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.

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 becomingly 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 FAIRNESS” (Funding, Access, Inclusion, Relevant, Engagement, Sustainability, and Transparency). These “seven steps” offered a framework for rethinking what it means to support history organizations, especially in public history. But do these steps actually benefit from their work? 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?

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.

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
Public Plenary

The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality

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 Brianni 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?

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.

Tours

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!

Back up the One-Man Band

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.

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.
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

Nominating Committee
Suzanne Fischer, Oakland Museum of California

Board of Directors
Kathleen Franz, American University

Anthea Hartig, California Historical Society

Jean-Pierre Morin, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Katherine Barbera
Pittsburgh PA

Eloise Batic
Indianapolis IN

Kamalla Bennett
Huntington Beach CA

Monica Bowman
Columbia SC

Amanda Brand
Woolnut Creek CA

Summer Burke
Las Vegas NV

Kathleen Burns
Woodbury MN

Krista Clark
Tempe AZ

Laurie Dreyer
Woodland CA

Cheryl Frei
Ventura CA

James Glass
Indianapolis IN

Lucinda Hannington
Portland ME

Anna Harbine
Spokane WA

Curtis Harris
Washington DC

T. Jane Heffelfinger
Austin TX

Anna Holloway
Newport News VA

Emily Hopkins
Pendleton SC

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
Ellicott City MD

Fabiano Lopes
Brazil

Jane Lydon
Crawley WA

Sarah Lynch
Niceville FL

Mandi Magnuson-Hung
Burlington NJ

Karen Mahar
Loudonville NY

Anne Mahoney
Baton Rouge LA

Ellen Mays
Ellisville MO

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
Reg Park NY

Sarah Stierch
Oakland CA

Robert Weyeneth
President

Patrick Moore
Vice President

Bill Bryans
Past President

Kristine Navarro-McElhaney
Secretary-Treasurer

John Dichtl
Executive Director

Welcome New Members!

Katherine Barbera
Pittsburgh PA

Eloise Batic
Indianapolis IN

Kamalla Bennett
Huntington Beach CA

Monica Bowman
Columbia SC

Amanda Brand
Woolnut Creek CA

Summer Burke
Las Vegas NV

Kathleen Burns
Woodbury MN

Krista Clark
Tempe AZ

Laurie Dreyer
Woodland CA

Cheryl Frei
Ventura CA

James Glass
Indianapolis IN

Lucinda Hannington
Portland ME

Anna Harbine
Spokane WA

Curtis Harris
Washington DC

T. Jane Heffelfinger
Austin TX

Anna Holloway
Newport News VA

Emily Hopkins
Pendleton SC

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
Ellicott City MD

Fabiano Lopes
Brazil

Jane Lydon
Crawley WA

Sarah Lynch
Niceville FL

Mandi Magnuson-Hung
Burlington NJ

Karen Mahar
Loudonville NY

Anne Mahoney
Baton Rouge LA

Ellen Mays
Ellisville MO

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
Reg Park NY

Sarah Stierch
Oakland CA

David Swafford
Blue Springs MO

Rachel Syens
Holland MI

James Talient
Bristow OK

Josie Titus
Cameron NC

Ann Todd
Triangle VA

Max Van Balgooy
Rockville MD

Michael Van Wagenen
Statesboro GA

Elizabeth Vasily
San Francisco CA

Samantha Virostek
Douglassville GA

Greg Waters
Tempe AZ

Lauren Wheeler
Alberta, Canada

Adam Widera
Chicago IL

Amy Williams
Middletown CT

Colin Witbrodt
East Lansing MI

Kenneth Zogry
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:**

**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.

## 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.

- **Member** $187
- **Non-Member** $215
- **Student Member** $105
- **School:**
  - **Advisor:**
- **Student Non-Member** $120
- **School:**
  - **Advisor:**
- **Single-day registration** $110
  - **Specify day:**

### Subtotal Registration $ 

## 3. Special Events

- **Opening Reception – Wed** $10
- **Speed Networking – Thurs** FREE
- **New Member Breakfast - Thurs** $35
- **Poster Session and Reception – Thurs** FREE
- **Consultant’s Reception – Thurs** FREE
- **Public History Educators’ Breakfast - Fri** $38
- **Awards Lunch and Business Meeting - Sat** $55

### Subtotal Special Events NCPH $ 

## 4. Tours

Non-walking tours include transportation.

- **T.1 Adaptive Reuse Around Monterey Bay** $50
- **T.2 Historic Cemeteries of Old Monterey** $15
- **T.3 Point Sur Lighthouse and Point Sur State Historic Park (Includes Lunch)** $65
- **T.4 Monterey’s Waterfront** $15
- **T.5 What’s the Point? Homes and History of Carmel Point** $65
- **T.6 Royal Presidio Chapel** $10
- **T.7 Grapes of Wrath and National Steinbeck Center, Salinas** $70
- **T.8 Walking Tour of Historic Monterey** $12
- **T.9 Cannery Row** $20
- **T.10 Behind the Scenes Tour of Stevenson House** $10
- **T.11 Pacific Biological Lab on Cannery Row 1** $15
- **T.12 Pacific Biological Lab on Cannery Row 2** $15
- **T.13 Presidio of Monterey** $25
- **T.14 Hotel Del Monte** $25

### Subtotal Tours $ 

## 5. Workshops

- **W1. Digital Preservation for Local History and Cultural Heritage Collections** $40
- **W2. Engaging with Change: Local Food, Farming, and Public History** $25
- **W3. Wikipedia 101 for Women’s History (and Other Underrepresented Subjects)** $30
- **W4: I collected 300 surveys. Now What?!** $25
- **W5: Introduction to Oral History** $35
- **W6: THATCamp NCPH** $25
- **W7: Participatory Public History with Nina Simon** $25
- **W8: Oral History: A Relational Practice in a Digital Age** $25

### Subtotal Workshops $ 

## 6. Total

- **Registration Fees** (Section 2)
- **Special Events** (Section 3)
- **Tours** (Section 4)
- **Workshops** (Section 5)

**TOTAL to be paid** $ 

## 7. Payment Information

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:** __________

8. **Waiver and Photo Release**

**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.**

Tour Information:

- **T.1 Adaptive Reuse Around Monterey Bay** $50
- **T.2 Historic Cemeteries of Old Monterey** $15
- **T.3 Point Sur Lighthouse and Point Sur State Historic Park (Includes Lunch)** $65
- **T.4 Monterey’s Waterfront** $15
- **T.5 What’s the Point? Homes and History of Carmel Point** $65
- **T.6 Royal Presidio Chapel** $10
- **T.7 Grapes of Wrath and National Steinbeck Center, Salinas** $70
- **T.8 Walking Tour of Historic Monterey** $12
- **T.9 Cannery Row** $20
- **T.10 Behind the Scenes Tour of Stevenson House** $10
- **T.11 Pacific Biological Lab on Cannery Row 1** $15
- **T.12 Pacific Biological Lab on Cannery Row 2** $15
- **T.13 Presidio of Monterey** $25
- **T.14 Hotel Del Monte** $25

**Subtotal Tours $**
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 20th, 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

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!
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
Elizabeth Almlie
Frederick Augustyn
Sharon Babaian
Benjamin Badgley
Brady Banta
Robert Barrows
Peter Beck
Jennifer Beisel
Ihor Bemko
Janna Bennett
Teresa Bergman
Nancy Berlage
Margaret Binette
Eleanor Boba
Priya Chhaya
Erik Christiansen
Amber Clawson
Angela Cooley
Hugh Davidson
LaNesha DeBardelaben
Rebekah Dobrasko
Carrie Dowdy Bond
Debbie Doyle
Michael Duchemin
Ryan Ehrfurth
Camille Evans
James Fennell
Susan Ferentinos
Siobhan Fitzpatrick
Dakota Frisby
Emily Gann
James Gardner
Alice George

**$100-$299**

Matthew Godfrey
Anjuli Grantham
Andrew Gulliford
Lenora Henson
Al Hester
Barbara Howe
Andrew Hurley
Alphine Jefferson
Melinda Jette
Arnita A. Jones
Nancy Jones
Brian Joyner
Kathleen Kean
Lara Kelland
Evan Kutzler
Monique Laney
Carla Lesh
Allison Marsh
Susan McCormick
Alicia McGill
Tiya Miles
Randall Miller
Patricia Mooney-Melvin
Martha Norkunas
Lisa Oppenheim
Janet Ore
Meira Osness
Erik Peterson
Gregory Powell
Matt Riley
Edward Roach
Sara Schwebel
Linda Shopes
Rebecca Shrum
Angela Sirna
Stephanie Statz
Alison Steiner
David Swafford
Marcia Synnott
Kate Thibodeau
Mary Thompson
Jill Titus
Robert Townsend
Amy Tyson
Daniel Vivian
William Walker
Kent Whitworth
Karen Wilson
Morgen Young

**$300 and up**

Richard Baker
Pamela Bennett
Melissa Bingmann
Beth Boland
Shelley Bookspan
Sheila Brennan
Laura Feller
Benjamin Filene
Suzanne Fischer
Michelle Hamilton
Dee Harris
Alison Hoagland
Ted Karamanski
John Kneebone
Cynthia Koch
Lynn Kronzek
Modupe Labode
Sharon Leon
Steve Lubar
John Majewski
Denise Meringolo
Gregory Mobley
Patrick Moore
Kristine Navarro-McElhaney
Bruce Noble
Gale Peterson
Robert Pomeroy
Debra Reid
Mary Rizzo
Jennifer Ross-Nazzal
Phillip Scarpino
Constance Schulz
Cathy Stanton
Ivan Steen
Jeffrey Sturchio
Robert Weible
Joan Zenzen

**If we have overlooked your name, please let us know. For more information about contributing in 2014, write to 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.
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
IUPUI Graduate Program in Public History
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:
- A nationally recognized public history degree program with the opportunity for students to obtain a dual Master of Library Science degree, a Museum Studies Certificate, or a Certificate in Documentary Editing in conjunction with the MA in History. IUPUI’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Herron School of Art and Design, and School of Informatics and Computing also offer valuable coursework and specialization opportunities.
- 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.

Graduate Public History Courses Include:
Digital Humanities, Historical Administration, Historic Preservation, Historic Site Interpretation, Introduction to Archival Practices, and Local and Community History

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

CONFLICTS in CHEMISTRY:
THE CASE OF PLASTICS

Plastics improve our lives but hurt our planet. Should the government regulate plastics? What say should consumers have? How about scientists? Activists? Manufacturers?

In this new role-playing game, students explore the complex issues and diverse perspectives connected to plastics and investigate how science affects their everyday lives.

Chemical Heritage Foundation
LIBRARY • MUSEUM • CENTER FOR SCHOLARSE

Visit chemheritage.org/ConflictsInChemistry for more information.
What’s Your NCPH Story?

Anne Mitchell Whisnant | 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. 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.
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

**Outstanding Public History Project Award**
NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf for this award.


**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**

**G. Wesley Johnson Award**
(Best article in *The Public Historian*)
Richard Rabinowitz, American History Workshop

**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.

---

**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, or by contacting the AASLH office by phone: 615-320-3203 or email: hawkins@aaslh.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.
Patrons & Partners

The support of the following institutions, each a leader in the field and committed to membership at the Patron or Partner level, makes the work of the National Council on Public History possible.

Patrons

History™
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Department of History
University of California Santa Barbara
American University
Historical Research Associates
John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University
Loyola University Chicago, Department of History
Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
New Mexico State University, Department of History
New York University, Department of History
Texas State University – San Marcos, Department of History
University of Houston, Center for Public History
University of Maryland Baltimore County, Department of History
University of Nevada Las Vegas, Department of History
University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Department of History
University of South Carolina, Department of History
University of West Florida Public History Program and West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.
University of West Georgia, Department of History
Wells Fargo Bank, History Department
Western University Canada

Partners

The American West Center, University of Utah
Bill Bryans
California State University at Chico, Department of History
Central Connecticut State University, Department of History
Duquesne University, Department of History
Eastern Illinois University, Department of History
Florida State University, Department of History
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Department of History
Kentucky Historical Society
Missouri Historical Society
National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, Department of History
Oklahoma State University, Department of History
Shippensburg University, Department of History
St. John’s University, Department of History
Texas General Land Office
University at Albany, SUNY, Department of History
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of History
University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Department of History
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Department of History
Western Michigan University, Department of History

Thank you!

HISTORY supports the NCPH for promoting the value and significance of history every day.
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**

**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

**Membership Dues**
- Patron: $600
- Partner: $400
- Sustaining: $125
- Individual: $70
- New Professional: $45
- Student: $35

Institutional subscriptions are available through University of California Press.

Join or renew online at www.ncph.org.