but by the essence of who we are and what we care about. Likely it is not an accident that these characteristics also capture the spirit of the NCPH code of ethics drafted in 2005. Most exciting for me, the list adequately represents the concepts I had used to organize my largely theory-based Introduction to Public History. It appeared to me that I was accurately representing for my students the professional qualities and ethical considerations that guide our work as public historians.

At the same time, this very satisfying focus on our own professional identity might obscure important questions about how best to train students for work. I feel strongly that public history is distinct from museum studies. I am also aware, however, that many universities and history departments view public history as the vocational partner of academic history, and as a result, they often duplicate courses that are offered in museum studies programs—sometimes in the same institution.

“ Might we, as a profession, re-examine our vision of training in ways that encourage students to recognize history as an inherently political and socially valuable endeavor? ”

An increasingly popular emphasis on “entrepreneurship” in higher education might exacerbate the problem. My university was recently awarded a \$2 million grant from the Kaufmann Foundation to identify and reward entrepreneurial enterprises across the campus. Although this award has the potential to raise the profile of our public history program, it may do so only by reinforcing the belief that public history is primarily a business venture. Fortunately, my department is taking a leadership role in a campus-wide initiative to broaden the definition of entrepreneurship to include a vision of social significance and community values. In this context, I may have an opportunity to develop public history curriculum that can shrink the gap between our profession and our work. I left Santa Fe wondering if courses in community organizing and political advocacy could help students of history re-imagine historical practice. Might we, as a profession, re-examine our vision of training in ways that encourage students to recognize history as an inherently political and socially valuable endeavor?

*Denise D. Meringolo is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.*

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

William Allen Sunderland, MA	Pete Daniel Washington, DC	Brian Horrigan St. Paul, MN	Nancy Lewis Santa Fe, NM	Jacqueline Peterson Portland, OR	Larry Toll Springfield, MO
Tonia Allgood Holland, PA	Christine Dickmeyer Albuquerque, NM	Deirdre Huff Denver, CO	Cherstin Lyon Crestline, CA	Alexander Pitt Gravenhurst, Ontario	Jan Voogd Cambridge, MA
Mark Anderson Greeley, CO	Belinda Diehl Natchitoches, LA	Anna Ippolito Walnut Creek, CA	Janet McDonnell Alexandria, VA	Melissa Prycer Dallas, TX	William Walker Somerville, MA
Rebecca Bailey Crestview, KY	Mariko Ehrhart Las Cruces, NM	Amy Johnson Washington, DC	Amy McWhorter Kyle, TX	Lucy Putnam Fairfield, OH	John Wall Walnut, MS
Jason Biggins LaPorte, CO	Laura Fisher Pittsburgh, PA	Rhonda Jones Durham, NC	Steven Moga Somerville, MA	Torie Quinonez San Diego, CA	Tatum Weeks San Antonio, TX
Jennifer Born Indianapolis, IN	Megan Gelardi Northampton, MA	Trent Kays Beebe, AR	Leslie Mooney Jamaica Plain, MA	Edgar Raines, Jr. Alexandria, VA	Marsha Weisiger Las Cruces, NM
H. Hunt Bradley, III Hanover, NH	Elizabeth Goetsch Las Cruces, NM	Carol Kelly Annapolis, MD	Angela Moor Las Vegas, NV	Ephraim Rotter Maple Shade, NJ	Jeanne Wilkins Las Cruces, NM
Monica Casanova Lafayette, IN	Andrea Hawkes Portland, ME	Dave Kenney Roseville, MN	Judy Morley Centennial, CO	Aaron Shapiro Washington, DC	Wendi Willeford Shoreline, WA
Barbara Charles Alexandria, VA	Valery Hollinger Pensacola, FL	Steven Kite Hays, KS	Cindy Ott Las Vegas, NV	Christina Smith Kalamazoo, MI	Chris Wilson Albuquerque, NM
Kelly Courkamp Fort Collins, CO	Sharon Ann Holt Philadelphia, PA	Calinda Lee Chicago, IL	Jennifer Otto Denver, CO	Erin Stelter Evanston, IL	Patricia Zubiate Las Cruces, NM



## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

The National Council on Public History makes the public aware of the value, uses, and pleasures of history; advises historians about their public responsibilities; helps students prepare for careers in public history; and provides a forum for historians engaged in historical activities in the public realm.

Individual membership orders, changes of address, renewals, and business correspondence should be addressed to

National Council on Public History, 327 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). Tel: 317-274-2716. New members are welcome. Join online or renew at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org).

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We welcome submissions to *Public History News* sent to John Dichtl, Editor, at the above address. Articles 400-800 words in length; announcements and bulletin items up to 100 words. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization.

[www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org)



## Complete Your *Public History News* Collection Today!

The NCPH executive office is offering fire-sale prices on more than 100 distinct back issues of this newsletter. We have a supply of most issues, from Volume 1, Number 1 (Summer 1980) to that classic, Volume 6, Number 3. There are even a half-dozen copies of the tour de force, Volume 13, Number 4! Contact us while supplies last. Send two dollars shipping per order and fifty cents per individual copy. See the NCPH web site at <http://www.ncph.org/phnews.html> for an order form and an inventory of remaining issues.

## Reading *TPH* Online

To read current and recent back issues of *The Public Historian* on the web, you will need to register at the University of California Press "Caliber" login page, <http://caliber.ucpress.net/>. The Caliber system will recognize your email address if you are a current member of NCPH. New NCPH members will need to wait 5-10 days after joining to be added to the Caliber system. Full text article PDFs going back to Winter 2001 are available.

## New Consultants Award and Other Changes

NCPH will be establishing three new awards and increasing the prize amounts for two that already exist. Starting in fall 2007 the organization will offer a Consultants Award to recognize excellence by members who provide historical services as consultants or contractors. NCPH also will launch an Outstanding Contribution Award for historical work other than a book or *TPH* article. And in conjunction with the 2008 Annual Meeting in Louisville, the organization will make available up to \$300 each for five Graduate Student Travel Grant recipients. In addition to these new awards, the NCPH Book Award will increase to \$1,000 and the G. Wesley Johnson Award for the best *TPH* article will increase to \$500. Visit <http://www.ncph.org> this fall for details on how to apply.

## A FRESH LOOK AT PUBLIC HISTORY

NCPH invites your input on a possible new project to replace the organization's 1990 video production, "Public History Today." The NCPH Curriculum and Training Committee, led by Phil Scarpino, produced that video to help explain the field to general audiences, and the organization has sold or rented many copies over the years. It is time for an update. Our first step is to create a detailed treatment, or production proposal,

with which to seek financial support for the project. Please contact the NCPH Executive Office at [nchp@iupui.edu](mailto:nchp@iupui.edu) if you would like to help workup a treatment, have ideas or expert advice to share, or can point to model treatments, projects, or funding sources. Or simply let us know who or what you think should be included in an introduction to the field today.

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

**Maryland Historical Society** is accepting applications from students seeking internships dealing primarily with photograph and manuscript collections. Undergraduate and graduate students with GPA's of 3.0 or higher are encouraged to apply, and the internships can be arranged at any time during the school year or in the summer. Send resume, unofficial transcript, and cover letter to the society, attention H. Furlong Baldwin Library.

**Winterthur**, the historic home of Henry Francis du Pont, has many short-term and long-term residential research fellowship opportunities available. Graduate students and other scholars have done research in areas such as material culture, architecture, garden and landscape studies, and travel and tourism.

<<http://www.winterthur.org/research/fellowship.asp>>

Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts & Landscapes is accepting **Warren E. Roberts Graduate Student Paper Competition**. Entries for work done on the graduate level in fieldwork, documentary research, or writing about traditional North American material culture. Submit materials by June 30, 2007.

<<http://www.pioneeramerica.org/roberts.htm>>

**Canadian Journal of History Graduate Essay Prize** is awarded annually for the best article submitted by a student at a Canadian university or of Canadian citizenship. The essay must be based on original research, deal with a non-Canadian historical topic, and be no more than 35 pages in length. Submit essays by September 15, 2007. Questions to the editor at [cjh@usask.ca](mailto:cjh@usask.ca). <[www.usask.ca/history/cjh](http://www.usask.ca/history/cjh)>

**John L. Snell Memorial Prize** is given to the graduate student with the best seminar research paper in European history. Only resident graduate students in Southern universities and colleges are eligible (Maryland to Texas). Papers are not to exceed 50 pages in length. Deadline is August 1, 2007.

<<http://www.history.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=155903>>

## CALLS FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES, PROPOSALS, AND PRESENTATIONS

**American Society for Environmental History** invites panel and poster proposals for their meeting, March 12-16, 2008, in Boise, Idaho. The meeting theme is "Agents of Change: People, Climate, and Places through Time." Topics are encouraged to relate to the broad themes including agents of change, religion and place, and shifting boundaries. Email [lynne.heasley@wmich.edu](mailto:lynne.heasley@wmich.edu) with any questions. Deadline is July 1, 2007. For more information, visit: <<http://www.aseh.net/conferences>>.

**15th International Oral History Conference** invites proposals for papers, panels, and special interest group or workshop sessions for the 2008 conference held in Guadalajara, Mexico, September 23-26, 2008. Only those proposals clearly focused on oral history will be given consideration. For a list of possible topics, visit: <<http://www.congresoioha2008.cucsh.udg.mx/eng/indexENG.htm>>. Email Alexander Freund, [a.freund@winnipeg.ca](mailto:a.freund@winnipeg.ca), with questions. Deadline is July 15, 2007.

**Canadian Association for Women's Public History** invites presentations for their conference theme "Women and Work in Public History" held in Ottawa, Ontario, October 26-27, 2007. Submissions are due by June 15, 2007, and should address how women's history is being presented, how do we present women's work in a public history format, what successes have we had, and where do we need to go. Email proposals to [rhonda.hinther@civilization.ca](mailto:rhonda.hinther@civilization.ca).

**International Journal of Intangible Heritage** invites submissions for Volume 3 of its journal. The journal seeks main papers (4,000-6,000 words), short communications (2,000 words), and news and review items (1,000 words) on conferences, publications, or projects. For instructions on submissions, visit: <<http://www.ijih.org/instructions.htm>> Proposals can be submitted to the Journal Secretariat at any time, [secretariat@ijih.org](mailto:secretariat@ijih.org).

**Surveillance & Society** journal is seeking papers that examine issues of surveillance and inequality. Of particular interest are research papers that address the differential effects of surveillance upon marginalized and privileged social groups. Submissions should be sent electronically to Emily Smith, [smithea@post.queensu.ca](mailto:smithea@post.queensu.ca), by July 15, 2007 for publication in December 2007. For more information, visit: <[www.surveillance-and-society.org/call.htm](http://www.surveillance-and-society.org/call.htm)>

## CONFERENCES AND LECTURE SERIES

**Visitor Studies Association (VSA) 20th Annual Conference**, July 17-21, 2007, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The conference will explore topics including interpreting statistics and visitor comments, Personal Meaning Mapping, working with children, and how to design high-quality evaluation studies. <<http://www.visitorstudies.org/index.html>>

**American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), 2007 Annual Meeting**, September 5-8, 2007, Atlanta, GA. This year's theme is "RELEVANCE: The Bottom Line." Registration now open. <<http://www.aaslh.org/index.htm>>

**56th Annual Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs**, October 19-21, 2007, St. Louis, MO. The conference is being hosted by the East Asian Studies Program at Washington University. Topics at the conference will deal with all fields of Asian study. <<http://arts.wustl.edu/~eas/mcaa/>>

**First National Underground Railroad Summit**, September 10-15, 2007, Georgetown, KY. The conference will be hosted by Georgetown College. <<http://www.ugri.org/default.asp?id=334161>>

**Program in Early American Economy and Society Annual Conference**, October 10-11, 2007, Philadelphia, PA. The conference's theme is "The Panic of 1837: Getting By and Going Under in a Decade of Crisis." <<http://www.librarycompany.org/economics>>

**42nd Annual Northern Great Plains History Conference**, October 3-7, 2007, Duluth, MN. A wide variety of sessions will be offered at the conference, as well as a luncheon. The Society for Military History offers a monetary award for the best graduate student paper in military history presented at the conference.  
<<http://www.d.umn.edu/%7Eehannah/2007NGP HC/NGPHC2007hp.htm>>

**Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) and Michigan Museums Association (MMA) Joint Conference**, September 25-28, 2007, Mackinac Island, MI. For more information email: [midwestmuseums@aol.com](mailto:midwestmuseums@aol.com).

**National Preservation Conference**, October 2-6, 2007, Saint Paul, MN. Conference will include workshops, sessions, and more.  
<<http://www.nthpconference.org/>>.

**Western Museums Association Annual Meeting**, October 10-14, 2007, Oakland, CA. This year's theme is "Shake It Up: Museums Activate and Innovate."  
<<http://www.westmuse.org>>

## JOBS AND POSITIONS AVAILABLE

A Curator of History Education is needed at **Anchorage Museum** in Anchorage, Alaska. Candidates with a Master's in history, Alaska Studies, anthropology, or museum education, and three to five years of relevant professional experience preferred. For more information, visit  
<[http://www.anchoragemuseum.org/aboutus\\_employment.asp](http://www.anchoragemuseum.org/aboutus_employment.asp)>.

**Higgins Armory Museum** in Worcester, Massachusetts is looking for an Executive Director. The ideal candidate should have knowledge of material culture and historic preservation, a minimum of ten years experience in a museum setting, and an advanced degree. Send resume, cover letter, and salary requirements to: [ed@higgins.org](mailto:ed@higgins.org).



**The Jewish Museum** in New York is looking for a candidate to fill the Henry J. Leir Associate/Full Curator position. Candidates must be US residents. The ideal candidate should have a masters or PhD, minimum of five years experience in curatorial positions, broad knowledge of art history and interest in Jewish history and culture. For more information, visit  
<<http://museumcareers.aam-us.org/jobdetail.cfm?job=2547831&keywords=&ref=1>>.

A Director of The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center is needed at **Ohio Historical Society**. Successful candidates must demonstrate an ability to provide entrepreneurial leadership, hold a Master's in history or equivalent experience, five years of responsible administration, and an understanding of the mission and vision of a public history organization. Submit a cover letter, resume, salary requirements, and three professional references to: [applicant@ohiohistory.org](mailto:applicant@ohiohistory.org).

**Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum** is looking for a Volunteer Coordinator. A bachelor's degree and at least four years experience managing non-profit volunteer programs required. Submit a resume and a State of Texas application to the State Preservation Board's Staff Services Office at 201 E. 14th Street, Suite 950, Sam Houston Building, Austin, Texas, 78711. For additional information, visit  
<<http://www.tspb.state.tx.us/spb/spb/employ/employ.htm>> or call (512)463-5495.

**Cultural Tourism DC** seeks freelance social historians for a number of Washington, DC, community history projects. Candidates should have oral history interviewing skills, excellent writing skills, experience in Washington, DC research collections, and a master's in an appropriate field. Submit resume, short relevant writing sample, and three references in an email with "Social Historian" in the subject line to [reply@CulturalTourismDC.org](mailto:reply@CulturalTourismDC.org). For more information, visit  
<<http://CulturalTourismDC.org>>.

**University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage** seeks a candidate to fill a one-year position as interim assistant director of the program, with the possibility for renewal. PhD required. Send letters of application, curriculum vitae, graduate transcripts, three letters of recommendation, dissertation abstract, and a writing sample to Dr. Phyllis Jestice, Chair, Department of History, 118 College Drive #5047, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, 39406-0001.



*Thank you!*

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**THE HISTORY CHANNEL.**

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# NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY UPDATE



by Lee White  
lwhite@historycoalition.org

## NCH LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

In April, the National Coalition for History (NCH) moved to its new web site at: [www.historycoalition.org](http://www.historycoalition.org). This is an exciting development for NCH since it allows us to bring you real-time access to news as it is made in Washington through our new blogging capability, which will supplement our traditional weekly newsletter on Fridays. The web site will also contain up-to-date issue briefs, and links to Congress, federal agencies and NCH member organizations. In addition, you will be able to access our CapWiz electronic congressional grassroots system through the web site.

NCH would like to thank The History Channel and Chief Historian Libby O'Connell for their sponsorship of the site. The website was designed, and is being maintained, by the Center for History and New Media (CHNM) at George Mason University. I would like to thank Roy Rosenzweig, Assistant Director Tom Scheinfeldt, and our web designer Laura Veprek for their hard work in launching the site. Finally, I would like to thank Peter Knupfer and H-NET, who have graciously hosted the NCH website since its inception, for their years of support.

## LOS ALAMOS BLOCKS RESEARCHER ACCESS

Los Alamos National Laboratory will no longer permit historians and other researchers to use its archival records because Los Alamos National Security (LANS), the private contractor that now operates the Lab, says it has "no policy in place" that would allow such access. "Policies that had previously applied to the University of California relating to the disclosure of information directly to you are no longer applicable," wrote Judy Archuleta of the Los Alamos Information Practices Office to Alex Wellerstein, a graduate student at Harvard.

Mr. Wellerstein had sought copies of Lab records on the history of nuclear secrecy policy and he had been led to believe that access to such material would be granted, in accordance with past practice. Instead, Mr. Wellerstein was told that he should pursue his research through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). "The FOIA process, however cumbersome, currently provides the only means of accessing our records," wrote Roger A. Meade, the Los Alamos Archivist/Historian on April 17. But FOIA requests are poorly suited to archival research since they can easily take years to process and must specify in advance the records that are sought.

In effect, when it comes to historical or other public research, the Los Alamos archives are closed for business.

## PRESERVE AMERICA PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

On May 9, First Lady Laura Bush presented the 2007 Preserve America Presidential Awards in a ceremony at the White House. The awards are the highest national honor recognizing historic preservation projects.

Among the winners for the Private Preservation category was National Coalition for History member The History Channel for its "Save Our History" grant program. The History Channel was recognized for its efforts both nationwide and for a special initiative with New York City. The other winner in the private preservation category was a private sector revitalization effort in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. The two winners in the Heritage Tourism category were the U.S.S. Midway Museum in San Diego and the Natchitoches-Cane River Region Tourism in Louisiana.

## HOUSE BILL SEEKS REDRESS FOR VICTIMS OF 1921 TULSA RACE RIOTS

Recently, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing on H.R. 1995, the "Tulsa-Greenwood Riot and Accountability Act of 2007." The bill extends the statute of limitations to allow survivors to seek damages for losses incurred by the hundreds of families who lost homes and businesses in the Tulsa Race Riots of 1921.

During the riots, which occurred in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from May 30-June 1, 1921, nearly 300 African-Americans were killed, and an estimated 1,250 African-American homes and businesses were destroyed. Attempts by African-Americans to seek legal redress for their injuries have been stymied, despite a recommendation in the Report by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 that reparations be paid to the survivors or descendants of the survivors. In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a case on appeal seeking to suspend the statute of limitations and allow the remaining survivors to have their day in court.

One of the witnesses at the hearing was historian John Hope Franklin, whose father was a lawyer in Tulsa at the time of the riots. Professor Franklin has long been one of the leading advocates for the victims of the race riots.



"Trinity" explosion, Alamogordo, New Mexico, July 1945. Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the Department of Energy.



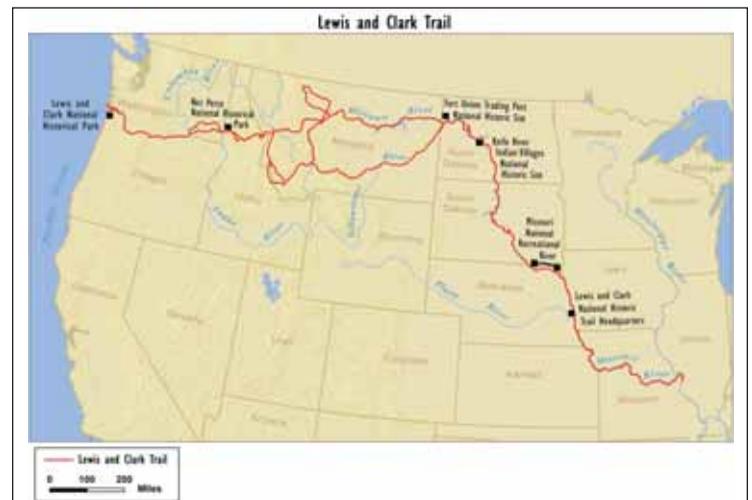
it also gave us direct contacts for future contract work and the ability to put our classroom training to work. This project required us to meet project deadlines, produce and follow travel budgets, and to work under a contract to supply a final deliverable to a client. At the 2007 NCPH Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, I witnessed firsthand how other public historians convey their research to a larger audience. I was “at home” at a conference where sessions covered, and participants discussed, projects that were familiar to my program of study. Further, the conference provided me with valuable contacts in the larger field of public history. I made contacts with other public historians who offered valuable advice for my current project involving litigation research as well as tips on potential employment. Moreover, from these contacts, I have put together a tentative panel for an upcoming environmental history conference.

The NCPH conference also gave me the opportunity to see how my research background might be attractive to potential employers and future clients. Listening to others discuss their research or their latest project drove home the point that what I have done at WSU is linked

to a professional organization that values what I do. The conference demonstrated how the skills I have learned in the Public History program at WSU—using “non-traditional” research sources, working with clients, and producing final deliverables that have a larger and lasting impact, such as the NPCA lobby-document—will serve me once I leave school. Lastly, I appreciate being introduced to a professional cohort that understands and values the role history plays in the private sector and in the larger public sphere.



Citadel Rock, along the Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River. Courtesy of Rick and Suzy Graetz, Bureau of Land Management.



defines the field. Most importantly, in my opinion, they emphasized the need for academic and public historians to realize our common identity as historians, despite the distinctions between the audiences for whom we produce our work.

Later in the day, at the awards luncheon and business meeting, NCPH President Bill Bryans announced that the board had decided to write an updated definition for “public history,” which will eventually be available on the organization’s website. Once again, the concept of identity was a key consideration. The newly determined definition is intended to aid us as historians in the way we identify with each other, as well as to guide those outside of our field in better understanding our mission in serving clients, students, our communities, and the public as a whole.

As I reflect on my experiences at the 2007 NCPH Annual Meeting, an observation

that I made throughout the three days was the coherent desire, determination, and challenges that exist for my fellow conference participants in working to inform the public that history matters. This communication can happen through various methods and venues, yet all of them contribute to forming and maintaining a common identity—or common ground, as the conference theme proposed—within the field of public history. As long as we can continue to identify both with each other and with the public, we also will thrive in our mission to bring an increasing appreciation for history to the world around us.

## New Professional Awards HRA New Professional Travel Award

Lee Wittman, Independent Historian, San Matteo, CA  
**Editor’s Note:** Lee Wittman’s article will appear in the next issue of *Public History News*.



Leigh Cutler at Grand Marais, MN. Courtesy of the author.

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## 2008 NCPH ANNUAL MEETING

LOUISVILLE, KY

APRIL 10-13, 2008

The National Council on Public History invites proposals for sessions, presentations, panels, roundtables, poster sessions, and workshops for the 2008 Annual Meeting to be held at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, KY. Our theme will be, **Public Histories of Union and Disunion**.

For this election-year conference, the Program Committee invites proposals for presentations that explore the role(s) public history has played in North American civic life, and particularly ways in which public history has been harnessed to foster unity, provoke division, or make sense of controversy. Suggested broad topics within this theme might include: deployments of history in political arenas; assessments of "civic engagement" initiatives; the challenges inherent in the interpretation of sites and events associated with wounds that divide the public; and the consequences when competing histories are ascribed to the same place, event, or person. The committee also welcomes proposals that explore other issues related to the impact of the public history enterprise on civic health and to the practice and teaching of public history.

The Program Committee prefers the submission of complete session proposals (including panels and roundtables), but will accept individual presentations for consideration as well. The committee also invites proposals for sessions in formats beyond the usual paper session, and encourages presenters in more traditional sessions to dispense with the reading of papers.

All proposals must include the following:

- A cover page listing ground and email addresses, phone number, and affiliation of each participant;
- An abstract of no more than 500 words for the session as a whole together with brief summaries of no more than 150 words for each paper or presentation;
- A two-page c.v. or resume for each participant; and



Louisville skyline. Courtesy of [www.gotolouisville.com](http://www.gotolouisville.com)

- Specific requests for audio-visual equipment for the session. (We will try to accommodate requests that fit within the annual meeting's budget.)

Workshop proposals should follow NCPH guidelines, which are available upon request at [nph@iupui.edu](mailto:nph@iupui.edu). Individual proposal submissions should follow the requirements outlined above. The program committee will make every effort to construct sessions from topically related single proposals. All presenters and other conference participants are expected to register for the annual meeting.

Send proposals to: [nph@iupui.edu](mailto:nph@iupui.edu); subject line: 2008 Program Proposal  
Or via regular mail (submit one copy only; no faxes)  
NCPH 2008 Program Chair  
327 Cavanaugh Hall - IUPUI  
425 University Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Must be postmarked or received electronically by September 4, 2007.



### National Council on Public History

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