



2018 Election – Candidate Statements

Vice President/President Elect

(Serves two years as vice-president, two years as president, and two years as past president on the Board of Directors.)

Gregory Smoak

American West Center, University of Utah

It is truly an honor to be nominated to serve as your Vice President/President Elect. The devotion that I, and so many others, feel for NCPH stems directly from the vibrant and inclusive community that its members have built. Having previously served NCPH on the Board of Directors (2007-2010), Nominating Committee (2015-2017), and as chair of the 2016 Annual Meeting Program Committee, I do not approach this responsibility lightly and understand the time and energy it will demand. My professional service has largely revolved around making publicly engaged and applied work central to the historical profession. In addition to my service with NCPH, I have chaired the public history committees of both the Organization of American Historians (OAH) and the Western History Association (WHA), and was a member of the Working Group on Evaluating Public History Scholarship (AHA/NCPH/OAH joint committee) and co-author of the white paper *Tenure, Promotion, and the Publicly Engaged Academic Historian* (2010).

I am currently an associate professor of history and director of the American West Center at University of Utah. I earned an MA at Northern Arizona University and a PhD at the University of Utah. After holding a visiting appointment in history and American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota, I spent eight years as a member of the history department and as a faculty associate of the Public Lands History Center (PLHC) at Colorado State University.

My teaching, research, and public practice are focused on the Native and environmental history of the American West. At the American West Center I have come home to the place where my public history career began as a graduate student in 1988. For nearly three decades I have worked for and with Native peoples to apply historical scholarship in defense of sovereign rights and to educate Native and non-Native populations. My work has included projects with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians, the Navajo Nation, the Nevada Indian Commission, and the Utah Division of Indian Affairs. My work for federal and state agencies is also extensive, including current projects ranging from an administrative history of Zion National Park, to historic land use studies for the Bureau of Land Management, to the drafting of a National Historic Landmark nomination for the Stewart Indian School campus in Carson City, Nevada. The University of California Press published my first book *Ghost Dances and Identity: Prophetic Religion and American Indian Ethnogenesis in the Nineteenth Century* in 2006. My second book, a public environmental history of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (which began as a PLHC project) is forthcoming from the University of Oklahoma Press.

In these challenging times the work of public historians is more important than ever. NCPH must remain an effective advocate for thoughtful, engaged, and applied history. I welcome the opportunity to give back to an organization that has meant so much to me both professionally and personally.

Board of Directors

(You may vote for up to **three (3)** individuals. Board members serve three-year terms. The NCPH board defines and advances the organization's mission, protects its financial and human assets, ensures adequate resources to carry out the mission, supervises and supports the executive director, and promotes the interests, programs, and reputation of NCPH. Members of the board include the president, vice president, immediate past president, secretary-treasurer, and nine other elected members, with the executive director, digital media editor/*The Public Historian* co-editor, and the editor of *The Public Historian* serving as ex officio, non-voting members.)

Kristen Baldwin Deathridge **Appalachian State University**

I am honored by this nomination to join the NCPH Board of Directors. NCPH has become my professional home and has helped me build a network for both professional and personal development. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to give back in this manner. I've served two terms on the New Professional and Graduate Student Committee, including serving as co-chair and helping to write *The Public History Navigator: How to Choose and Thrive in a Graduate Public History Program*. I've just begun a term on the Digital Media Group.

I earned an MA in archaeology (University of Reading, UK) and went to work for a cultural resource management firm not long afterward. I hadn't heard of public history, but started seeing a call for training in the discipline as I looked at job ads. I learned about NCPH and the public history program at Middle Tennessee State University, where I went on to earn a PhD in public history (concentrating in historic preservation) in 2012. Currently I'm teaching at Appalachian State University (Boone, NC), and continuing my research on adaptive reuse, specifically how adaptive reuse techniques may ensure the sustainability of the historic built environment in changing neighborhoods. I've worked on all manner of federal, state, and local preservation projects, and have begun learning and teaching digital theories and methods. Working with communities to share stories and places that matter to them has changed my life and continues to change my perspective.

NCPH has helped me to learn more about public history, both from more seasoned professionals and from the insights and creativity of new practitioners and students. This has impacted my work in the classroom as well as my own research. While co-chairing the New Professional and Graduate Student Committee, I worked to intentionally build a more inclusive group, and I want to continue doing my part to help NCPH be a more welcoming and inclusive organization. We have many things to learn from those who have been doing public history for a while, and we have things to learn and corrections to make based on the impact of new professionals.

As an organization now in its late 30s, NCPH feels like it is at a crossroads of sorts—we are growing; the field is growing. We have a new long-range plan, and we need to move intentionally as we consider how new technologies and new groups will change the profession. I'd be honored to serve the organization in this time, and I would strive to continue the tradition of professional excellence while also facing the forthcoming challenges.

Briann Greenfield **New Jersey Council for the Humanities**

It is an honor to be nominated for a position on the NCPH Board of Directors. NCPH has been my professional home for well over a decade. As a member of the Curriculum and Training Committee, Finance Committee, and 2014 Annual Meeting Program Committee Co-Chair, I have seen the organization grow and thrive. NCPH's strength is its central mission. There is no more important work in

the field of history today than fostering a relevant, accessible, evidence-based history which allows us to reflect on our collective past and build a better future for all. NCPH supports the professional public history community to make that happen.

My professional life has been marked by increasingly public work. After years as a university-based public historian, I resigned my position as Professor of History and founding Public History Program Coordinator at Central Connecticut State University to become Executive Director of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities with a mission of harnessing the public humanities to strengthen our pluralistic society. In that role, I have developed my skills in nonprofit leadership, strategic planning, advocacy, fiscal management, and development planning. With its expanding membership and heightened visibility, NCPH currently faces the challenge of maintaining the collegiality, warmth, and participatory energy which has defined the organization while creating more sophisticated systems to facilitate its growing membership and expanded role in the history field. If elected to serve on the NCPH board, I am prepared to lend my nonprofit experience to these challenges and to work collaboratively with NCPH staff and board colleagues. Because of recent proposals to eliminate federal agencies that support historical collections and programming, I am also interested in helping NCPH develop its advocacy base and defend public funding for history.

My primary commitment is to building strong cultural organizations that serve the public good. I would be grateful for the chance to do that work in the context of NCPH.

Krista McCracken
Algoma University

I am humbled to be one of this year's nominees for the NCPH Board of Directors. NCPH is an organization that plays a fundamental role in advocating for the field of public history and in supporting the careers of public history professionals. When I attended my first NCPH annual meeting I immediately felt as though I had found my professional home. Since that initial interaction I have been consistently inspired and invigorated by the sense of community within NCPH. I welcome the chance to give back to the organization through service on the Board of Directors.

My own public history practice is rooted in community building, access, and outreach. For the last seven years, I have worked at Algoma University's Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, a grassroots community archive dedicated to preserving the legacy of Residential Schools in Canada. While at Algoma, I have worked as an Archives Supervisor, part-time faculty member, Researcher, and Curator. In all of my work, I have striven to build long-term relationships with community groups and practice public history as a form of service.

Since 2013 I have been a part of the NCPH Membership Committee, acting as co-chair of the committee since 2016. I have assisted in the organization of two NCPH mini-cons, and my work on the Membership Committee has allowed me to learn more about the organizational structure of NCPH and exposed me to the range of needs of the membership.

I strongly believe that NCPH is strengthened by the passion and diversity of its membership and is well positioned to continue to advocate for public history in national and international forums. As a board member, I would share my passion for community engagement while advocating for building a diverse membership base, building international partnerships, and mentoring future public historians.

Jay Price

Wichita State University

Since my first NCPH meeting in Sacramento as a first year graduate student, I have watched the unfolding of both the public history field and my own career. When I was a graduate student at Arizona State University, NCPH served as a professional home and a place to learn and explore the craft we pursue. Contacts from those early years have remained friends and colleagues. When I worked for the Army as a historian at the Presidio of Monterey, NCPH was there as a support for my work in the federal government. When I took my position as director of the Public History Program at Wichita State University in 1999, NCPH became a resource in how to teach and guide a program. In the years since, it has been rewarding to see my students attend conferences and transition into professionals in a wide range of contexts. Having served on the board of the Kansas Humanities Council, the Kansas State Historic Sites Board of Review, and the editorial board of the University Press of Kansas, as well as a host of other museum, humanities, and history-related organizations, I have come to appreciate the value of a voice like that of NCPH in shaping conversations. Writings in *The Public Historian*, as well as conference sessions and listserv discussions, have informed my work on local and community history projects that have ranged from several photo histories with Arcadia Publishing to a range of exhibit, documentary, and oral history efforts.

The field of public history is in the middle of major changes. Shifts in public funding require us to function in a “new normal” while current legislation and policy directives have changed whole fields literally overnight. An expanding network of public history programs demand we think carefully about who these programs serve. Digital humanities, crowdsourcing, documentaries, and social media have brought new, dynamic approaches to presenting history to the larger public. Public history is becoming more global in scope, the implications of which are still works in progress. Public history’s ties to historical organizations continue to develop, while relationships with other fields such as archives, library science, museum studies, historic preservation, public policy, publishing, genealogy, travel and tourism, and philanthropy have their own complex dynamics. In this, NCPH is needed more than ever to guide and support a wide range of public history practice for the next generations. It is in this context, therefore, that I put my name forward as a candidate willing to serve the public history community in thinking through, responding to, and thriving in these trends.

Kimberly Springle

Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives

I am an historian with a focus on community history. My research interests include 20th century American history, the development of educational opportunities for African Americans in Washington, DC, and capturing the untold stories of lesser known contributors to society. I earned my MA in History Museum Studies from the State University of New York, Oneonta (Cooperstown Graduate Program). I also earned a BA in History with a Minor in African American Studies from College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

Presently, I serve as the Executive Director of the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, the official museum and repository for DC public education. In this capacity, I am the steward of the historic site and serve as the historian and archivist for the DC public school system.

I am passionate about educating the public about Washington, DC’s rich history and culture, especially that of the DC public school system. I have been credited with transforming and shaping the Sumner Museum into the cultural gem that it is today, highlighting the pride and legacy of DC public schools. I

also make historical collections and documents accessible to researchers and visitors from all over the country and many parts of the world and produce a variety of programs and activities to further engage the broader public, encompassing all ages, with the museum's mission and collection. I am committed to preserving the people, places, and events associated with the city's rich educational history.

Over my 15 year career in the museum field, I have worked with various cultural institutions, including the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and with Lord Cultural Resources, a Canadian museum consulting firm. Currently, I serve on the Executive Board of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (MAAM), am a member of the Editorial Review Board and Diversity & Inclusion Task Force of American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), and am a founding board member of the Friends of Sumner Museum and Archives 501(c)3 organization. I lend my expertise related to the cultural history of Washington, DC museums and public history by lecturing and serving on a number of advisory committees.

William Stoutamire

G.W. Frank Museum of History and Culture (UNK)

It is an honor and a humbling experience to be nominated for a position on the NCPH Board. I attended my first NCPH Annual Meeting in 2009 (Providence, RI), when I was still a doctoral student in the public history program at Arizona State University. I remember being amazed by the open and welcoming nature of the public history community, which I think is one of the great strengths of this organization and its membership. NCPH has continued to provide me with the intellectual stimulation and inspiration to tackle the daily challenges of public historical practice and scholarship. It would be my pleasure to give back to this community, which has given me so much, by serving on the Board.

I completed my PhD in Public History in 2013, with a focus in historical administration and cultural resource management. Like many new professionals, I gained most of my experience through a diverse mix of (unpaid) internships, part-time museum jobs, and graduate assistantship work. I have served as an educator at a local history museum and a living history interpreter at a state historic site. I have curated exhibits at the Museum of Florida History, the ASU Museum of Anthropology, and as an intern at the National Museum of American History. I also spent five years as a contract historian for the National Park Service.

Currently, I serve in a dual capacity as both the Director of the G.W. Frank Museum of History and Culture at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) and as a Graduate Lecturer in the UNK Public History program. I have the pleasure of both teaching public history—online, in the classroom, and through the museum—and putting it to work in the world.

Over the last several years, I have tried to give back to this field through service in a number of organizations. I am a member of the NCPH Long Range Planning Committee and helped to author a recent survey that sought membership feedback on the current state of the organization, as a way of better preparing for the years ahead. I am also a Board member and the Program Chair for the Nebraska Museums Association, as well as the Nebraska Representative to the Mountain-Plains Museums Association's (MPMA) Board of Directors and Chair of the MPMA Technology Committee. In addition, I am actively involved with the American Association for State and Local History.

These collective experiences have helped me to become conscious of some of the issues and challenges facing NCPH and its diverse community of scholars and practitioners. In my current position, I straddle the line between academia and public practice. If elected, I hope to work to ensure that NCPH serves the

needs of its broad membership and continues to strive to be a more inclusive organization—racially/ethnically, geographically, and intellectually. I will also be an advocate for the perspectives of new professionals, like myself, as the NCPH Board considers the next steps for this wonderful organization.

Nominating Committee

(You may vote for up to **two (2)** individuals. Nominating Committee members serve three-year terms. The committee identifies, determines the eligibility of, and contacts persons to be considered for elected offices of NCPH. Each October, the committee compiles the slate of candidates for the annual election.)

Jackie Barton

Ohio History Connection

I am a heritage and cultural professional with over 17 years' experience working with communities and cultural institutions. I serve as the Director of Historic Sites and Facilities at the Ohio History Connection, Ohio's statewide history partner, providing support and leadership to a busy division that liaisons, plans, preserves, restores, maintains, and generally supports a system of 58 historic sites and museums across the state. I have served at the Ohio History Connection in a variety of roles during my 11 years there, including Director of Education and Outreach and Director of Museum and Library Services. Before my time there, I was a heritage planning consultant with Mary Means + Associates, focusing primarily on heritage tourism and historic preservation.

I am a Seminar for Historical Administration (SHA) alumnus (2010), an enthusiastic American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) member, and an American Alliance of Museums member. I have served as a volunteer in numerous ways for AASLH, including the development committee for the online home for history, conference committees, and most recently, as a representative to the AASLH-AHA-NCPH-OAH Joint Task Force on Public History Education and Employment.

If chosen for this role, I hope to learn a lot, as I have whenever I interact with NCPH members. I also hope to serve the organization helpfully and believe I would be an effective connector to the field of public history employers and cultural institutions. These organizations benefit deeply from sharing in the rich conversations that occur at NCPH gatherings while providing access to great resources and experiences for NCPH members as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Julia Brock

West Georgia University

I am excited to stand as a candidate for NCPH's Nominating Committee and to serve an organization that has been so critical to my career as a public historian. This role, in particular, offers the opportunity to shape the organization by recruiting board members, who will reflect the changing demographics of the discipline, and requires careful attention to emerging and active leadership in our field.

I've been a member of NCPH for more than a decade, beginning during my graduate training at the University of California, Santa Barbara. After receiving my PhD, I became curator of the Museum of History and Holocaust Education at Kennesaw State University. I am currently assistant professor of history and co-director of the Center for Public History at University of West Georgia, which enjoys a successful rate of MA placements in professional appointments. My role as a public historian and public history educator requires keen attention to growth and trends in our field; I am active in NCPH conferences, which serve to inform about new methodologies, projects, and priorities in the field. In addition, I utilize our blog, *History@Work*, and *The Public Historian* to stay abreast of current literature and practice. I will co-chair the Local Arrangements Committee, with Amy Wilson, for the 40th annual

NCPH conference in Atlanta in 2020, and we are even now working to build an exciting and cutting-edge meeting. All of this infuses my own practice and in training students and will serve me in work for the nominating committee. We must cultivate leaders for the growing organization that will effectively carry out the mission and vision of NCPH, while continuing to bring multiple and diverse perspectives to bear on our work. I am committed to and equipped for the task, and I look forward to future service.

Tatiana Daguillard

Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network

I am an avid museum enthusiast and lover of history. A public historian whose work is channeled through museums, I aim to empower, educate, and engage the general public through social advocacy and community outreach. A local advocate for economic development and social change, I am conscientious of my leadership style and work to ensure that I am both intersectional and inclusive in all that I do. I have a passion for revitalizing and bringing awareness to the inter-cultural landscape of historic spaces/sites and their communities.

My interest and commitment to making history relevant and useful in the public sphere would make me an asset to the NCPH Nominating Committee. My academic background in United States southern history with an emphasis on sites of consciousness—built or otherwise—has assisted in interpreting, energizing, and creating a transformative space for learning and exploration in Tallahassee, Florida and statewide through the Florida African American Heritage Network. I am on a mission to shape future communities through education and advocacy and hope to serve my community by rising through the ranks as a Certified Local Government (CLG) State or Municipal Officer. As a supporter of transformative leadership, I believe in working directly with communities to guide change through inspiration to create progressive long-term solutions. Within the past calendar year I have been awarded Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation Student Achievement Award for my work on the Heritage Pathways Initiative as Project Manager (a grant program focused on creating a historic corridor in downtown Tallahassee); the Margaret T. G. Burroughs and Charles H. Wright Fellowship for my work as an emerging museum professional in demonstrating excellence in interpretation and preservation of African American and African diaspora history, art, and culture; and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Diversity Scholarship toward increasing the racial, ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity of professionals in preservation.

A 2014 graduate of Florida State University with a major in History and minor in Classical Civilizations, and current Masters of Applied Social Sciences in History candidate at Florida A&M University, I have devoted myself to working with organizations and institutions that have demonstrated their commitment to progressive public history—removing the wall between bureaucratic historians and consumers of history to create spaces for healing, knowledge exchange, and community uplift.

Christopher Graham

American Civil War Museum

I am a public historian currently working as a Guest Curator at the American Civil War Museum in Richmond, Virginia. I have worked at a variety of museums and historic sites since 1995, have earned my PhD in history, and taught history at community colleges and four-year universities, including one year as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the graduate program in Museum Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

I currently manage a project intended to introduce best practices in museum interpretation and exhibit development to a traditional history museum, and to expand the museum's reach beyond its traditional audience. To that end I am particularly sensitive to, and interested in, cultivating students, museum practitioners, and public history leaders who prioritize empathetic and inclusive practice.