



Saturday, April 21, 2018  
8:00 am – 10:00 am  
Renaissance Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## 2018 NCPH Awards

### NCPH Founders Award

*The NCPH Council of Past Presidents developed the Founders Award in 2015 to recognize those individuals who were present at the creation of NCPH and who played critical roles in the organization's success.*

#### **Suellen M. Hoy**

Suellen M. Hoy is one of the “founding mothers” of public history. She came to the field of history after seven years as a member of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Midwest born and raised, she received her PhD from Indiana University in 1975. During her time at IU she served as the first woman editorial assistant at the *Journal of American History*. After a year as a university instructor in upstate New York, Hoy seized the opportunity to work in the yet unnamed field of public history. As part of the bicentennial of the United States, the American Association of Public Works hired her to co-author, with Michael C. Robinson, a *History of Public Works in the United States, 1776-1976*. Hoy and Robinson went on to create the Public Works Historical Society with the backing of the American Association of Public Works. As director of the society, Hoy played an important role in the spread of public history, speaking to the first public history students at the University of California, Santa Barbara as well as helping to arrange internships with public works agencies. While based in Washington, DC, she joined Arnita Jones at the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History and chaired its Resource Group on State and Local History.

Suellen Hoy was also a key participant in the Montecito, CA public history forum in 1979. As a key participant, she went on to become one of the founding board members of the National Council on Public History. She later co-chaired the 1982 meeting in Chicago. From 1981 to 1986 she served as Assistant Director of the North Carolina Division of History and Archives where she led the Institute for Applied History. Hoy has remained a pioneer historian as the author of several influential works: *Chasing Dirt: The American Pursuit of Cleanliness* (1996) and *Good Hearts: Catholic Sisters in Chicago's Past* (2006). In 2015 she was awarded the Pratt Prize for the best article published in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. She remains an active researcher dedicated to exploring working women's lives in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Chicago.

#### **Joel A. Tarr**, Carnegie Mellon University

Joel A. Tarr earned his PhD from Northwestern University in 1963. He held appointments at California State University, Long Beach (1961-1965) and the University of California, Santa Barbara (1966-1967). In 1967, Tarr accepted employment at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, where he remains, holding the title of Richard S. Caliguiri University Professor of History and Policy. Tarr is jointly appointed in the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management and the Department of Engineering and Public Policy.

Joel Tarr was a founder and a leader of the modern public history movement. In 1976, Tarr and his colleague, Peter Stearns, launched a graduate degree in Applied History and Social Science at Carnegie Mellon, which (along with the University of California, Santa Barbara, also established in 1976) was one of the trail blazing programs in the United States. In April 1979, Tarr participated in the First National Symposium on public history at Montecito, California. He and the 65 or so others who met at Montecito created a steering committee that convened at the National Archives in Washington, DC, on September 14, 1979. In doing so, they voted to approve creation of the National Council on Public History (NCPH). At the steering committee meeting, Tarr contributed to the forward momentum of the public history movement by agreeing that Carnegie Mellon would host the Second National Conference on Public History, April 18-20, 1980. Tarr and Peter Stearns served as co-chairs of the Pittsburgh conference organized around the theme of "History and Public Policy." The Pittsburgh conference set the template for NCPH meetings that is still used today. Tarr also served on the NCPH Board of Directors in 1981-1982.

Tarr combined scholarship and teaching with hands-on experience as a publicly engaged historian, having served on a number of Pittsburgh regional boards and committees, including COMPAC 21: The Committee to Prepare Allegheny County for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 1994-1996; Action Housing; and several committees studying Pittsburgh water and wastewater problems.

### **NCPH Board of Directors Award for Extraordinary Service**

*Awarded for the first time this year, the Board of Directors Award for Extraordinary Service is given when the NCPH Board seeks to recognize publicly an individual who has, through long-term and substantive effort, made transformational contributions to the work of NCPH.*

**Cathy Stanton**, Tufts University

The inaugural recipient of the NCPH Board Award for Extraordinary Service is Cathy Stanton. Stanton's work with NCPH has been central to the organization's growth and consistent communication over the past decade. In addition to serving as an active, elected member of the Board of Directors from 2008 to 2011, Stanton has been the driving force behind NCPH's use of digital platforms to increase member communication and to build a vibrant ongoing conversation about the practice of public history, serving as the organization's volunteer Digital Media Editor and appointed member of the Board from 2011 to 2018. Stanton has been beyond generous with her time and talents.

This work began with the creation of the *Off the Wall* blog in 2010, which in time evolved into the *History@Work* site that currently serves as a central source of timely writing, reviews, and reflections on the current state of public history. Behind the scenes, Cathy Stanton was not only responsible for forming and supporting the editorial structure for this important work, she also supported editorial communication among NCPH's print and digital media; took on the responsibility of coordinating all programming focused on digital work at the annual meeting, including THATCamp NCPH; championed the creation of the Digital Integration Fund in 2013; and supported and advised on the 2015 redesign of NCPH's online presence. Her intellectual guidance and careful thinking have been essential in determining the appearance and usefulness of the organization's digital presences, pushing beyond simply posting information to thinking about what social media and other digital platforms mean for public historians. Stanton's extraordinary skills as an editor and mentor also proved essential in building a strong stable of content, editors, and writers for *History@Work*; she has a keen ability to find and foreground the big idea in any piece of writing.

While Cathy Stanton may be known widely to the membership at large for her digital work, she has also been instrumental in targeting NCPH's attention and energy toward important emerging issues in contemporary public history practice through other aspects of her ongoing service. In 2010 she challenged the Board and the Finance Committee to commit to a socially responsible investment policy for the organization's endowment fund. In 2014, Stanton helped direct our attention toward the challenges and implications of climate change for the field by editing NCPH's first e-publication, *Public History in a Changing Climate*. Even as she prepares to formally retire from her volunteer role as Digital Media Editor, Stanton has already agreed to serve as Program Committee Co-Chair for the 2019 NCPH Annual Meeting in Hartford, Connecticut.

Cathy Stanton's service to NCPH is in addition to an accomplished career as a scholar and advocate. She received her PhD in the Interdisciplinary Doctorate Program at Tufts University, where she specialized in cultural anthropology, US history, and museum/heritage studies. Stanton continues to teach at Tufts and serves as the academic adviser for the minor in Food Systems and Nutrition. From 1998 until 2016, she served as a consultant for the National Park Service's Northeast Region Ethnography Program, where she authored several publications concerning issues related to historic sites. Her 2012 publication *Plant Yourself in My Neighborhood: An Ethnographic Landscape Study of Farming and Farmers in Columbia County, New York*, prepared for the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, won the 2013 NCPH Excellence in Consulting Award.

Her book *The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City* (2006) explored the development of Lowell National Historical Park and its role in adopting "strategies of cultural display" as a means of revitalizing community and won the 2007 NCPH Book Award. In addition to publishing articles on race and culture, living history and historical reenactment, the environment, and postindustrial society, Cathy Stanton has devoted her recent scholarship to the intersection between food and public history. She and co-author Michelle Moon advocated for the inclusion of public history within the broader "food movement" in a 2014 issue of *The Public Historian*, and developed this idea in their book *Public History and the Food Movement: Adding the Missing Ingredient* (2017).

Cathy Stanton has played an essential role in the leadership of NCPH for a decade. She is a public history powerhouse and a generous friend. One colleague wrote that, "A conversation with Cathy is always a feast of brilliant ideas." We are so pleased to recognize Stanton's service, ideas, and fellowship this year by presenting her with the first NCPH Board Award for Extraordinary Service.

### Outstanding Public History Project Award

*This award is presented for work completed within the previous two calendar years that contributes to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serves as a model of professional public history practice. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf that makes this award possible. Award committee members: Andrea Burns (chair), Erin Bernard, and Ashley Bouknight*

#### Award Winner

#### ***The Mere Distinction of Colour***

**Elizabeth Chew** and **Christian J. Cotz**, James Madison's Montpelier; **Chris Danemayer**, Proun Design LLC; and **Molly O'Brien**, Northern Light Productions

The 2018 Outstanding Public History Project is awarded to The Montpelier Foundation's exhibition, *The Mere Distinction of Colour*, which opened in June 2017 at Montpelier, the home of President James Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison. The result of years of historical research and archaeological excavations, *The Mere Distinction of Colour* explores the critical disconnect between the narrative of freedom and the reality of bondage in post-Revolutionary America. Rooted in community engagement and practices of shared authority, the groundbreaking power of the exhibit stems from the work of the descendants of those enslaved at Montpelier and the surrounding areas.

The Montpelier Descendant Community has actively participated in the site's archaeological excavations and exhibit design, and deeply informed the exhibition's storytelling. Iris Ford, member of the Montpelier Descendant Community, spearheaded the excavation and restoration of the neglected South Yard site, where those enslaved by Madison lived and worked. When leading the excavation and restoration, she asked: "Where are my people? You spent \$24 million on the Madisons, and all my people get are dead grass and railroad ties?" Brent Leggs, Senior Field Officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, argues that "Montpelier's leadership, innovation, and stewardship of American culture is guiding us toward an unwritten constitution of shared values and ideals that we all desire for the future." Events like the violent white supremacist riots in Charlottesville, Virginia—which occurred just twenty miles from Montpelier, two months after the exhibition opened—reminds public historians that the hard work of confronting and exposing slavery at America's heritage sites must also engage with the ongoing impact of this difficult history upon the modern world.

#### Honorable Mention

***Confinement in the Land of Enchantment: Japanese Americans in New Mexico during World War II***  
**Sarah R. Payne**, Colorado State University Public Lands History Center; **Andrew Russell**, Central New Mexico Community College; and **Victor Yamada**, New Mexico Japanese American Citizens League

#### **NCPH Book Award**

*The NCPH Book Award recognizes outstanding scholarship that addresses the theory and/or practice of public history or that includes the products of public history work. Award committee members: Rolf Diamant (chair), Mary Battle, and Peter A. Kopp*

#### Award Winner

***Doom Towns: The People and Landscapes of Atomic Testing, A Graphic History***  
(Oxford University Press, 2016)  
**Andrew G. Kirk**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The 2018 NCPH Book Award is presented to *Doom Towns: The People and Landscapes of Atomic Testing, A Graphic History*, written by Andrew Kirk and illustrated by Kristian Purcell. Kirk's graphic history of the Nevada nuclear test sites draws on oral histories, agency documentation, and environmental history to tell the complex and controversial story of atmospheric atomic testing, primarily at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site situated in the cultural landscape of the Mojave and Great Basin deserts.

One-part oral history, one-part graphic history, and one-part documentary history, this distinctive publication is remarkably accessible and engaging. Born of a long-term public history project developed through the shared authority of Great Basin residents, *Doom Towns* interprets the history of atomic testing through a largely hidden community of participants that includes technicians, local ranchers, and nuclear bomb protestors.

The graphic history component is strikingly creative and rigorously researched. More than 600 illustrative panels tell a comprehensive story that is a remarkable example of innovative public history. As Andy Kirk explains, "Each individual panel in this book is based on at least a dozen excellent and important primary sources, dozens of historic images, and as many as twenty separate oral interviews that touched on the topic at hand." This engaging content will resonate with public history practitioners as well as a much wider audience. *Doom Towns* is an urgent work that utilizes a distinctive intellectual and graphic framework in its conception, development, and execution, that in the words of the award criteria, "illuminate(s) issues and concerns significant to audiences beyond the academy."

#### Honorable Mention

***Kouchibouguac: Removal, Resistance, and Remembrance at a Canadian National Park***

(University of Toronto Press, 2016)

**Ronald Rudin**, Concordia University

#### **Excellence in Consulting Award**

*This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of public history through consulting or contract work. Award committee members: Lila Teresa Church (chair) and Lynn Kronzek*

#### Individual Award Winner

**Delia Hagen**, Hagen Historical Consulting, ***African-American Heritage Resources in Helena, Montana***

Delia Hagen's research skills, use of best practices, and depth of knowledge about family histories have fittingly earned her the enduring accolades and profound gratitude from her clientele. Under the direction of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, she has documented the presence of African-American life and contributions spanning a period of more than one hundred years in Helena, Montana. She completed 26 property record forms, two National Register nominations, and a Multiple Properties Documentation form. Her survey focused upon Helena's Early African-American Community, ca. 1862-1877; the Heyday of Helena's African-American Community, ca. 1877-1910; and the Decline and Endurance of Helena's African-American Community, ca. 1910-1970. As one professor states, it's "the fullest [and] richest account of African American history in Helena and much of the rest of Montana." Hagen has identified significant social, cultural, religious, commercial, economic, and residential properties. In addition, she has documented the earliest known presence of African-Americans in Montana, during slavery, and their migration westward after Emancipation, to escape oppression, the realities of white supremacy, and social and economic inequalities. Hagen's meticulous attention to this project has highlighted many little-known contributions of a people who, in spite of their travails in Montana, similar to those that confronted them in the South, managed to thrive and prosper. She has uncovered truths of Montana history that cannot, and must not, be forgotten.

#### Honorable Mention

**Ryan Shackleton**, Know History, ***Métis Nation of Ontario***

## G. Wesley Johnson Award

*Named in honor of the founding editor of The Public Historian, this award recognizes the most outstanding article appearing in the journal during the previous volume year. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stan Hordes of HMS Associates in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and many of his friends for underwriting this award. Award committee members: Kelly Spradley-Kurowski (chair), George Boudreau, Malgorzata Joanna Rymysza-Pawlowska*

### Award Winner

**“From Main Reef to Albertina Sisulu Road: The Signposted Heroine and the Politics of Memory,”**

*The Public Historian* Vol 39, No 2

**Natasha Erlank**, University of Johannesburg

Natasha Erlank’s “From Main Reef to Albertina Sisulu Road: The Signposted Heroine and the Politics of Memory” is an excellent overview of the politics of gender and public memory in South Africa. Erlank highlights how history and historiography can be found in the seemingly most mundane of places, pointing out the everyday of history. The example of street names is a fascinating and understudied one, and Erlank does a good job explaining the institutional actors and actions that inform these decisions. Place naming is starkly contrasted to national memorials, which are aspects of “state building manifested in state-sponsored heritage initiatives.” Erlank provides a multi-layered exploration of the issue, the selective memorialization of certain masculine/feminine virtues thought worthy of commemoration (soldier, mother).

### Honorable Mention

**“Make Roanoke Queer Again: Community History and Urban Change in a Southern City,”**

*The Public Historian* Vol 39, No 1

**Gregory Rosenthal**, Roanoke College

## Student Project Award

*This award is given to an outstanding public history student project initiated as academic coursework and implemented and recognized beyond the classroom for its contribution to the field of public history. Award committee members: Annie Anderson (chair), Clarissa Ceglio, Anne Lindsay, Joseph Rizzo, and Kathryn Wilson*

### Award Winner

***Making History: Kansas City and the Rise of Gay Rights***

**Taylor C. Bye, Kathryn B. Carpenter, Samantha Hollingsworth, Leah Palmer, Kevin Ploth, and Jennifer Tufts**, University of Missouri-Kansas City

The 2018 Student Project Award is presented to *Making History: Kansas City and the Rise of Gay Rights*, submitted by Taylor C. Bye, Kathryn B. Carpenter, Samantha Hollingsworth, Leah Palmer, Kevin Ploth, and Jennifer Tufts of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The students created a traveling exhibit commemorating Kansas City’s LGBTQ history, including its surprisingly pivotal role as host, in 1966, of the first national gathering of gay rights activists in American history. In its scope and methodology, the project modelled creative, collaborative public history, connecting community historians with academic historians and pairing graduate student mentors with undergraduates. From its inception, the students’ project spotlighted the ongoing efforts by Kansas City’s LGBTQ community to document and commemorate its history, including LGBT-KC’s work to create a historic marker. The students envisioned their role not as experts but as allies to queer historians who had been engaged in research and

documentation for decades. In addition to their research, exhibit design, and community engagement efforts, the students successfully lobbied for a grant from Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, which funded the fabrication of their exhibit and made it available to community organizations at no cost. With an extensive touring schedule, the exhibit has activated partner sites' LGBTQ collections and narratives. *Making History* demonstrates that communities make history both inside and outside mainstream institutions and that public historians' support and collaboration can elevate these stories and their own practice.

### New Professional Travel Awards

*New Professional Travel Awards are for individuals who are new to the field and practice of public history. These two grants assist new professionals in attending the conference, helping them become more connected with other members of the profession early in their careers. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA), for underwriting one of these awards. Award committee members: Jeff Sellers (chair), Lara Kelland, Cecelia Moore, and James H. Williams*

#### HRA New Professional Travel Award Winner

**Kimber J. Heinz**, Bull City 150, Duke University

Kimber Heinz is exhibition project manager and research associate at the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. She holds a Masters of History and Museum Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Drawing from her experience as a community organizer, Heinz considers herself a practitioner who utilizes public history to advance social justice. This mission is best exemplified through her role as exhibition project manager for a traveling exhibition entitled *Uneven Ground: The Foundations of Housing Inequality in Durham, NC*. This exhibition travelled as a part of a city-wide Sesquicentennial celebration entitled Bull City 150. Heinz will present this project at the NCPH conference in her session, "Exploring the Ties between Local History and Grassroots Change." As one judge stated, "Heinz presents a clear professional trajectory, and her commitment to social justice through public history distinguishes her for this award."

#### NCPH New Professional Travel Award Winner

**Shakti Castro**, BOOM!Health

Shakti Castro is a 2017 graduate of the master's program in History and Public History from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. As a new graduate, she is interested in combining public history with community health issues. In 2017, she served as a Graduate Fellow at the Smithsonian Latino Center at the National Museum of American History. She is breaking new ground in the field of inclusion at museums and exploring exciting new avenues of public history. In addition, Castro is demonstrating a desire to be a leader in NCPH, as she will co-facilitate a working group at this year's conference entitled "Insider/Outsider: Racial Bias & Positionality in Interpretation" and serves on the NCPH Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. As one judge put it, "Castro's work puts her at the center of vital conversations about inclusion in museums and archival spaces." As she seeks to explore and break new ground in these areas, we feel Castro will greatly benefit from her time at the conference and NCPH, in turn, will greatly benefit from her.

## Graduate Student Travel Awards

*The Graduate Student Travel Award provides assistance for conference travel costs for five graduate students who will present a session or poster or will participate in a working group at the annual meeting. Award committee members: Annie Anderson (chair), Clarissa Ceglio, Anne Lindsay, Joseph Rizzo, and Kathryn Wilson*

Congratulations this year go to the following:

**Melissa Barthelemy** - University of California, Santa Barbara

**Aaron Hollis** - West Virginia University

**Nora Kassner** - University of California, Santa Barbara

**Hope Shannon** - Loyola University Chicago

**GVGK Tang** - Temple University

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**Congratulations to the 2018 award recipients, and thank you award selection committees!**

Submissions for the 2019 NCPH Book and Robert Kelley Memorial awards are due November 1, 2018 and all other award submissions are due December 1, 2018. Please see [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org) for details.