

Request for Proposals

The National Council on Public History (NCPH) and the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) Department of History seek proposals from academic or public history institutions to provide a co-editor and institutional support for *The Public Historian*, a journal of public history.

Background and Context

The publishing partners wish to enhance the international scope of *The Public Historian* and its digital presence.

The Public Historian, the definitive voice of the public history profession and the flagship journal in the field, was founded in 1978 at the UCSB Department of History. The journal has been edited at Santa Barbara ever since, is the official publication of NCPH, and is published by the University of California Press. A quarterly print and electronic publication (on JSTOR), the journal provides historians with the latest scholarship and applications from the field and serves as one of the primary benefits of NCPH membership. More than 400 college and university libraries carry institutional subscriptions. The audience for the journal is comprised of practicing public historians working inside and outside of the academy.

The current editorial team includes the editor, who is a faculty member in the UCSB Department of History (with course release support), a managing editor, a graduate student assistant review editor, all on the UCSB campus, and a review editor (with course release support), who is in the Department of History at California State University Sacramento. NCPH itself is headquartered at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). The editorial office is advised by the journal's editorial board, which is appointed by the NCPH president in consultation with the editorial office.

Public history—as a scholarly field and as a profession—is booming. By adding a co-editor and augmenting organizational and institutional resources, the two publishing partners are eager to expand the scope of *The Public Historian*, enhance its digital media aspects, and broaden its appeal, while preserving and strengthening its role as the journal of record for public historians, both academic and non-academic, in the United States and internationally. A partnership with an academic or public history institution with similar goals and vision is key to strengthening the work of NCPH and UCSB and the essential services they provide to practitioners of public history. Proposals are invited from public history agencies, as well as academic institutions, based in the United States or elsewhere. (The NCPH Long Range Plan is available at <http://ncph.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2012-2017-NCPH-LONG-RANGE-PLAN-final.pdf>.)

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

How to Submit a Proposal

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

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

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

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

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