



National Council on Public History Announces New Leadership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rowe Appointed Executive Director

August 22, 2016 - Indianapolis, IN—The National Council on Public History (NCPH) announced today that Stephanie Rowe has been named Executive Director of the organization, effective immediately.

Rowe has served as Interim Executive Director at NCPH for the past year and a half since the departure of John Dichtl who left to take the position of President and CEO at the American Association for State and Local History. Rowe first joined NCPH as Program Manager in 2012 and was named Associate Director in 2015.

“The task facing our board and search committee seemed monumental: finding a new Executive Director who respects and understands the complex history of NCPH, but who also recognizes that the organization is undergoing tremendous change and growth,” said Dr. Alexandra Lord, NCPH Board President and Chair and Curator, Medicine and Science Division, National Museum of American History. “Given the scope of this task, it shouldn’t be surprising that it took us a year and a half to find a new Executive Director. The surprising thing is that we found in Stephanie Rowe a candidate who not only meets, but exceeds these expectations.”

“Stephanie brings multiple strengths to this position, including the fact that she spent several years as a practicing public historian before coming to NCPH. A graduate of one of the nation’s premier and oldest history museum studies programs, she possesses strong academic credentials. And, of course, having worked for NCPH as its Program Manager and Associate Director for four years, she has an in-depth understanding of the organization, its mission, the challenges it faces, and, perhaps most importantly, its members,” said Lord. During Stephanie’s tenure with NCPH, conference attendance has almost doubled, and membership increased by forty-five percent.

“NCPH provides a unique home for practitioners who work both within and outside of the academy, supporting all public historians in their efforts to put history to work in the world,” said Rowe. “As Executive Director, I am excited to further the reputation of the organization, working with the board, staff, committees, and membership to build an even stronger bridge between academic public historians and practitioners in the field. As we advocate for the fields of history and public history, it is our goal to cultivate a more diverse field and organization and to expand the capacity of the organization to keep pace with the steady growth of our membership and our annual meeting.”

As part of the appointment, Rowe will also serve as an Academic Specialist on the History Department Faculty in the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, NCPH's host institution. Rowe said, "I look forward to making even stronger the excellent relationship between NCPH, the History Department, and the IU School of Liberal Arts. IUPUI has been NCPH's home for over twenty-five years, and I see a long future ahead as we work together to advocate for the field of history, and the value of liberal arts education."

About Stephanie Rowe:

Stephanie Rowe holds an MA in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and a BA in Social Studies with honors from Ithaca College. Rowe began at NCPH as Program Manager in 2012, and was promoted to Associate Director, then Interim Executive Director in 2015. Prior to joining the NCPH staff, Rowe was Program Coordinator for Museumwise, now the Museum Association of New York (MANY), and served as the Southcentral Regional Archivist for the New York State Archives' Documentary Heritage Program.



About the National Council on Public History (NCPH):

NCPH is a membership association dedicated to making the past useful in the present and to encouraging collaboration between historians and their publics. Our work begins in the belief that historical understanding is of essential value in society.

NCPH establishes professional standards, ethics, and best practices; provides professional development opportunities; recognizes excellence in a diverse range of public history activities; fosters networking and a sense of community among public history practitioners; and supports history education. Our members include museum professionals, historical consultants, historians employed in government, archivists, historical administrators, corporate and business historians, cultural resource managers, curators, film and media producers, oral historians, policy advisers, professors and students with public history interests, teachers, and many others.

Headquartered on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, NCPH benefits greatly from the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts.

For more information, visit www.ncph.org.