

## Backing Up the One-Man Band: Public History Boot Camp

Mary Rizzo

While large institutions like the Smithsonian Institution, Independence Hall, or Colonial Williamsburg have the funding and staff to experiment with and disseminate new ideas in exhibitions, interpretation, education, and public history, the vast majority of history organizations in the U.S. are too small to benefit from their work or to attempt their own. A 2009 report by the Mid-America Arts Alliance analyzed a survey of arts and history museums in six Midwestern states and found that 60% of the museums in that region had budgets less than \$100,000. In New Jersey, where I have worked in public history for nearly a decade, the situation is starker. While there is no explicit data on this topic—though it is sorely needed— anecdotal evidence suggests that most history organizations in the state employ a handful of people, at best, and more likely just one or two. Volunteers and board members fulfill critical functions that in other, better funded organizations would be done by employees, including historical interpretation, collections care, and fundraising.



The Boot Camp's theme was "New Views on Immigration and Diversity for History Organizations." In this 1938 photo, a padrone supervises the work of Italian American cranberry pickers in New Jersey. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

Under such conditions the overworked staff has few professional development opportunities, especially in public history. While a board may approve sending an executive director to a workshop on fundraising, that same board may not open its checkbook so that she can learn about new trends in community engagement through

public history. But historic sites, museums, and archives are not like other nonprofits. They must simultaneously be well-managed organizations and grounded in rigorous history that is attendant to new scholarship and best practices. How do we ensure that these small organizations are staying up-to-date on public history thinking? How do we show board members and other leaders that public history knowledge is as critical to their history organizations as that proverbial fundraising workshop?

Thanks to funding from the 1772 Foundation, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH) at Rutgers-Camden piloted a Public History Boot Camp in December 2013 to address these issues. Knowing how quickly the demographic profile of the Philadelphia region, which extends into historically white and rural South Jersey, has changed, we chose the topic "New Views on Immigration and Diversity for History Organizations." Attendees—who were staff or board members at history organizations and who received a small travel stipend for attending—came to the half-day Boot Camp to think about how their organizations could better connect with their local communities, which are becoming increasingly diverse.

Dominic Vitiello, an immigration historian from the University of Pennsylvania, gave a detailed overview of how the region has changed over the course of two centuries. Public historian Andrew Urban, Rutgers University, introduced attendees to basic concepts in public history and demonstrated free or inexpensive tools for immigration history research, which his students had used in creating an online exhibition on Chinese exclusion in New Jersey. After a lively lunch, Jim Turk, a public history consultant in New Jersey, brought it all together in a discussion of a project he led to create "Seven Steps to

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## Work and Play in Monterey

Since its first conference in Montecito, California, in 1979, the National Council on Public History has provided participants countless opportunities for reflection, debate, and discussion. Past conference "themes" have addressed pertinent issues in the field, including business history, diversity in employment practices, memory and identity in public conscience, and the significance of audience in public history.



Working at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

For the 2014 meeting, no theme is more appropriate than "sustainability." Since the Great Recession of 2008, many cultural institutions have endured budget cuts and stagnant attendance numbers, prompting new questions about the relevance of history in meeting the needs of local communities. Historic buildings in danger of falling require unique strategies for adaptive reuse. Emerging digital tools, technologies, and practices have changed how historians preserve and communicate the stuff of history to their audiences. For all of the remarkable advances in public history over the past 35 years, what can we do today to ensure that public history remains sustainable in the future? The 2014 conference offers many settings in which to confront sustainable public history.

### Workshops

Eight workshops on Wednesday, March 19, offer opportunities for professional development. These include "Digital

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# Public Plenary



## The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality

2014 NCPH Public Plenary speaker, Richard Heinberg.

How can public historians help in the fight against climate change and promote a more environmentally and economically sustainable

future? To help us examine this question, Richard Heinberg will join us in Monterey, California, for a plenary talk entitled, “The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality.” As the NCPH Public Plenary, the event will be open to the Monterey community. Heinberg, a journalist and educator and Senior Fellow at the Post Carbon Institute, focuses on the connections between the environment and economy. He argues that oil depletion makes the kind of economic growth that dominated the 20th century impossible to maintain and that we must wean ourselves off oil, live within our means, and repair the planet. Heinberg will be joined by program co-chairs Leah Glaser and Briann Greenfield who will explore the ramifications of his “end of growth” thesis for public historians. Can understanding our history of energy use and industrial development engender cultural and political change? Do we have a responsibility to prepare our communities for a reduced economic future? How can we tackle complex, politically charged histories—and should we?

# Work and Play in Monterey (cont. from page 1)

Preservation for Local History and Cultural Heritage Collections,” which will provide tools and concepts for long-term preservation of digital artifacts. “Wikipedia 101” offers tips on creating and editing pages about underrepresented subjects (such as Women’s history) on the world’s most popular reference website. “I collected 300 Surveys. Now What?!” will analyze strategies for mining visitor surveys to develop a better relationship between public historians and their audiences. Other workshops explore the intersection between oral history and digital practice, questioning how digital technology can help or hinder future oral history projects. Finally, THATCamp NCPH, an “unconference” on the digital humanities, brings practitioners together for collaboration on digital projects, problems, and ideas.



Cannery Row. Courtesy Monterey Public Library, California History Room, taken by David Spradling.

## Tours



Salinas Valley. Courtesy Flickr user Loco Steve.

Fourteen tours throughout the conference also provide chances to learn more about sustainability in public history. “Adaptive Reuse around Monterey Bay” looks at how Fort Ord—a de-commissioned U.S. Army base—was turned into a college campus and how parts of Monterey’s historic fish canneries became a part of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. A tour led by Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers will guide participants through Point Sur Lighthouse and Point Sur State Historic Park. “The Grapes of Wrath Tour” looks at the life of author John Steinbeck and the history of farming in Salinas Valley, and “Cannery Row” will explore the history of fisheries in Monterey Bay and explore how these places became centers of restoration and re-development in the city.

NCPH’s workshops, walking tours, and field trips consistently provide meaningful and fun learning opportunities for public historians. Be sure to register for a workshop or tour today!

# Backing Up the One-Man Band (cont. from page 1)

Freedom,” a podcast tour of Underground Railroad sites in Southern New Jersey. His talk, which covered critical topics like how to work with academic historians and community members and the necessity of marketing, spurred lots of questions from the group of 26 attendees, who represented organizations ranging from the Philadelphia Museum of Art to the Alice Paul Institute to the Atlantic County judiciary.

After this intense introduction, attendees were given two further opportunities to extend their learning. Three sites were chosen to attend the Institute for Museum and Library Services’ WebWise conference in Baltimore at no cost (thanks to IMLS for funding this). Another three were given the chance to bring a public historian to their site for a half-day of consulting work on a specific project with the grant paying for the consultants. The project is still underway, and our hope is to create recognition for the value

that public historians can bring to history organizations by showing them the benefits in very concrete terms.

While the response to the Boot Camp confirmed for us how needed this kind of training is in our region and has encouraged us to plan more Boot Camps in the future, an email from an attendee hammered home the challenges that face these organizations. The director of a site located in the rural New Jersey Pinelands replied to my request for applications to bring the consultant by telling me that while it was a wonderful opportunity, she had no time even to fill out the application, which merely asked for a paragraph description of a specific project and a guarantee that the consulting would be completed by March 1. Why not? Because, as she said, her organization was a “one-man band.”

While public historians may look to large institutions to learn about best practices in

the field, in order to create an environment in which public history influences the vast majority of history organizations—and proves to them the value of our field enough that they might consider hiring someone with a degree in public history rather than one in marketing—it’s critical that we think about ways to reach out to these small, struggling organizations with training opportunities like these. We need to be the back-up for the one-man bands out there.

To learn more about the Public History Boot Camp, and to download the speakers’ presentations, visit <http://march.rutgers.edu/2013/11/public-history-boot-camp/> or contact me at [mary.rizzo@rutgers.edu](mailto:mary.rizzo@rutgers.edu).

*Mary Rizzo is the co-editor of The Public Historian, a member of the NCPH Board of Directors, and the Historian in Residence at the Mid-Atlantic Center for Research in the Humanities at the University of Rutgers-Camden.*



NCPH 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. *Public History News* is published in March, June, September, and December. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Individual membership orders, changes of address, and business and editorial correspondence should be addressed to NCPH, 127 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). Tel: 317-274-2716. Join online or renew at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org). Headquartered on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, NCPH is grateful for the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts and the Department of History.

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# 2014 NCPH Election Results

*Thank you to the voters and the Nominating Committee, and special thanks to all of the individual candidates, who agreed to allow their names to be placed on the ballot!*

## Vice President



Alexandra Lord, National  
Historic Landmarks  
Program

## Board of Directors



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## Nominating Committee



Suzanne Fischer, Oakland  
Museum of California



Anthea Hartig, California  
Historical Society



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Aboriginal Affairs and  
Northern Development  
Canada

## Welcome New Members!

Katherine Barbera  
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Indianapolis IN

Kamalla Bennett  
Huntington Beach CA

Monica Bowman  
Columbia SC

Amanda Brand  
Walnut Creek CA

Summer Burke  
Las Vegas NV

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Woodbury MN

Krista Clark  
Tempe AZ

Laurie Dreyer  
Woodland CA

Cheryl Frei  
Ventura CA

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Indianapolis IN

Lucinda Hannington  
Portland ME

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Spokane WA

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Josh Howard  
Murfreesboro TN

Thomas Jamison  
Pacific Grove CA

Jennifer Keil  
Irvine CA

Jessica Knapp  
Ontario, Canada

Elizabeth Lambert  
Murfreesboro TN

Emily Lassiter  
Greensboro NC

Alexandra Latona  
Greensboro NC

Lauranett Lee  
North Chesterfield VA

Jacob Levin  
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Fabiano Lopes  
Brazil

Jane Lydon  
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Sarah Lynch  
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Mandi Magnuson-Hung  
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Anne Mahoney  
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Ellen Mays  
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Anna McCullough  
Columbus OH

Polly McKenna-Cress  
Philadelphia PA

Jeremy McMannis  
Topeka KS

Alexandra Morris  
Columbia Station OH

Kristin Morris  
Los Altos CA

Jennifer Nickerson  
Brookline MA

Caitlin Phillips  
Grandville MI

Erin Pulley  
Baton Rouge LA

Tegan Rice  
Long Lake MN

Santos Roman  
Riverside CA

Marcela Roman  
Coral Gables FL

Charlotte Savidge  
Brooklyn NY

Heather Scheurer  
Auburn AL

Eric Scott  
Lafayette LA

Joshua Severn  
Pismo Beach CA

Caitlin Shain  
Spokane WA

Samuel Skow  
Sacramento CA

Sharon Smith  
St. Louis MO

Gerald Smith  
Binghamton NY

Ethan Sribnick  
Rego Park NY

Sarah Stierch  
Oakland CA

David Swafford  
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East Lansing MI

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Raleigh NC

# 2014 NCPH Annual Conference Registration Form

Full Program is online at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org)

## 1. Personal Data

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: (e.g., institution, company, "independent historian," etc., as you would like it to appear on your badge)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Do not include my name/contact information on the list of conference participants made available at the conference.
- I am a first-time attendee

Emergency Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special needs?  Yes  No  
If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Registration Fees (from February 13 to March 5, 2014)

No emailed, faxed, or mailed registrations can be accepted after March 5. Registrations after this date will be handled onsite at the conference.

	Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Member	\$187
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member	\$215
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Member	\$105
School: _____ Advisor: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Non-Member	\$120
School: _____ Advisor: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single-day registration	\$110
Specify day: _____	
<b>Subtotal Registration</b>	<b>\$</b>

## 3. Special Events

	Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Reception – Wed	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Speed Networking – Thurs	FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member Breakfast - Thurs	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Poster Session and Reception – Thurs	FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultant's Reception – Thurs	FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> Public History Educators' Breakfast - Fri	\$38
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Lunch and Business Meeting - Sat	\$55
<b>Subtotal Special Events</b>	<b>\$</b>

NCPH  
127 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI  
425 University Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202



## 4. Tours *Non-walking tours include transportation.*

	Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> T.1 Adaptive Reuse Around Monterey Bay	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> T.2 Historic Cemeteries of Old Monterey	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> T.3 Point Sur Lighthouse and Point Sur State Historic Park (Includes Lunch)	\$65
<input type="checkbox"/> T4. Monterey's Waterfront	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> T5. What's the Point? Homes and History of Carmel Point	\$65
<input type="checkbox"/> T6. Royal Presidio Chapel	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> T7. Grapes of Wrath and National Steinbeck Center, Salinas	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/> T8. Walking Tour of Historic Monterey	\$12
<input type="checkbox"/> T9. Cannery Row	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> T10. Behind the Scenes Tour of Stevenson House	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> T11. Pacific Biological Lab on Cannery Row 1	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> T12. Pacific Biological Lab on Cannery Row 2	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> T13. Presidio of Monterey	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> T14. Hotel Del Monte	\$25
<b>Subtotal Tours</b>	<b>\$</b>

## 5. Workshops

	Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> W1. Digital Preservation for Local History and Cultural Heritage Collections	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> W2: Engaging with Change: Local Food, Farming, and Public History	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> W3: Wikipedia 101 for Women's History (and Other Underrepresented Subjects)	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> W4: I collected 300 surveys. Now What?!	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> W5: Introduction to Oral History	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> W6: THATCamp NCPH	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> W7: Participatory Public History with Nina Simon	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> W8: Oral History: A Relational Practice in a Digital Age	\$25
<b>Subtotal Workshops</b>	<b>\$</b>

## 6. Total

	Subtotals
Registration Fees (Section 2)	_____
Special Events (Section 3)	_____
Tours (Section 4)	_____
Workshops (Section 5)	_____
<b>TOTAL to be paid</b>	<b>\$</b>

## 7. Payment Information

- Check (Drawn in U.S.funds on a U.S. Bank, payable to NCPH)  
Visit [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org) to register online using credit card.

## 8. Waiver and Photo Release

I certify that I am not aware of health or medical conditions preventing my safe participation in the activities for which I register, and I hereby release and discharge the National Council on Public History (NCPH), their respective affiliates and subsidiaries as well as any event sponsor jointly and severally from any and all liability, damages, costs, (including attorney fees), actions or causes of action related to or arising from or out of my participation in or preparation for any of the events listed above. I hereby authorize NCPH to use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to me—including my image, likeness and/or voice without compensation. I understand that this material may be used in various publications, recruitment materials, or for other related endeavors. This material may also appear on the NCPH's Web Page. This authorization is continuous and may only be withdrawn by my specific rescission of this authorization. Consequently, the NCPH or project sponsor may publish materials, use my name, photograph, and/or make reference to me in any manner that the NCPH or project sponsor deems appropriate in order to promote/publicize service opportunities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# → Committees on the Go

*These updates give a sampling of what NCPH volunteers are doing for the organization and the field of public history. The committees encourage your input throughout the year. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please email the vice president or executive director. Contact information for officers and committee chairs and members is at <http://ncph.org/cms/about/boards-and-committees/>. Most committee meetings are open to visitors during the annual meeting.*

## **Consultants' Committee**

Last year, the Consultants Committee launched the NCPH Consultants Survey, an effort to collect data about the consulting historians community and to understand how we as a committee can better serve our community. The survey received nearly 150 responses. We will soon be sharing our analysis of the data on *History@Work*. One component of the survey focused on the current state of the Consultants List on the NCPH website: <http://ncph.org/cms/consultants/>. For the foreseeable future, the committee will focus on re-conceptualizing the list, aiming to make it a more dynamic feature.

We hope many of you will join us in Monterey for the NCPH Annual Meeting. This year's program offers many great consulting related sessions and events. Don't miss the Consultants Reception on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Other highlights from the program include: *Consulting Alliances: Obstacles and Opportunities*; *Sustaining Your Own Research Interests While Working as a Consultant*; *Military Communities: Documenting the History of the U.S. Army's Residential Communities Initiative*, *Collaborating with Multiple Client Groups in Federal History Contracting and Understanding the Relationships Between Military Installations and Local Communities*; *Cultural Inclusion and Sustainable Heritage Conservation*; and *The Forest for the Trees: Sustainable Land Management and Oral History*.

## **Digital Media Group**

The Digital Media Group will be considering its usual mix of editorial, technical, and logistical questions at our meeting in Monterey. We'll spend time focusing on ways to update the NCPH website and integrate it more closely with the Public History Commons. As well, we'll be thinking about the future of the H-Public listserv now that both H-Net and NCPH have made parallel moves into more interactive online environments. Now that some of our newer projects (like the *History@Work* blog, PHC Library, and collaborations with *The Public Historian*) are moving beyond the

start-up phase, we'll also be considering longer-range questions of maintenance and succession. How can we best sustain our network of volunteer editors and interconnected projects without over-extending our excellent but small staff?

## **New Professional and Graduate Student Committee**

The NCPH's Graduate Student and New Professional Committee has made progress on three specific goals. The first includes an evaluation of the results of the committee's 2013 lapsed member polls. Lapsed and current members made several recommendations on how to enhance NCPH membership, particularly for grad students and new professionals. We are currently compiling and analyzing the responses which will shape our final recommendations to the Board of Directors and NCPH staff. In addition, we are working on outlining proposals for the 2015 Annual Meeting, which will include suggestions such as a resume advice "drop-in" session as well as a skills building working group on digital history. Finally, we are in the initial stages of developing a consumer's guide to public history graduate programs. We have plans to increase our blog presence in order to gain input for this guide and to encourage dialogue between public history students and new professionals in the future.

## **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee is energized this year with some fresh thinking regarding the building and maintaining of a strong and engaged membership. Currently, the committee is working on an aggressive approach to welcoming new members as well as developing a system to connect with lapsed members. One of the ideas we are considering is to hold an annual mini-conference in a region quite removed from where the annual conference would be held and at a different time of year. Good examples would be annual meeting in Monterey, CA with the mini-conference in Chicago; annual meeting in Nashville, TN, mini-conference in Albuquerque, NM. The committee also will be examining a proposal for a resume review service for NCPH student and new professional members. At the Annual Meeting, as always, the Membership Committee will be organizing the New Member Breakfast (Thursday, March 20, 7:30 am).

## **Curriculum and Training Committee**

For the Monterey conference, the committee is helping with the SpeedNetworking event and

organizing the annual Public History Educators Breakfast. Several topics for discussion at the breakfast are under consideration: ways to provide prospective students with questions they should be asking about public history programs; effective strategies for advocating for your program with university administrators; program evaluation; developing methods to encourage working with employers; strategies for ensuring high-quality internships; challenges of including applied projects in graduate courses; teaching digital history; and standards for non-traditional theses. The committee also has commented on the board's plan to invite other associations to join a task force to examine the state of public history training and employment today.



Country Music Hall of Fame. Courtesy of Nashville CVC.

## **2015 Local Arrangements Committee**

The Nashville Local Arrangements Committee is working hard to provide a unique blend of tours and special events for the annual meeting on April 15-18, 2015. For example, we are planning a musical heritage field trip to explain how and why Nashville became Music City, U.S.A., which will include "insider" tours of the Ryman Auditorium, RCA's historic Studio B, Printer's Alley, and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. A civil rights field trip will feature the sites associated with Nashville's important role in the Civil Rights Movement, such as Fisk University. For those interested in the Civil War, bus tours focus on sites of conflict and freedom in the Nashville area, including Ft. Negley, Stones River National Battlefield, and Shiloh National Military Park. You may also choose to take a leisurely trip on a riverboat down the Cumberland River, or catch a bus to visit the saloons and distilleries in the area, including the Jack Daniels Distillery. Outdoor enthusiasts might enjoy a canoe trip down the Harpeth River or an interpretive hike at Long Hunter State Park. Please join us in Nashville next year!



# 2013 NCPH Contributors

In 2013, you provided a total of \$34,175 for the Endowment, \$5,679 (not including future pledges) for the Digital Integration Fund, and \$2,510 for the Annual Fund. Thank you all!

NCPH is also deeply grateful for the many sponsors of the annual meeting, and the Patron, Partner, and Sustaining members who annually provide additional support for the organization.

## Up to \$99

Anna Adamek  
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*If we have overlooked your name, please let us know. For more information about contributing in 2014, write to [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu).*



## 2014 IFPH Conference

**“Public History in a Digital World: The Revolution Reconsidered”**

Amsterdam, October 23-25, 2014

[www.publichistoryint.org/wordpress/](http://www.publichistoryint.org/wordpress/)

After two decades of digital revolution, it is time to question what digital media brings to public history, and where public history is headed in a digital world. This conference, organized by the International Federation for Public History, will bring together experts, novices, and experimenters from all over the world to share insights, questions, and practices.

Mark your calendar to join us in Amsterdam this fall.

Flickr user Bert Kaufmann.

# From the Executive Director



John Dichtl  
jdichtl@iupui.edu

I was recently reading old NCPH newsletters online, looking for a 1983 article by James Banner about applied history. I needed it for a meeting I was going to about “Applied History and Leadership” as a track in graduate history programs. What struck me while looking at that Spring 1983 newsletter was how relevant its content still is. The conversations about jobs for historians, societal need for historical perspective in setting policy, and the training of graduate students were each under discussion at sessions and meetings I participated in at the American Historical Conference this January. The other cover story for that newsletter 30 years ago was about threats to the “historical infrastructure” of the federal government, certainly a topic in the news ever since, as budgets shrink, and very much at the forefront of the most recent board meeting of the National Coalition for History.

Also of interest in that four-page Spring 1983 newsletter is where the NCPH was and was going. Similar to today, the annual meeting had just been in Canada and the organization was looking forward to the approach of its next gathering in California. Meanwhile, a small notice toward the back of the issue called for “bids to establish a secretariat” for NCPH, that is, an executive office, headquarters, and stable home base. After a few years, NCPH eventually found that home at IUPUI and has been extremely well treated here for more than two decades.

Musing about the sometimes circular, sometimes straightforward path of NCPH and the public history field has me thinking about how much ground the organization and its members are covering these days. Many of the names of NCPH founders and other first-generation public historians mentioned in that 1983 newsletter are still very active in the organization: Ted Karamanski, Barbara Howe, Arnita Jones, Pat Mooney-Melvin. But of course they have been joined over the years by hundreds of other committee and board members, hundreds of new volunteers and participants, and thousands of members.

As for an expanding scope of work, the committee reports on page 5 of the current newsletter give a good sense of what many of those committee members are grappling with today—everything from new services for members (perhaps a resume review bureau), a Consumer’s Guide to Public History Graduate Programs, and a dynamic online directory for connecting consultants, to analysis of surveys, and reports that capture the state of the field. Barely covered in this print newsletter, however, and definitely non-existent 30 years ago, is the vast digital arena of activity of NCPH members. The Public History Commons and especially *History@Work* have to be visited to be understood. Since its creation in spring 2012, *History@Work* has featured hundreds of posts and reached tens of thousands of unique visitors. *The Public Historian* in 1983 was still getting off the ground, and now has a deep bench of current and past editorial staff, editorial board members, contributors, and reviewers, not to mention an established readership.

NCPH conferences in the early 1980s were relatively tightly knit and small, with 200 to 300 participants. Today our conferences draw 550 to 700, and at any one time NCPH volunteers and the staff (two and three-quarter FTE of us) are planning five of them at once. Besides Monterey, we’re working on the call and local arrangements for Nashville next year. In 2016, for Baltimore, we’re coordinating with the Society for History in the Federal Government (a group formed the same time NCPH did just over 30 years ago) for a joint conference, one that includes a thread of something to commemorate the 100th anniversary of NPS that year. The staff and board are also processing two proposals for meeting cities in the Midwest in 2017, and preliminary details of a joint meeting with OAH in the West or Southwest in 2018.

Your organization is also at the table in a number of important conversations affecting the field. There’s “malleable” or “versatile” history graduate degree movement—or the idea that there is much that historians can do in the world far beyond the academy and even beyond public history. I believe public history will be the big winner when history MAs and PhDs move more freely back and forth between the academy, public history positions, and career tracks elsewhere. As said in my December 2013 column, NCPH is also at the table in national discussions

about promoting the relevance of history. We remain one of the leading organizations in the National Coalition for History, which consists of more than 50 historical and archives associations. NCPH also has been invited to help design a fellowship for public historians at a major cultural institution in the United States. One of the co-chairs of our Consultants Committee, Morgen Young, met with members of the Australian Council for Professional Historians and brought back some great ideas. NCPH continues to post weekly job announcements and is in conversation with public history employers, as well as with other associations’ staff and committees, about creating professional development opportunities for members and aligning graduate student training with the needs of employers. And NCPH is pushing hard on a couple of fronts to ensure that the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act is adequately commemorated.

More than anything else, the reach of NCPH and public historians is evident in the echoes you can hear in nearly all our fellow historical associations and across the huge number of publications—from scholarly journals to blogs to magazines—that now regularly include public history content. Unlike 30 years ago, we are no longer isolated in discussing historical utility, relevance, audience, authority, and engagement.

## Tell Us About Your Scholarship



*The Public Historian* encourages authors of cultural resources management reports, scholarly press publications, government publications, corporate histories, and other works to submit review copies to the journal (Send to Assistant Reviews Editor, *The Public Historian*, Department of History, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410). Please also post news of your work at the “New in the Field” spot on the NCPH Commons.  
<http://bit.ly/NewInTheField>



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Established in 1984, the Graduate Program in Public History at Indiana University – Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI) trains historians in the research, analytical, and communications skills needed to apply their work in the public arena. Students benefit from a combination of classroom instruction and practical experiences that prepare them for a wide range of public history occupations.

**Program Highlights Include:**

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- Two academic years of half-time paid internships in local institutions provide significant practical training (interns also receive a substantial tuition remission and health insurance).
- A centrally located campus in Downtown Indianapolis situated within walking distance of several institutions that are long-time partner programs and create a learning laboratory for our students, including the Indiana Historical Society, Indiana State Library and Historical Bureau, Indiana State Museum, and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art.

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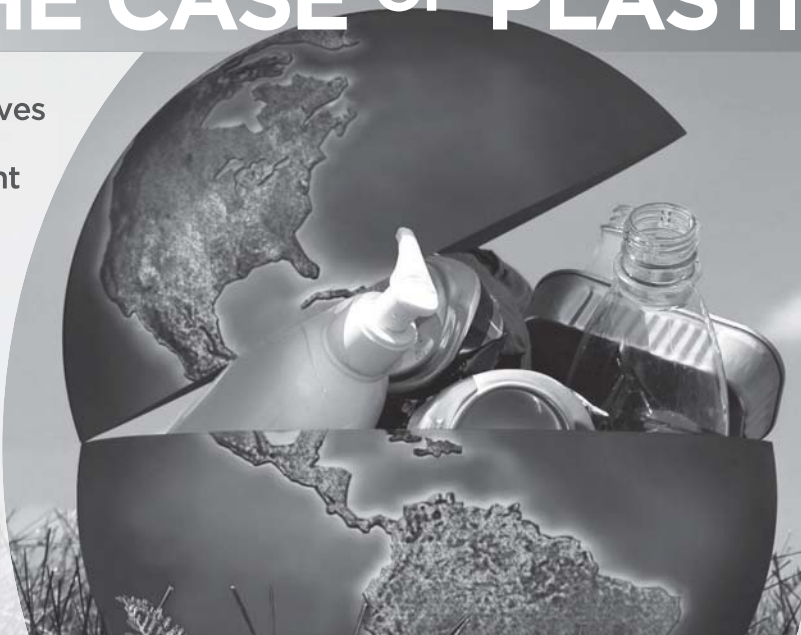
For more information, contact Dr. Philip V. Scarpino, Director of Public History:  
(317) 274-5983 or [pscarpin@iupui.edu](mailto:pscarpin@iupui.edu)  
<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/history> & click on Public History



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# What's Your NCPH Story?

Anne Mitchell Whisnant | [anne\\_whisnant@unc.edu](mailto:anne_whisnant@unc.edu)

*This article first appeared on the NCPH blog, History@Work (December 23, 2013), as "What's your NCPH story? A year-end reflection" and has been modified for Public History News.*

In making financial gifts to organizations I support, in the past, I've focused on political advocacy and service groups rather than professional societies like the National Council on Public History. I've tended to believe I'm already doing enough for them when I send my membership dues.

For some organizations, this may be true. But NCPH is different. As a board member, I'm intensely involved. But with Twitter, Facebook, the newsletter, *History@Work*, and pre-conference planning, I'm learning from my NCPH connections all the time. This organization—which sits at a crossroads of professional, political, and personal—is my year-round public history community.

Membership dues can't fully support this "ungated community" that now distributes many of its benefits online, for free. These benefits advance our cause, but they aren't created and maintained for free. That's why we need to put a price on what this "always-on" public history community means to us. It's why we need to incorporate personal philanthropy into our commitment to this organization. In December, I sent \$250 to the NCPH Annual Fund to supplement the modest \$70 dues I already pay. Compared to many other things I have spent \$320 on this year, the value NCPH brings me seems more than worth this level of support.

A first step in building a culture of philanthropy is articulating, specifically, what the nature of that value is. We need to tell our "NCPH stories," and in the coming year, the board will collect more of them.

My NCPH story starts in 2002, when, with a PhD, no job, and no idea how to seek non-faculty employment, I attended the joint Organization of American Historians/NCPH meeting in Washington, DC, to hear the many sessions about history practice and public history. This conference profoundly shifted my thinking. The session I remember most vividly is Jay Price's "Careers in Public History" workshop. Jay was so enthusiastic and welcoming—the embodiment,

I later realized, of NCPH. As we perused public history job ads and considered how to articulate our abilities, I felt my professional world opening up.

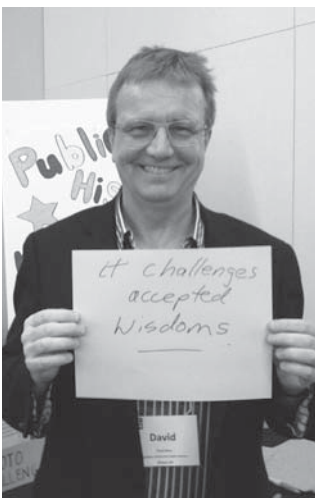
Back in Chapel Hill, I was no longer a disheartened PhD with no marketable skills. I was energized with the realization that I had a lot to offer and that my historian's skills were transferable. This insight proved pivotal. Two months after the meeting, my new perspective helped me land my first "alternate academic" job in university administration. Later, it guided me to find opportunities for contract work for the National Park Service.

In 2003, I skipped OAH and went to NCPH in Houston. In the years since, NCPH meetings have supplied the public history graduate training I never had. More importantly, the community has nurtured for me an expansive, exciting, creative vision for historical work that a purely academic frame had not provided.

Others have had similar experiences. Mary Rizzo shared her NCPH story here in *Public History News* last December. In preparing this article, I asked other NCPH friends for their stories, and included three of them in the blog post version at <http://publichistorycommons.org/whats-your-ncph-story/>. Almost all of us recall how some key person welcomed us and how we felt our discovery of this organization as a homecoming. At the same time, for many of us, the benefits have become quite tangible.

Now it's your turn to share your NCPH story. You can comment on my post at *History@Work*, or send your thoughts to [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). Talk about colleagues who reached out and invited you to dinner or who listened and offered an idea. Tell us about a skill you learned or an insight you gained. Help us inspire each other to support NCPH so it can continue to be a welcoming, energetic, and lively center for all who desire to put history to work in the world.

*Anne Whisnant is Deputy Secretary of the Faculty and Adjunct Associate Professor of History and American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is also an active public historian with more than twenty years' experience working on National Park Service-related projects, including, most recently, Driving Through Time: The Digital Blue Ridge Parkway.*



2013 NCPH Annual Meeting in Ottawa.

# NCPH Award Winners for 2014

Please join us in congratulating the recipients of this year's prizes for outstanding achievement in a variety of public history formats. Full details about their projects will be released in conjunction with the NCPH Annual Meeting in Monterey next month. You are invited to help celebrate at the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, March 22, at the Monterey Conference Center.

## NCPH Book Award

**Robert Townsend**, American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
*History's Babel: Scholarship, Professionalization, and the Historical Enterprise in the United States, 1880-1940* (University of Chicago Press, 2013)

## Outstanding Public History Project Award

NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf for this award.

*"Report to the Public: An Untold Story of the Conservative Vice Lords,"* **Lisa Junkin Lopez**, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, and

**Benneth Lee**, National Alliance for the Empowerment of the Formerly Incarcerated.

## Honorable Mention

*"#QR1863 A Twitter Reenactment of Quantrill's Raid,"* **Julie McPike**, Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area; **Christine Metz Howard**, Lawrence CVB; **Abby Magariel**, Watkins Museum of History; and **Kristen Soper**, Lawrence Public Library

## Excellence in Consulting Award

**Matthew Godfrey**, **Paul J. Sadin**, et al., Historical Research Associates, Inc., *Privatizing Military Family Housing: A History of the U.S. Army's Residential Communities Initiative, 1995-2010*

## G. Wesley Johnson Award

(Best article in *The Public Historian*)

**Richard Rabinowitz**, American History Workshop

"Eavesdropping at the Well: Interpretive Media in the *Slavery in New York* Exhibition," *The Public Historian* Vol. 35, No. 3.

## Graduate Student Project Award

**Caitlin R. (Sjaarda) Phillips**, "Painting Sites Trail Guide," Central Connecticut State University/Weir Farm National Historic Site



## New Professional Travel Awards

**HRA New Professional Travel Award**  
**Susan C. Hall**, Brea Museum & Heritage Center

**NCPH New Professional Travel Award**  
**Ricardo Santhiago**, Universidade Federal Fluminense

## Graduate Student Travel Awards

**Jeff Corrigan**, University of Missouri; **Emily Hopkins**, Cooperstown Graduate Program, SUNY Oneonta; **Lauren Mojkowski**, University of South Carolina; **Laura Pearce**, Loyola University Chicago; and **Hannah Schmidl**, Arizona State University



## 2015 NCPH Call for Proposals

### "History on the Edge"

**Nashville, Tennessee, April 15-18**  
**Sheraton Nashville Downtown**

Edges are where exciting things happen. Some are stark boundaries, marking clear beginnings and ends, while others are blurred contact zones. Edges can be places of creativity where diverse people, ideas, and cultures meet and flourish. They can be sites of uncertainty, risk, and opportunity. Edgy topics and practices call our longstanding assumptions into question. In Nashville, we invite public historians to consider the edges of what we do and who we are. What is on the horizon for public history? What happens on the porous boundaries of public history, when we collaborate with other disciplines and new audiences? What can public historians contribute to addressing the cutting edge questions of our societies? Join the NCPH in Nashville to discuss, debate, and question "history on the edge."

The online proposal system will open in May; proposals are due by **July 15, 2014**.

"Two 7 year old newsmen, profane and smart, selling Sunday. Nashville, Tenn. November 1910." Photo by Lewis Hine. U.S. National Archives. NOTE: The caption has quotation marks because that's the wording from Hine's original records.

## Leadership in History Awards



Applicants who submitted their work for the NCPH awards program last fall, as well as other interested public historians, should consider participating in the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) 2014 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@aslh.org](mailto:hawkins@aslh.org).

Nominations are due to state award representatives on March 1, 2014. A list of state award representatives can be found at the AASLH website. Nominations are then reviewed by a national committee in the spring of 2014 with formal presentation of the awards made during the AASLH Annual Meeting, September 17 - 20, 2014 in St. Paul, Minnesota.



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**Thank you!**

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## Join NCPH Today!



### 2015 NCPH Annual Meeting

Nashville, Tennessee

Sheraton Nashville  
Downtown

April 15-18, 2015

Courtesy Nashville CVC.

NCPH inspires public engagement with the past and serves the needs of practitioners in putting history to work in the world. We build community among historians, expand professional skills and tools, foster critical reflection on historical practice, and advocate for history and historians.

#### Members of NCPH have access to:

##### **The Public Historian**

— a print and online journal offering the latest original research, case studies, reviews, and coverage of the ever-expanding international field of public history

##### **Professional Development**

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

##### **News of the Field**

— *Public History News*, email updates, and other NCPH reports will keep you current

##### **Community**

— connect to thousands of other public historians through our blog, *History@Work*, listservs, and the NCPH groups on Facebook and LinkedIn

##### **Discounts on the Annual Meeting**

— Monterey 2014, Nashville 2015, Baltimore 2016

##### **Leadership Opportunities**

— help to shape the profession and field by serving on committees and task forces

##### **Advocacy Efforts**

— NCPH, with the National Coalition for History, speaks on behalf of the profession and in the public interest on historical issues.

##### **Online Resources**

— Statement on Ethics and Professional Conduct, Tenure & Promotion guidelines, *Guide to Graduate Programs*, best practices, consultant listings, weekly job postings, and discounted JPASS access to journals

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