



National Council on Public History

Ballots were distributed by email to members in early December. Please contact ncph@iupui.edu if you are a member and did not receive a ballot.

2014 Election – Candidate Statements

Vice President

(Serves two years as vice President, two years as president, and two years as past president on the NCPH Board of Directors).

Alexandra Lord

National Historic Landmarks Program

I'm honored to be nominated for Vice President of the National Council on Public History. Over the last ten years, I have been impressed by the ways in which NCPH has taken the lead in re-imagining the historical profession. Given the many challenges facing our profession, NCPH will need to adapt and change in the coming years if it is to continue to grow and to bridge the division between public and academic historians. I'm excited to have the opportunity to serve this organization as it takes the lead in addressing these diverse challenges.

I received my PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison (1995). Between 1996 and 2000, I was an assistant professor at Montana State University and then a visiting professor at the State University of New York, New Paltz. In 2001, I left academe to become the historian for the United States Public Health Service. In January 2008, I became the Branch Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Program (National Park Service).

Since leaving academe, I have been a strong advocate for graduate education reform. In addition to creating Beyond Academe, a website to educate historians about careers outside the academy, I have published articles on this issue in publications such as *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Perspectives*. I have also been interviewed on this subject in venues ranging from *The Village Voice* and the *LA Times* to the *Brian Lehrer Show*, an NPR show broadcast in the New York City metropolitan area.

Along with running Beyond Academe, I also run a web journal, *The Ultimate History Project* (UHP), which features short articles on American and non-American history. In 2013, Biblioboard picked up *The Ultimate History Project* which it will market and sell to public and academic libraries across the country.

Throughout my career both in and outside the academy, I have been an active member of the historical community. I've served on the board of directors for several professional organizations including, most recently, the National Council on Public History. I have also reviewed NEH grants and served on the Advisory Board or as an advisor to several museums and historic sites, including The Stettin Museum and Save Ellis Island, and I've appeared on the History Channel to discuss the history of sex education.

I've published and given papers on topics ranging from early modern medical theories about menstruation to the history of biowarfare at places such as Ellis Island and the National Library of Medicine. My book, *Condom Nation: The United States' Sex Education Campaign from World War I to the Age of the Internet* (Johns Hopkins University Press 2010) won two awards from the British Medical Association—one for the best popular book on medicine and the other for the best book furthering

understanding of medicine and science among the general public. Currently, I am working on a new book tentatively titled *Mrs. Leeds' Dainty Fist: Nancy May Leeds and American Intervention in Greece, 1908-1921*.

Board of Directors

(You may vote for up to **three** individuals. Board members serve three-year terms. The NCPH board defines and advances the organization's mission, protects its financial and human assets, ensures adequate resources to carry out the mission, supervises and supports the executive director, and promotes the interests, programs, and reputation of NCPH. Members of the board include the president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary-treasurer, and nine other elected members, with the executive director, digital media editor, and the editor of *The Public Historian* serving as ex officio, non-voting members.)

Kathleen Franz **American University**

Thank you for considering me for the NCPH Board of Directors. I attended my first NCPH meeting in the spring of 2000 and it was a revelation! Trained in American studies and museum studies, public history felt like home, bringing multiple disciplines together with a common interest in history. I have attended every year since and encourage other professionals to get involved and graduate students to join.

My path to public history started at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where I was eager to move out of the classroom and put what I learned into practice. After four years and a bunch of internships, I went to graduate school for a PhD in American Civilization at Brown University where I also completed requirements for the master's degree in museum studies (PhD 1999). I was lucky to get broad training in many aspects of public history, from industrial archeology to decorative arts.

Since 2000, I've directed two graduate programs in public history. The first was at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2000-2005), where I helped to launch the program in museums studies and historic preservation. Currently, I direct the public history program at American University in Washington, DC. I encourage students to learn through practice and have them invest in institutions and communities through a variety of service projects. As an active public historian, I have curated and co-curated several exhibitions, including, most recently *American Enterprise: Stories of Business* (National Museum of American History, Smithsonian, forthcoming May 2015), *David Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture* (National Building Museum, June 2007-May 2008), and *On Track: Transit and the American City* (National Building Museum, 2001-2002).

As a public historian, I think one of our duties is to serve our communities, both public and professional. For NCPH, I co-chaired the 2012 Program Committee; represented NCPH as a delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies; and served as part of the six-person task force that wrote the report entitled *Tenure and Promotion for the Publicly Engaged Academic Historian* (2010). I'm also involved with, and hopefully a voice for public history at, the Organization of American Historians, where I served on the Committee on Public History and am the co-editor for exhibition reviews in the *Journal of American History*.

I would be delighted to serve on the Board of Directors. I am particularly interested in advocacy and how the NCPH can serve as the voice for public history institutions.

Anthea Hartig
California Historical Society

I am honored to be on this year's slate of nominees for the Board of Directors, as NCPH and all that for which it stands have played critical roles in my career as a public historian. It would be a privilege to serve and give back to the organization and its members and to work across the nation to make history more accessible and relevant.

In my current position as the Executive Director of the California Historical Society (CHS), based in San Francisco, I strive to steer this nonprofit with an annual budget of \$2M and steward this immense collection of millions of items that are a resource held in trust for the people of California, utilized by researchers from across the globe. I came to CHS in late 2011, after six years with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where I directed that organization's Western Office, which delivered preservation services to the six continental far western states, along with Hawai'i, Alaska, and the Pacific Island Territories of Guam and Micronesia. Previously, I taught history and cultural studies at La Sierra University in Riverside and graduate courses in historic preservation at the University of California, Riverside from where I completed my PhD and master's degree.

Making history real and public has defined my professional and advocational life, and I would eagerly put this experience to work on with and for NCPH. I served as a municipal preservation planner for over a decade, and owned a cultural resources consulting firm. Volunteer leadership like what I would provide for NCPH is very important to me, and I have served on many local, statewide, and national history-related nonprofit foundations' boards of directors, including the California Preservation Foundation and the California Council for the Promotion of History. Currently, I serve on the Public History Committee for the Organization of American Historians and helped host this year's OAH conference in San Francisco. I strive to continue my own scholarship and have published in both academic and professional journals and in larger studies such as Blackwell's recent *A Companion to the History of Los Angeles* (Deverell and Hise, eds.). Under Governor Gray Davis, I was deeply honored to be the Chairperson of the State Historical Resources Commission of California. In 2011, I was named California Preservationist of the Year at the 36th annual California Preservation Conference and in 2012 the California Heritage Council presented me its Award for Distinguished Service to the Heritage and History of the State of California.

If lucky enough to be elected, I would lend all that I've come to know about governance and growth of nonprofit cultural heritage organization to the NCPH board and mission. Moreover, I would work to weave together the national connections and knowledge I bring to strengthen and grow the organization on the ground with other allied individuals, groups, and institutions.

Jean-Pierre Morin
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

I am honoured to be considered for the Board of the NCPH, an organization that I believe to be vital to the development of our field.

Since completing my studies in Canadian History in 1999, I have only ever been a public historian. I have dedicated my career as a public servant in Canada to improving awareness of the history both for my

colleagues and with the general public. Since 2000, I have been the staff historian for the Canadian department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, which has allowed me to bring greater attention to the often troubled history of the relationship between colonizing states and indigenous societies. I have long believed that the only way to reconcile the past is through a greater understanding of our shared history. To that end, I have pushed to develop new and innovative ways to bring greater historical awareness by developing new interactive digital historical learning tools, web content, and digital media. Since 2010, I have assumed the role of departmental lead for ongoing national commemoration initiatives such as the bicentennial of the War of 1812, developing virtual and physical exhibits and organizing commemorative events with Indigenous, government, and private sector partners.

I've striven to develop new links within the public history community. I helped establish the Public History Working Group of the Canadian Historical Association to promote Public History in Canada, and was its first chair. I have also been an active member of the NCPH and in 2013, was the Program co-chair of the NCPH's annual meeting in Ottawa, Canada. Also, I'm a member of the NCPH Digital Media Group. I have also been involved in the founding of the International Federation for Public History and elected to serve as the IFPH's vice-chair, which is mandated to create international linkages between public historians and promote the development of a worldwide network of public history practitioners.

My experiences as a "government historian" as well as with the IFPH has led to me developing a deep appreciation for the role that public history has in the development of public policy as well as in the development and construction of national identities. To that end, I believe that the role of public historians is to assist others in making history "real," to help build an understanding that all history is public and that everyone can play a role in our shared history.

I believe that public history has reached a turning point. As we find new ways to be public historians through new digital tools, we aim to reach new audiences. The NCPH is poised to bring practitioners and students from around the world together to help foster a new dialogue on public history. If selected to join the board, I would strive to expand our membership, develop new partnership with international partners, and push for a broader dialogue on the scope and role of public history in our digital world.

Bruce Noble

Chickasaw National Recreation Area

I am proud to have been a member of NCPH since 1986. During the ensuing years, NCPH has remained an important facet of my professional journey and has also become part of my life. I relish attending the annual meeting every year to learn, receive inspiration, recharge my professional batteries, see old friends, meet new ones, and deepen my commitment to the value of public history in the process. (Okay, the annual meetings are great fun too!)

I have been an active participant in NCPH over the years. I spent two years as chair of the Cultural Resources Committee and later served on the Electronic Communications Committee. I have presented papers and chaired annual meeting sessions on a diverse range of topics including Native American relations with national parks, the presentation of controversial historical topics, and the impact of the Klondike gold rush. I have also engaged in mentoring activities. Taken collectively, these experiences

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have allowed me to both give and receive valuable insight into the professional values that we all seek to uphold in our work as public historians.

At present, I am wrapping up three years of service on the NCPH Editorial Board. This has been a challenging period during which all forms of print media increasingly have felt the impact of the digital revolution. In response, I have worked to uphold the centrality of *The Public Historian* as the focal point for scholarship in our field, while embracing a new co-editorship arrangement that promises to infuse new energy and vitality into an already successful journal. I also believe I have been a force in encouraging transparency and open discussion about changes taking place at the journal so that the larger NCPH membership had a chance to engage in the transition process.

In terms of my own career development, I earned a BA degree in American studies and an MA degree in history from the University of Wyoming. I have written widely on a variety of historical topics and my work has been published in journals including the *Annals of Wyoming*, *Colorado Heritage*, *The Public Historian*, and *Environmental History*. I have also had a broad and varied career with the National Park Service with an emphasis on work in historical parks and historical programs in locations stretching from Washington, DC, to Alaska.

If elected to the board, I would: (1) reinforce and expand the vitality of the annual meetings that have done so much to bring a new generation of professionals into the field, (2) enthusiastically support the strong leadership that NCPH has benefitted from in the Indianapolis headquarters in recent years, (3) emphasize the value of growing the endowment as a means of retaining the financial strength of the organization in the future, and (4) continue both active support for the central role of *The Public Historian* and expansion of the digital presence of NCPH that has been so impressively achieved by *History@Work*. I would love to serve on the board and would sincerely appreciate your vote.

Mark Tebeau **Arizona State University**

I am honored to be considered as a potential board member of the National Council on Public History. I recognize the significant responsibility of serving and am committed to making it a priority.

Over my career as a public historian I have worked both in museums and universities to build collaborative projects that have engaged a variety of publics. At the Western Reserve Historical Society, I developed oral history projects and helped plan interactive community-based exhibitions. At Cleveland State University I co-founded the Center for Public History + Digital Humanities to explore how universities could use digital humanities to engage public audiences and improve student training in public history. Over a decade, our research team developed collaborative TAH-funded programs of professional teacher development, contributed to large scale public art projects (the Euclid Corridor History Project), worked with students and communities to collaboratively collect hundreds of oral histories (Cleveland Regional Oral History Project), experimented with mobile interpretation (Cleveland Historical), and developed the Curatescape mobile framework for curating landscapes, which is being used by preservationists, curators, scholars, and educators worldwide. I have been involved in the NCPH for a many years, including having served on the Awards Committee, sitting on the 2013 Program Committee for the annual meeting, and supporting the development of the International Federation for

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Public History. Cleveland Historical even won an honorable mention for Outstanding Public History project several years ago.

In 2013, I moved to Arizona State University, where I now direct the public history program. My scholarship explores the urban built environment, especially vernacular landscapes. I've written a book about how firefighting and fire insurers confronted the dangers and risks of fire to build the urban landscape. Also, I am presently finishing a book that uses the Cleveland Cultural Gardens (and other urban green spaces and memorials) as a lens through which to see how monuments and public art reveal the changing nature of cities and communities in the 20th century. Finally, I am developing a book project that explores how the digital age has transformed public history.

If elected to the board, I would be interested in advancing the NCPH's outreach and advocacy. In particular I would like to continue promote the dramatic expansion of NCPH membership to communities of practice, including especially small and mid-sized cultural and educational organizations. In addition, I believe that the NCPH should extend its approach to lobbying and advocacy, moving it toward building advocacy resources that public history constituencies can use to lobby state-level organizations. Finally, it is vital for the NCPH to provide support for peer evaluation of public history and digital humanities projects, which will enhance the place of those endeavors inside and outside the academy.

Nominating Committee

(You may vote for up to [two](#) individuals. Nominating Committee members serve three-year terms. The committee identifies, determines the eligibility of, and contacts persons to be considered for elected offices of NCPH. Each October, the committee compiles the slate of candidates for the annual election.)

Suzanne Fischer

Oakland Museum of California

I am a passionate recruiter, always trying to connect colleagues from diverse backgrounds to the field of public history and to NCPH as our vital professional organization. I would love to do this work officially as a member of the Nominating Committee.

I am a historian of technology and museum professional. As Associate Curator of Contemporary History and Trends at the Oakland Museum of California, I work to help visitors engage with California's and their own past in the context of what's happening right now, and vice versa. One of my key commitments is to co-created and collaborative projects—I develop exhibits with community, student, and artist partners on subjects such as the 2008 recession, San Diego Comic-Con, the experiences of Pacific Islander Californians, and the political upheavals of the 1960s. I was previously a curator at The Henry Ford in Michigan and I have a PhD in the history of science and technology from the University of Minnesota.

As an involved NCPH member, I currently serve on an award committee and have previously served as a member of the Digital Media Group, for which I wrote posts for *Off the Wall* and contributed to the @ncph twitter feed. I also (once regularly, now sporadically) write a blog called *Public Historian*. I find that the web allows people doing public history work, whatever their institutional affiliations or

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backgrounds, to connect across the world; the thousands of colleagues I have met on social media have given me a deeper understanding of the diversity of our profession as well as deeper insight into the public historians leading our field into the future. My goal as a Nominating Committee member would be to help NCPH's leadership reflect the wide range of established and emerging public history practitioners and institutions.

Brianne Greenfield

Central Connecticut State University

I am a cultural historian and Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University where I coordinate the public history program and teach broadly across the curriculum. I hold a PhD in American civilization from Brown University and a MA in museum studies, also from Brown. As a public historian, I am experienced in museum and material culture interpretation, collections planning, grantsmanship, and nonprofit leadership. I currently hold board and committee positions with Connecticut Humanities and with the Connecticut Historical Society, as well as other history-based advocacy and outreach organizations. My NCPH participation includes serving on the Curriculum and Training Committee, the 2009 Program Committee, liaison to the National Coalition for History, and, most recently, co-chair of the 2014 Program Committee for the annual meeting, *Sustainable Public History*.

These commitments have taught me a lot about the importance of board cultivation and the need to develop active and engaged governance. Many history organizations struggle to achieve diversity (particularly racial diversity), nurture new members, and transform interested individuals into committed supporters. As a voice for the field, NCPH must be ready to support new professionals struggling to secure employment, established practitioners seeking to expand their skills in the digital age, and organizations and agencies weakened by declining financial resources. Making history address real world problems—including those of social and environmental justice—will always be our challenge and we rely on NCPH's leadership to keep us working toward that goal.

NCPH has been an important force in my professional development, and I welcome the opportunity to ensure that it remains a vigorous and inviting organization.

Serge Noiret

European University Institute

I am a Belgian citizen residing in Florence, Italy, where I work as a history information specialist to sustain the History & Civilization Department (European University Institute). For fifteen years now I have taught and researched in the field of digital and public history. I organized and coordinated many conferences in the field both at my own university and elsewhere.

My deep interest in the NCPH started before the Portland annual meeting in 2010, as a participant in a working group, "International Council on Public History? Bringing Global Public History Closer." I discovered the organized field of public history through the NCPH and fostered the field in Italy writing about the history of public history and the leading role of the NCPH. My edited special issue of an Italian

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academic journal—*Public History: national practices and global identity*—resulted from a panel that I coordinated for the NCPH meeting in 2011.

As elected Chair (2012-2018) of the IFPH-FIHP Steering Committee of the *International Federation for Public History*, I am participating in the internationalization of public history. I organized the first IFPH Steering Committee meeting in Luxembourg (2012) and brought together international public historians for subsequent meetings in 2013.

Thanks to the EUI, a unique European post-graduate and post-doctoral university in the humanities and social sciences with members coming from EU countries and other continents, I am in contact with an international network of stakeholders and academics. I am fluent in different languages and working on a daily basis with professors, doctoral and post-doctoral researchers issued from different academic systems, which will help me to introduce the best leaders in our field to the NCPH. This is what I would like to offer as a member of the NCPH Nominating Committee if I would have the honor to be selected.

Gregory E. Smoak **University of Utah**

It is a great honor to be asked to run for a position on the Nominating Committee. I would approach my position keeping both balance and inclusiveness in mind. Balance means ensuring that public historians in all their diversity are represented on the committees and in the governance of NCPH. This not only means gender, racial, and ethnic balance, but regional and occupational diversity as well. While one of our organization's great virtues has always been its inclusiveness, we should continue to reach out to constituencies (local historical societies and museums for example) that may not always think of NCPH as their home organization.

I am currently the director of the American West Center and an associate Professor of History at University of Utah, where I teach courses in American Indian, Environmental, and Public History. My work as a public historian has included recording and editing oral histories, helping to build tribal archives, and writing numerous historical reports for American Indian tribes and other clients. I am currently completing an environmental history of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument for the NPS.

I was a member of the NCPH Board of Directors (2007-2010) and served on the 2011 Program Committee. I have also served on and chaired the OAH Public History Committee and recently helped to establish (and chair) a public history committee for the Western History Association. Perhaps most importantly, I was a member of the Working Group on Evaluating Public History Scholarship, a joint committee of the NCPH, OAH, and the AHA. The working group's final report illustrated ways that history departments could give due credit for public history work in tenure and promotion cases, and has been adopted by all three organizations as a statement of best practices.