NCPH

PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

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ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP

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April 19-22, 2017, NCPH welcomed over eight hundred public historians to Indianapolis, Indiana (home of the NCPH executive office!) for our 39th annual meeting. This year's conference theme, "The Middle: Where did we come from? Where are we going?" asked presenters and attendees to take stock of their work as public historians and consider the field's next steps and challenges. This turned out to be prescient at a time of significant nationwide political and cultural changes, giving attendees much to talk about.

Attendees of the 2017 NCPH Annual Meeting had fun exploring the Indiana Historical Society afterhours at the Opening Reception. Photo by Grace Evers.

Hosting the conference in our home city presented welcome opportunities for NCPH to try a few new things, including two service trips, a bike tour, an official slate of pop-up exhibits and activities in the exhibit hall, an offsite opening reception hosted by the Indiana Historical Society, and a session at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art.

We were excited to have the chance to highlight some of our fantastic local partners and their exceptional public history work.

The Historic Downtown Indy Bike Tour took participants to cultural districts and monuments on two wheels. Photo by Andy Townsend.

After an especially large joint meeting last year in Baltimore, Maryland with the Society for History in the Federal Government, the Indianapolis conference's attendance was 820 – making this our largest standalone meeting to date. At time of print, 315 attendees filled out a meeting evaluation (about 38%), providing feedback about what they liked and where we can improve. Attendees praised the multitude of opportunities for networking, the enthusiasm of presenters and fellow attendees, the welcoming and student-friendly atmosphere, and the variety of session formats and different ways to engage with meeting content.

Attendees continue to observe that NCPH (and public history as a field) is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

NCPH would like to specifically acknowledge our student volunteers and volunteer photographers at this year's annual meeting. The NCPH conference is planned and implemented by just two full time and two part-time paid staff members, and without a fantastic group of passionate and motivated volunteers it would be quite literally impossible.

Special thanks to:

Charlotte Adams, University of South Carolina
Megan Bordewyk, Loyola University Chicago
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Jess Lamar Reece Holler, The Ohio Connection
Samantha Hunter, American University
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Sarah Junod, University of California, Riverside
Kathryn Kaslow, University of South Carolina
Jennifer Kellum, Stephen F. Austin State University
Karly Kovalcik, West Virginia University
Kristin Lee, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis
Lilia Lockwood, Western University
Gloria Lopez, Indiana University
Audrey Maier, University of California Riverside
Tracy McFarlan, New York University
Meagan Patterson, Eastern Illinois University
Amanda Roberts, Eastern Illinois University
Victoria Throop
Andy Townsend, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis
Harvee White, University of West Georgia
Lacey Wilson, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Anthony Vinci, Central Connecticut State University

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS // SEEING HISTORY FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE

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This past spring, the AASLH-AHA-NCPH-OAH Joint Task Force on Public History Education and Employment released the findings from a broadly-based survey of public history employers available at http://bit.ly/2knHdjz. Just over four hundred employers responded to the survey, meaning that the information gathered is extremely comprehensive. The survey provides an important companion piece to work done by History Relevance, a grassroots campaign that serves as a catalyst for demonstrating, discovering and promulgating the value of history for individuals, communities, and the nation. Many of History Relevance's early discussions focused on the development of a brand for history, similar to STEM.

Whether we are teaching history in an academic program, completing an MA program, or working in a public history institution, the information gathered by the joint task force should be and will be central to how we understand not only our own careers but also our field overall. Although created before the 2016 election and before

NCPH president Alexandra Lord congratulates graduate student award winners shaping the future of the field. Photo by Jess Holler.

we can understand the impact of potential cuts to federal agencies such as the National Endowment for the Humanities or the National Park Service, which fund history programming

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

NEXT STEPS IN THE FIGHT TO #SAVETHENEH

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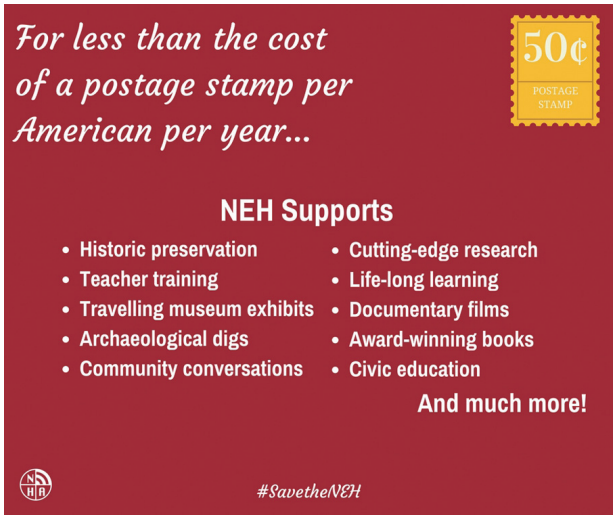
National Humanities Alliance

Two days before President Trump's inauguration, we awoke to reports that the transition team was contemplating a proposal to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). On March 16, the administration released a budget blueprint even more threatening to humanities programs than had been initially reported. The administration's proposal not only recommends the elimination of the NEH and the NEA, but also the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Woodrow Wilson Center. Additionally, it calls for the "reduction or elimination" of the Department of Education's Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs.

Over the past four months, the National Humanities Alliance (NHA) has been working in close partnership with NCPH and our other members to demonstrate support for the NEH. This campaign has resulted in nearly 150,000 messages and phone calls to Members of Congress and President Trump. A record-breaking number of humanities advocates joined us in Washington DC for Humanities Advocacy Day in March, visiting their congressional offices and making the case for robust funding for the NEH and other humanities programs. Advocates have published op-eds highlighting the local and national import of the NEH. Subsequent to the release of the budget blueprint, NHA has also launched grass-roots campaigns in support of the other agencies.

Since the Trump Administration released its plan, our attention has turned primarily to Congress, which will ultimately decide whether and at what level to fund the NEH and the other cultural agencies for FY 2018. As Congress begins its work, the budget committees will release their Congressional Budget Resolutions, which set an overall spending limit, but whose recommendations for specific discretionary programs are just advisory. The appropriations committees in each house will then draft twelve appropriations bills proposing funding levels for all discretionary spending, including for the NEH and other humanities programs. If those bills clear their committees, the full House and Senate will have to pass them. Finally, bills from each house will need to be reconciled in a conference committee. This is a long process that will likely stretch into the fall. Proposals to eliminate funding for the NEH and other humanities programs could gain traction at any point.



REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

Trump's budget proposal is just a proposal. Members of the appropriations committees have their own agendas and priorities, and have been largely supportive of the NEH and other humanities funding, particularly in the last two years. After passing a $2 million increase for NEH in FY 2016, Congress passed another $2 million increase for FY 2017 in early May. Further, Republican members of the House and Senate subcommittees that allocate funds to the NEH and the NEA have gone on record supporting the programs even in the face of the President's proposal for FY 2018. Finally, letters to the President and to the appropriations committees requesting a $5 million increase for the NEH in FY 2018 have received bipartisan support.

CAUSES FOR CONCERN

While we anticipate that the appropriations committees will be supportive of the NEH, the upcoming FY 2018 appropriations process is likely to be prolonged and contentious as Congress struggles to abide by budget caps that were put in place as part of the 2011 budget deal. While the current cap may be renegotiated, the Trump Administration's efforts to increase defense and military construction spending would necessitate severe cuts to non-defense discretionary spending. This would leave the NEH, along with a wide range of other domestic programs, vulnerable to deep cuts or even elimination as appropriators are forced to make difficult choices.

NHA is also concerned that the call from the Trump Administration to eliminate funding for the NEH, the NEA, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting will embolden those within Congress who have long sought to defund these agencies in particular. While this is unlikely to happen within the appropriations committees, opponents of the NEH could introduce an amendment to eliminate funding when either chamber considers the appropriations bill or during negotiations over the differences between House and Senate appropriations bills.

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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

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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NCPH would like to extend a special thanks to our new Partner members:

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Naval Undersea Museum
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For a complete list of NCPH Patrons and Partners, visit ncph.org/about/patrons-partners/

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STEPHANIE ROWE
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SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Two months ago, Christine, Meghan, Rebecca, and I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming 820 of you to our home for the 2017 NCPH Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was fulfilling to be able to showcase our city, our restaurants, our parks, our cultural institutions, and our colleagues over four beautiful spring days. It was also wonderful for our host institution, Indiana University's School of Liberal Arts, to connect face-to-face with the NCPH community, and to experience the magic of a public history conference. We were pleased to have many members of our history department faculty attend receptions, sessions, and the public plenary; to have sessions led by members of the anthropology and communications departments; to highlight the work of our museum studies program on *States of Incarceration*; and to have our school's Dean, Tom Davis, attend the opening reception and personally welcome our attendees to Indianapolis. NCPH has been based on the Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis campus for 27 years, and having the chance to feature the wonderful relationship that we have was priceless.

The School of Liberal Arts, like many around the country, faces budgetary constraints which have complicated staffing for NCPH over the last two years. While my appointment as Executive Director was approved by the school and department and was finalized last July, we have not yet been able to hire for the full time programs position which I vacated. Meghan Hillman, our former graduate intern, has been filling in in this position since spring 2015 working only part time with no benefits. NCPH recognizes that as the leading organization for public history graduate students and new professionals, it is our responsibility to ensure that our own professional staff are paid a living wage and receive, at the very least, health insurance benefits. To this end, the NCPH board has committed to investing more of our own resources into staff salaries and benefits, a commitment that is also echoed in NCPH's Memorandum of Agreement with the University, which states that NCPH will continue to increase its contributions to staff salaries and benefits as future finances permit.

You will be hearing a lot from our board, our office, and our development committee over the next few years as we work to build the organization's endowment to help the organization continue to become more financially independent, and as we work to grow and adequately support our small staff. I thank those of you who already took the time to give during the conference in Indianapolis. Your support means a great deal to our organization, and we work hard to make sure that your gifts come back to you three-fold during the course of your career through our programs, services, and community.

ACTIONS OF THE NCPH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After the October 21 and 22 meeting of the NCPH Board of Directors in Indianapolis, IN, and prior to the spring meeting in Indianapolis, IN, the board convened electronically and by telephone and took the following actions:

Board Members took time out of the Annual Meeting to plan for the future of NCPH.

- Voted to accept proposals from four candidates to serve as International Consulting Editors for *The Public Historian* (*TPH*). Approved proposals were from Ben Houston (Newcastle University), Na Li (Chongqing University), Olwen Purdue (Queen's University, Belfast), and Juliane Tomann (Imre Kertész Kolleg, Jena).
- Voted to approve the purchase of a new TIAA-CREF Social Choice Bond Fund (TSBRX) and to reallocate endowment funds from the current Wellington Fund into the new TSBRX fund in order to bring the allocation of funds in the endowment back to the percentages outlined in the investment guidelines.
- Voted to create an Advocacy Rapid Response Task Force to work with the Advocacy Committee of the board.
- Voted to endorse the American Historical Association's statement condemning President Trump's executive order restricting travel to and from seven Muslim majority countries.
- Approved the signing of a two year Memorandum of Agreement with the International Federation of Public History to formalize the relationship between the two organizations.
- Approved the issue of an organizational statement in support of federal public history workers (http://ncph.org/phc/statement-of-support-federal-workers/).

On Thursday, April 20, the NCPH Board of Directors convened at the Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN and took the following actions:

- Elected board member Jeff Pappas to the Executive Committee to replace board member Kathleen Franz, whose term on the board was ending.
- Approved the minutes of the Fall 2016 board meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, and the February 3, 2017 board meeting held by conference telephone call.
- Voted to earmark the 2016 operating budget surplus to be used for staffing.
- Tasked the Development Committee to work together with the Finance Committee and Long Range Planning Committee to develop a plan to raise needed funds to bring the Endowment to $1 million by 2020.
- Voted to convene monthly via conference call or online conference software in addition to semi-annual in-person meetings.
- Voted to extend the contract between NCPH, University of California Santa Barbara, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities at Rutgers University-Camden for an additional three years to house the *TPH* Co-Editor position.
- Voted to create an ad-hoc Planning Committee tasked with overseeing the implementation of the organization's Long Range Plan.

SEEING HISTORY FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE // CONT'D. FROM PAGE 1

and hire large numbers of historians, the survey results presented some cautionary news.

Some aspects of the report are not surprising. For over forty years, discrepancies between the number of historians with graduate degrees and the number of available history jobs, both in and outside the academy, have been a constant. Most historians know this, but until very recently there has been a reluctance to openly discuss this issue.

Yet if we are to think critically about the future and structure of graduate programs in history, admitting that we have had an over-production of historians with graduate degrees is a fundamental first step. Acknowledging this problem is not and never has been an easy thing to do. After all, who would not want to encourage the academic study of history among a larger population? But we need to step back and think more broadly about the overall role and value of history, as the report encourages us to do. For those of us in public history, the questions need to be especially nuanced.

Reading the report, both through the lens of the 2008 recession and more recent events, it is fairly clear that we historians must be much more proactive in promoting the value of history outside the classroom. It isn't simply that funding for history is being cut—even without recent cuts, funding for educational activities was being pushed more toward STEM than toward the humanities. This is not necessarily a negative. STEM has benefitted the humanities tremendously by enabling us to share archival material on an unprecedented level, creating hand-held devices which allow us to read widely about a historic site when at the site itself, developing techniques to better preserve and protect historic sites and objects, and helping us to more easily document history as it happens. But the many voices promoting STEM and the many distractions of the digital world have also created an environment in which it can be increasingly difficult for historians to be heard.

This growing need for historians to find ways to better communicate is reflected in the report. Survey respondents stated frequently that the skills which will be in the highest demand in the future include "fundraising," "public programming and interpretation," "digital media development and production," and "written and oral communication." These skills are, of course, central to how public historians define what we do—but survey respondents' emphasis on these skills, combined with what we know of the current and future job market, all hint at a profession which increasingly demands that its practitioners turn an outward face toward the general public to make a case for history.

Educators took time to reflect on the current state of academic training. Photo by Andy Townsend.

It is easy for us to fall into the trap of believing that as public historians we naturally excel at these skills, especially when compared to our more academic colleagues. But the reality is that we have not been as successful at making the case for history as our colleagues in other fields have been in arguing for the value of their fields of study.

As a historian of medicine and science, I have watched as scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and even physicians have made a compelling argument over the last few decades for the importance of understanding science and technology. While it is easy to believe that scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians have been extremely successful in making their case because jobs in scientific, technological, and medical fields are abundant and because we live in a highly technological society, the truth is more complex. Scientific work is often theoretical and scientists have not only had to make a compelling case for the relevance of their work, they have also learned to pitch their argument to audiences who do not always understand their field.

We historians can learn a great deal from our colleagues in STEM in how to argue for the relevance of history—through grant proposals, exhibits, public discussions, and a variety of other formats. We can also more aggressively move to collaborate with our STEM colleagues in pushing for projects which benefit both of our disciplines. Rather than seeing STEM projects as being in competition with history projects for limited dollars, we need to reach out and build a community which brings together diverse approaches to how we learn about our world.

In doing so, we may also have the added benefit of convincing new and very different audiences of the value of understanding history.

NEXT STEPS IN THE FIGHT TO #SAVETHENEH // CONT'D. FROM PAGE 2

ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Given these concerns, NHA is working to raise awareness of the work that the NEH supports around the country and the diverse communities it serves. We are encouraging leaders of humanities institutions—as well as individual NEH grantees—to write letters to the editor about the transformative impact of the NEH. We are also working to expand our list of grassroots advocates so that Members of Congress receive as many calls and messages as possible at critical points in the appropriations process.

The NCPH has been an indispensable ally in these efforts. Individual members can also play a key role as well. By starting with our Take Action page (http://www.nhalliance.org/take_action), you can sign up for our action alerts, write your Member of Congress, and share these links to our resources with family, friends, and colleagues. Sharing this advocacy campaign and other social media assets will help expand our network and demonstrate to Congress the deep support for NEH across the country.

While it is important to build support among all Members of Congress, the support of particular Members will be key at certain stages of the appropriations process. By signing up for our action alerts, encouraging others to do the same, and sharing our alerts on social media, you will also increase the likelihood that we can reach advocates in key districts.

This challenge to the NEH and other humanities programs has inspired an outpouring of support for federal humanities funding. Over the coming months, it is critical that we continue to mobilize even more advocates to increase public awareness of the impact of these programs and to ensure that Members of Congress continue to hear from their constituents.

Beatrice Gurwitz is associate director of the National Humanities Alliance (NHA).

NCPH COMMITTEE UPDATES

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; contact information for committee chairs and members can be found at: http://ncph.org/about/governance-committees/.

CONSULTANTS COMMITTEE

The Consultants Committee has had a busy year. We continued our outreach and education efforts, particularly for newly established consulting historians and those interested in the field. Committee members and other established consultants have made regular contributions to *History@Work*'s "Ask A Consulting Historian" series. The series has been well received and continues to demonstrate the NCPH membership's interest in consulting. The committee has also continued to maintain its Twitter account, @NCPHConsultants, which was especially active during the annual meeting in Indianapolis.

The conference brought one of the biggest committee successes to date, the well-received workshop, "Starting and Staying in Business: How to Start a Career in Consulting." The session brought together a range of professionals, including executives, sole proprietorships, small business leaders, marketing advisors, an accountant, and a lawyer. Participants shared their experience and advice for those interested in starting careers in public history consulting. The committee created a Storify for those unable to attend: https://storify.com/emilykeyes/ncph-consultants-workshop. We hosted another great Consultants Reception, participated in Speed Networking, and led an engaging committee meeting.

Building on the momentum of Indianapolis, we are busy planning proposals for the annual meetings in Las Vegas (2018) and Hartford (2019). Potential sessions include additional workshops, roundtables, and panel discussions that are aimed at both new professionals and established consultants. We are also in the early stages of developing Mini-Cons to better engage with consultants outside of the annual meeting. We look forward to a busy year ahead as we continue to serve consultants, independent professionals, and freelance historians.

DIGITAL MEDIA GROUP

We've had a period of building and integrating the various pieces of NCPH's digital communications and publications (including social media and the *History@Work* blog, which also serves as the platform for digital publications of *The Public Historian* journal). Readership of *History@Work* continues to be strong and we have an active social media presence, particularly on Twitter, where public historians have been among the earliest and most active #twitterstorians. Now the Digital Media Group (DMG) is working to regroup and anchor these projects to make them more sustainable for the long haul. Components of the unwieldy Digital Media Editor position, held by Cathy Stanton since 2011, will be redistributed among our staff and volunteer team over the coming year.

Our long-running listserv, H-Public, is now virtually inactive. After consulting with the NCPH Board of Directors, the DMG has decided to step back from the list after editing it for many years. While listservs still serve a purpose in today's changed media environment, the specific role that H-Public was intended to fill—creating a space for digital dialogue among public historians—has long since moved elsewhere. We will wrap up our involvement in the list as of June 30, 2017.

The Environmental Sustainability Committee gave attendees the chance to learn about the White River's history, clean up its banks, and have fun in the process! Photo by Jess Holler.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Environmental Sustainability Committee aims to work on several fronts, infusing this issue into all NCPH operations. We hope to have a committee member represented or serve as a liaison to other standing committees. We are pleased that the Finance Committee reports good returns from the socially responsible investment fund. We intend more diligence in posting on *History@Work* about these issues. The committee sponsored a session and a service walking tour at the 2017 Indianapolis conference. We organized a Working Group for developing a best practices document to incorporate environmental sustainability issues across the public history undergraduate and graduate curriculum. This effort will include a selected bibliography/reading list. We plan to work with the Curriculum and Training Committee to finalize and present a draft to members for input in a session at the 2018 meeting. The committee began work with the 2018 Program and Local Arrangements Committees to develop field trips and sessions that address environmental issues pertaining to Las Vegas.

We will continue to develop a checklist of environmentally sustainable features for rating the venues for future meetings. Our intent is that this checklist become part of the process for choosing sites for the annual meeting. Lastly, we plan to develop a definition of "environmental sustainability" that NCPH can formally adopt.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

In January, the committee proposed that the board approve purchase of the TIAA-CREF Social Choice Bond Fund (TSBRX) for the NCPH endowment fund, so that we can get our asset allocations in line with the approved 65% equity/30% bonds/5% cash for our investments.

In April, the finance committee submitted the following proposals to the board:

- The use of $30,000 from the 2016 budget surplus to supplement the salary for the Program Manager position over two budget years (at $15,000 per year) to bring the position back to full-time status.
- Recommended that the Board of Directors seek to build this additional salary expenditure into the NCPH budget long-term to increase financial independence for the organization.
- Proposed that the Board of Directors implement a new fundraising campaign for the NCPH Endowment Fund, with a goal toward bringing the fund to $1 million by 2020. With an increase in the organization's expenditures, it will be necessary to generate more operating income from the endowment going forward.

NCPH COMMITTEE UPDATES

GOVERNMENT HISTORIANS COMMITTEE

The Government Historians Committee is coordinating proposals for the 2018 annual meeting, including a "suite" of panels pertinent to issues of concern to government history practitioners, a workshop for those interested in doing government history work, and related social activities. In addition, the committee is planning a series of submissions for the *History@Work* blog to highlight the variety of work performed by government historians.

JOINT TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC HISTORY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The Joint Task Force recently released "What Do Public History Employers Want?," a report on its 2015 survey of public history employers. The report is available as a PDF file at http://bit.ly/2knHdjz. The task force will begin preparing a similar report on its survey of alumni of MA programs in public history this summer. The alumni survey is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/phalumni. It will remain open through May 31. Persons who hold an MA in public history or a closely related field who have not yet taken it are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A number Membership Committee members were able to be in Indy for the annual meeting. The conference was a wonderful opportunity to reenergize as a committee while meeting new and returning NCPH members. During the conference we helped organize the Résumé Review Workshop, the First Time Attendee and Mentoring Connection Meet-Up, and the New Member Welcome. The committee was pleased to see such a great turnout at these events and looks forward to continuing to explore ways to make the NCPH meeting a welcoming space.

The Membership Committee welcomed new members to the NCPH family. Photo by Grace Evers.

Looking forward, the committee is working with the NCPH office to develop a more robust on-boarding program for new members and to document procedures for NCPH Mini-Cons. We are also exploring creative and digital means of making NCPH a welcoming space for new and veteran members. If you have outreach ideas feel free to get in touch with us!

NEW PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE

The New Professional and Graduate Student Committee continued to work with established public historians to gather advice and tips for navigating this field. Our "Ask a Public Historian" posts are featured on the *History@Work* blog. The *Public History Navigator* also underwent a few edits to remain current with the field.

We also hosted a successful mixer at the NCPH conference in Indianapolis. We greatly enjoyed meeting so many folks. We look forward to our next mixer in Las Vegas! Register early because our

Grad students and new professionals connected with established practitioners at the Professional Development Committee's popular Speed Networking event. Photo by Andy Townsend.

event always sells out. At our annual committee meeting, our group also gathered to brainstorm ideas regarding the future of our group. If you have ideas for blog posts or projects for us, Tweet us @ncphnewgrad.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The NCPH Professional Development Committee held its annual committee meeting during the 2017 conference, where we focused on three different challenges to address over the next year.

The Speed Networking session at this year's conference was a success, but the committee is brainstorming ideas to make the event's structure and organization more efficient. The committee is also tasked with selecting workshops for the annual conference. Members agreed to study data from previous workshops over the past decade and work towards creating a new, more comprehensive evaluation that can be used to better assess the needs and interests of attendees. We hope that the new workshop evaluation can be completed in time for the 2018 conference. Finally, we expressed enthusiasm for increased collaboration with other NCPH committees that engage in professional development activities. We hope to use these collaborative efforts to assist with implementing Twitter Chats about public history throughout the year, to expand opportunities for mentoring grad students and new professionals, and other projects that promote professional development within the organization.

THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN EDITORIAL BOARD

The Editorial Board (EB) of *The Public Historian* met in Indianapolis and discussed the status of upcoming issues and proposals for future development. Managing Editor Sarah Case presented a report analyzing the rates of submission, acceptance, and rejection of articles submitted to the journal from 2012 to 2016. It looked at two basic categories: gender and professional status (academic, practitioner, graduate student). It revealed that, while there is general parity between the genders, the same cannot be said for the academic/practitioner balance.

These statistics highlighted the need to solicit more articles from practitioners and from graduate students. EB chair Sharon Babaian would like this issue to remain front and center and would like to see the EB devote time to discussing the nature of the problem and coming up with some concrete proposals for addressing it. The EB agreed to organize a session at the next conference that would offer practical advice to students about how the process works and how best to approach it. If this approach is successful for students, we could try to do a similar session for practitioners.

We discussed ideas for future special issues including one focused on consumerism, play, and public history (inspired by the American Girl doll series). Finally, the EB met with the Digital Media Group and discussed some ways to use digital platforms to support and elaborate on upcoming issues. The fall meeting is set for September in Washington, DC.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM INDIANAPOLIS WORKING GROUPS

Seven of the working groups that met during the NCPH conference in Indianapolis have provided summaries of their discussions. NCPH working groups are seminar-like conversations that take place before and during the conference. The groups, comprised of eight to ten people, explore in-depth a subject of shared concern and work toward a common purpose and outcome. If you are interested in creating a working group for the 2018 NCPH Annual Meeting, proposals are due July 15, 2017. (See the call for proposals at http://bit.ly/ncph2018cfp)

#WG1. MEETING IN THE MIDDLE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Our group began by addressing common questions that arose from our case statements as well as comments from the audience. Central issues included audience building, retention, and finding ways of balancing a community's needs with the demands of a digital project. These lead to a conversation about the importance of shared authority, community buy-in, and developing a relationship between the institution hosting/creating the digital project and the community it serves.

We divided into three sub-groups to address specific issues facing digital projects. The library/archive/collections group discussed the dual challenges of creating accessible collections and making the work that goes into these collections visible to the community. The academic and community partnership group focused on ways to model community involvement for students, transcend the notion of a "school project," and find the intersection of community stories and academic processes. The final group examined specific tools needed to do the work of digital projects and how to connect those tools to community need. We then reconvened and reviewed the highlights of each discussion. Future work could include a collection of best practices and establishing a method to share knowledge and resources on building digital collections and communities. We plan to work towards at least one of these goals in a 2018 working group, built from some of the 2017 group and audience participants.

- KRISTEN BALDWIN DEATHRIDGE, JANE M. DAVIS, AND LARA KELLAND

#WG2. PUBLIC HISTORY EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This working group discussed key issues raised in the participants' case statements, including: 1) the acquisition of skills and knowledge through undergraduate and graduate education, professional training, and continuing education (AASLH models); 2) regionally-focused projects and partnerships; 3) science education and interdisciplinary experience and training for public history students; 4) environmental history and experience with relevant primary sources; 4) the importance of ethics, including environmental ethics and social justice; 5) activism and engagement; 6) environmentally sustainable practices in public history programs and institutions; and 7) the need for a best practices document and a selected bibliography of resources and case statements.

The group will move forward with this work on public history education and environmental sustainability by developing the bibliography and best practices document and presenting these materials at an open session to be proposed for the 2018 annual meeting in Las Vegas. The materials will be made available prior to the conference through the NCPH website in order to maximize opportunities for commentary and feedback. The group will plan to coordinate its work with the Curriculum and Training Committee.

-MELINDA JETTÉ AND ANDREW KIRK

#WG3. MEDIATING THE EARLY AMERICAN PAST FOR TODAY'S PUBLIC[S]

Our working group, a mix of ten academics and practitioners, began our deliberations last winter with the assumption that interpreting early American history to today's public[s] poses certain unique challenges, including the distance created by time, the fragmentary nature of extant artifacts and documents from the period, and how mass culture, including the popularity of productions such as Hamilton: The Musical, tilts interest towards the heroic deeds of flawed but still great men like the Founders. In a pre-conference Google Docs discussion and a lively session in Indianapolis, we debated what resources—such as digital tools and hands-on demonstrations—we might utilize to bridge these gaps while nudging the public towards more complex understandings of the early American past and its diverse peoples and places. One highlight was certainly Darci Tucker's performance of Loyalist Elizabeth Thompson, which vividly illustrated the power of first-person interpretation. Most agreed that knowing our audience[s] is key to cultivating the same kind of "come to history" moments that drew us to the field. Yet we also challenged ourselves to consider whether we need to rethink the way we listen to the public. What assumptions do we make about the knowledge and attitudes of the publics we interact with? Do our assumptions blind us to more meaningful connections with the public, or make us afraid to hear what they might say?

Our group plans to move forward in several ways. Since one of our goals was to build a network of public historians committed to bridging the gaps between the early American past and the present, we will begin to do that by inviting session attendees to join our more formal discussions. From that network, we will encourage members to propose public history focused panels at various academic and professional conferences. Most importantly, our group will begin to draft ideas for an article for submission to *The Public Historian*.

- ROSALIND BEILER AND JUDITH RIDNER

Working group discussants talked over the economics and ethics of internships.

#WG5. THE ETHICS AND ECONOMICS OF INTERNSHIPS AT THE CENTER OF PUBLIC HISTORY EDUCATION

Internships are a core component of many public history programs. Few public history educators would question the value of hands-on experience for their students and most public history employers agree. Yet, the prevalence of unpaid internships raises serious ethical and economic concerns. Does the economic burden placed upon unpaid interns effectively price students of modest means out of internships at elite institutions that are often far from home? Does this dynamic threaten to make public history a more exclusive profession? What impact does the unpaid labor of interns have on job prospects and wages for new professionals? And what of the additional workload, usually un-credited and uncompensated, that falls on individual practitioners at host institutions? These are some of the questions we hoped to raise in our working group.

Our lively discussion in Indianapolis engaged our substantial audience that included many graduate students. While we agreed that paid internships *should* be the standard, we also recognized that most host institutions

operate with limited financial resources. For this reason much of our discussion hinged on practical strategies for interns, faculty supervisors, and host institutions to make the experience as equitable as possible. Waiving or reducing tuition was a common concern. Why should a student pay for the opportunity to work for free? Another insight was that internships are often too narrowly focused on specific projects and technical skills, giving interns few opportunities to hone more generally applicable, but critically necessary, communication and people skills. We concluded that this valuable conversation should be continued next year in Las Vegas and beyond.

-ALEXANDRA LORD AND GREGORY E. SMOAK

Panel discussion during the Moving Beyond the National working group.

#WG6. MOVING BEYOND THE NATIONAL: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNATIONAL AND TRANSNATIONAL PUBLIC HISTORIES

Recently the field of public history has started to move beyond the local, nation-state framework. A few notable examples of this shift include public historians engaged in international traveling exhibitions, art and object exchange, the emergence of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, and the establishment in 2011 of International Federation for Public History - Fédération Internationale pour l'Histoire Publique. This movement was also reflected in the American Alliance of Museum's recently launched 2016-2020 Strategic Plan reflecting AAM's belief "in active participation in the global community and embracing international perspectives." While these developments have been broadly celebrated and commented upon, little critical treatment has been given to the practical and theoretical implications of de-centering the nation-state as a framework of analysis. Our working group set out to add to the work that has already been done in this area.

We built upon the 2015 NCPH Working Group "Teaching Public History through International Collaborations" and expanded our scope of inquiry. We brought together a diverse range of practitioners and university-based public historians who have a practical and/or theoretical interest in moving beyond the domestic, to include the international and/or transnational. We were particularly interested in understanding and exploring the different modes of public history being used in an international and/or transnational context and the practical and theoretical implications of these practices. And while we explored the challenges of collaborations across national and cultural boundaries, we spent a lot of time defining our language ("transnational," "international," "glocal," and "global") and seeking precision. Six case statements contributed, in various ways, to our discussions on collaborations and actual challenges in public history projects in an international or transitional context. They have also demonstrated potential for further debates on the nature of expanding public history beyond the national borders. We are planning to expand our discussions in a special section of a scholarly journal.

-RICHARD HARKER AND NA LI

#WG7. LET THEM HEAR IT: EXPLORING PUBLIC HISTORY'S ROLE IN SAVING RADIO HERITAGE

With goals of starting conversations and building networks, this working group brought together eight diverse practitioners, each with a different project featuring historical radio. We came from large institutions like NPR, from local public radio archives, from serendipitously falling into projects to literally having radio in the blood. The common thread amongst all was a deep passion for this intimate medium and its preservation. A few projects included:

- saving the unique voices and styles of mid-century deejays via preserving airchecks in St. Louis
- examining the roots of Southern gospel and country music broadcasts
- celebrating the history of the first Black-owned radio station, WERD, in Atlanta
- developing a course in journalism and media literacy using archival radio in New England
- exploring the underground music scene in Salt Lake City
- contextualizing Vietnam and Civil Rights Era broadcasts in Southwest Ohio

In January, we began a blog featuring posts on our various project. Having the opportunity to meet face to face helped us realize that we have much to offer each other: brainstorming funding sources, connecting and deepening scholarship, and testing ideas on presenting our projects to wider audiences.

We'll be continuing to share progress, information, and resources as we move forward independently and collectively, and we'll be connecting to larger national efforts like the Radio Preservation Task Force at the Library of Congress. Our conversation is just getting started, and we invite you to visit ncphletshearit.wordpress.com to join in!

-JOCELYN ROBINSON

#WG8. SPORTS ON CAMPUS: SPORTING TRADITIONS AS PUBLIC HISTORY AND MEMORY

Because sports are an integral part of the culture of many college campuses, this working group hoped to bridge conversations between public historians working on campus history and sport history. This goal proved challenging, however, due to the various issues involved in doing public sport history. Thus, the group served as the beginning of what we hope will be a long term project of developing a network of resources for doing public sport history.

The group explored issues such as doing oral histories and collecting archival materials, negotiating the university's brand identity—both in terms of mascots and telling controversial histories, incorporating disparate voices and narratives from underrepresented minority groups, moving beyond cookie cutter stories of success, and finding the best places to share these histories so that visitors can learn more about the experiences of athletes, fans, and coaches beyond stadiums and arenas. Our discussions highlighted many areas where public sport history can learn and rely on examples from other areas of public history, particularly when dealing with confederate and racist mascots. Yet, long term, we recognize the need to create and engage with a sport specific public history historiography.

As a result of the working group, we've begun compiling resources, tips, and questions to help public historians engaging in campus based public sport history on our website (https://sportsoncampusncph.wordpress.com/). We hope to use this space to continue conversations and collaborations among sport and campus historians, and work towards developing cohesive theories and methodologies. In the near future, we plan to share a more in-depth reflection of the working group and its outcomes at the *Sport in American History* blog.

-ANDREW MCGREGOR

ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP // CONT'D. FROM PAGE 1

at something of a crossroads, and that it's critical that we not become stagnant or shy away from self-reflection when we gather together. We couldn't agree more. In recent years, one of our primary planning challenges for the conference has been our growing and diversifying base of attendees and our desire to welcome new voices without alienating those who have called NCPH their home for decades. NCPH cannot be all things to all people, but we do think there must be a space where practitioners and academics can learn from one another, where theory and practical skills and exemplary projects share the spotlight, and where students can get their feet wet even as seasoned public historians continue to push the field forward. When we talk about "growth" we're not just referring to registration numbers and room sizes, but about this constant effort to find the sweet spot—the balance that best serves our members, our conference attendees, and the field at large—as our organization moves into middle age.

Attendees may have noticed a few logistical changes this year, all of which are part of an ongoing effort to make the NCPH conference more accessible and welcoming, especially as our meeting size increases. This year, microphones were provided in all session spaces and presenters were encouraged to make use of them. Select sessions and events featured American Sign Language interpretation to accommodate hearing-impaired presenters and attendees. We also booked a guest room at The Westin Indianapolis (our host hotel) to serve as a nursing mothers' room in order to ease the burden of traveling for mothers traveling with or away from their nursing children. NCPH is in the early stages of developing an Accessibility Plan that will formally lay out our standards for the conference's accessibility, and which will doubtless point a path to areas in which we can improve, informed by your feedback on the formal evaluation as well as through email. This plan will also provide a framework for implementing changes within our staff and budget limitations.

A big thank you to our Program and Local Arrangements Committees, NCPH committee members, our sponsors, presenters, and attendees. The NCPH annual meeting is a collaborative effort with a collaborative atmosphere to match, and could not be a success without all of those who dedicate their time, energy, and resources.

Meghan Hillman is NCPH's Program Assistant.

NCPH president Alexandra Lord congratulates John Sherrer, winner of the 2017 Outstanding Public History Project Award for Historic Columbia's Mann-Simons Interpretive Enhancements. Photo by Jess Holler.

Volunteers Katy Kaslow and Chelsea Farrell helped attendees check-in at the busy Registration table. Photo by Andy Townsend.

2017 NCPH Annual Meeting attendees got to explore the Indiana Historical Society at the Opening Reception.

Friday evening's public plenary event featured Beth Savage, Joshua Laird, and moderator Susan Ferentinos discussing the creation of the Stonewall National Monument. Photo by Victoria Throop.

Attendees reconnected and met new faces. Photo by Andy Townsend.

ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP

Jack M. Holl, one of the 2017 NCPH Founders Award winners, stands with NCPH president Alexandra Lord. Photo by Jess Holler.

NCPH president Alexandra Lord poses with 2017 Excellence in Consulting Award winner, Alicia Barber. Photo by Jess Holler.

Attendees joined Benjamin Filene and Charity Counts at the Indiana Historical Society to talk shared authority and community curation. Photo by Jess Holler.

Callie McCune (Indiana Historical Society) took attendees around Indy on a new type of tour—by bicycle! Photo by Andy Townsend.

NCPH president Alexandra Lord with winners of the 2017 Michael C. Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis, Robert Lee and Joseph Vonasek. Photo by Jess Holler.

Participants on The Environmental History of an Urban River service tour, helped a local nonprofit clean up the banks of Indy's White River. Photo by Jess Holler.

Devon Akmon, director, Arab American National Museum delivered the Keynote Address Saturday morning. Photo by Jess Holler.

At S18, attendees learned about using new digital sources to reveal hidden primary sources.

PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

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Call for Proposals

"Power Lines"

Las Vegas, Nevada, April 18-21, 2018
Renaissance Las Vegas

Left: Las Vegas by night, courtesy of Ville Miettinen for Wikimedia Commons and made available by Creative Commons 2.0 license.
Right: Transmission towers redistributing power from Boulder Dam to Basic Magnesium Incorporated near Las Vegas, 1942. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection, LC-DIG-fsa-8d36060.

Public historians want our work to matter. We use our skills at uncovering, sharing, facilitating, and collaborating to advance a vision of a rich, variegated collective past that contributes to shared interests in the present. For decades, "community" has been our catchphrase and our aspiration. How does our field's longstanding embrace of the collective stand up in a time of divisiveness? Do our commitments to individual agency, group identity, social justice, and civic engagement reinforce or, perhaps, strain against each other? In drawing lines between past and present, delineating distinctive communities, and underlining the contributions of overlooked actors, how can public history bring us together and when does it pull us apart?

NCPH invites proposals for its 2018 conference in Las Vegas that address the power of public history to define, cross, and blur boundary lines—work that explores public history's power in all its complexities, idealism, and, perhaps, unintended consequences.

The online proposal system is now open; proposals are due by **July 15, 2017**.