The NCPH 2007 Program Committee was thrilled by the response to the call for proposals and worked diligently to provide the best possible program for the annual meeting. With the stimulating theme of “Many Histories, Many Publics–Common Ground?” we received over 90 proposals resulting in more than 70 sessions and workshops, as well as many special events and tours. Our president, Bill Bryans, expressed great enthusiasm from the beginning of the planning to “shake things up” and extended great latitude to the committee in shaping the program’s final outcome.

Above all, we come to the annual meeting to assess and continue our individual and collective growth in the field of public history and to hear the many “prisms of perspective” that call us to engage in history for the publics. The meeting “bookends,” an opening and a closing plenary, bring us together to discuss the field and its many professional connections and networks in forums on the growth and sustainability of the profession. The session panels engage the widest breadth and scope of public historians, community and oral historians, teachers, historic preservationists, consultants, media and film specialists, and a full range of agency and institutional activities demonstrating the

Christopher M. Wilson will deliver the keynote address, “Crossing the Great Divide: My Life in Public History,” on Saturday evening. Wilson is the J.B. Jackson Professor of Cultural Landscape Studies at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning in Albuquerque and the founding director of its Historic Preservation and Regionalism Program.

He has written extensively on architecture, tourism, and the politics of culture in the Southwest. Wilson’s prizewinning *The Myth of Santa Fe: Creating a Modern Regional Tradition* (1997) deconstructs that quintessential American tourist town. He is currently completing a multifaceted work with other UNM faculty and students, *Center Place, Plaza, Square: The Historic Community Spaces of New Mexico* (Trinity University Press, projected 2008).
REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

by Jon Hunner
jhunner@nmsu.edu

Santa Fé, the host city for the upcoming conference in April, offers a unique experience for public historians. Over the centuries, Santa Fé has been the center of government, culture, and life for this outpost of the Spanish empire, for this northern state of the Republic of Mexico, and then for this southwestern territory of the United States. La Fonda Hotel, the conference headquarters, is a National Trust Historic Hotel of America. Across the central plaza from La Fonda lies the Palace of the Governors, the seat of government for New Mexico since 1607. Other buildings of interest near the Santa Fé Plaza are the New Mexico Fine Arts Museum, the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum, Sena Plaza, Loretto Chapel, and San Miguel Mission. Several miles to the southeast, along the old Santa Fé Trail, another cultural complex called Museum Hill offers the Museum of International Folk Art, the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, and the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art. Additionally, Santa Fé has many restaurants catering to all palates, hundreds of art galleries, and just as many stores selling clothing, books, and souvenirs.

To take advantage of the rich culture and heritage of the region, you can wander on your own or take one of our tours. On Saturday, three bus tours will scatter around northern New Mexico. A full day trip will head north through mountain villages founded in the 1700s to Taos and the Taos Pueblo. An afternoon tour will drive east to the Pecos National Monument, a Native American ruin, with a stop at Glorieta, the site of a Civil War battle called the Gettysburg of the West. A third bus tour will go west to Bandelier National Monument, a canyon which preserves Native American ruins from the 1400s. This tour will also visit nearby Los Alamos, the birthplace of the Atomic Age. For those who want to stay in Santa Fé on Saturday, Cornerstones Community Partnerships, a historic preservation organization that focuses on earth building traditions, will offer a walking tour of several of the historic buildings including the Palace of the Governors and the San Miguel Mission. And I will lead a walking tour of the sites in Santa Fé connected with the Manhattan Project and the making of the Atomic Bomb during World War II. So, from Native American pueblo ruins dating back to the 1400s to atomic cities, from arts and culture to cuisine and couture, Santa Fé awaits you.

Jon Hunner, Chair of the 2007 Local Arrangements Committee, directs the Public History Program at New Mexico State University. He wrote Inventing Los Alamos: The Growth of an Atomic Community.

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE > continued from page 1

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

we invite your participation in the variety of committee meetings available to further your knowledge and commitment to NCPH.

The program committee extends an invitation to come early or stay a few days after the meeting to “mosey around” the area and enjoy the amenities of the Santa Fé Plaza and the host hotels, the La Fonda and The Inn and Spa at Loretto. We have also arranged special rates for students at the Sage Inn with free transportation to and from the conference hotel. We look forward to greeting all of you in Santa Fé and to a wonderful meeting which you have made possible.

Rose Díaz directs the Political Archives at the Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico Libraries and is chair of the 2007 Annual Meeting Program Committee.
2007 NCPH ANNUAL MEETING

Join us this April in Santa Fé for nearly seventy sessions and...

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS
The Business of CRM: Contracting and Project Management
Common Ground(ing): Online Collaborations, Technology, and the Future of History
Historic Preservation in Native American Communities: Protocols, Protection, and Preservation
Advantage Applicant: Improving Your Job Hunting Chances
Public History Educators: Building an Integrative Public History Program

IN-DEPTH TOURS
“Taos and Taos Pueblo via the High Road,” “Bandelier National Monument and Los Alamos,” “Pecos National Monument and Glorieta Battlefield,” “Community Partnerships and Historic Santa Fé,” and “Atomic Santa Fé”

EXHIBIT HALL (as of February 9)
Arizona State University, History Department
Middle Tennessee State University, History Department
New Mexico Historical Review
Oxford University Press
Palace of the Governors/New Mexico History Museum
Paradigm Publishers
Rocky Mountain Online Archive
Rutgers University Press
U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center
University of Massachusetts Press
University of New Mexico Press
University Press of Kansas

Poster session, special events, affinity breakfasts, and much more!

For registration, hotel, and program information, visit www.ncph.org.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS
Santa Fé Convention and Visitors Bureau, with special thanks to Christine Madden.
Underwriting additional meeting space at the Inn and Spa at Loretto

John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization
Sponsoring the Public History Directors’/Educators’ Breakfast

The Lensic Theater
Sponsoring the Opening Plenary

Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History
Cosponsoring the Exhibit Hall and the Poster Session

Oklahoma State University, Department of History
Cosponsoring the Presidential Luncheon

University of New Mexico, Center for Religious Studies
Student funding for conference planning

THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN
JOURNAL SEEKS REVIEWERS FOR SANTA FÉ SITES

The Public Historian will be organizing a special review section devoted to the historic museums and sites in and around Santa Fé, the host city for the upcoming NCPH conference in April. If you will be attending the meeting and are interested in being considered as a reviewer, please send a c.v. along with a description of your qualifications to write exhibit and historic site reviews and your pertinent areas of expertise to Lindsey Reed, Managing Editor, The Public Historian, LREED@history.ucsb.edu
NCPH ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTORS FOR 2006

NCPH wishes to thank the following individuals and institutions who contributed to the NCPH Endowment Fund during the calendar year 2006. Their gifts completed our five-year effort to raise $90,000 to meet a $30,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

A & P Historical Resources
Jo Blatti
Shelley Bookspan
Cynthia Brandimarte
Robert Buerki
Michael Devine
John Dichtl
Jennifer Dickey
Douglas Dodd
Barbara Howe
David Glassberg
Gray & Pape, Inc.
Ronald Grele
Nancy Hewitt
Harry Klinkhamer
Maria Quinlan Leiby
Steven Lubar
Martin Melosi
Marla Miller
Elizabeth Monroe
Patricia Mooney-Melvin
Martha Norkunas
Gale Peterson
Thornton Perkin
Linda Shopes
Alison Smith
Donald Stevens, Jr.
Joel Tarr
Robert Weible
Robert Weyeneth
Amy Wilson
Forrest Younker
Marianne Younker
Sarah Younker-Koeppel
Joan Zenzen

Extra thanks to those who provided exceptional support in 2006
The History Channel
History Associates Incorporated
Marianne Babal
Bill Bryans
Alan Newell
Constance Schulz

We are particularly grateful to The History Channel for a rousing fundraising start in 2006 and to History Associates Incorporated for a boost at the end of the year.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL.

If we have overlooked your name, please contact the NCPH Executive Office at ncph@iupui.edu or (317) 274-2716.
The practice of conveying history to the public outside of a traditional academic setting. Public historians are historians who work in museums, historic homes, sites, parks and battlefields, archives, preservation, government agencies, corporations, or private historical and genealogical research consultant firms. They may also be living historians and interpreters. Public history is history that both engages the public and invites the public to participate in the writing of history.

This definition places particular emphasis on the various practices of public history in defining the term. Its last sentence also addresses the concepts of public engagement and shared authority. So does a suggested preface to the longer definition, offered off-line by another board member: “Public History is where people connect with their past.”

public historians, therefore, is important because it has real societal value. This definition also accounts for what gives public history that value; the results have relevancy and utility that both include and transcend the discipline of history.

Despite being most drawn to this last definition, I think all of the versions above have merit. All embody what I consider the essential elements of public history. It is a profession rooted in the historical method and the discipline of history. How and where public historians ply their trade is another important consideration. For some, who like me direct a program in an academic department, it includes the classroom. For others the practice of public history occurs in museums, archives, national parks, state parks, historical agencies, historic preservation agencies and organizations, libraries, consulting firms, and other venues too numerous to mention. Perhaps most importantly, defining public history requires inclusion of the publics that serve as our audience, an audience that not only receives the products of our labors but also often participates in its production. The collaborative attribute of public history may well be its most significant quality.

But alas, we remain without the coveted precise definition we seek. Frankly, I do not have one to offer. I do hope, however, that these comments have stimulated some thought and that readers will share their own definitions, or comment on what I have said here, as we work toward this goal. You can do this through the Wikipedia web site, start a thread on H-Public, or simply email me or the executive offices. I can assure you your input is most welcomed. Thanks, and I hope to see you in Santa Fé!
LONG RANGE PLAN—2012 (DRAFT)

Background

In 2004, the Long Range Planning Committee chaired by Rebecca Conard recommended that an ad hoc committee conduct an organizational self-assessment to ensure the organization was well-placed to meet the ambitious goals laid out in Plan 2005. The ad hoc committee, chaired by Robert Weible, met and concluded that, for the most part, NCPH was in good shape. It was financially stable, its annual conferences and professional journal were well-regarded among history professionals, and its board and committee members and staff were all firmly committed to the organization's well-being. Still, while the committee recognized that NCPH retained its leadership position in the field of public history, it also noted that other professional organizations were increasing their interest in the field—a potential concern at a time of individual and institutional budget constraint.

Committee members consequently expressed concern that membership numbers were beginning to plateau and possibly to decline. They concluded that, because a growing membership was critical to the organization's long term health, NCPH could not afford to accept a status quo approach to its future.

The committee therefore supported the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee of 2003-04 that 1) NCPH strengthen its executive director position and executive office; 2) NCPH reaffirm its good relationship with host institution IUPUI; and 3) NCPH stabilize its governing structure by lengthening the terms of the president and vice-president from one to two years.

NCPH's governing board approved the recommendations in 2005, and the changes were put into place within a year. NCPH re-described its executive director position as a chief executive officer rather than as an administrative officer and conducted a national search to fill the position. In late 2005, NCPH hired John Dichtl, and within months Dichtl made other changes to strengthen the organization's staff structure. Changes included the upgrading of the administrative assistant position to program manager and the hiring of Sarah Younker-Koeppe. NCPH and IUPUI renewed their contract for another five years. And the organization's first two-year president and vice-president, Bill Bryans and Marianne Babal, assumed office in 2006.

In 2006, Dichtl worked closely with Bryans and Babal to encourage Long Range Planning Committee co-chairs Robert Weible and Sharon Babaian to create a mission statement and plan based on a broad, more clearly defined understanding of public history. With this in mind, committee members agreed: 1) that the discipline of history was important to everyone and that it should be an important part of our civic culture; 2) that NCPH should promote a more socially responsible role for professional historians; and 3) that NCPH should work with history practitioners and the public to build more useful public appreciation and understanding of history.

After considerable discussion, the committee drafted a mission statement and list of long term goals. It presented them to the NCPH Board for review and comment, and board comments and suggestions have been incorporated into this Long Range Plan.

Clearly, this plan presents an ambitious agenda for NCPH. Its successful realization requires careful thought, strong commitment, and hard work by everyone associated with the organization. It is the committee's belief, however, that NCPH is at an important juncture in its own history. The committee believes the organization will not succeed in expanding its membership by following a plan that is inward looking and self-serving. If it is to grow, the organization must distinguish itself from other professional organizations by giving prospective members, especially younger ones, reason to serve larger purposes than their own careers. The committee believes that this can best be done by actively strengthening the relationship between the profession and the public.

The plan that follows is, in essence, a statement of principles and major goals for the organization and is therefore much less detailed than previous documents. This plan provides a framework for work planning but leaves that task to the executive office, officers, board, and committees to carry out on a yearly basis.

MISSION STATEMENT (DRAFT)

Given the essential value of historical understanding, the National Council on Public History promotes professionalism among history practitioners and their engagement with the public.

LONG RANGE PLAN—2012 (DRAFT)

1. NCPH will promote professionalism and best practices in public history by:
1.1 Establishing and articulating professional standards, ethics, and best practices for public history practitioners;
1.2 Providing a professional network for developing and maintaining professional standards, facilitating best practices in the training of public historians, and promoting quality public history programming;
1.3 Offering ongoing professional development opportunities for members and others;
1.4 Expanding our programs for recognizing excellence in public history through awards, publications, the annual meeting, the web page, etc.

2. NCPH will provide leadership in addressing issues that arise at the intersection between history practitioners and the public by:
2.1 Developing partnerships and relationships with other organizations, professions and professionals, and communities;
2.2 Engaging our many publics in conversation about the relevance of history;
2.3 Being a strong advocate for the interests of public history practitioners in service to the public;
2.4 Supporting history education with a public historical perspective at all levels.

3. NCPH will effectively convey its identity and purpose by:
3.1 Developing and communicating a consistent organizational identity;
3.2 Learning more about who our members are and what they want from the organization;
3.3 Utilizing publications, media, conferences, and other resources to clarify and project our identity and purpose;
3.4 Articulating the benefits of NCPH;
3.5 Providing useful products and services to members, sponsors, and patrons;
3.6 Providing useful information to non-members.

4. NCPH will provide an effective structure for a diverse community of public history practitioners by:
4.1 Cultivating a membership that reflects the diverse community of history's publics and practitioners;
4.2 Creating/maintaining a responsive committee structure to meet the needs of the organization and its membership;
4.3 Monitoring staff needs regularly and providing support for their work;
4.4 Maintaining the financial security of the organization by, among other things:
4.4a Establishing an endowment investment and management policy;
4.4b Expanding endowment to further the goals of the organization;
4.4c Establishing a policy for the use of endowment earned income.

Respectfully submitted,
Long Range Planning Committee

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CONGRATULATIONS!

The NCPH membership has met its National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant goal. At the end of 2006, contributions reached the $90,000 threshold needed to secure the NEH grant. The NCPH Endowment Fund now totals $373,200. As co-chair of the Leadership Council, I want to thank the numerous NCPH members and organizations who contributed generously and often to this five-year campaign. As a result of your efforts, the Endowment Fund will be able to continue supporting the membership through awards and special programs.

With the close of this initial campaign we move to the next phase of what we hope will be an ongoing effort to build a well-endowed, effective, and sustainable organization. The Endowment Committee will convene in Santa Fe at the annual meeting to discuss the uses of the current endowment and to plan for the future. Feel free to attend and contribute your ideas and energy. And, don’t forget to register for the annual Endowment Fundraising Event. Thanks again to the many contributors to this campaign!

Alan Newell
Co-Chair, Endowment Leadership Council

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NCPH ELECTION RESULTS

We are pleased to announce the results of the 2007 election. New board and committee members will assume their duties at the end of the upcoming NCPH Annual Meeting in Santa Fé.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Martha Norkunas, Project in Interpreting the Texas Past, University of Texas
- Greg Smoak, Colorado State University
- Amy Williams, Truman Presidential Museum & Library

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- James Gardner, National Museum of American History
- Laura Feller, National Park Service

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Alan Newell
Co-Chair, Endowment Leadership Council
Welcome to Our New Members

Emily Beliveau  
Vancouver, BC

Andrea Burns  
Wilmington, DE

Roberto Esposito  
Lindenwold, NJ

Barbara Gossett  
Garden Grove, CA

Scarlett Miles  
Nashville, TN

Sara Sandlin  
Albuquerque, NM

Kate Bertz  
Fly Creek, NY

Kimberly Burton  
Oviedo, FL

Roda Ferraro  
Murfreesboro, TN

Tamsen Hert  
Laramie, WY

Anne Murphy  
Vancouver, BC

Angela Smith  
Nashville, TN

Isabelle Bisson-Carpentier  
Montreal, Quebec

Phillip Byrd  
Northfield, VT

Francis Flavin  
Arlington, VA

Jenna Hioett  
Perla, NM

Amy Nelson  
Racine, WI

Dixie Talbot  
Blue Rapids, KS

Bruce Tyler  
Shelbyville, TN

Bridiga Blasi  
Las Cruces, NM

Benjamin Cawthra  
St. Louis, MO

Jami Forrester  
Fayetteville, AR

Rebecca Jansen  
Whitehorse, Yukon

Elaine Nelson  
Albuquerque, NM

Crystal Walker  
Topeka, KS

Allison Beals  
Washington, DC

Priya Chhaya  
Springfield, VA

Stephanie Fuglaar  
Houston, TX

Candace Kanes  
Portland, ME

Krisy O’Hare  
Montreal, Quebec

Scott Welch  
Panama City, FL

Sue Boland  
Fayetteville, NY

Estella Chung  
Los Angeles, CA

Yvonne Garcia  
El Paso, TX

Heather Kendall  
Chicago, IL

Dannyn, Peterson  
Indianapolis, IN

David Whisnant  
Chapel Hill, NC

Jamie Boyle  
Arlington, VA

Jim Conway  
Monterey, CA

Carrie Giauque  
Columbia, SC

Alice King  
Blue Rapids, KS

Janice Pope  
Blue Rapids, KS

Amy Williams  
Independence, MO

Matthew Brentziiffer  
Clay Center, KS

Krista Cooke  
Gatineau, Quebec

Elizabeth Gioia-Acres  
Las Vegas, NV

Susan Knowles  
Nashville, TN

Eugenia Potter  
Louisville, KY

Lee Wirtmann  
San Matteo, CA

Kathryn Brightman  
New Bern, NC

Paul Densmore  
Marietta, GA

Hermina Glass Avery  
Marietta, GA

Lorraine Madway  
Wichita, KS

Paul Sadin  
Seattle, WA

Gerald Zahavi  
Elizabethtown, NY

Amy Beth Dudley  
Germantown, TN

Will Mallart  
Riverton, KS

NCPH Staff News

Amy Powell joined the staff of NCPH in November 2006 as the undergraduate intern for the 2006-2007 school year. In May, Amy will graduate from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) with a bachelor’s degree in history. She has been nominated as a Top 100 student at IUPUI, and her senior seminar paper on the life of Daisy Douglas Barr has been recommended by faculty for possible publication. In the future Amy plans on applying to a Master’s program in American History and eventually pursuing a PhD.

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. Tel: 317-274-2716. New members are welcome. Join online or renew at www.ncph.org.

Institutional subscription orders, changes of address, and business correspondence 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 >

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
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 Unity and Division.

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
- Any requests for audio-visual equipment for the session.

Workshop proposals should follow NCPH guidelines, which are available upon request at ncph@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.

Send proposals to: ncph@iupui.edu, subject line: 2008 Program Proposal

Or via regular mail (submit one copy only)
NCPH 2008 Program Chair
327 Cavanaugh Hall - IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
No FAX submissions accepted.

Proposal Deadline: postmarked or received electronically by September 4, 2007

2008 Program Committee:
Marla Miller, University of Massachusetts-Amherst (mmiller@history.umass.edu), Cochair
Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Loyola University Chicago (pmooney@luc.edu), Cochair
Perky Beisel, Stephen F. Austin University
Krista Cooke, Canadian Museum of Civilization
Tonia Woods Horton, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Theodore Karamanski, Loyola University Chicago
Donna Neary, Donna Neary, Inc.
Patrick O’Bannon, Gray & Pape, Inc.
Ed Roach, Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP

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 ncph@iupui.edu if you would like to help work up 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.
Teaching is a fundamental part of being a historian. We write, we teach, we create exhibits and public programs, and all in the name of sharing stories. Then why is it often so hard to connect universities and museums?

Over the past few years, I have begun actively building relationships with several local universities. Though this effort is far from complete, and though, in a way, I do not expect to ever be “finished,” we have made some progress. A few things I have learned so far:

Think outside your usual audience. Both sides have to want to reach out to a different kind of audience in order for any collaboration to begin.

Learn to speak their language. Even though essentially we are all doing the same thing, we go about it in very different ways. Get to know your local museum; what they are doing may surprise you. For public historians, get to know your local university’s history department. They may have public events or discussion groups for you to attend. Go and introduce yourself. If possible, attend state history conferences or join a local history listserv.

Talk to each other. It may be as simple as having coffee. Before trying some grand collaboration, both sides need to get to know each other. In talking, other ideas may spring to life.

Put your money where your mouth is. When money of any kind is involved, we start to take each other more seriously. For a recent lecture, we had financial support from a university; the author visited two classes while he was in town. From this experience, we have gained more respect from the university, and future (and possibly bigger) collaborations will be easier.

Get to know the museum you are considering working with. For this same lecture, the author submitted his comments to us in advance. Towards the end of his remarks, he discussed my institution unfavorably, and it was quite obvious that he had not visited in over a decade. (We have made significant changes to the history we teach in the last ten years, as well as our mission.) The remarks were also filled with misinformation about our institution, much of which could have been easily corrected by taking a look at our website. Constructive criticism of a potential partner is not wrong, but make sure you have your facts straight first.

Professor Roberto Calderon (left) and Curator Hal Simon speak following the lecture, “Less than White.” (Photo courtesy of Dallas Heritage Village.)
We are flattered that the editor of Public History News has asked us to describe how we succeeded in creating a "diverse and dynamic" conference—the New Jersey Forum—which was inaugurated in Trenton, New Jersey, on November 18, 2006. The total number of attendees was 230 people. One hundred percent of the attendees who completed the evaluation forms rated the event "good" or "excellent."

First a few words of explanation. For over two decades the New Jersey Historical Commission has run an annual conference. This event focuses each year on a single historical topic, and features a lecture by a nationally recognized academic expert. The Forum, in contrast, is a scholarly papers conference, with separate sessions on different topics, and with an emphasis on new scholars and scholarship, with presentations from graduate students, independent scholars, and public history practitioners. The annual conference attracts a diverse audience of history buffs, museum curators, and historical society volunteers. The Forum attracted the same audience, and added a much larger than usual number of university students and K-12 teachers.

The following are ingredients that we feel contributed to the success of the Forum:

Assess the concept. Formative evaluation played a key role in the project's development. We first discussed the New Jersey Forum idea with a number of academics and history professionals to evaluate the viability of the concept. Their response was universally favorable.

"The Forum attracted the same audience—history buffs, museum curators, and historical society volunteers—and added a much larger than usual number of university students and K-12 teachers."

Coincidentally, a graduate student in history posed a similar suggestion on the H-New-Jersey listserv, sparking a comparably supportive grassroots response. We then looked at similar programs in other states, such as in Virginia and New York. This research and assessment provided constituent input and support from the outset. We also solicited participant evaluations and achieved a 44 percent return rate.

Establish a diverse advisory committee of stakeholders to solicit and vet proposals. We recruited our advisory committee from various branches of the history universe, including a decorative arts specialist, an archaeologist, and academics.

Take advantage of the Internet. The H-New-Jersey listserv has been around for over a decade and counts more than 700 subscribers. The proposal for a conference produced enormous enthusiasm on the listserv, and as planning continued H-New-Jersey provided a platform for seeking paper proposals and putting out publicity. We also set up an Internet wiki site where we posted session proposals for the advisory committee.

Develop a comprehensive and diverse sponsorship network. Three agencies of the New Jersey Department of State—the Historical Commission, the State Archives, and the State Museum—served as the principal sponsors. In addition, several other statewide organizations coproduced the event (Advocates for New Jersey History, Eagleton Institute for Politics at Rutgers University, Association of County Cultural and Heritage Agencies, Council for the Humanities, Historic Trust, and New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance). All the sponsoring organizations were asked to circulate information by distributing brochures and/or by mentioning the event in print and email communication with their constituents. The State Department of Education also sent out notice on their social studies listserv.

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Thank you!

The support of the following institutions, each committed to membership at the Patron and Sponsor levels, makes the work of the National Council on Public History possible.


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PRESIDENT’S PROPOSED FY 08 BUDGET SENT TO CONGRESS

On February 5, 2007, the Bush administration sent its proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2008 to Congress. Generally, programs of interest to the historical and archival communities are flat-lined, cut, or eliminated completely. A full copy of the President’s proposed FY 2008 budget is available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/>.

Department of Education

The “Teaching American History” grants program at the Department of Education would be substantially cut under the Bush proposal. In FY ’06 the program received $120 million and the administration would slash that by over $70 million to $50 million in fiscal year 2008. The administration’s rationale is “the number of quality applications for assistance under this program in recent years does not justify the current level of funding.” Senator Robert C. Byrd, the original sponsor of the program, chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee. So one can assume that the proposed cut will not likely stand.

The Academies for American History and Civics, which supports workshops for teachers and students in those subjects, would be see their $2 million budget zeroed out.

National Archives and Records Administration

The Bush administration’s proposed fiscal year 2008 budget calls for $379.5 million for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). This is an increase of $39.5 million over the FY 2007 appropriations of $340 million, which is expected to be enacted as a year-long continuing resolution by the Congress.

Under the President’s FY 2008 request, NARA would receive $312.8 million for operating expenses; an increase of $34.6 million over the FY 2007 expected appropriation of $278.2 million. This includes funds to prepare for the George W. Bush Presidential Library, provide oversight by the agency’s Inspector General of the work to develop ways to preserve electronic records, and to continue work on reducing the backlog of unprocessed text records.

The operating expenses also include funds for the operation of the Richard M. Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California, which will become part of the NARA system of presidential libraries this year after being a privately-run institution since 1990.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) once again had its budget zeroed out in the Bush administration’s FY ’08 budget request, and our annual battle to restore funding for this vital program begins anew.

The Electronic Records Archives (ERA) program, a key NARA strategic goal aimed at providing a means to preserve electronic records and make them more accessible in the future, is funded in the FY 2008 request at $58 million, which is $13 million over the expected FY 2007 appropriation. This higher funding level for ERA will allow NARA to maintain progress on increment 1 of the system, which is scheduled to begin this fall.

For repairs and restoration to facilities owned by NARA, such as the National Archives at College Park, the National Archives Building in downtown Washington, and the presidential libraries, the President’s FY 2008 budget requests $8.6 million.

National Park Service Historic Preservation Programs

Overall, the National Park Service would receive the largest budget increase in its history, an additional $258 million over the amount it received in fiscal year 2006. The centerpiece of the budget is the “National Parks Centennial Initiative,” a ten-year effort to improve the nations parks prior to the NPS centennial in 2016. In releasing the budget, President Bush announced the “National Parks Centennial Challenge,” which has the potential of providing $3 billion in new funds over the next ten years. It includes a federal commitment of $100 million annually in discretionary funds, and a challenge to the private sector and the public to contribute $100 million, with a match of another $100 million in mandatory federal funding.

The 2008 budget includes $63.7 million for historic preservation programs. The budget allocates $10 million for the “Save America’s Treasures” program, $10 million for “Preserve America,” and $43.7 million for historic preservation grants-in-aid to states, territories and Indian tribes. It would also establish a “National Inventory of Historic Properties” grant program. Matching grants of $4 million would be available to states, tribes, local governments, and federal land management agencies to make inventories more accessible. The budget also provides $10 million for heritage areas. The “Heritage Partnership” program provides seed money for congressionally designated, but locally managed, national heritage areas.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities would see a small increase of $400,000 over the amount the administration requested last year for total funding of $141 million. The “We the People” initiative that focuses on the teaching and learning of American history and culture would receive $15.2 million. Two new “We the People” programs would be initiated. The “We The People Videoshelf” would distribute American films that focus on historical events and themes to libraries nationwide. The second program would be run in conjunction with the State Department and bring foreign school teachers and humanities practitioners to the U.S. to participate in Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops.

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The McFaddin-Ward House in Beaumont, TX, offers a ten-week summer internship (between May and September) with exposure to projects and duties in all areas of a historical house museum. Candidates with a strong interest in working with collections or interpretation, and with a background in museum studies, history, art history, or education are preferred. Apply by April 1, 2007. <www.mcfaddin-ward.org>.

The First Annual Cultural Studies Graduate Student Conference, September 28-29, 2007, in Arlington, VA, invites paper proposals on topics such as: how cultural programming produces knowledge, and how knowledge of cultural programming is produced in and through institutions, such as museums. Graduate students should submit abstracts of 300 words or less to Vickie Watts by March 15, 2007. Questions to Vickie Watts vwatts@gmu.edu. Visit <http://mason.gmu.edu/~rgehl/pocp/index.html>.

The 42nd Annual Northern Great Plains History Conference invites proposals for papers or sessions in any area of history for their conference October 3-7, 2007 in Duluth, Minnesota. One-page abstracts and vitae are due March 31, 2007, to Eleanor Hannah, Department of History, University of Minnesota, Duluth, email: eannah@d.umn.edu. Any proposals in the field of military history should be sent to Professor Joseph C. Fitzharris, University of St. Thomas, email: jcfitzharris@stthom.as.edu. Visit <http://mason.gmu.edu/~rgehl/pocp/index.html>.

The Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies invites papers for the 2007 conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, October 17-20. Proposals for panels or papers must be 250 words and received through email by April 2, 2007. Direct submissions and questions to Pam Perkins, Steering Committee, CSECS at pperkin@cc.umanitoba.ca. Visit <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/humanities/index.html>.


The Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts & Landscapes invites proposals for papers, special sessions, and panel discussions on the conference themes of historic agricultural landscapes and their preservation, and transportation as effected by evolving transportation systems. Presenters must be members of PAS: APAL. The deadline for submitting material is July 2, 2007. For further information, contact Dr. Paula S. Reed, Conference Co-chair, Phone: 301-739-2070, email: paula@paulareed.com. Visit <http://www.pioneeramerica.org>.
The Ninth Annual Conference on Illinois History seeks proposals for individual papers or panels on any aspect of Illinois history, culture, politics, geography, literature, and archaeology. Send proposals by March 10, 2007 to Thomas F. Schwartz, State Historian, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 North Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, Phone 217/782-2118, Fax 217/558-1574, tom.schwartz@illinois.gov

The 8th Maritime Heritage Conference Program Committee invites abstracts for papers and full session proposals on a specific subject or aspects of Maritime and Naval History, Maritime Libraries, Historic Ships, Shipbuilding and Preservation, and Maritime Heritage Education. One-paged, single spaced abstracts and CVs of no more than three pages due June 1, 2007. Send proposals to the Conference Program Chair, Kevin Sheehan, at librarian@sdmaritime.org or The Maritime Museum of San Diego, 1492 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, California 92101. Tel: 619-234-9153, ext. 118, Fax: 619-234-8345.


The Society of Women and the Civil War is holding its 9th Conference on Women and the Civil War, July 27-29, 2007, Chester County, PA. The goal of the conference is to increase awareness and understanding of women’s roles and lives in the Civil War. For more information, visit <http://swcw.org/under_construction.htm>.


U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites presents their 10th International Symposium, April 18-21, 2007, San Francisco, California. The symposium will include field tours, mobile workshops, poster session, and multi-media presentations. For more information, visit <http://www.icomos.org/usicomos>.

The New England Historical Association (NEHA), a regional affiliate of the AHA, holds its 78th conference at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester on May 5, 2007. For proposed papers or information contact the program chair, Luci Fortunato, NEHA, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA 02325; lfortunato@bridgew.edu or see <www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEHA>.

Decisionmaking for Cultural and Natural Resources in the Legal Environment, a workshop prepared through the National Preservation Institute, teaches how to navigate the legal environment in the management of cultural and natural resources and cultural property. Contact NPI at 703.765.0100 or info@npi.org for further information. <http://www.npi.org/>


The Living Landscape: Cultivating our Heritage Conference will be held April 10-11, 2007, at the Five Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo, Iowa. <http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org>
Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) is seeking an Executive Director to provide leadership for the State Historic Preservation Office, Historic Sites, Special Projects, State Historical Museum, and ISHS employees. Candidates should be able to function effectively in a complex political environment. A strong background in public history is preferred. For more information and an application, visit: <www.idahohistory.net>

Freedom Museum in Chicago is seeking a Director of Exhibits and Programs to develop and manage the museum’s exhibitions, develop programs, and help with outreach and educational efforts. An advanced degree in museum studies and 5-10 years of previous museum experience is preferred. Submit resume, cover letter and salary requirements to: MTFRResumes@mccormicktribune.org. Visit <http://www.freedommuseum.us/>

The Department of History at University of Massachusetts Boston is searching for an Historian/Archivist at the Assistant or Associate Professor level to direct an Archives track in the MA degree program. The candidate should hold a PhD in History, have experience working in an academic archives program or in a research archive, and have demonstrated facility with current information technology applications. Send c.v., cover letter/letter of interest, and a list of references to the Chair of the Search Committee for Archives, Search 590d, Department of History, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125.

An Executive Director is sought for the Vancouver Maritime Museum in Vancouver, BC, to provide new direction and reinvigorate the day-to-day operations. Experience in the maritime sector as well as a strong background in operations and change management, combined with an enthusiasm for public institutions is preferred. Send letter, resume and salary requirements to: director@vancouvermaritimemuseum.com.

The Nantucket Historical Association has a full-time Special Events Assistant position available. Knowledge of function/event management, excellent customer service skills, and the ability to maintain effective relationships with staff, vendors, and the community are required. Send resume to Nantucket Historical Association, ATTN: Human Resources, PO Box 1016, Nantucket, MA 02554, or email jrichard@nha.org.

The University Library at St. Thomas University, is seeking to fill a Archivist and Museum Curator position for its new archive, special collection and museum facility planned to open in the Fall of 2008. This position requires a graduate degree in Museum studies or management. An MA in Public History would be highly considered. Submit cover letter, resume and three current letters of reference, along with photocopies of transcripts from institutes of higher education to Ms. Isabel Medina; University Library; St. Thomas University / 16401 NW 37th Avenue, Miami Gardens, Florida 33054. Phone: 305-628-6769, email imedina@stu.edu

The United States Military Academy at West Point is accepting applications for the position of Director, Center for Oral History. Responsibilities include leadership, creative visionary, public speaking with strategic outreach and fundraising experience. Candidates should possess a PhD in History. Mail or email letter of application, c.v., statement of oral history and teaching philosophy, three letters of recommendation, and sample of scholarship to Major Victoria Campbell, Department of History, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996. For more information, contact Major Campbell at victoria.campbell@usma.edu or 845-938-5083.

Tetra Tech, EC in Portland, Maine is seeking a full-time Cultural/Historic Resource Specialist. Graduate degree with experience in research and cultural resource management required. Contact Amy at northwest.web@tteci.com for more information.

The Health Museum of Houston, TX, is seeking an Exhibit Graphic Designer to produce creative museum exhibits. Box required. Museum experience is preferred. Mail resumes to The Health Museum, ATTN: Human Resources, 1515 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004. <http://www.thehealthmuseum.org/>

BHE Environmental, Inc. is seeking an Architectural Historian in Cincinnati, OH.
The NEH’s new Digital Humanities Initiative would receive funding of $1.4 million, which will support projects that use, or study the impact of, digital technology on research, education, preservation, and public programming in the humanities.

Funding for NEH’s Federal and State Partnership programs would increase by $133,000, but Education, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, Research, and Challenge Grants would all be cut. The National Endowment for the Arts would receive $128.4 million or a $4 million increase.

Smithsonian Institution

The budget request for the Smithsonian is $678.4 million. Of that amount, $571.3 million is for salaries and expenses and the facilities capital budget is $107.1 million. Included in the request is nearly $10 million for planning and staffing of the new National Museum of African-American History and Culture, which will eventually be built on the National Mall. The capital budget will help fund the continuing renovation of the National Museum of American History-Behring Center, which is scheduled to reopen in 2008.

Institute of Museum and Library Services

The President’s budget request for the Institute of Museum and Library Services is $271 million, which is $24 million or almost 10 percent more than it received in 2006. Library grants would be funded at $214 million and museum grants at almost $40 million. These amounts reflect nearly $8 million in new funding for each grant program.

Both the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation would be flat-funded at $9 million and $6 million respectively.

Lee White is the new executive director of the National Coalition for History.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is seeking a Chief of Collections Management to provide guidance in strategic planning, budget development, policy, and collection management administration. Apply at the USAJOBS/USHMM Fast website at https://jobs1.quickhire.com/scripts/ushmm.exe.

Lowell National Historical Park is currently seeking applicants for an interdisciplinary position. The person selected will be appointed in one of the following occupational series, Historian, GS-0170-12, Museum Curator, GS-1015-12, or Anthropologist, GS-0190-12. <http://www.nps.gov/lowe/parknews/employment.htm>.

The Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA, seeks a Director of Education to develop learning and teaching tools for teachers and faculty and to lead strategic planning initiatives. MA degree required. Email inquiries to edujobs@computerhistory.org. <http://www.computerhistory.org/about/jobs/ed_director/>

Roger Williams University School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation seeks Assistant/Associate Professor of Historic Preservation. Submit letter of interest; c.v.; selected examples of teaching, professional, scholarly and/or creative work; and names and contact information of three references, to the Office of Human Resources, Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI 02809.

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana seeks Senior Architectural Field Surveyor to work on surveys of Benton, Newton, and Pulaski counties. The position will last from May 2007 to June 2008 (dates flexible). Contact Amanda Jones, Survey Coordinator, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 340 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202, Fax: 317-639-6734, E-mail: survey@historiclandmarks.org.
Public History for Undergraduates

by John Krugler
john.krugler@marquette.edu

and John Schlotterbeck
jschlot@depauw.edu

Undergraduates still do not know about public history. Despite proliferation of graduate programs since the late 1970s, public history instruction for college students remains a haphazard endeavor. The dozen or so undergraduate minors and certification degrees in public history/museum studies lack common focus, objectives, or participating departments.

We both now identify ourselves as public historians (in addition to our academic credentials). Our training came as traditional, text-based scholars, and our careers have developed mostly in the academy with primary interests in undergraduate teaching. Along the way, we developed keen interests in public history that have taken us far beyond our own graduate training.

Teaching public history and museum studies courses at DePauw and Marquette has strengthened our conviction of their value to undergraduates. We are fortunate our institutions encouraged us to attack a basic problem: Lack of awareness of public history among our undergraduate constituents. Even the most committed history majors often do not know what public historians do in their professional capacities.

Neither of us set out to become crusaders in the academy on behalf of public history. Circumstances rather than intentionality provided the initial thrust.

Krugler’s interest started innocuously, almost serendipitously, as a result of a family vacation to Colonial Williamsburg. He responded to his “discovery” of public history (remarkably absent from his graduate training in the late 1960s) by sharing the experience with students. He taught an undergraduate course on the museum that included training in the late 1960s) by sharing the experience with students. He created a course, “History Beyond the Classroom,” that explores material culture, house museums and history exhibits, and public memory. More recently, he coordinates a museum studies faculty discussion group at DePauw and assists with exhibit planning, publications, and development at the Putnam County Museum.

What makes our commitment to public history advocacy within the academy noteworthy is that both of us chose to go beyond our expected, and traditional, responsibilities of classroom professors. Our experiences with public history and the committed, creative, and concerned women and men who labor in that vineyard have convinced us that public history courses are ideal learning places for undergraduates. First, students learn about professionals who call themselves “public historians.” Next, they compare how academic historians and public historians practice their craft to expand the many ways we can answer the question: What did happen in the past? In our classrooms, students examine the origins and functions of house museums, historic sites, and exhibits, and learn to analyze cultural artifacts. Through hands-on exercises, meeting with professionals, and internships, students gain practical knowledge of public historians’ work.

For students, such courses provide an answer to history majors’ perennial laments: “What can I do with a history major?” They discover exciting and challenging careers in the public arena and expand their analytical skills, especially using material culture as historical evidence and reaching diverse audiences.

Schlotterbeck’s public history involvement began with an invitation in the 1990s from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to assist in revising the content and presentation of James Madison’s Montpelier. He later co-directed a Trust initiative to develop inclusive interpretations of slavery and African American life at six Trust plantation properties. Working with public historians developed an appreciation of the possibilities of artifacts and historic sites for teaching the past to diverse audiences. He created a course, “History Beyond the Classroom,” that explores material culture, house museums

Teaching public history fosters professional partnerships between academic historians and public historians by inviting public historians into the classroom and by taking students on museum field trips. Academics learn from public historians how to use material culture to teach the past in the classroom. Academic historians, in turn, can share their professional expertise and teaching experiences with public historians at local historic sites and museums. Finally, public history’s interdisciplinary nature encourages working with colleagues in other departments to build support for public history and museum studies on campus.
Developing public history instruction benefits academic institutions by building alliances with local cultural institutions. DePauw supports the Putnam County Museum through student interns, January Term teaching opportunities for the Museum Director, and financial support. Marquette works closely with Old World Wisconsin to foster summer programs for local high school and middle school teachers. Conversations about public history across disciplines can lead to new courses and programs with minimal additional institutional cost.

Public history professionals gain from the presence of undergraduate instruction. These courses recruit the next generation of public historians and prepare them for future graduate work. Museums gain motivated, energized, and inexpensive interns. Finally, they provided opportunities for building collaborative relationships with academic historians.

Our experiences hardly exhaust the possibilities undergraduate public history instruction can take. We have found our work with public historians to be rewarding on both the professional and personal level. Above all, our teaching has kindled enthusiasm for history among some undergraduates that otherwise might have been unlit.

We will expand on these thoughts and discuss two different models for undergraduate public history and museum studies programs in a panel at the NCPH Annual Meeting in Santa Fé in April.

John Krugler is Associate Professor of History at Marquette University, and John Schlotterbeck is Professor of History at DePauw University.

Winter Term students helping pack Putnam County Museum artifacts for the move to the new building. (Courtesy of John Schlotterbeck.)
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Editorial Assistant: Amy Powell