



## Ottawa and the Significance of Audience

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In April of 2013, NCPH will return to Canada to hold its annual meeting. This conference centers on the theme of “audience” and how we as public historians serve, shape, respond to, collaborate with, and even exclude our publics. From historical podcasting to commemorating the War of 1812 to engaging with dangerous histories, the planned sessions are methodological and topical, theoretical and practical.

The recently established International Federation of Public History (IFPH), an organization stemming from the NCPH Task Force for the Internationalization of Public History, will hold its first conference jointly with the NCPH annual meeting. We are excited to announce that in addition to over fifty Canadian participants, another forty public historians from across Europe and from India and New Zealand have been invited to join us in

Ottawa. Many sessions offer a comparative national approach to examine the conference theme. Together, the two conferences provide four packed days with over seventy panels, workshops, roundtables, working groups and tours.



Courtesy of Ottawa Tourism.

Our public plenary features Vittorio Marchis of the Politecnico di Torino, Italy, and an “artifact autopsy,” an engaging performance-style presentation in which he analyzes and deconstructs the “techno-anatomy” of an object. Our keynote speaker is John Milloy, an historian from Trent University and the Director of Research, Historical Records and Report Preparation for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, a body established to investigate the treatment of Aboriginal peoples at residential schools.

Consultants and those interested in the history of Aboriginal peoples will not want to miss the panel on the challenges of litigation-driven research which pairs lawyers, scholars, expert witnesses and consultants across North America. This year’s conference also offers ample time to discuss the implications of the 2011 joint OAH/NPS report *Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service*.

Other unique sessions include a screening of the Canadian Committee on Public History’s 2012 award winning project, *The Oldest Profession in Winnipeg: The ‘Red Light’ District of 1909-1912*, a documentary about the history of prostitution; a session sponsored by the Ontario Augmented Reality Network that demonstrates how interactive technologies can be used to engage the public; a panel about the upcoming centenary of World War One; and working groups on the local food movement, teaching public history in Europe, and on how climate change affects interpretation at historic sites.

Knowing your Public(s)—The Significance of Audiences in Public History

**NCPH** ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

17-20 April 2013  
Delta Ottawa City Centre  
Ottawa, ON

# Ottawa and the Significance of Audience (cont. from page 1)



Courtesy of Ottawa Tourism.

For students and new professionals, the ever-popular Speed Networking returns, and new this year is a session called “What Employers Seek in Public History Graduates.” Hands-on workshops this year explore social media, oral history, material culture, and the writing of historical landmark nominations. Like last year, THATCamp kicks off the conference, and the Digital Media Group has planned another Lightning Talks and a Digital Drop-In which offers individualized expertise on digital projects.

Ottawa is a city with panoramic river views and boundless historical character. Long a place of Aboriginal inhabitation and trade along the Kichi Sibi (now Ottawa) River, a town was established in the 1820s as a lumber and military center. Chosen as the capital of Canada in the 1850s, the city has transformed into a government and political center. As well, it is national center of the museum, archival and heritage community, and its historical and cultural attractions draw five million tourists annually. Ottawa’s two universities have strong connections to public history, and the federal government employs many practitioners. The diversity of our field is well represented in Ottawa.

Our conference venue, the Delta City Center, is located within easy walking distance of Parliament Hill, the Canadian War Museum, the



Courtesy of Ottawa Tourism.

Museum of Nature, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Rideau Canal, the National Gallery, river trails, and the historic Byward Market. Many other national museums and historic sites are a short distance away. To make the most of your visit to city, we invite you to explore the Ottawa Tourism website at <http://www.ottawatourism.ca/>.

We are excited to be able to offer such a diverse slate of conference sessions and activities to the NCPH and IFPH membership this coming spring. Many thanks to our colleagues on the Program, Local Arrangements and Digital Media committees and all those who solicited and submitted sessions, to John Dichtl, Carrie Dowdy and Stephanie Rowe of the NCPH Executive Office, and to Serge Noiret, Chair of the IFPH.



Courtesy of Ottawa Tourism.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to Ottawa!

*Co-Chairs of the 2013 Program Committee, Michelle A. Hamilton is the Director of Public History at The University of Western Ontario and Jean-Pierre Morin is an Historian for the Treaty Relations Directorate, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, and Vice-Chair of the IFPH.*



## Be Seen in Ottawa!

Draw attention to your institution or company by reserving exhibit space or sponsoring an event.

<http://bit.ly/OOLWT8>.

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National Council on Public History

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# Candidates for the 2013 NCPH Election

Full candidate info at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org)

## Board of Directors (three positions)

Jon Christensen, University of California, Los Angeles

Matthew C. Godfrey, Joseph Smith Papers Project, LDS Church History Department

Andrew Hurley, University of Missouri—St. Louis

Denise Meringolo, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Jill Oglie Titus, Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College

Anne Mitchell Whisnant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## Nominating Committee (two positions)

Peter T. Alter, Chicago History Museum

Larry Cebula, Eastern Washington University/  
Washington State Archives

Priya Chhaya, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Patricia West, National Park Service

*Ballots and candidate biographical information are distributed by email to members in early December. Please contact [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu) if you are a member and did not receive an electronic ballot. The election closes January 15, 2013. Your vote counts!*



## Welcome New Members!

Laura Arata Pullman WA	Bridget Edwards Jackson MS	Jean Lammie Port Richey FL	Elizabeth Rose West Hartford CT
Sean Baker Tallahassee FL	Kristin Emery Chicago IL	Michael Lawson Annandale VA	Michelle Sammartino Hollywood FL
Sarah Barksdale Carrboro NC	Chris Eno Indiana PA	Anita Lucchesi Rio De Janeiro, Brazil	Cambray Sampson Chicago IL
Jennifer Black Sherman Oaks CA	Emily Frantzen New York NY	Emily McAlhany Reevesville SC	Jonathan Schaefer Fort Atkinson WI
Norman Boling II Pace FL	Jane Gagne Seminole FL	Tara Mielnik Nashville TN	Ronald Smith Milwaukee WI
Camden Burd Mt. Pleasant MI	Lindsay Gillaspie Pensacola FL	Gregory Miller Toledo OH	Chris Stenftenagel Austin TX
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Charles Danzey Milton FL	Dan Hechenberger Crete IL	Carrie Powell Fairhope AL	Amity Walker Stillwater OK
Elizabeth Dardis Kettering OH	Richard Hulver Morgantown WV	Diane Putney Alexandria VA	Derek Weis Camp Hill PA
Alison Deplonty London ON Canada	Melissa Jasper Houston TX	Sue Riva Richmond, United Kingdom	Leslie Working Lincoln NE
Deborah Douglas Cambridge MA	Emily Kasecamp Frostburg MD		



## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

The National Council on Public History inspires public engagement with the past and serves the needs of practitioners in putting history to work in the world by building community among historians, expanding professional skills and tools, fostering critical reflection on historical practice, and publicly advocating for history and historians.

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Individuals interested in submitting content to *Public History News* should contact the editor at [jdichtl@iupui.edu](mailto:jdichtl@iupui.edu). NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Headquartered on the campus of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, NCPH benefits greatly from the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts.

# SPECIAL EVENTS IN OTTAWA

## WORKSHOPS

*NCPH workshops offer opportunities for intensive professional development. Space is limited, so please sign up early.*

### Social Media 102

Wednesday, April 17, 9:00 am – Noon,  
Tickets – \$30

Take your social media efforts to the next level! Focus on best practices and how you can propel your social media presence forward. This hands-on workshop provides easy-to-use tips on how to use your social media platforms more effectively. Troubleshooting session included.

### Changing History: Teaching Students How to Write National Historic Landmark Nominations

Wednesday, April 17, 9:00 am – Noon,  
Tickets – \$10

Today, there are just over 2,500 National Historic Landmarks in the United States. Drawing on a successful collaboration between the National Park Service and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, this workshop explores how faculty can work directly with the NPS to create a semester-long class in which students learn how to research, write, and complete a National Historic Landmarks nomination according to NPS standards.

### Oral History Workshop

Wednesday, April 17, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm,  
Tickets – \$40, includes lunch

This full-day workshop builds off of readings distributed in advance of the conference. It includes discussions and activities in the morning to introduce newcomers to the field of oral history, followed by practice interviewing throughout the afternoon.

### THATCamp NCPH

Wednesday, April 17, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm,  
Tickets – \$25

Start the NCPH 2013 Annual Meeting early by signing up for the third THATCamp NCPH! It is an “unconference” that brings together history practitioners working in the digital humanities. Not just for techno-geeks—past NCPH THATCamps have included people with a very wide range of skills, experiences, and interests. It’s a day-long learning laboratory aimed at strengthening skills and projects directly applicable in participants’ own institutions and programs. Learn more at <http://thatcamp.org>

### Artifacts, Audiences and Material Culture

Wednesday, April 17, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm,  
Tickets – \$27

This half-day workshop at the Canada Science and Technology Museum (CSTM) will provide an introduction to material culture approaches and demonstrate how this methodology can be employed with the public. Participants will learn how to examine and understand artifacts, as well as some of the various approaches to artifact-centered interpretation for museum visitors.

## WALKING TOURS AND FIELD TRIPS

### Ottawa Labour History Walking Tour

Wednesday, April 17, 9:30 am – 11:30 am,  
Ticket – \$15

Visit stunning belvederes to view waterfalls, river flats and the Gatineau Hills, office towers, working class homes, and mills. Learn how a portage and seasonal trading center became a lumber town, a canal and river transportation hub, a manufacturing, retail, cultural and educational center, and seat of the federal government.

### The Canadian Parliamentary Precinct as Public History: Telling the Outside Story Walking Tour



Courtesy Canada Science and Technology Museum.

Wednesday, April 17, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm,  
Ticket – \$12

The Parliamentary Precinct is a seminal cultural landscape deeply embedded in the Canadian imagination. From a public history perspective, how is it experienced by visitors, by Parliamentarians, and even by cats? Delivered by Mark Kristmanson, the Director of Capital Interpretation, Commemorations and Public Art at the National Capital Commission.

### Chaudière Island – Ottawa Electric Power Houses Walking Tour

Wednesday, April 17, 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm,  
Ticket – \$12

Ottawa was one of the first cities in the world to install incandescent street lights. Discover the rich and fascinating history of the electrification of Ottawa. Visit power houses built at the picturesque Chaudière Island in 1894 by the Ottawa Electric Company and see generators dating back to 1905 which still produce electricity today. End the tour with an optional visit to the Canadian War Museum.

### Experience Vodou at the Canadian Museum of History

Wednesday, April 17, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm,  
Ticket – \$10

Enjoy an insider’s look, with the curator, at the Canadian Museum of History’s exhibition on Haitian Vodou! This fascinating exhibition boasts over 300 artifacts and first-hand accounts from Canada’s Haitian community, all of which help illuminate a complex spiritual tradition.

### The Haunted Walk

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm,  
Ticket – \$24

Join a Haunted Ottawa walking tour. You will recognize the Tour Guides by the cloak they wear and the lantern they carry as they lead the group through the quiet city streets. Each tour presents Ottawa the way it was meant to be seen—up close and on foot!

### Diefenbunker: Canada’s Cold War Museum & National Historic Site

Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Ticket – \$50, includes lunch at a local pub

Built to ensure continuity of government after a nuclear attack during the Cold War, this once-secret bunker was decommissioned in 1994 and re-opened as a museum in 1998. It offers a unique perspective on living with the fear of, and preparing for a nuclear disaster.

### Horaceville: Pinhey’s Point Historic Site

Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Ticket – \$50, includes lunch

Horaceville is a colonial era estate picturesquely situated on the banks of the Ottawa River and operated in partnership as a historic house museum by the City of Ottawa and the Pinhey’s Point Foundation. Bruce Elliott (Carleton University) explains how the site exemplifies the social and political ethos and conflicts of *old regime* Canada, and its governance structure, conservation choices, and efforts to interpret this era.

# SPECIAL EVENTS IN OTTAWA

## Rideau Canal Tour

Saturday, April 20, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm,  
Ticket – \$65, includes lunch

Built originally for defensive purposes, the Rideau is today the only canal to have survived intact from the early 19th-century era of North American canal construction; it is a World Heritage Site managed by Parks Canada specifically with the goal of preserving and presenting it to the public.

## The Ultimate Field Trip!

Saturday, April 20, 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm,  
Ticket – \$15, includes bus tickets

Walk through the fields of the Central Experimental Farm and tour the Canada Agriculture Museum with Franz Klingender, Curator of Agriculture. This guided tour will provide participants with a glimpse of how the combination of traditional museum exhibits, a livestock herd, and a liberal dash of interactives are used to interpret agriculture to the visiting public. The tour will include visits to the museum's "Tractors" and "Taking Care of Beesness" exhibits as well as a discussion with the museum's four-hooved interpreters about the essential role they play in introducing Canadians to where their food comes from.

## Canada Science and Technology Museum's Collection Warehouse Tour

Saturday, April 20, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Ticket – \$15, includes bus tickets

A rare treat! Less than 2% of the Canada Science and Technology Museum's artifacts are displayed to the public. You are invited to get a behind-the-scenes look at the museum's extensive collection.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Opening Reception Include History

Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm,  
FREE, but advance registration is required  
Park your suitcase and start your conference with a drink, light hors d'oeuvres, and congenial conversation with colleagues from across North America and around the world.  
*Sponsored by History™.*



### First-Time Attendee & New Member Breakfast

Thursday, April 18, 7:30 am – 8:30 am,  
Tickets – \$30

The Membership Committee leads this breakfast and discussion for first-time conference attendees and new members. This is a great way to meet new and old members of the organization and to learn more about

NCPH, the conference, and the field of public history. *Sponsored by Carleton University and organized by the Membership Committee.*

### Speed Networking PHOTO: Speed

Networking Group Shot II  
Thursday, April 18, 10:00am – Noon, FREE, but advance registration is required  
For the fifth year in a row, NCPH will offer a professional twist on "speed dating," creating stress-free networking opportunities at the annual meeting. This is one of the most popular features of the conference! Graduate students, recent graduates, and new professionals will have the opportunity to meet with five established public history practitioners over the course of five fifteen-minute rotations. *Organized by the Curriculum and Training Committee.*

### Dine Arounds

Thursday, April 18, Time TBD  
NCPH Dine Arounds are an informal opportunity to talk about intriguing issues, make new contacts, and get a taste of the conference city. Several weeks before the annual meeting, individuals who volunteer to be facilitators suggest topics for discussion. Facilitators also find suitable restaurants, and make reservations for the groups. To participate, find the sign-up sheet in the conference registration area and be prepared to talk.

### Public History Educators Breakfast

Friday, April 19, 8 am – 10 am, Tickets – \$32  
This annual event is an opportunity for faculty to share ideas about running graduate and undergraduate public history programs and to talk about university, departmental, and a wide variety of other issues. The discussion is always lively. *Sponsored by Canada's History and organized by the Curriculum and Training Committee.*

### Poster Session and Reception

Friday, April 19, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm  
This format offers an alternative for presenters eager to share their work through one-on-one discussion. Soak in the exhibitry and chat with history practitioners who have put their work on display. Light refreshments will be served. *Cosponsored by the University of Central Florida.*



### Consultants Reception

Friday, April 19, 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm, Tickets – FREE

Interested in consulting and contract work? Join new and experienced consultants at an informal reception for lively conversation, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks. *Cosponsored by Historical Research Associates, Inc., Alder, LLC, William Willingham, Consulting Historian, and organized by the NCPH Consultants Committee.*

### Public Plenary – A Machine Autopsy

Vittorio Marchis, Politecnico di Torino  
Friday Evening, FREE and Open to the Public



Historian of technology and material culture Vittorio Marchis will physically dissect a machine while discussing its context in technology, the arts, literature, and social history. Professor

Marchis has presented similar autopsies many times, including performances on Italian radio and television. Accompanied by video clips and a lecture assistant who will read aloud from various texts (as was the practice in classic 18th- and 19th-century anatomy lectures), Marchis will invite the audience to consider how embedded we are in technology. Marchis is the director of the Historical Documentation Center and Museum and teaches at Politecnico of Turin.

### Awards Breakfast and NCPH Business Meeting

Saturday, April 20, 8:00 am – 10:00 am,  
Tickets - \$32

**Keynote Speaker: John Milloy,** Trent University

Help celebrate the best in public history! The annual awards ceremony provides a look at some of the most innovative work and admirable accomplishments in the profession today. Keynote speaker Dr. John Milloy will talk about his experience as the Director of Research, Historical Records and Report Preparation for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

# 2013 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE, OTTAWA, APRIL 17-20

## Wednesday, April 17

### 9:00 am – Noon

Workshop: Social Media 102\*

Workshop: Changing History: Teaching Students How to Write National Historic Landmark Nominations\*

### 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Workshop: Oral History Workshop\*

THATCamp NCPH\*

### 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Ottawa Labour History Walking Tour\*

### 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Canadian Parliamentary Precinct as Public History: Telling the Outside Story Walking Tour\*

### 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Chaudière Island – Ottawa Electric Power Houses Walking Tour\*

### 1:00pm – 3:00 pm

Working Group: Best Practices for Establishing a Public History Program\*

### 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Workshop: Artifacts, Audiences and Material Culture\*

### 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Experience *Vodou* at the Canadian Museum of History\*

### 3:00-5:00 pm

Working Group: Exhibiting Local Enterprise: Developing Online Exhibits

Working Group: Teaching Public History

### 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Opening Reception - *Sponsored by History™*

### 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Tour: The Haunted Walk\*

## Thursday, April 18

### 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Open

### 7:30 am – 8:30 am

First-Time Attendee/New Member Breakfast\*

### 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting (York)

### 8:30 am – 10:00 am Sessions

Roundtable: Regional Public History and Public Liberal Arts Colleges: Activist Archivists, Cultural Studies Centers, and Collaborations with Historical Societies

Rethinking Place-Based Mobile

Interpretation: Lessons from the Field

Peripheries. Cultural Projects, Historical Research, Communities

Knowing your Audience, Generational Communities

Not Black and White: Challenges and Exigencies of Cross Boundary Audience Building

Wordpress as a Public History Platform

### 10:00 am – Noon

Speed Networking\*

### 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Working Group: Public Historians and the Local Food Movement

### 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Sessions

How to Celebrate and Remember WWI

Adrift on the Shoals of Memory: Maritime Museums in the Twenty-First Century

Diverse Approaches to Divergent Audiences: Flash Exhibits, Eternal Exhibitions, and Engaging Millennials

The Artistry of Excavating the War of 1812 in 2012

Connecting Communities: Social Media and Public History Practice

### 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Sessions

Roundtable: Imperiled Promise at Work: The Challenge of Public History Collaboration between Universities and the NPS

Knowing Your Younger Public: The Significance of Artifacts in History

Going Public with Digital History

Public History in Postcolonial Spaces

Whose Public? Who Speaks for Cultural Landscapes?

iCommunity: Digital Media, Family Heirlooms, and a Global Audience

### 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Sessions

Roundtable: Making Environmental History Public through Digital Technologies

Commemorating the Spanish Civil War

Outside Spain: Camps, Universities, Associations and Museums

Identity and Conflict: Shaping Cultural Landscapes in the American West

What Employers Seek in Public History Graduates

Roundtable: Cliveden Conversations: New Interpretations for a Historic Philadelphia House

Roles and Responsibilities of a National Archive and its Audiences

### Time TBD

Dine Arounds\*

## Friday, April 19

### 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Open

### 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Public History Educators Breakfast\*

### 8:30 am – 10:00 am Sessions

Reaching the Public through the Web: The Practice of Digital Active History

Engaging Audiences with History as it Happened

Historical Podcasting and its Public

Litigation-driven Historical Research: Challenges, Perspectives, Experiences

1812- The Value of Audience Development

Connecting our Public(s)—Audience in Museum and Community Collaborations

### 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Sessions

Red Montana: One Documentary Project; Many Audiences

Exhibiting Reproductive Rights

From Pedagogy to Professional Practice: Public History Education

Another Confederacy of Dunces: or, How We Stumbled into a Most Extraordinary Public History Project

Cohesive or Disruptive? Remembering Civil Wars and Violent Sub-national Conflicts

### 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Working Group: Teaching Digital History and New Media

### 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Lightning Talks

### 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Sessions

Television is not Radio with Pictures: Re-imagining Scholarly Editing in a Digital Age

# 2013 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE, OTTAWA, APRIL 17-20

Public Tragedy, Public History: Collecting, Commemorating and Curating 9/11

Hard Time: Public History and Criminal Justice

Encountering Troublesome Knowledge: Threshold Concepts and Public History

Cross-Border Shopping: the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 in Canada and the United States

Engaging Younger Audiences through Video and Documentary Products

## 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Sessions

Landmarking the Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama

Memory and Representation of the Cold War—International Perspectives

Sites of Memory Representing National Trauma

Book Award Winner Discussion

Roundtable: Imperiled Promise

Roundtable: A Workers' Voice in Public History

## 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Poster Session and Reception

## 5:00 pm – 6:45 pm

Digital Drop-In

## 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm

Consultants Reception\*

## Friday Evening

### Public Plenary – “A Machine Autopsy”

(Location and time TBA)

## Saturday, April 20

### 8:00 am – Noon

Exhibit Hall Open

### 8:00 am – 10:00 am

#### NCPH Awards Breakfast, Business Meeting, and Keynote Speaker

“The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada” - Dr. David Milloy

### 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Tour: Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum & National Historic Site\*

Horaceville: Pinhey's Point Historic Site\*

### 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Rideau Canal Tour\*

### 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

*The Future of Publishing and Communication, from TPH to Social Media: An Open Forum*

### 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm

The Ultimate Field Trip!\*

### 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Canada Science and Technology Museum's Collection Warehouse Tour\*

### 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Roundtable: Exploring Different National Approaches to Theory and Practice for Public History

New Audiences and the Diffusion of Knowledge at the Smithsonian Institution

Oral History in the Digital Age: The Ethical and Practical Challenges of Making Stories Public

Family History and the Consumption/Production of New Histories

Roundtable: Getting Students into Archives

### 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Introduction to 3D Technologies for the Public Historian

From Archives to Article to Screen: The Making of *The Oldest Profession in Winnipeg: The 'Red Light' District of 1909-1912*

Roundtable: Imperiled National Parks and Historic Areas

The Contestation, Appropriation, and Production of Historical Memory in the Borderlands

### 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Working Group: The Challenge of Interpreting Climate Change at Historic Sites

*\*Pre-Registration Required, additional fee may apply.*

## Actions of the NCPH Board of Directors

On Friday and Saturday, October 19-20, 2012, the NCPH Board of Directors met on the campus of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), and took the following actions:

- Received the welcoming remarks from Didier Gondola, chair of the IUPUI Department of History, regarding the mutually beneficial relationship between NCPH and the department. Both sides expressed their gratitude for the many years of cooperation and the current strength of the arrangement.
- Voted to approve the proposed operating budget for fiscal 2013 after discussing the projected deficit, which is due in part to the new agreement for *The Public Historian*, wherein NCPH will begin sharing half of the institutional revenue from the journal with the University of California Santa Barbara Department of History.
- Discussed the draft Development Plan as well as steps the organization can take in the coming year to prepare for new fundraising efforts. The board created a subcommittee to use the Long Range Plan in drafting a set of recommendations for focusing the NCPH development efforts in 2013.
- Voted to change the Bylaws to expand the Nominating Committee to seven members from six. Last year the board had added the immediate past president to the committee, thereby changing the membership from five to six. Adding a seventh member will prevent

ties, make the committee potentially more diverse and representative of the public history field, and is more democratic.

- Discussed a report by Digital Media Editor Cathy Stanton about the continued expansion of NCPH social media venues and the Digital Media Group's planning for further coordination of NCPH publications and communication efforts.
- Heard a report from Editor Randy Bergstrom, who had just arrived from *The Public Historian* Editorial Board Meeting on Friday, October 19, in Washington, D.C. In addition to planning upcoming issues, the Editorial Board discussed the 2012 Public History Readers Survey results and what the guidance they offer for the journal.
- Reviewed the initial letters of interest received from institutions that propose to supply a co-editor for *The Public Historian* and formulated questions for them to address in their final proposals in November. The board also covered how the journal editorial team has evolved and how it is likely to grow.
- Discussed the Public History Readers Survey and what it says about the journal's functions (for individuals and for the field/profession) as well as its relationship to the NCPH newsletter, the History@Work blog, H-Public, and other means of publishing and communication.

continued on next page →

# President's Comments



Robert Weyeneth  
weyeneth@sc.edu

## Writing Locally, Thinking Globally

It is welcome news to hear about all the many ways that NCPH and the field of public history are internationalizing these days.

Our annual meeting in Ottawa this spring has a program rich with participants from Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. The meeting also marks the inaugural conference of the International Federation for Public History, which NCPH as an organization—and many of our members individually—have been actively supporting from its inception.

Much of the brainstorming about the future of *The Public Historian* has also been focusing on how to incorporate more international content, building on the good foundation the journal has constructed in recent years. The data collected by the readers' survey this summer indicate that almost two-thirds of respondents consider the international dimension to be a "very important" or "somewhat important" feature of the NCPH journal going forward.

Always a revealing benchmark, the NCPH *Guide to Public History Programs* now lists curricula at colleges and universities in ten countries beyond North America: Australia, Belgium, China, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Let us know of other new programs starting up.

As we embrace the global, let's not forget the local. It seems to me that the location-specific case study remains the bedrock of public history.

I've heard colleagues ask whether public history's long-standing (even defining) interest in the local can co-exist with our newfound commitment to the global. Some have remarked on these two seemingly opposed directions for the organization and the journal as a "tension," or at least a "paradox." Why would someone in Berlin, they ask, care about a local archive in Berlin, New Hampshire? Why would anyone in Colombia care to hear about a public history project in Columbia, South Carolina? In fairness, though, shouldn't we invert the question and ask why someone in Columbia should care about a public history project in Colombia? Does a public history project in a South American country necessarily trump one in the American South?

In casting our net globally we are only partially interested in far-flung geography. Of course we value national perspectives, the transnational and the comparative, the mosaic of cultural and racial variety, the relation of historical memory to diverse political circumstances, theoretical synthesis. All that I am suggesting is that an international address for a public history project does not necessarily confer significance or import.

Instead, it is the intellectual apparatus that the public historian brings to the case study that draws our attention and makes us want to read the journal article or listen to the conference presentation. The question is: why is the project important outside its small core of participants and beyond its region?

Thinking about what he saw in the High

Sierra on one of his many rambles into the remote, the California naturalist John Muir famously remarked "when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." I'd urge that we apply this ecological observation to our work in the trenches of public history, by reflecting on how and why the case study is "hitched to everything else."

It seems to me that we care about the local case study when:

- it transcends the parochial for the contextual
- the specifics of place open up conversations about big issues and large debates
- it engages issues of social justice and the role of the past in the present
- the story is framed analytically and answers the question "so what?"

I like to tell my students that good public historians have the ability to cast down their buckets wherever they land and find interesting projects. This advice has always been less about place (where they are studying as graduate students or working afterwards as professionals) and more about themselves (whether they can dig deeply into nearby history and discover broad patterns and meanings).

I may be over-stating the argument for the location-specific case study as the bedrock of public history, but if NCPH is perceived as too academic in its concerns and constituencies, I think this is an especially important message to practitioners. By seeking to internationalize, NCPH is not turning its back on practitioners—anywhere. We value the case study, whether in Berlin or Berlin, New Hampshire, Colombia or Columbia, Monterrey or Monterey.

## Actions of the NCPH Board of Directors (continued from page 7)

- Acknowledged the effective performance of the Advocacy Committee of the Board and discussed several issues the group has addressed since the spring meeting, ranging from the attempted closing of the Georgia State Archives, to open access to 1960s CIA documents, to implementation of recommendations in the OAH-NPS report, *Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service*.
- Agreed that the Membership Committee should be asked, in line with Patrick Moore's vision for the committee, to engage potential members in their professional communities at the state and local level, such as at conferences and workshops.
- Discussed a symposium or series of traveling workshops or sessions bringing together employers and public history faculty for conversations about making graduate training more effective.
- Voted to accept the recommendation from the Working Group on Sustainability to create a Task Force on Sustainability. The task force will be charged with developing a white paper on the issue, one that is consonant with NCPH's structures and resources as well as the objectives of the Long Range Plan and which identifies specific actions that the organization and its representatives can take.





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## When Opportunity Knocks

Turn to the sixth page of the 2013 *Program* of the American Historical Association and you will spot a genial turn of phrase: “the malleable PhD.” It refers to the idea—already engrained in the practice of public history—that graduate training need not limit one to a tenure-track teaching career. A history degree, as NCPH members have shown for decades, readies one for a broad variety of jobs, from investment banker to foundation officer, from marketing consultant to park ranger. Eight sessions are listed for this thread within the 2013 AHA conference. At nearly the same time, the AHA and the Organization of American Historians have begun promoting their involvement in the “Versatile PhD” program. It’s a service to which associations and more than forty universities subscribe so that their student members have access to online “high quality non-academic career materials” and advice about turning their skills and interests to a wide range of jobs.

These are welcome developments. Taking a holistic view, as historians fill a spectrum of jobs and the historical discipline expands its influence, all historians will benefit. Seeing the OAH and AHA underscore the applicability of historical training hints that the historical profession is becoming serious about seizing opportunity or even creating it rather than waiting for it—i.e., waiting for “the job market” in academia to shift against trends of the past forty years and suddenly improve.

Recent history PhD, L. Maren Wood, laid bare the truth this fall that a lot of history PhDs find work outside of academia—again, something about which public historians already are aware. In a *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, “What Doors Does a Ph.D. in History Open?” (October 30, 2012), Wood presented the facts: tracking 487 graduates of four major history PhD programs, from 1990 to 2010, she found that 27% of them

“are working in a range of industries other than academic research and teaching.” She urges history departments to learn where their alumni have headed and to share these stories with students. I would also note that Dr. Wood, with entrepreneurial gusto, has started her own educational consulting firm to help departments “track long term career outcomes for PhD recipients.”

Celebrating the versatility of historical training also runs parallel to continuing conversations in public history circles. Employers who hire public historians and faculty who train them are talking about the skills graduates need. At our upcoming spring meeting in Ottawa, NCPH will host an American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) sponsored session, “What Employers Seek in Public History Graduates.” It will build on a similar session from 2012 and be one of several such exchanges between NCPH and AASLH at each other’s conferences over the next few years. In addition, the NCPH board, at the instigation of Vice President Patrick Moore, has begun talking about ways to foster conversations between employers and public history faculty. These discussions also build on the NCPH Curriculum and Training Committee’s multi-year survey of public history training in the early- to mid-2000s, and the AHA’s major study of the Master’s degree in history during that same period (*Retrieving the Master’s Degree from the Dustbin of History*, 2005).

Aligning public history education more closely with the needs and expectations of potential employers to make public history graduates even more marketable than they are now is crucial when public history graduates face competition from three directions. First, traditional history PhDs and MAs, testing their malleability, are venturing forth from the academic realm to look for jobs across the employment spectrum. Second, other disciplines and professionals, such as archaeologists, whose work often engages public history issues are beginning to seek some of the same jobs as public historians in historic preservation, for example. And third, fellow public history graduate students are increasing in number and increasingly competing with each other. With 150 graduate programs in the U.S. and other countries and counting, the cohorts of new degree recipients may be outpacing new job openings. In his first presidential column

in this newsletter, Bob Weyeneth called for NCPH “to survey the terrain. Let’s look at how public history is being taught and where graduates are really getting jobs. Let’s learn who is teaching public history and whether they are practitioners with knowledge of the skills their students will need in public history employment.”

I think one of the things that make the practice of public history such a fascinating enterprise is its porous borders, the way it mixes so readily with other disciplines, professions, and interests. On the one hand this might mean more competition for jobs. On the other, it indicates there is very wide terrain across which public historians can keep producing their own possibilities.

Founding editor G. Wesley Johnson launched the first issue of *The Public Historian*, after all, naming eight broad sectors “of the new Public History,” ranging from government to business, historic preservation to media. Certainly public historians have turned up more in the 34 years since. Across 20,000 pages of *The Public Historian* and the hundreds of sessions and workshops of 35 annual conferences is a vastly variegated practice of public history. We find new roles for ourselves. Last December in this newsletter, consultant Darlene Roth revealed an array of opportunities for public historians who learn to market their “skills of doing history [, which] are more frequently used, needed, and recompensed than the expertise of knowing history.” NCPH Digital Media Editor Cathy Stanton happens to run another blog (in addition to NCPH’s *History@Work*), called *History at the Table*. It’s dedicated to “emerging collaborations among working farms, local and regional food networks, and historic sites and organizations,” a burgeoning field. Meanwhile, an article on the Museum of Vancouver’s blog, “The City as Museum and the Museum as City” (November 2), offers a bold blueprint for making the city museum and its staff central players in the creation of their city, alongside, even leading, the designers, politicians, bureaucrats, and private sector.

These malleable, versatile, inventive, entrepreneurial, venturesome approaches make me highly optimistic that public historians will continue to create opportunity.

# Consultants' Committee Launches TweetChat, and Other News

2012 was a great year for the Consultants' Committee and one marked by many changes. Adina Langer and Morgen Young took over from Hugh Davidson, and plan to build on his productive years chairing the group.

The committee has continued to expand its digital presence. History@Work's (the NCPH blog) Consultants' Corner has featured more than a dozen posts, with topics ranging from social media and marketing to pricing services and surviving as an independent consultant. Recent entries include "Mind in the Marketplace," a series from Christopher Clarke and "Independent Research for the Independent Consultant" from committee member Michael Adamson.

The committee's Twitter account, @NCPHConsultants, debuted in January 2011 and now has 300 followers. On November 5, the committee held its first TweetChat, moderated by consulting historian Jennifer Welborn. Using #phconchat as the chat hashtag, consultants from as far away as the Philippines joined in the initial discussion which centered on social media. Participants discussed types of social media used in their businesses, including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn,

Pinterest, and blogs, and the importance of using each platform in different ways, rather than posting the same content over and over again. Participants related how they utilize each platform for marketing, networking, and other activities. The committee also surveyed participants about the possibility of establishing a LinkedIn group for consulting historians affiliated with NCPH.



Based on image by Flickr user Shivalichopra.

We hope many more will join us for future TweetChats, held the first Monday of every month at 6:00 PM EST. The next two chats will be December 3rd and January 7th.

Join members of the Consultants' Committee in Ottawa for the 2013 Annual Meeting. All are welcome to the Consultants' Reception, Friday, April 18th from 5:30-6:45 PM. There will also be several sessions and workshops targeted to consulting historians.

## Leadership in History Awards



**AASLH**  
American Association  
for State and Local History

Applicants who submitted their work for the NCPH awards program this fall, as well as other interested public historians, should consider

participating in the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) 2013 Leadership in History Awards program.

Established in 1945, the AASLH program recognizes exemplary work in exhibits, public and educational programming, special projects, publications, multimedia, individual achievement, and preservation or restoration projects. Nominees need not be members of AASLH to qualify.

Nomination forms may be obtained by visiting [www.aaslh.org/aaslh\\_awards.htm](http://www.aaslh.org/aaslh_awards.htm), or by contacting the AASLH office by phone: 615-320-3203 or email: [hawkins@aaaslh.org](mailto:hawkins@aaaslh.org). Nominations are due to state award representatives on **March 1, 2013**. A list of state award representatives can be found at the AASLH website. Nominations are then reviewed by a national committee in the summer, with formal presentation of the awards made during the AASLH Annual Meeting, September 18-21, in Birmingham, Alabama.

## German Working group "Applied History/Public History"

Andreas Etges | [etges@lmu.de](mailto:etges@lmu.de)



Based on image by Flickr user uLe@dortmund.

At its recent biannual meeting, the German Historical Association (Deutscher Historikerverband) gave official recognition to the new working group "Applied History/Public History" (Angewandte Geschichte/Public History). The initiative came from history consultants and academic historians. The working group aims to provide a platform for practitioners of public history inside and outside of academia and to make the field more visible both inside the German historical profession and the general public. A six-member steering committee, consisting of history consultants and academic historians, was elected to coordinate the group's future work. This will include the organization of conferences on public history and universities and public history and museums. Another goal is to widen the membership of the group. For more information, see: <http://www.historikerverband.de/arbeitsgruppen/ag-angewandte-geschichte.html>

*Andreas Etges, teaches American History at the University of Munich and is a member of the Steering Committee of the German working group "Applied History/Public History" and the Steering Committee of the International Federation for Public History.*

## Annual Meeting – Dates to Remember

November 2012 – NCPH room block opens at Delta Ottawa City Centre.

December 1, 2012 – Registration opens.

January 2013 – Call for volunteers issued.

January 15, 2013 – Deadline to reserve space in the exhibition hall.

February 1, 2013 – Deadline to reserve event for sponsorship. Call for Dine Around topics issued.

February 11, 2013 – Volunteer applications due. Working Group case statements due.

March 6, 2013 – Deadline to submit passport paperwork. (Estimates are 4-6 weeks to obtain or renew a passport.)

March 11, 2013 – Early registration deadline. Dine Around topic proposals due.

March 12, 2013 – Cut-off date to reserve discounted rooms (in NCPH room block) at the Delta Ottawa City Centre. Mentor requests due.

March 27, 2013 – Deadline to submit passport paperwork with expedited service. (Estimates are 2-3 weeks for expedited service.)

April 3, 2013 – Pre-registration deadline. Refund requests due.

April 17, 2013 – The 35th Annual Meeting opens at 9am, Delta Ottawa City Centre.



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# Public History News

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#### **Professional Development**

- continuing education in workshops, working groups, and critical reflection on practical and theoretical issues

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