

Time of Transition: Appreciating the Promise of a Bright Future

Patrick Moore | pmoore@uwf.edu



The last several years have been somewhat akin to mulling the prospect of a hurricane hitting the northeastern seaboard or “the Big One” shaking California: it was not a matter of “if,” but of “when.” There was always the hope that whenever such an eventuality occurred, it would happen in the distant future. For me, the storm began brewing on a sublime September afternoon in St. Paul, Minnesota. I was sitting on the banks of the Mississippi River, discussing that evening’s NCPH Board meeting, when John Dichtl casually mentioned that someone had encouraged him to apply for the AASLH’s CEO position.... Far too often, things do not always turn out the way one hopes.

I cannot even begin to scratch the surface of John’s accomplishments over the last nine years. I consider myself extraordinarily privileged to have been with him throughout his entire tenure with the organization; we started with the NCPH together in 2006, when he became executive director and I began my first term as secretary-treasurer. Since the outset, I have been perpetually amazed at the way John identifies challenges, recognizes opportunities, and helps guide the organization through cogent paths for success. As a trend across disciplines, many professional organizations have struggled in recent years with declining participation and associated financial challenges. By contrast, NCPH membership, along with its endowment, has steadily grown. We have witnessed the evolution of our annual meeting to accommodate the professional needs of our constituents. While numerous volunteers and staff members have contributed to this success, we have all taken our cues from John’s vision in guiding us forward.

For some organizations, losing their leader might constitute a true crisis. Through his efforts, however, John has solidly positioned the NCPH in respect

to our support staff, vibrant membership, budget, and collaborations with other entities. Accordingly, the search for NCPH’s next executive director will enable us to find somebody who can help us continue our upward trajectory. Fortunately, we still have some time before his May 1 departure, as he stipulated his need to stay with the NCPH through our upcoming meeting in Nashville.

In anticipation of his departure, the Board of Directors has created a Transition Task Force to work with Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), which, as our host institution, generously supports the NCPH with space for our offices and partial funding of our professional staff’s salary and benefits. In tandem with finalizing the executive director position description and job announcement, we have thoughtfully selected a search committee that we believe represents the range of NCPH members. It is chaired by former NCPH President Bill Bryans (who skillfully navigated the last search that brought us John) and supported by Alexandra Lord (Smithsonian Institution, NCPH President Elect), Marianne Babal (Wells Fargo, San Francisco), Mary Rizzo (Rutgers-Newark), and Ray Haberski from IUPUI’s Department of History.

The timeline for our search will incorporate the dual challenges of reflectively assessing the needs of our organization while expeditiously identifying a new director. Working within the goals of our current long-range plan, we have solicited input from our committees about their specific priorities. This data will help guide the focus of our search committee. Although IUPUI human resource protocols will partially dictate the pace of this process, we hope to have reached a decision by the NCPH Board of Directors’ Fall Meeting.

As perhaps the most important piece of this transitional process, we are exceedingly pleased to announce that Stephanie Rowe, our new NCPH associate director and an accomplished public historian and leader

in her own right, has graciously agreed to assume the role of interim director after John’s departure and until the transition is complete.

There is no question that John will be missed. Considering, however, the range of different yet highly complementary activities in which both the NCPH and the AASLH excel, this move opens up countless opportunities for collaboration in the future. This prospect alone promises great things for everyone working in the public history world.

Our organization will certainly continue to thrive and grow. Our challenge now is not to find John’s replacement—as he could never be replaced—but rather to find an executive director who has the skill and vision to take the NCPH to even greater heights. On behalf of all of us, thank you, John, for helping make the National Council on Public History the organization it is today.

Tours and Workshops at #NCPH2015

Over the course of the four-day meeting next month in Nashville you will hear many ideas about public history and the edges of scholarship, interpretation, preservation, and pedagogy. In the spirit of that boundary-pushing, here are some ways you can take your conference experience to the next level.

In Nashville, there are seven workshops designed to help you develop new expertise. On Wednesday, an all-day workshop on interpreting slavery, “Giving Voice to the Long-Silenced Millions,” will use The Hermitage as an interactive, hands-on learning laboratory. That afternoon, the



[continued on page 8](#) →



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- St. John's University, Department of History
- Texas General Land Office
- University at Albany, SUNY, Department of History
- University of California at Riverside, Department of History
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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. Tel: 317-274-2716. Join online or renew at 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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Secretary-Treasurer

John Dichtl
Executive Director

2015 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!

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Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, Arizona State University

Board of Directors



Kristin Ahlberg, U.S. Department of State

Nominating Committee



Laurie Arnold, Gonzaga University



Melissa Bingmann, West Virginia University

Photo by Rajah Bose.



Nicole Moore, Independent Consultant



Jeff Pappas, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office

Welcome New Members!

Margaret Adams Temple, GA	Luci Cochran Hampton, VA	Sally Givens Cottontown, TN	Zoey Jennings Sacramento, CA	Ai Miller Toledo, OH	Jedediah Rogers Salt Lake City, UT	Jae Turner Franklin, GA
Erika Allison Alpharetta, GA	Ashley Cole Nashville, TN	Alexandra Gonzalez Grasonville, MD	Lisa Johnson Pekin, IL	Westby Mize Sacramento, CA	Garret Root Sacramento, CA	Alexander Urbiel Westwood, NJ
Steven Anderson La Verne, CA	Daniel Conner Grand Blanc, MI	Amelia Grabowski Severna Park, MD	Abigail Jones Raleigh, NC	Katherine Morrison Louisville, KY	Maria Ross Rockmart, GA	Katie Uva New York, NY
Virginia Andrews Murfreesboro, TN	Nahali Croft Chapel Hill, NC	Elyse Grasser Johnstown, PA	Deborah Kallman Florence, MA	Judi Murphy Kennesaw, GA	Janet Rozick Whitehouse, OH	Melanie Veteto Carlsbad, CA
Valoise Armstrong Abilene, KS	Milton Culver Logan, UT	Casey Gymrek Murfreesboro, TN	Molly Kerr Alexandria, VA	Rebekah Oakes Morgantown, WV	Mia Russell Eagle, ID	Justin Vipperman Portland, OR
Gib Backlund Murfreesboro, TN	Jonathan Dickey Stafford, VA	Jacob Hagstrom Bloomington, IN	Eulas Kirtdoll Newbern, AL	Cindy Olsen Grosse Pointe Shores, MI	Jordan Ryan Indianapolis, IN	Kevin Wagner Export, PA
Olivia Beaudry Murfreesboro, TN	Anna Dulken Washington, DC	Kathryn Hall Stevenson, MD	Zach Klitzman Washington, DC	Rebecca Onion Athens, OH	Laura Salas El Paso, TX	Jessica Walls Grand Rapids, OH
Anthony Bertolini Carson City, NV	Danielle Emerling Newark, DE	Kelly Hamlin Huntsville, AL	Caleb Knies Murfreesboro, TN	Kristina Oschmann Windham, CT	Maja Schubert Berlin, Germany	Lindsey Weaver Greeley, CO
Luke Boyd New York, NY	Paul Ernest Montgomery, AL	Tia Harris Brooklyn, NY	Casey Lee Roebuck, SC	Andrew Paddock Chicago, IL	Haley Seger Mt. Juliet, TN	Connie Whiteley Liberal, KS
Jen Brown Corpus Christi, TX	Suzanne Etherington Cortland, NY	Boyd Harris Oxford, MS	Yanique Leonard Villa Rica, GA	Katherine Parry Oviedo, FL	Phillip Seitz Philadelphia, PA	Brien Williams Washington, DC
Hannah Brown Riverside, CA	Elizabeth Faue Ann Arbor, MI	Dale Harter Tappahannock, VA	Christine Leppard Calgary, AB Canada	Bradley Peacock Senoia, GA	Amanda Smith Washington, NC	Roger Williams Lawrenceville, NJ
Dana Brown Hixson, TN	Allissa Ferguson Stillwater, OK	Anthea Hartig San Francisco, CA	Kendra Lightner Atlanta, GA	Maria Pia Pedani Venice, Italy	Jami Soileau Duson, LA	Robert Wolfe Morgantown, WV
Katrice Brown Tallahassee, FL	Rachael Finch Murfreesboro, TN	Elizabeth Heath Salt Lake City, UT	Garrett Litton Statesboro, GA	Julie Peterson Amherst, MA	Bonnie Soper Wilmington, NC	Nicholas Woodbury Avondale Estates, GA
Lana Burgess Columbia, SC	John Fleckner Washington, DC	Kimberly Heinz Durham, NC	Alexandra Lough Waltham, MA	Emily Pipes Winchester, MA	Patrick Stenshorn Farmington, NY	Ethan Young Lafayette, LA
Joshua Butchko Runnemede, NJ	Cecile Franchetti Venice, Italy	Gabriella Hornbeck Middleboro, MA	Andrew Marsh Charlotte, NC	Martin Reznick New York, NY	Malori Stevenson Greensburg, PA	NCPH would like to extend a special thanks to our new Partner member:
Susan Caya-Slusser Prairie du Chien, WI	Elisabeth Fricker Fargo, ND	Brianna Hughes Columbia, SC	Linda McClelland Fairfax, VA	Michelle Ridout Toronto, ON Canada	Jennifer Sutton Carrollton, GA	Arkansas National Guard Museum North Little Rock, AR
Rico Chapman Jackson, MS	Blanca Garcia-Barron Rialto, CA	Owen Hyman Starkville, MS	Kamilah McElwee Lindale, GA	Alee Robins Morgantown, WV	Roshanna Sylvester Chicago, IL	
Ethan Chitty Indianapolis, IN	Danielle Gervasio Sedona, AZ	Paul Israel Piscataway, NJ	Lisa Meoli Seattle, WA	Holly Rogers Murfreesboro, TN	Kathleen Tello Corona, CA	

NCPH Staff Changes



James F. Brooks

Editor, *The Public Historian*

James F. Brooks, professor of history and anthropology at the University of California Santa Barbara, will be taking over for Randy Bergstrom as the next editor of *The Public Historian*. Bergstrom was appointed editor in September 2006, steered the journal through major transitions, and helped to draw greater attention in its pages to the practice of public history outside the United States. Brooks is the recipient of numerous national awards for scholarly excellence, including the Bancroft and Francis Parkman prizes and the Frederick Jackson Turner Award for his 2002 book, *Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands*. In 2002 he became director of the School for Advanced Research (SAR) Press, and between 2005 and 2013 served as president of the school. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Western National Parks Association, which supports research, preservation and education in 67 National Parks.



Randy Bergstrom

Co-Editor, *The Public Historian*

Mary Rizzo, who for the past year and a half served as the inaugural co-editor of the journal, has taken a new job. She has moved to Rutgers University-Newark to be Assistant Professor of Professional Practice and Associate Director of Digital and Public Humanities Initiatives in American Studies and History. NCPH, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH) at Rutgers University-Camden, and the University of California Santa Barbara recently signed a three-year agreement to extend the co-editor/historian in residence position, and we are working together to open a search for a new co-editor.



Mary Rizzo



John Dichtl

Executive Director

John Dichtl informed the Board of Directors and the NCPH members in January that he will be stepping down after nine years as NCPH's executive director to become the president & CEO of the American Association for State and Local History, which is located in Nashville, Tennessee. Dichtl will be staying with NCPH through the 2015 Annual Meeting in April. (See Patrick Moore's presidential column on page 1 for details about NCPH's plans for the transition.)



Stephanie Rowe

Associate Director

Stephanie Rowe, the NCPH program manager, has been promoted to associate director and will serve as the interim executive director beginning May 1. Upon her arrival in the NCPH office in September 2012 as program manager, Rowe quickly began mastering all aspects of her job and has been creating new projects and programs; improving the annual meeting, financial processes, membership functions, and awards program; and participating in strategic planning for the organization.



Christine Crosby

Membership Coordinator

Alice Smith, our membership assistant for the past two and a half years, has been succeeded by Christine Crosby, who recently finished her master's thesis in the IUPUI Public History Program. Crosby, who is the new membership coordinator, is a native of Michigan, a graduate of Taylor University in Indiana, and has interned with Indiana Humanities, the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission, and the Gerald R. Ford Museum.

Executive Director Job Announcement

The National Council on Public History seeks an executive director who will provide vision, leadership, and management for a nonprofit professional and scholarly association. The Executive Director represents, and advocates for, the interests of public history and public historians in international, national, state, and local settings; coordinates the work of staff and committees to create programs, services, and publications for the public history community; stays abreast of current developments in public history and related fields and disciplines. He or she also seeks to strengthen the membership, the organization, and the field through effective communication; business, financial, and staff management; nonprofit administration; relationship building; collaborative initiatives; and, intellectual curiosity. NCPH is headquartered at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), and the director will be employed by the university.

He or she may therefore be asked to serve on committees and otherwise actively participate in the History Department, the School of Liberal Arts, and the university.

We seek a committed, experienced public historian and administrator for this position and encourage applications from individuals with many professional backgrounds. Candidates should have at least a master's degree in history or a strongly related field. Candidates holding the PhD may have the opportunity to be considered for a non-tenure-track faculty appointment in the History Department. Successful candidates will demonstrate excellent leadership, managerial, planning, and administrative skills, as well as strong interpersonal, communication, negotiation, and problem solving skills. Proven leadership and experience in board relations, management, and fundraising are preferred. The applicant should possess: a

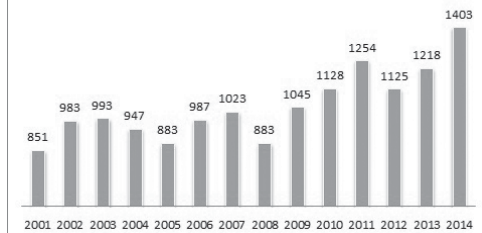
strong record of scholarly pursuits and other achievements in the field of public history; a record of success in building professional collaborations; and the ability to be an articulate advocate for NCPH, its membership, and public history at the international, federal, state, and regional levels and across the profession. A detailed job description is available on the NCPH website www.ncph.org. Questions may be directed to Chair of the Search Committee, Bill Bryans, at bill.bryans@okstate.edu. Deadline for applications is **April 1, 2015**. Applications must be submitted electronically to the IUPUI Department of History, history@iupui.edu and include a detailed letter of interest and a resume/c.v. IUPUI and NCPH are EEO/AA employers, M/F/D/V, and encourage applications from women and minority candidates. Individuals who require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the application process must provide sufficient advanced notice.

2014 End of Year Financial Report

Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, Treasurer | knavarro@utep.edu

John Dichtl, Executive Director | jdichtl@iupui.edu

NCPH Membership, 2001-2014 (December)



The 2014 fiscal year turned out well, and we are pleased to report an unusually strong budget surplus. Membership was up in all categories. Our profit share with the University of California Press and the University of California Santa Barbara from the institutional subscriptions for *The Public Historian* was greater than normal, partly because the accounting for one issue of the journal from the previous volume year fell in early 2014 instead of late 2013. Another boost in income came from the large number of registrations for the 2014 Annual Meeting in Monterey. Although costs were high for that conference, staff kept expenses close to the budgeted amounts and paid off some bills in advance of the meeting, which shifted significant expenses to the 2013 fiscal year. In general, other expenses that we could control came out as expected. Many of the organization's costs, such as portions of staff salaries and benefits, and office space and computers, are covered by our generous host institution, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and do not appear in the figures below. A final key piece of the income picture was the Board of Directors' success in encouraging you, the members, to contribute more than \$9,000 for the Annual Fund. Thank you!

NCPH 2014 Operating Budget January-December

	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Actual
Income			
Memberships & Partners/Patrons	\$90,188	\$94,400	\$109,546
Institutional Subscriptions	\$11,753	\$16,000	\$32,709
Annual Meeting (Monterey & Nashville)	\$157,581	\$107,000	\$134,185
IUPUI Projects & O'Brien Lecture	\$2,250	\$6,000	\$7,860
Interfund Transfer from DIF and Endowment Earnings	\$21,762	\$40,145	\$27,479
Miscellaneous	\$1,028	\$600	\$1,088
Contributions to Annual Fund	\$1,980	\$15,000	\$9,629
Total Operating Budget Income	\$286,542	\$279,145	\$322,496
Expenses			
Membership	\$17,802	\$17,950	\$18,048
Annual Meeting	\$75,725	\$88,635	\$79,647
Publications (digital & newsletter)	\$7,539	\$8,495	\$7,156
Awards	\$8,100	\$7,539	
Administration	\$137,068	\$129,030	\$129,132
Board & Committees	\$926	\$1,200	\$3,010
Biannual Audit/Review	\$3,600	\$0	\$0
Advocacy, and Participation in Other Associations	\$6,734	\$6,615	\$6,565
Total Operating Budget Expenses	\$271,809	\$275,675	\$260,363
Net Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	\$14,733	\$3,470	\$62,133*

* This surplus will become \$46,028 once NCPH pays UC Santa Barbara its share, or \$16,105, of the institutional revenue from *The Public Historian* for 2014.

From the Executive Director

John Dichtl | jdichtl@iupui.edu

The annual meeting in Nashville will be my last as executive director but it won't be my final NCPH gathering. I aim to be around each spring, joining in session and hallway conversations, and pitching closer ties between NCPH and the AASLH, as well as with the AHA, OAH, OHA, and lots of other organizations that comprise the greater historical community. For a cross section of these groups, see page 10 where the expanding list of endorsers of the History Relevance Campaign's values statement is listed.

Thirty six issues ago I wrote my first *Public History News* column, one that focused on plans for the approaching 2006 Annual Meeting

in Washington. That conference would draw less than 250 NCPH registrants, though Nashville this April will likely have 600 to 700. Each annual meeting has become the product of well over 400 program presenters and a couple of hundred other active conference registrants. Close to 200 individuals serve on the boards, committees, the editorial teams, and staff of the NCPH. That March *PHN* issue I worked on in 2006 named 20 new individual members of the organization; the issue before you welcomes 120. Momentum, continuity, and creativity flow from many volunteers, allies, and members. Thank you all, and see you in Nashville next month. And in Baltimore in March 2016!

→ 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.

New Professional and Graduate Student Committee

The committee is very excited to see the launch of their publication, *The Public History Navigator: How to Choose and Thrive in a Public History Graduate Program*, as well as their very own Twitter handle @NCPHnewgrad. They encourage feedback and comments on the guide by using the hashtag #PHnavigator. A big thank you to everyone who participated in surveys, assisted with editing, or submitted photographs! An exhibit table will be available in Nashville to speak with authors and committee members as they create an action plan for distributing the guide. The committee is also planning a non-hosted social event in Nashville on Wednesday night and a new blog series on *History@Work*.

Professional Development Committee

This past year, the Professional Development Committee has organized the upcoming Speed Networking session for NCPH 2015 in Nashville. We have assembled a diverse and international slate of panelists for graduate students and new professionals to consult. The committee's ongoing task is to create professional development opportunities outside of the annual meeting. We will shortly be posting a survey to gauge the needs of NCPH members. Members are also welcome to send their suggestions to Michelle Hamilton, the committee chair, at mhamilt3@uwo.ca.

Membership Committee

Having great ideas is one thing, but being able to put them into practice is another. Thanks to a wonderfully creative, thoughtful and highly energetic Membership Committee and a very supportive NCPH Board and staff, new ideas are being implemented. Our first mini-con, hosted by the Chicago History Museum in April 2014 under the leadership of Peter Alter, was a huge success. We have two more scheduled for this fall: Texas State University- San Marcos will host "Immigration, Migration & Memory

in Public History," and Active History and Krista McCracken will be working together to put on a mini-con in Ontario, Canada. These provide us with great opportunities to connect to and expand audiences who may be unable to attend NCPH's national get-together and want to put "History to Work" in their own area. We are also unveiling an oft-requested resume review opportunity in Nashville under the leadership of Roy Oberto. Professionals and students will sign up in advance and submit their resume to NCPH; on Wednesday, April 15 (4:30 - 5:30), they will meet with a hiring manager who will have reviewed their resume and can offer suggestions and guidance. This will be a fantastic opportunity for learning and growth. And don't forget to sign up for our New Member Breakfast in Nashville (Thursday, April 16, 7:30 am - 8:30 am).



New Professional and Graduate Student Committee meeting at Monterey conference.

Consultants Committee

The Consultants Committee has its eye on Nashville, so we wanted to highlight some consulting-related sessions and events that will be happening during the Annual Meeting. The first is a panel session from 3:30 to 5:00 pm on April 16. In "Breaking Down Professional Barriers: Collaborations between Historians and Archivists," panelists will discuss opportunities and challenges such collaborations bring to each other's work. The session emerged from last year's "Consulting Alliances" working group in Monterey. We hope you will join us for the Consultants' Reception from 5:00 to 7:00 pm that same day. The event is free, but please register ahead of time on NCPH's website. The reception is a wonderful way for practicing consulting historians as well those interested in consulting and contract work to engage in lively discussions. On April 17, from 3:30-5:30 pm, the Consultants Committee will meet at Suite 3 in the conference hotel. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting. We will be discussing future directions of the committee, with a primary focus on the Consultants' Directory on the NCPH website.

Task Force on Public History Training and Employment

The Task Force on Public History Training and Employment, which includes representatives of NCPH, the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Association for State and Local History, has concentrated its efforts on developing an online survey of public history employers in an effort to obtain clear information about the skills and competencies employers look for when hiring entry-level and early-career professionals. An initial trial run of the survey obtained thirty-nine responses and has proven valuable in developing more precise questions. These results may be viewed at <http://bit.ly/BetaEmploy>. Several task force members will host an open forum about its work at the upcoming NCPH meeting in Nashville on Saturday, April 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Persons interested in the current training and employment landscape in public history are invited to attend. A revised survey will be released this spring. The committee expects to use the results to develop additional surveys aimed at gathering information from public history educators.



Curriculum and Training Committee meeting at Ottawa conference.

Curriculum and Training Committee

The C&T Committee has been working hard on developing several new "Best Practices" documents. At the Public History Educators Breakfast draft copies will be available for review and comment. Topics include: Integrating public history within a department and across the curriculum, integrating technology in the classroom, establishing a new public history program, and working with community partners. The committee is also updating the recommended reading lists and the list of program reviewers. Finally, the committee will once again host the Classroom Project Showcase. Stop by to see all the great work folks are doing. If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer, please email committee chair, Allison Marsh at marsha@mailbox.sc.edu.

In 2014, you provided a total of \$9,629 for the Annual Fund, \$3,017 for the Endowment, and \$3,987 (not including future pledges) for the Digital Integration 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 provide additional support for the organization.

\$300 and up

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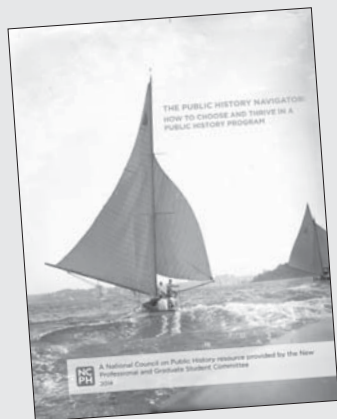
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Adina Langer†‡
Sharon Leon‡
Michelle McClellan‡
Randall Miller†
Heather Miller†
Elizabeth Monroe†
Patricia Mooney-Melvin*
Kevin Murphy‡
Kathy Nichols*

Elizabeth Nix†*
Patrick O'Bannon*
Mary Palevsky‡
Travis Patterson†
Erik Peterson‡
Stephanie Powell†
Richard Rabinowitz†
Joel Ralph‡
Allen Ramsey‡
Arianna Rapp†
Paul Reber†
Debra Reid*
Michelle Richoll†
Edward Roach‡
Alan Rowe†‡*
Tom Scheinfeldt‡
Constance Schultz†
Mimi Sheridan‡
Angela Sirna‡
Stephanie Stegman‡
Marcia Synnott‡
Mary Thompson*
Robert Townsend‡
Amy Tyson†‡
Joshua Wachuta‡
Amy Williams*
Karen Wilson‡
Lisa Withers‡
Kathleen Zielinski†
Paul Zielinski†

† Annual Fund
‡ Digital Integration Fund
* Endowment

If we have overlooked your name, please let us know. For more information about contributing in 2015, write to ncph@iupui.edu.



Find Your Way to the Navigator!

A free guide for choosing and thriving in a graduate public history program
<http://bit.ly/phnavigator>

NCPH Award Winners for 2015



Please join us in congratulating the recipients of this year's awards for outstanding achievement in a variety of public history formats. Full details about the award winners' projects will be released in conjunction with the NCPH Annual Meeting in Nashville next month. We hope you will help us celebrate at the Awards Breakfast on Saturday, April 18, at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown, 8:00am-10:00am.

NCPH Founders Award

The NCPH Council of Past Presidents has developed the Founders Award to recognize those individuals who were present at the creation of NCPH and who played critical roles in the organization's success.

The first recipients of this award are **G. Wesley Johnson** and **Robert W. Pomeroy, III**, The Serenus Press

Robert Kelley Memorial Award

For distinguished service to the field of public history.

Janelle Warren-Findley, Arizona State University

Outstanding Public History Project Award

NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf that makes this award possible.

Histories of the National Mall, **Sheila Brennan** and **Sharon Leon**, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University

Honorable Mention

Slaves and Slaveholders of Wessyngton Plantation, **Rob DeHart**, **Paulette Fox**, and **Mark Hooper**, Tennessee State Museum

NCPH Book Award

Andrea Burns, Appalachian State University, *From Storefront to Monument: Tracing the Public History of the Black Museum Movement* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2013)

Honorable Mention

Susan Reynolds Williams, Fitchburg State College, *Alice Morse Earle and the Domestic History of Early America* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2013)

Michael C. Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis

Other than War: The American Military Experience and Operations in the Post-Cold War Decades, **Frank N. Schubert**

Honorable Mention

First in Class Acquisition Challenges, **Justin L. C. Eldridge**, Naval History and Heritage Command

G. Wesley Johnson Award

For the best article in *The Public Historian*

Julia C. Wells, Rhodes University, for "In the Shadow of the Butcher: The Limits to Confronting Colonial Legacies Through Commemoration in South Africa," *The Public Historian* Vol 36, No 2.

Honorable Mention

Chris J. Magoc, Mercyhurst University, for "Reflections on the Public Interpretation of Regional Environmental History in Western Pennsylvania," *The Public Historian* Vol 36, No 3.

Graduate Student Project Award

The Lost Museum, **Lily Benedict**, **Elizabeth Crawford**, **Kathrinne Duffy**, **Sophia LaCava-Bohanan**, **Jessica Palinski**, **Rebecca Soules**, and **Jamie Topper**, Brown University; **Raina Belleau**, **Layla Eshan**, and **Kristen Orr**, Rhode Island School of Design

Honorable Mention

Push and Pull: Eastern European and Russian Migration to the Cape Fear Region, **Beth Bullock**, **Jayd Buteaux**, and **Leslie Randle-Morton**, University of North Carolina, Wilmington

New Professional Travel Awards

HRA New Professional Travel Award
Rebecca Onion, Slate.com

NCPH New Professional Travel Award

Abby Curtin, Cleveland Restoration Society

Graduate Student Travel Awards

Erin Bernard, Temple University; **Ashley Rose Creegan**, West Virginia University; **Emily Pipes**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; **Nicolette Rohr**, University of California, Riverside; and **Jennifer Whitmer Taylor**, University of South Carolina.

Tours and Workshops at #NCPH2015 (cont. from page 1)

Association for Gravestone Studies will take participants to the City Cemetery of Nashville to learn about research, preservation, and interpretation utilized in gravestone studies. On Saturday, participants in the **Community Archiving Workshop** will visit the Nashville Public Library to learn about processing, cataloging, and preserving moving image collections. Other workshops include:

Introduction to Documentary Editing

Wednesday, April 15, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Project Management for History Professionals

Wednesday, April 15, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

THATCamp NCPH Boot Camp

Wednesday, April 15, 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Resume Building Workshop

Wednesday, April 15, 4:30-5:30 pm

We are also offering ten tours of Nashville to help you get more acquainted with the city's history, culture, and character. We encourage you to leave the boundaries of the conference hotel in search of an adventure. Learn more about Nashville's Civil War history, either on foot or by bus. On "**The Occupied City**" walking tour you'll learn about the fall and occupation of the city, while the **Civil War Bus Tour** will take you further afield to

explore five sites of the Battle of Nashville. The **Nashville Crime Walking Tour** will reveal the seedy underbelly of historic Nashville: gambling, prostitution, and Prohibition-era organized crime. Other tours include:

The Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park
Thursday, April 16, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

The State Capitol Interior and Grounds Tour
Friday, April 17, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Fisk University Bus Tour
Saturday, April 18, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

In 2014, the National Coalition for History had a highly successful year advocating for federal programs that affect the historical community. Over recent years, in a progressively hostile budget environment, NCH has been able to fend off draconian cuts to most programs of interest to our members. NCH has also continued to transform itself into an organization that is able to respond to situations not just at the federal level but at the state and local levels as well. NCH improved in our efforts to educate our constituent organizations (and potential members) about our important contributions in the past, and how the coalition will continue to play a vital role in policy making in the future. Below is a summary of NCH's major accomplishments in 2014.

Enactment of Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments

President Obama signed into law the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014 (PL 113-187). This is a major victory for NCH and the historical community. We have been advocating for the passage of Presidential Records Act (PRA) reform legislation since 2001, when President Bush issued an executive order restricting public access to presidential records. The new law is designed to expedite the release of presidential records. Former and incumbent presidents will be subject to specific time limitations as they review records for constitutionally based privilege against disclosure. The law also includes provisions to strengthen the Federal Records Act by expanding the definition of federal records to clearly include electronic records. This is the first change to the definition of a federal record since the enactment of the act in 1950.

National Women's History Museum Commission Legislation

In November, legislation (S. 398) to create a commission to study the potential creation of a National Women's History Museum was passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. In May, NCH sent a letter to the bill's sponsor, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), withholding our support unless changes were made to the original bill. NCH's concerns were addressed in the amended bill passed by the committee. As a result, NCH sent a letter to Senator Collins in November endorsing S. 398. Senator Collins added the language we requested: that an individual with "experience as a professional historian with expertise in

women's history" be appointed to the commission. The House passed a similar bill (HR 863) sponsored by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) last spring without these qualifications. A strategic decision was made by the Democratic leadership in the Senate to add the National Women's History Museum commission bill to a "must-pass" defense authorization bill for which amendments were not allowed. Unfortunately, the legislators adopted the language from the House bill, which did not include the language regarding historians that Senator Collins had agreed to. Nonetheless, NCH has received assurances that the historical community will be consulted in identifying qualified historians to serve on the commission.



Opening of U.S. Congress, May, 1919. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Fiscal Year 2015 Federal Funding

On December 16, President Obama signed into law the \$1.1 trillion FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill that will fund federal government operations through September 2015. NCH and its constituent organizations effectively mobilized their members to contact Congress concerning funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National Park Service, Title VI/Fulbright-Hays International and Foreign Language Education, and other federal programs. Senior staff members at the affected federal agencies have credited these efforts with preventing deeper cuts or elimination of programs. One highlight is a modest \$500,000 increase for the NHPRC, raising its budget to \$5 million. This represents the first increase in the NHPRC's budget in six fiscal years.

Congressional History Caucus

In 2013, NCH collaborated with Congressmen John Larson (D-CT) and Tom Cole (R-OK), and co-chairs Congressmen Ander Crenshaw (R-FL) and Bill Pascrell

(D-NJ), to create a Congressional History Caucus. Its aims are to provide a forum for members of Congress to share their interest in history and to promote an awareness of the subject on Capitol Hill. The House caucus will have to be reestablished in the 114th Congress, so NCH will be mounting an aggressive recruitment campaign this year. NCH will also be working toward establishing a Senate History Caucus in 2015.

American Community Survey

In December, NCH submitted a statement to the US Census Bureau urging it to retain Question 12, the Undergraduate Field of Degree, in the American Community Survey. This question provides crucial data about the value of a history degree. For example, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences relies on the data derived from Question 12 to prepare its Humanities Indicators report, which analyzes earnings and occupations of humanities majors.

Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act

In July, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced S. 2712, the Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2014. The bill would allow part-time faculty—who are often paid low wages with few benefits—to be eligible to participate in the federal student loan forgiveness program for public servants. NCH sent a letter to Senator Durbin supporting passage of S. 2712 and will seek to recruit cosponsors when the bill is reintroduced in the 114th Congress.

Supporting New AP History Framework

Throughout 2014, the new framework for the College Board's AP US history curriculum and exam sparked controversy across the country. Conservative opponents maintained that the teaching of "traditional" American history—for example, the contributions of the Founding Fathers and the theme of American exceptionalism—were being deemphasized in the curriculum in favor of so-called "revisionist history," which allegedly painted America in a negative light. In September, NCH sent a letter to the state boards of education in eight states (GA, TN, LA, SC, NC, TX, CO, NV) supporting the College Board's decision to make the AP history course and exam flexible and reflect ongoing developments in scholarship. NCH's letter to the state boards is referenced on the College Board's website.

K-12 History Education

In July, NCH submitted a letter to the US Department of Education requesting that history and civics education be considered a priority in allocating funds through the agency's discretionary grant programs in the same way that STEM education is treated. In May, rumors spread on the Internet that the Boston Public Schools (BPS) system was eliminating its history and social studies department. NCH sent a letter to the BPS seeking assurances that this was not the case. Shortly thereafter, NCH received a response from BPS Interim Superintendent John McDonough confirming that the department was not being eliminated.

Recruited Genealogy Groups to Join NCH

In July, NCH welcomed the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) to the coalition. RPAC is comprised of the

National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). FGS represents hundreds of genealogical societies, and NGS and IAJGS represent over 9,000 genealogists. As some of the most frequent users of archival records, genealogists add a large, politically active constituency to NCH.

NCPH is a core member and currently chairs the Policy Board of the National Coalition for History (NCH), a Washington, DC-based nonprofit educational organization providing leadership in history-related advocacy. Consisting of more than 50 organizations, the Coalition serves as the historical profession's advocacy voice in the United States and acts as a clearinghouse of news and information. Lee White is the executive director of NCH.

“The Value of History” Statement and HRC Build Momentum

Last fall the History Relevance Campaign (HRC), in its “quiet phase,” began approaching a few organizations and institutions, asking them to endorse a general statement about the importance of history in contemporary life. NCPH was one of those organizations and it signed on in September. HRC's idea was to gather initial support while a website was taking shape, and then to open the call to action more publicly—both for official institutional endorsement of the statement and for adapting and incorporating the ideas that the statement articulates. (The statement appeared in the December issue of *Public History News* and is available at the web address below.)

HRC is presenting the value statement as a way to organize our vast and varied historical community to speak in a more unified way to change the common perception that history is nice, but not essential.

Another HRC initiative currently underway is the Impact Project. It is a year-long process for identifying and studying historic sites and history museums that are making history relevant in their community *and* that are conducting evaluations to measure their progress. HRC members, Conny Graft, Conny Graft Research and Evaluation, Max A. van Balgooy, Engaging Places, and Tim Grove, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, are interviewing staff at about 20 institutions. HRC ultimately expects to be able to offer ideas for increasing the use of history as a way to understand and address critical community issues; provide best practices for staff and board members to work into strategic and interpretive plans; encourage professional associations such as NCPH and AASLH to include standards on community relevance and impact; encourage academic programs to include such standards in curricula; persuade elected officials, funders, and communities to provide more support for history; and provide every governor with a least one example of a history organization making impact in their state.

You can learn more about the HRC at historyrelevance.com.

Endorsers as of February 11, 2015

Kentucky Historical Society
National Council on Public History
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
Idaho State Historical Society
American Association for State and Local History
Center of the American West, University of Colorado
Oral History Association
State Historical Administrators
The Historical Society of Michigan
Society for Military History
Organization of American Historians
Society for History in the Federal Government

National Coalition for History
Nebraska State Historical Society
History Colorado
Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites
Georgia Historical Society
Historic Arkansas Museum
Bullock Texas State History Museum
Nantucket Historical Association
Vermont Historical Society
Mystic Seaport: The Museum of America and the Sea
Council of State Archivists
Henry Ford Estates
Alabama Department of Archives and History



2016 National Council on Public History and Society for History in the Federal Government Joint Meeting

**“Challenging the Exclusive Past”
Baltimore, Maryland, March 16-19, 2016
Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel**

Formal preservation and interpretation of the past began as a movement to celebrate great men and elite spaces. Slowly, and with difficulty, this is becoming a more democratic and inclusive effort. We believe that public historians have an important role to play in the ongoing work to expand national, state, local, and global narratives. What are the most effective and engaging means for expanding interpretive practices and professional spaces in order to promote full inclusion of previously marginalized peoples and places? To what extent have new, more democratic and engaged public history practices changed museum collections and exhibits, preservation practice, law, and public commemoration? And what happens when formerly disenfranchised publics assert their right to tell their own histories? These questions get at the very meanings of public history and citizenship. As 2016 will mark the centennial of the National Park Service and fifty years of the National Historic Preservation Act, in Baltimore we invite public historians to explore the promise, the successes, and the challenges of developing a more inclusive public history landscape in the twenty-first century.

The online proposal system will open in May; proposals are due by **July 15, 2015**.

In Memoriam



Michael Mizell-Nelson

Michael Mizell-Nelson passed away Monday, December 1, 2014, from cancer. Mizell-Nelson's life and work connected many people within his home city of New Orleans and across the field of public history. In his memory, two University of New Orleans students who have worked closely with him in the past few years are

developing a digital memorial in honor of their late mentor. They are asking anyone in the NCPH community who has pictures or videos of Dr. Mizell-Nelson throughout the years to please send them to Kevin McQueeney at (kmcqueen@uno.edu). The Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media is collecting donations in Mizell-Nelson's honor. These donations will go towards the maintenance of the Hurricane Digital Memory Bank, a project organized by Mizell-Nelson, which documents the history of Hurricane Katrina. With the tenth anniversary of the storm on the horizon, this will prove to be a vital resource for memorial projects. More information about the Hurricane Digital Memory Bank and where to make a donation in Michael's memory can be found here:

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/news/in-memory-of-michael-mizell-nelson/>



Jann Warren-Findley

Jannelle Warren-Findley passed away Wednesday, February 4, 2015, from pulmonary fibrosis, surrounded by friends and family. Warren-Findley was a long-time advocate and practitioner of public history. During her more than twenty years as an Assistant Professor of History at Arizona State University she was a beloved

colleague and a dedicated mentor, and assumed the role of director of the Public History Program there in 2007. A founding member of the International Federation for Public History (IFPH), Warren-Findley was passionate about public history as a global and transnational movement. NCPH would like to acknowledge Warren-Findley's many contributions to our organization over the years. An early member, she served as president of NCPH from 1997 to 1998 and as chair of the Editorial Board of *The Public Historian*. Our members, many of whom worked closely with Jann or enjoyed her company at conferences, remember her as kind, quick to laugh, and always generous with her time and attention. Jann will be very much missed. We have collected some personal remembrances on the NCPH blog *History@Work* (publichistorycommons.org/jann-warren-findley-contributions/).

Honorary Doctoral Degree in Australia



Peter Donovan, a history consultant in Australia who has been a member of NCPH for 25 years, received an honorary doctorate on October 25, 2014, from the University of New England, Armidale. Since 1980 his firm, Donovan & Associates, has specialized in commissioned history and heritage assessment and has undertaken work in all the states and territories of Australia for clients that have come from all

levels of government, and small and large organizations, including major national corporations. The citation read by the Vice Chancellor summarizes the basis for the honorary degree:

For over thirty years Peter Donovan has been a leading figure in the field of public or applied history. The first person to make a full time, permanent career out of writing commissioned histories, Donovan has significantly raised the awareness of historical records and knowledge among many government, quasi-government and commercial institutions in Australia. He was a founder of the Professional Historians' Association in South Australia, an initiative followed in other states and overseas, and was also a leading figure in the creation of a national body. In this way he contributed materially to the establishment of a professional identity for consultant historians and heritage advisers, by drafting the code of ethics, establishing standards of professional credentials and conduct and a structure of fees. His mentoring of the profession also included the provision of training

programmes and work opportunities for others aspiring to work as historians in the market place. As a consultant Donovan has written almost fifty books, conducted thirty-nine heritage surveys, and published eleven books and manuals on his own initiative.

Donovan has left a significant imprint on Australian historiography, and raised the historical consciousness of Australians. He has opened the way to novel avenues of employment for history graduates, and is a key figure in the professionalization of public or applied history not only in Australia but overseas as well.

Upcoming NCPH Mini-Cons

Austin, TX – October 2015

London, ON – Fall 2015

(In cooperation with Activehistory.ca)

We invite you to propose a Mini-conference.

<http://bit.ly/NCPH-mini-con>.



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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

— Nashville 2015, Baltimore 2016, Indianapolis 2017

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: \$74
New Professional: \$45
Student: \$35

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