

ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP

MEGHAN HILLMAN / MEGHILLM@IUPUI.EDU

April 18-21, 2018, NCPH joined nearly 800 public historians in sunny Las Vegas, Nevada for our 40th annual meeting. This year's conference theme, "Power Lines," asked presenters and attendees to consider the webs of power and privilege that govern our professional lives as public historians. We did so under the neon lights of Vegas, ourselves powered by the Hoover Dam just thirty miles to the southeast.



Immediate Past President Alexandra Lord with 2018 Program Committee co-chairs Benjamin Filene and Priya Chhaya. Photo by Katrina Wioncek.

Program Committee co-chairs Priya Chhaya (National Trust for Historic Preservation) and Benjamin Filene (North Carolina Museum of History) entered this conference planning cycle with some exciting ideas for revitalizing NCPH conference content, as well as an intent to

prioritize under-represented voices and build as inclusive an annual meeting as possible. They implemented several changes to the Call for Proposals (CFP) and the submission form to help their Program Committee recognize and give preference to sessions from new attendees and people working primarily in fields outside public history—such as documentary filmmaking, art, dance, and social work—which resulted in a particularly unique batch of sessions. They also used their discretionary fund (a modest fund set aside for each year's program committee to help fund diversity and inclusion work at the conference) to cover registrations for participants who represented these nontraditional fields.

The Program Committee also introduced two new presentation formats this year. The first, "On the Fly," was a series of informal discussions proposed by attendees and then voted upon in the weeks leading up to the conference about topics that gained new urgency or relevance after our regular CFP closed last summer. Attendees led conversations about responsive public history, gun control and gun violence, and sexual harassment and gender discrimination in the public history profession (read more about this last one on page two). The second, "In the Works," was a lunchtime small group

discussion about works in progress that generated useful feedback for participants about future directions and possible solutions for their projects.



Attendees mingle by the pool at the 2018 First Time Attendee Meet-Up and Opening Reception. Photo by Julie Peterson.

Las Vegas was a very different conference city for NCPH and, as expected, this came with some pros and cons. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) proved to be an amazing host; you probably noticed UNLV folks in matching outfits all over the meeting, helping us with tours and field trips, setting up pop-ups, presenting on sessions, and handing out swag in the exhibit hall. Attendees who filled out our annual meeting evaluation (383 of you at time of print, or 48%—thank you!) let us know that this year's slate of tours and field trips was especially great and that you experienced Vegas through new eyes, and

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS – AN NCPH FUTURIST



MARLA MILLER /
MMILLER@HISTORY.UMASS.EDU

Technology futurists predict that by 2022 we may see 3-D printed vehicles, and AI able to diagnose mental health disorders. Retail futurists envision a cashless economy. Museum futurists are contemplating the appearance of "cognitive buildings" able to use the "internet of things" to analyze environmental performance and anticipate visitor needs.

What will 2022 look like for NCPH?

Gazing into the future is never easy, but NCPH's new Long Range Plan (LRP) moves us toward a 2022 in which we, as a community and as an organization, build on our (considerable) strengths

while improving the ways we serve public historians across the US and abroad.

Organizational long range planning might seem slightly less exciting than a 3-D printed Mustang, but I've found this process to be genuinely energizing, creative, and even inspiring. Strategic planning (which is really what this exercise has been) might seem at first glance to be a dry and tedious chore, but to me it feels like imagining your best self—yourself as you want to be on your best day—and then working out what small steps could lead toward that big result. A believer in the "aim for the moon, catch a star" approach, I have loved hearing NCPHERs talk about their highest aspirations and hopes for this community—what our members believe NCPH could and should be in its best and fullest sense—and then to tether

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HISTORY RELEVANCE WORKSHOP: AN NCPH MINI-CON

AARON GENTON / AARON@SHAKERVILLAGEKY.ORG

On March 17, 2018, the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance (KMHA) presented the History Relevance Workshop. This was hosted in association with NCPH (as a mini-con), Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Hilferty Museum Planning, and the Kentucky Historical Society.

We gathered at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, an historic and inspiring site in central Kentucky, to discuss a topic that, in my estimation, is immensely important. The event was very well attended, with fifty-six people from Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana,

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CONFRONTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC HISTORY?

MODOPE LABODE / MLABODE@IUPUI.EDU
MARLA MILLER / MMILLER@HISTORY.UMASS.EDU
MARY RIZZO / MRIZZONJ@GMAIL.COM
STEPHANIE ROWE / ROWES@IUPUI.EDU



The NCPH Board of Directors met at the 2018 conference in Las Vegas.

When #MeToo erupted across social media in October 2017, the hashtag created by African-American civil rights activist Tarana Burke launched a movement to speak out against sexual harassment and assault that quickly spread well beyond Hollywood, or the film, TV, and music industries. Thousands of people working in sports, finance, medicine, the military, and education have now shared their accounts of sexual misconduct and gender-based discrimination. In addition to women, the men, non-binary, and gender-fluid people who shared their stories reinforced the message that sexual harassment and gender discrimination affects a wide number of workers.

It did not take long for the movement to reach higher education, history departments, and our discipline's professional associations. Catherine Clinton—the Denman Endowed Chair of American History at the University of Texas in San Antonio and president of the Southern Historical Association—devoted her November 2016 presidential address to the topic of sexual harassment, using her personal experience of sexual violence and harassment as evidence. Clinton also contributed to a panel at the 2018 meeting of the American Historical Association (AHA) “Historians and Sexual Harassment: The Challenge for the AHA,” which drew some 75 attendees (including NCPH Executive Director Stephanie Rowe). The AHA has surveyed its membership, and plans to revise its policies this year.

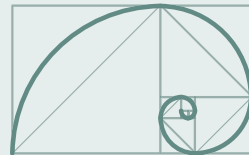
Public history must also confront sexual harassment and gender discrimination. In internships and first jobs, from contract positions to full-time, public historians have begun sharing their stories of harassment and discrimination from clients, colleagues, supervisors, collaborators, and the public. Since public historians work in a wide variety of



Tweet from @NCPHInclusion member Mary Rizzo asking public historians to share their stories of sexual harassment or gender discrimination.

organizations, some of which are isolated or small, there are myriad opportunities for abuse. Conversely, Cathy Stanton's thoughtful July 2016 *History@Work* post “Does the National Park Service have a culture problem?” noted the numerous charges of sexual harassment and abuse across this large federal agency (though one also comprised of sometimes isolated workplaces) as evidence of the larger consequences of a “tight-knit, cohesive, intensely loyal network of mostly-white, mostly-male executives and the ‘circle the wagons’ response to external threats.” The April 2018 *Chronicle of Philanthropy's* cover story, “#MeToo Hits the Non-Profit World,” reports that 25% of female fundraising professionals have experienced harassment on the job, from inappropriate comments (80%), to unwelcome physical contact

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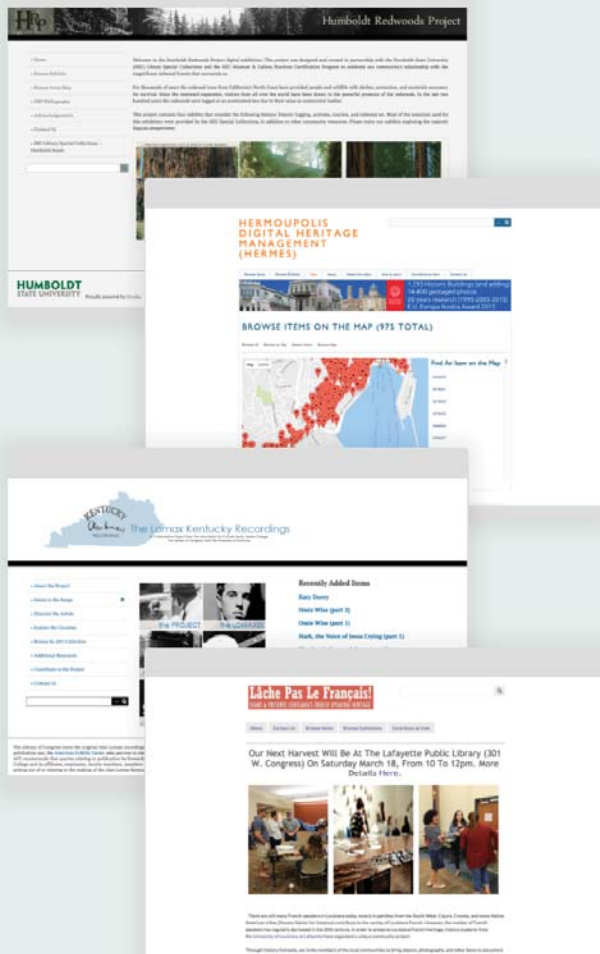
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NCPH inspires public engagement with the past and serves the needs of practitioners in putting history to work in the world by building community among historians, expanding professional skills and tools, fostering critical reflection on historical practice, and publicly advocating for history and historians. *Public History News* is published in March, June, September, and December. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Individual membership orders, changes of address, and business and editorial correspondence should be addressed to NCPH, 127 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: ncph@iupui.edu. Tel: 317-274-2716. Join online or renew at www.ncph.org. Headquartered on the campus of IUPUI, NCPH is grateful for the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts and the Department of History.

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Oldimar Cardoso Sao Paulo, Brazil	Steven High Montreal, Canada	Riza Miklowski North Royalton, OH	Eric Seiferth New Orleans, LA	NCPH would like to extend a special thanks to our new Partner members
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CONFRONTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC HISTORY? // CONT'D. FROM PAGE 2

(55%) and sexual advances (36%); nearly a third reported “verbal abuse of a sexual nature,” and a quarter received “requests for sexual favors.”

At our 2018 meeting in Las Vegas, @NCPHInclusion (also known as the NCPH Diversity and Inclusion Task Force) organized an On the Fly session on “Sexual Harassment & Gender Discrimination in Public History.” This was one of three sessions about issues that became pressing in the months between the Program Committee’s deliberations and the conference. Members and social media followers were asked to vote for three of six proposed sessions to be added to the program, and this issue garnered strong interest from our membership. “To understand the scope and scale of the issue,” the task force invited public historians to share their stories in advance of the meeting. In the session, led by Mary Rizzo with assistance from members of @NCPHInclusion, participants were invited

to share experiences, and then reflect on the structural issues that connected them. The group generated a robust list of action steps around how we train public historians and how we advise internships and recent graduates. Other suggestions focused on what NCPH can do as an organization and what we can do to protect public historians in the field more broadly.

On the latter, NCPH staff have been working on this issue from another direction, engaging our fellow members of the American Council of Learned Societies to learn how other associations are handling this issue at a policy level, gathering sample policies, legal advice, and models for engagement. In 2007 the NCPH board adopted a revised Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, which sets forth guidelines of professional conduct expected of all members of the NCPH, but this document does not set thresholds for investigation, or adjudication. At their spring 2018

meeting, the board took steps toward the creation of a governance committee, which would lead the crafting of NCPH policy in this area. The Diversity and Inclusion Task Force will share its reflections on the On the Fly session through *History@Work*. We are also continuing to collect stories. Please reach out to Mary Rizzo (mrizzonj@gmail.com) for more information or to share your experiences.

-Modupe Labode is a member of the NCPH Board of Directors, NCPH Digital Media Group, and @NCPHInclusion and is Associate Professor of History and Public Scholar of African American History and Museums at IUPUI. Marla Miller is President of NCPH and Professor and Director of the Public History Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Mary Rizzo is a member of @NCPHInclusion and Assistant Professor of Professional Practice and Associate Director of Public and Digital Humanities Initiatives at Rutgers University—Newark. Stephanie Rowe is Executive Director of NCPH.

THANK YOU #NCPH2018 VOLUNTEERS!

NCPH would like to specifically acknowledge our student volunteers and volunteer photographers. The NCPH conference is planned and implemented by just three 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:

Ashlee Anderson, American University	Chanell Lowery, University of West Georgia
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Hands at work at the Colt's Patent Firearms Mfg. Company, Hartford, CT, July 1942. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection, LC-DIG-fsa-8b07472.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

“Repair Work”

Hartford, Connecticut,
March 27-30, 2019
Connecticut Convention Center

Public historians have long been engaged in acts of repair. We restore and preserve old objects and buildings. We reconstruct fragmentary evidence about the past and reconsider the stories it has been used to tell, including stories about past histories and commemorations themselves. We contribute to economic and civic revitalization efforts. Increasingly, we also align our work with social and environmental projects of reparation, putting ourselves in service of overcoming or resisting the effects of past damage, injustice, and exclusion.

NCPH invites proposals for its 2019 conference in Hartford, Connecticut that explore how public history intersects—sometimes purposefully, sometimes with unintended consequences—with the ongoing task of making and remaking places, communities, and politics.

The online proposal system opened in April; proposals are due by July 15, 2018.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP



Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) is pleased to announce that Emily Greenwald is the company’s new President/CEO. Emily received her PhD in History from Yale

University. She spent eight years in academia before joining HRA in 2002. She became a shareholder in 2006 and became manager of the company’s History Division in 2010.

Emily’s work includes consulting and expert witness testimony for litigation involving Native American or environmental issues, as well as administrative histories and historical studies for the National Park Service and other organizations.

Emily is the author of *Reconfiguring the Reservation: The Nez Perces, Jicarilla Apaches, and the Dawes Act* (New Mexico, 2002), which reexamines the federal government’s attempt

to assimilate Indians into the American mainstream by imposing private property on them. She has also studied how photography shaped tourist experiences and the built environments of America’s national parks. Emily has served on the NCPH Board of Directors, the editorial board of *The Public Historian*, the Robert Kelley Memorial Award Committee, the Consultants Committee, and the 2014 conference Program Committee.

2017 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

SHARON LEON, SECRETARY/TREASURER / SHARONMLEON@GMAIL.COM

STEPHANIE ROWE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / ROWES@IUPUI.EDU

The 2017 fiscal year was a good one, with a strong budget surplus. The organization saw increases in the number of partner-level members and an increase in income from *The Public Historian* and other membership numbers held steady. The 2017 conference met income goals and was significantly under-budget in expenses thanks to the Indiana Historical Society's generous sponsorship of the opening reception. Income received in 2017 for the 2018 conference in Las Vegas was greater than expected. The board was also successful in surpassing its fundraising goal for the 2017 Annual Fund, bringing in just over \$9,000. NCPH did not receive its \$9,500 O'Brien Lecture administrative fee on time from IU. It was received early in our 2018 fiscal year. Administrative costs for the organization came slightly under-budget. Staff line expenses have shifted due to changes with how IUPUI bills salaries and benefits. NCPH was finally able to hire back a full time program manager in October.

The organization is planning for a leaner year in 2018, as the organization assumes more responsibility for its own personnel costs. On July 1, NCPH will be taking over one-hundred percent of the salary and benefits for our program manager position. The IU School of Liberal Arts has contributed a portion of those costs for many years, but as outlined in our Memorandum of Agreement with the School, as NCPH grows we will cover more of our own staffing costs. NCPH is in the position to make this change, largely due to a growing annual meeting. While it looks like our meetings can generate a profit for the organization upwards of \$72,000, the expense line of the conference budget does not include the salaries and benefits for the staff time spent on the meeting. Conference planning takes up the majority of the time for our program manager, as well as time from our membership manager, executive director, and our graduate intern. Starting in 2015 we also began hiring a temporary, part-time assistant for the four months leading up to the conference.



Bill Bryans and Dee Harris, co-chairs of NCPH's Development Committee, introduce the new 2020 Vision campaign at the Awards Breakfast in Las Vegas. Photo by Abbie Deville.

Strong membership and annual meeting income, lower than budgeted 2017 meeting expenses, and some salary savings from a half-time program manager position in 2017 resulted in a \$48,191 surplus. During their spring 2018 meeting, the board considered potential uses for this money and the board is asking the finance committee for advice on developing a reserve fund for the organization to align with Long Range Plan Pillar 6: Ensuring the Ongoing Stability of NCPH, and in accordance with best practices in non-profit fiscal management.

Also in an effort to support long-term fiscal stability, NCPH launched a three-year fundraising campaign, 2020 Vision, during the annual meeting in Las Vegas. Our goal is to bring the Endowment over \$1 million by the time of our 40th Anniversary in 2020. We are well on our way to achieving our goal and encourage all NCPH members to join the staff and board in pledging today. More information is available at: <http://ncph.org/giving/endowment/>.

NCPH 2017 Operating Budget

January-December

	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Actual
Income				
Memberships & Partners/Patrons	\$108,600	\$125,114	\$118,300	\$125,989
Institutional Subscriptions	\$16,500	\$18,109	\$16,500	\$22,396
Annual Meetings & Mini Cons	\$135,200	\$183,847	\$146,000	\$150,774
IUPUI Projects & O'Brien Lecture	\$10,400	\$11,155	\$9,500	\$0
Interfund Transfer from DIF & Endowment Earnings	\$34,358	\$28,779	\$38,100	\$34,578
Miscellaneous	\$975	\$1,430	\$1,050	\$1,821
Contributions to Annual Fund	\$7,000	\$10,122	\$7,000	\$9,229
Total Operating Budget Income	\$313,033	\$378,556	\$336,450	\$344,787
Expenses				
Membership	\$17,950	\$17,752	\$21,700	\$17,368
Annual Meeting	\$90,700	\$122,558	\$99,625	\$78,557
Publications	\$27,250	\$28,990	\$27,750	\$26,074
Awards	\$8,358	\$7,835	\$8,100	\$8,289
Administration	\$153,899	\$143,181	\$152,224	\$147,246
Board & Committees	\$3,850	\$2,584	\$5,250	\$6,532
Biannual Audit/Review	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000
Advocacy & Participation in Other Associations	\$6,615	\$7,880	\$7,855	\$8,530
Total Operating Budget Expenses	\$308,622	\$330,780	\$326,504	\$296,596
Net Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	\$4,411	\$47,776	\$9,946	\$48,191

ACTIONS OF THE NCPH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After the October 27 and 28 meeting of the NCPH Board of Directors in Washington, DC, and prior to the spring meeting in Las Vegas, NV, the board convened electronically and by telephone and took the following actions:



Members of the NCPH board hard at work during their spring meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

- Voted to approve a draft case statement for the 2018-2020 Endowment fundraising campaign, agreeing on major fundraising goals and a statement of significance.
- Voted to create a NCPH Board of Directors Award for Extraordinary Service to be 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.
- Voted to honor Cathy Stanton with the first-ever NCPH Board of Directors Award for Extraordinary Service during the 2018 NCPH Awards Breakfast event in Las Vegas, NV.



Cathy Stanton (left) accepts the 2018 Board Award for Extraordinary Service from NCPH outgoing President, Alexandra Lord (right) with a standing ovation from the audience. Photo by Katrina Wioncek.

- Voted to sign onto a joint letter from 30+ learned societies to oppose a US legislative proposal to tax tuition waivers.
- Voted to adopt the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Donor Bill of Rights.
- Discussed the opportunity to beta test Three21 Innovations' new Your Event app for the 2018 annual meeting.
- Reviewed a proposal from the University of California Press to increase institutional subscription rates to *The Public Historian* by 7%. Voted to approve an increase in subscription rates of only 5%, effective July 1, 2018.
- Voted to appoint Valerie Paley (New-York Historical Society) and Vanessa Macias Camacho (El Paso Community College) to two open board seats.
- Voted to sign onto a joint letter from 20+ learned societies to oppose the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point's recommendation to eliminate several humanities majors (including history).

On Thursday, April 19, the NCPH Board of Directors convened at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV and took the following actions:

- Recognized departing board members Patrick Moore, Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, Kristin Ahlberg, Melissa Bingmann, and Jeff Pappas and welcomed incoming board members Kristen Baldwin-Deathridge, Krista McCracken, Gregory Smoak, and Kimberly Springle.
- Approved the minutes of the fall 2017 board meeting in Washington, DC, the November 2017 virtual board meeting, the February 2018 virtual board meeting, and the March 2018 virtual board meeting.
- Elected board member Modupe Labode to the executive committee to succeed board member Jeff Pappas, whose term on the board was ending.
- Reviewed 2017 fiscal year financials and discussed the possible use of the 2017 surplus to create a reserve fund. Charged the finance committee to provide advice to the board for the creation of a reserve fund for the organization to align with Long Range Plan Pillar 6: Ensuring the Ongoing Stability of NCPH.
- Voted to update signatories on all NCPH financial accounts from outgoing president Alexandra Lord to incoming president Marla Miller and from outgoing secretary-treasurer Kristine Navarro-McElhaney to incoming secretary/treasurer Sharon Leon

and leaving executive director Stephanie Rowe in place.

- Reviewed reports from six NCPH committees and task forces.
- Heard a report from long range planning committee chair Jean-Pierre Morin and discussed implementation of the plan, tracking progress on the plan's goals, and mechanisms for engaging the membership and committees in the plan.
- Heard a report from development committee co-chairs Bill Bryans and Dee Harris and finance committee chair Amy Wilson on the 2020 Vision campaign to raise funds for the Endowment.
- Heard proposals from John Dichtl and John Marks from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for two collaborative opportunities relating to the AASLH's US 250 Task Force and the History Leaders Institute (formerly the Seminar for Historical Administration).



Sarah Case (left) and James Brooks (middle) set up in the Exhibit Hall on Friday morning for the annual "Meet the TPH Editors" pop-up chat at the conference. Photo by Katrina Wioncek.

- Heard a report from *The Public Historian* (TPH) editor James Brooks and managing editor Sarah Case. The board also previewed a new Chinese-language public history journal being developed by NCPH board member and TPH international consulting editor Na Li.
- Board members Sharon Leon, Greg Smoak, and Joan Zenzen, along with outgoing board member Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, volunteered to form an exploratory committee to review the NCPH committee structures and governance matters. The committee will make a recommendation to the board for further action in time for a late summer virtual meeting of the board.

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; a list of committee chairs and members can be found at: <http://ncph.org/about/governance-committees/board-of-directors-and-committees/>

2019 ANNUAL MEETING LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) met with the Program Committee at the annual meeting in Las Vegas and made successful Hartford pitches at the 2018 Awards Breakfast and with a table in the exhibit hall. We're flush with ideas for field trips, venues, and entertainment. Most opportunities are within walking distance. "Repair" theme tour ideas include: Repair of the Public Record (Hartford's Ancient Burial Ground); Repair of City (deindustrialization, preservation); Repair of Ecology (all day Connecticut River trip); and Repair of Civil Discourse and Society (social action at the Mark Twain House & Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Shoeleather Tour). We are exploring tours covering the State Capitol, Bushnell Park, Connecticut State Museum, the Mass Incarceration Exhibit at the Hartford History Center combined with a visit to the Old Newgate Prison Historic Site, along with tours of Coltsville National Historic Park and the Springfield Armory. On the lighter side, we envision an evening architectural tour and pub crawl.

We discussed an opening reception at the convention center featuring local bands, sample brews, and possibly pop-up exhibits (space permitting). Alongside themes like deindustrialization, desegregation/segregation, environmental resilience, etc., we are hoping to use the theme and the proximity and new-ness of the Coltsville National Historic Park to push forward discussions about how historical perspective might widen and open more productive public conversations on gun violence, gun safety, and gun rights at the public plenary.

We discussed the need/concern to bring more diverse local representation into our conversations, particularly those about place-making.

CONSULTANTS COMMITTEE



Robust conversations during the Consultants Speakeasy in Las Vegas. Photo by J.L.T. Holler.

The Consultants Committee enjoyed the annual meeting in Las Vegas. Once again, we hosted a consultants' reception. Rebranded as the Consultants' Speakeasy, it was one of our most successful events to date.

The committee offered a workshop and a session during the conference. The former, "Taking Care of Business: The Nuts and Bolts of Historical Consulting," built upon the 2017 workshop about how to start a career in consulting, and the latter, "Sustaining Your Consulting Business through Creative Marketing, Partnering, and Outreach," took a deeper dive into the logistics of consulting work. In the workshop, committee members Alicia Barber, Patrick Cox, Jennifer Stevens, and Morgen Young shared practical knowledge with attendees, including determining the best business structure; setting rates and fees; crafting proposals, budgets, and contracts; mastering tax and licensing requirements; and project management.

The same committee members also participated in the roundtable session. While the workshop aimed to inform prospective and new consulting historians, the roundtable sought to provide advice, tools, and resources for more established consultants. The panel led a discussion of the ins and outs of building partnerships with institutions, fellow historians, and related practitioners; collaborating on projects and proposals; leveraging public service and outreach; creating new markets; and marketing creatively.

The committee is now focused on the annual meeting in Hartford, with plans for more sessions, including a workshop, for consulting historians as well as those interested in pursuing the field of consulting work.

CURRICULUM AND TRAINING COMMITTEE



The 2018 Public History Educators' Forum. Photo by Katrina Wioncek.

The committee organized its Public History Educators' Forum at the annual meeting in Las Vegas, which drew fifty graduate and undergraduate public history educators. Discussion at the Educators' Forum covered a wide range of topics, including the possibility of establishing a mentoring program for assistant professors, a workshop or session for the 2019 annual meeting on educator burnout, starting a webinar series in collaboration with the Professional Development Committee, and establishing a sub-committee to tackle a Best Practices document on integrating technology into the classroom. Thanks to the American West Center at the University of Utah and the American Association for State and Local History for co-sponsoring this event.

The committee maintains a Public History Educators' list serv. If you would like to be added to this group, please email ncph@iupui.edu.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee's work over the past year culminated at the annual meeting in Las Vegas. There, we launched the 2020 Vision: Endowment Campaign for a Brighter Future. The Campaign seeks: (1) to expand professional development opportunities; (2) to promote diversity and inclusion within NCPH through scholarships and awards; and, (3) to enhance the organization's financial independence. The goal is to raise the funds required to bring the endowment to \$1 million by the time NCPH celebrates the 40th anniversary of its incorporation at the 2020 annual meeting in Atlanta. The exact amount needed fluctuates with the market, but the total remaining to reach this goal approximates \$180,000. By the time we left Las Vegas, nearly \$60,000 was already raised through targeted solicitations prior to the meeting and contributions made during it. The development committee urges all members and friends to contribute to this effort at a level that is meaningful to them and reflects the significance of NCPH to them both professionally and personally. For more information on the campaign, and to donate online, visit the NCPH website at <http://ncph.org/giving/overview/>.

DIGITAL MEDIA GROUP

This is a transitional moment for the Digital Media Group (DMG). We are grateful to Cathy Stanton for her many years of service to the committee as its chair and as NCPH's Digital Media Editor, and her critical role in the development of *History@Work* and other digital work for NCPH. Cathy stepped down from her roles in April 2018, and Laura Miller has taken up the position of DMG chair. We would also like to thank Tammy Gaskell, who, as *The Public Historian* (TPH) Co-Editor, played an integral part in fostering collaboration between *History@Work* and *The Public Historian*. The DMG is looking forward to continued collaboration with her successor, who will be serving in a newly integrated role as TPH Co-Editor and NCPH Digital Media Editor.

Abby Curtin Teare organized another successful THATCamp at the 2018 NCPH Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. We are pleased at the continued popularity of THATCamp, and are beginning discussions about how to keep the workshop relevant and engaging to NCPH members in the future.

The DMG also met at the 2018 conference to discuss our work in the coming year. We reviewed the NCPH Long Range Plan, and established smaller working groups to address its DMG-related aspects. These include writing a digital communication plan, reviewing and revising the editorial and recruitment practices of *History@Work*, reviewing previous annual meetings to identify digital public history topics for future conferences, and establishing periodic review of digital scholarship and digital public history practices.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Over the last few months, the Finance Committee has continued to work with the Development Committee to plan and kick off the campaign to bring the Endowment past the \$1 million mark. The committee will continue to monitor the progress of the fundraising project and ensure there will be adequate resources throughout the three years of the campaign. During the committee's April 20th meeting in Las Vegas, the committee reviewed NCPH financial policies and procedures and discussed the need to have additional written policies to guard against financial fraud. The committee will study best practices and make a recommendation to the Board in the fall. Additionally, the committee will investigate the possibility of establishing an operational reserve of six months or more and will make a recommendation to the Board in the fall.

GOVERNMENT HISTORIANS COMMITTEE



The Committee for Government Historians presented the workshop "So You Want to Be a Government Historian?" in Las Vegas.

The Committee for Government Historians sponsored a workshop and panel at the 2018 annual meeting in Las Vegas. The workshop, titled "So You Want to Be a Government Historian?" explored topics including writing for policymakers, checking your ego at the door, institutional oral history programs, and navigating the hiring process. The Saturday panel, "Statutes and Congress and Courts (Oh, My!): When History is Compelled by the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches," sponsored by the committee, explored the inherent tensions of government history work.

Planning is underway for the 2019 annual meeting, and committee members are drafting proposals and recruiting participants for another professionalization workshop, as well as roundtables and panels with themes relevant to those working in, or considering work in, government history offices.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This year the Membership Committee focused on developing new ways of fostering community within NCPH. The committee's draft guidelines for organizing mini-cons, and its set of proposals concerning a resume review service, are now finished and under review by the NCPH office. We are also working on the beta phase of an onboarding program, called Exploration, in partnership with the New Professional and Graduate Student Committee. Members from both committees have reached out to a select number of new NCPH members via email, providing them with information on the

organization's goals and structure, and offering them a personal point of contact for any questions that arise. We will be evaluating the results of this pilot program in the coming year, and encourage all members included in the sample to share their feedback with us.

Committee members enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones in Las Vegas, where we hosted the First-Time Attendee Meet-Up and a pop-up activity. We also sponsored a successful pre-conference Twitter Chat. Looking ahead, we hope to support more mini-cons, and new NCPH: After Work events, aimed at building regional networks of public history professionals, and can't wait to see many of you in Hartford!



Krista McCracken (co-chair of NCPH's Membership Committee), Executive Director Stephanie Rowe, and Immediate Past President Alexandra Lord welcome first time attendees to NCPH 2018. Photo by Julie Peterson.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

During the 2018 NCPH Annual Meeting the Professional Development committee met to discuss future initiatives and strategies for providing more professional development opportunities for the membership base.

The committee organized and ran the annual Speed Networking session at the annual meeting for the fifth year in a row. By all accounts the session ran smoothly and participants were highly satisfied. "Non-rotators" enjoyed meeting students and emerging professionals in the field, while "rotators" expressed their gratitude for meeting established public historians from a range of professions within public history. Perhaps most importantly, six members of the committee facilitated the session by helping participants find their seats, answering questions, and describing the logistics of the session. The committee looks forward to analyzing data from a feedback survey about Speed Networking that will be sent to all who participated in the event. From there the committee will discuss ways Speed Networking can be improved in the future.

The committee also discussed its increasing role with implementing effective workshops during the annual meeting. Over the past year the committee has discussed the need to revise guidelines for workshop proposals, an acute need given that there was a shortage of workshop proposals for the 2018 annual meeting. The committee plans to analyze two sets of data while revising the guidelines; one is the listing of accepted workshops at the past ten annual meetings (which will help the committee understand what sorts of workshops have been offered in the past), while the other is feedback surveys from workshop participants.

Similarly, the committee has been asked to assist with the creation of three different workshops for the 2019 annual meeting. The committee discussed possible partnerships with other NCPH committees to help create workshops. Additionally, the committee is interested in bringing back the "resume building" workshop for future meetings. An extended conversation took place about the best ways to improve and strengthen the workshop to include pre- and post-conference advice for young professionals who participate in this workshop.



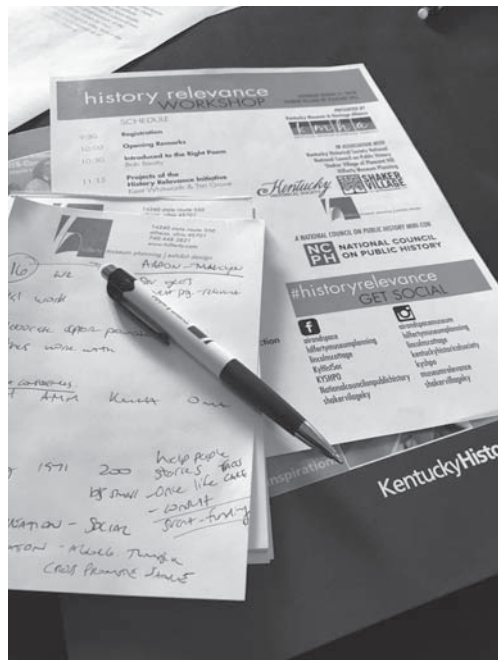
Thursday's Speed Networking event, sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a popular event that allows students and new professionals to meet with working public historians. Photo by Andy Townsend.

THE PUBLIC HISTORIAN EDITORIAL BOARD

The editorial board gathered for its regular spring meeting on Thursday afternoon of the Las Vegas conference. Welcomes were extended to new members Rebecca Bush of the Columbus Museum, Patrick Grossi of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, Lynn Kronzek of Lynn C. Kronzek & Associates, Kyle Mays of UCLA, and Bob Weyeneth of the University of South Carolina, who will serve as chair for a three-year term. One focus of the wide-ranging discussion was how to get more practitioners to publish in *TPH*. Suggestions included catalyzing collaborative authorship between practitioners and academically based public historians, including graduate students. (Editor James Brooks promoted this idea at the Educators' Forum the following day.) Resurrecting reviews of "gray literature" in *TPH* also generated considerable interest as a way to highlight the work of consulting historians and government historians, including NPS, other public lands managers, and military historians. The editorial office continues to build its capacity to review digital media with history content—especially podcasts—and welcomes suggestions of works to review and reviewers. Rather than employing the now-debated phrase "institutional affiliation" to identify authors of reviews, *TPH* will ask reviewers to self-identify using their occupation, area of professional expertise, or organizational affiliation.

On Friday morning at the conference, James Brooks and managing editor Sarah Case convened a well-attended session on "Getting Published in *TPH*" that offered tips to prospective authors and reviewers. Also on Friday, former editorial board chair Sharon Babaian organized an informal gathering to discuss what exhibit creators and readers want from exhibition reviews in the journal. Both conversations will continue at the 2019 meeting in Hartford.

Illinois, and Washington, DC. Among the attendees, a wide spectrum of professional experiences was represented—paid staff, board members, students, academics; non-profits and government entities; early and late career. It seems that there is widespread interest in the topic of history relevance, and that it affects all people who love history, no matter how you professionally interact with it.



Lots of materials, takeaways, and conversations during the History Relevance Workshop last March.

This was a full day, packed with information from the moment we began, and it would be very difficult to completely describe the day in this space. The speakers were exceptional, and evaluations from the attendees praised the job that this group did. They guided us to think about both theoretical and practical ways to manifest the relevance of history in our practice. Below are two examples of this.

The day began with Bob Beatty, president and CEO of the Lyndhurst Group, reflecting on the values of history in today's world. Building on the Value of History Statement produced by History Relevance (historyrelevance.com), Bob steered our thinking to consider how history is essential to ourselves, our communities, and to our future. One particularly powerful example was how many new FBI agents are required to visit the National Holocaust Museum as a way to understand what happens when police become complicit in authoritarian regimes. The implication is clear—learn from the mistakes of the past in order to guide your actions in the present, and this will affect more people than just yourself. The beauty and the challenge of these values is that they will apply to different people in different ways, but once

each person understands how and why history resonates with them, they will become its greatest advocates in the future.

For those who practice history at a museum or historic site, there is often a struggle about how to make our story and message meaningful to our guests/visitors/customers. Erin Carlson Mast, President/CEO of President Lincoln's Cottage, spoke about how her organization applied the importance of their story (Lincoln's writing and issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation) to today. While this was certainly an important moment in American history, the work of emancipation is still necessary today. President Lincoln's Cottage tries to embody this ethic in more than their programming; these principles are on display in both the gift shop and human resources policy. This is truly a way to "live your mission and vision," as Erin phrases it. This tangible example struck a chord with attendees. One person said, "She really inspired me to adopt some of her ideas to my own institution." Another said, "I am trying to apply her lessons to my own work in pulling history to the present."



Attendees gathered at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill for a day of learning about history relevance at this NCPH mini-con.

There has been widespread interest in this event, with many colleagues wondering if it might be replicated in other places throughout the country. I believe wholeheartedly that it could be, and that it would be highly attended. Based on feedback from the attendees, here are a few thoughts for repetition and replication.

- If there was a common theme amongst the evaluations, it's that there were a lot of good speakers, but not enough time to digest and discuss the material. If something like this were replicated in other places, my first suggestion would be to not make the day too full, and be intentional about including discussion time. Across the board, evaluation responses stressed the desire for more discussion and networking time.

- Second, I would try to diversify the slate of speakers. While there are a lot of considerations that go into building a program like this, and we certainly had diversity among the type of content that was presented, there are ways to diversify the speakers so that it is more inclusive of the varied communities that grapple with these issues. Quite simply, this is one of the reasons that we struggle with the topic of relevance so much—we don't often consider the stories that we have historically excluded. We can begin by including these voices in events like this. Let this be driven by the local considerations and communities for each event.
- Find the right mix of local flavor and outside speakers. This began as a way for KMHA to offer a program for its members that would take place outside of its annual conference. And throughout the process, we tried to keep our members at the forefront of the decisions we made. Yet it became much bigger than that. Seeing and hearing from their colleagues in Kentucky was certainly important and kept the topic grounded in local activity. But it was also important to have a few speakers from outside the state. Many local attendees were glad to hear perspectives from outside the state, and to some degree it helped give some weight to the points that our local speakers were making. It feels like we found the right mix.

I walked away from the event feeling encouraged—partially because it came off without any problems. But more than that, I have been encouraged by the reactions of those who participated in the day. It gave everyone something to think about. They were engaged with the topic in a way that I believe is reflective of where we are as a field—everyone is thinking about it and everyone is looking for ways to articulate the value of history in today's world. As long as this continues, I believe that history in today's world will continue to become more and more relevant.



For more information on the Values of History statement, and to endorse, visit historyrelevance.com

-Aaron Genton is the Collections Manager at the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Harrodsburg, Kentucky and was one of the organizers of this NCPH mini-con. For more from Aaron on this workshop, visit the Kentucky Historical Society's YouTube page with a video from the day:

<https://youtu.be/kmNPU4RPQko>.

those ambitions to tangible steps that we can take in those directions. I am so pleased that my vice-presidency and presidency coincide with the launching of the LRP, because I truly relish the prospect of spending these years helping NCPH realize its largest purpose, to help bring our reality ever closer to our ideal vision for ourselves.

As Long Range Planning committee chair Jean-Pierre Morin explained on *History@Work* and in these pages in December 2017 (<http://ncph.org/history-at-work/ncph-long-range-plan/>), the work to develop the plan was a deeply iterative process that gathered input from a range of contributors. The LRP team together with our crackerjack office staff invited input from a range of sources in and around NCPH, gathered them together in an initial draft, sought responses and feedback, revisited and revised those drafts, sought more input and made more revisions, and finally crafted the final document that you see on the website now.

What, we asked, are your hopes for the future of NCPH? What can NCPH do to support public historians in their work, whatever that may be? What does NCPH do best? What could we do better? What are your concerns? What challenges do you see for the field?

The LRP that emerged (adopted in October 2017, bit.ly/ncphLRP) organized our collective aims around six pillars:

1. Developing and sustaining a public history community
2. Developing the most diverse community of practice, diversity of people, and diversity of activities possible
3. Expanding the professional skills and tools of all practitioners of public history
4. Fostering critical reflection on historical practice
5. Publicly advocating for history and historians, and public history as a field
6. Ensuring the ongoing stability of NCPH

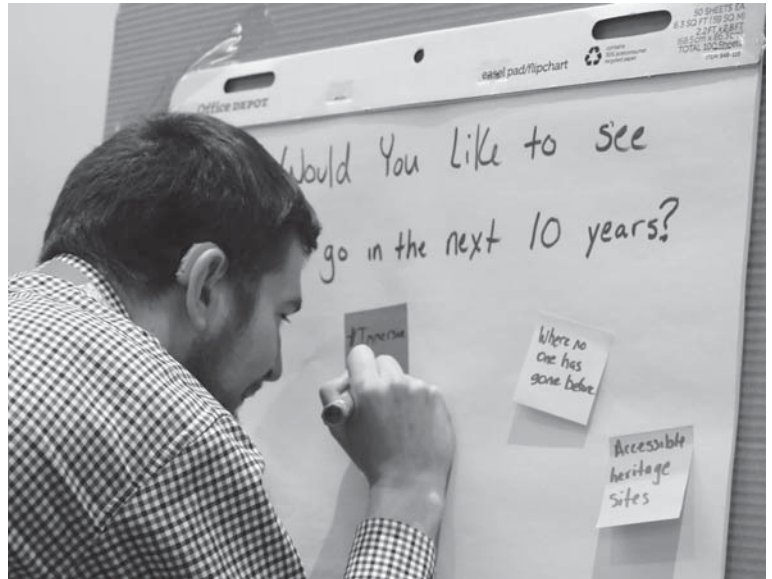
These six pillars capture objectives and values that have long shaped NCPH practice. They signal our commitment to making our already-big umbrella even bigger, and supporting public historians wherever their practice takes them, over the full course of their careers; to building and cultivating an accessible, inclusive community; to continue to nurture thoughtful leadership and deep scholarship; to advocate for public history and public historians; and to ensure that NCPH as an organization is healthy, agile, and responsive.

The architectural metaphor of pillars notwithstanding, these objectives don't stand

entirely apart from each other. If, instead of the pillars of classical design, we think about the posts of a timber frame structure (shout out to my fellow historians of early American material culture), there are plenty of elements that tie those vertical pieces together—the sills, girts, and plates that together help make a house stable and strong. In the same way, the plan builds in plenty of horizontal support and collaboration as various committees will work together across their respective missions.

“Robust” is an overused word these days, but certainly describes the ambitious set of goals (22!) and activities (88!) that the plan articulates. Luckily, “robust” also accurately describes the NCPH committee structure and our engaged membership. The work toward achieving these many aims is spread across the NCPH board and its 28 committees and task forces (and more than 220 committee members; some fourteen percent of the membership) as well as its capable and hardworking executive director and staff, and will unfold with the support of the LRP committee, under the energetic leadership of chair Jean-Pierre Morin (who, as you may have discovered if you've heard him talk about this work, loves planning even more than I do).

In fact, several of the activities proposed are already well under way. For instance, two partnerships forged with the Organization of American Historians and the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance (read a report on this mini-con starting on page one) work towards “nurturing a collaborative environment between all who are part of a broadly defined public history community,” and our new mini-con structures help “develop new spaces for NCPH members to convene in-person outside of the annual meeting.” Our partnerships with the American Association for State and Local History to develop an *Inclusive Historians' Handbook* and with IUPUI's American Studies PhD Program are also helping us work toward encouraging “knowledge-sharing approaches among practitioners in various fields,” as well as increasing inclusion practices within the organization and the larger field. And, we've launched our 2020 Vision campaign to grow our Endowment, helping us increase our internal capacity to fulfill our mission; we were thrilled to announce to conference-goers in Las Vegas that \$50,000 in pledges and gifts were already in hand before our arrival!



Membership committee member Drew Robarge shares his thoughts on the future work of NCPH during a pop-up activity in Las Vegas. Photo by Andy Townsend.

Several of the plan's proposed activities are particularly exciting to me as an educator and practitioner. I love the prospect of regional events to help us stay connected between annual meetings (hello NCPH New England), as well as the aim to undertake projects in service to the communities in which we gather. I welcome the attention to the needs of mid-career professionals like myself, and look forward to the development of a *Navigator* for students, alumni, and other colleagues as they enter the job market.

And finally, the commitment, spread throughout the plan, to work toward a more inclusive and accessible NCPH is among my own highest personal and professional priorities. As a white cis-gender woman serving as president of a primarily white, cis-gendered organization, I'm looking forward to listening, learning, and thinking together about how we can do better by students and colleagues who may have been left out of our collective conversation. I'm eager to work to find ways to give platforms to public and community historians of color, queer public historians, and others in our community and organization, to ensure that they feel fully included in our work, and to support them throughout their careers.

To be sure, a lot of work is ahead of us. But, as an NCPH futurist, I predict that 2022 will find us enjoying the support and collegiality the plan envisions and strives toward, in an agile, welcoming, and healthy organization that continues to serve as the home for public historians everywhere.

-Marla Miller is the President of NCPH (beginning her two-year term at the conclusion of the 2018 NCPH Annual Meeting) and is Professor and Director of the Public History Program in the history department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAS VEGAS WORKING GROUPS

Six of the working groups that met during the NCPH conference in Las Vegas 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 2019 NCPH Annual Meeting, proposals are due July 15, 2018. (See the call for proposals at <http://ncph.org/conference/2019-annual-meeting/calls-for-proposals/>)

WG1: INSIDER/OUTSIDER: RACIAL BIAS AND POSITIONALITY IN INTERPRETATION



The members of the Insider/Outsider working group pose for a photo after their group's discussion. Photo by Julian Rivas.

Our conversation focused on how we interpret our own histories versus how other people believe we should interpret our histories. Amidst larger structural forces, who is ultimately making the decision to be “diverse” or “inclusive,” and how does that change get enacted on their terms? To the white institution at large, from polices to leadership, we found that quotas and advisory groups tokenize the labor of people of color. The surface-level legitimization our presence offers means nothing when you are not forced to think critically about the narratives and practices you are reproducing and asking Others to assimilate into.

How has “the profession” continually defined itself in a way that is inherently exclusive? It guarantees that those in power have the option to “share” their authority on their own terms—virtue signaling without critically engaging. Practitioners have gentrified the process of historical narrative-construction, perpetuating the notion that communities of “laypeople” require the guidance of “professionals” in order to dialogue around their own legacies. But the past is a part of our everyday lives, integrated into our individual and collective identities. History is inherently “public,” and has existed as a medium of meaning-making, be it spiritual or political, for millennia.

Too often, we have witnessed the appropriation of that self-knowledge by practitioners (via oral history projects, for instance) and the celebration of institutions and project leaders over “the subjects” themselves. Ultimately, such issues will not be solved by the integration of more people of color into an inherently elitist, Eurocentric historiographic framework. Our next steps will be a white paper proposing concrete solutions and the creation of an online support network for public historians of color.

- SHAKTI CASTRO, PATRICE GREEN, AND GVGK TANG

WG2: NEGOTIATING POWER LINES: ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND THE ETHICS OF PUBLIC HISTORY

Prior to the conference, working group facilitators divided our topic into three main questions we wanted to tackle: Shared Authority: Too Far or Not Far Enough?; Economic Benefits for Whom?; and Ethical Training for Laboring Realities?

Shared Authority brought the audience into the conversation right away. After our discussants presented their case statements, we fielded strong questions about what is and should be “non-negotiable” with regard to this topic, as well as how one earns authority within a specific community. We also discussed what alternative economic models for public history practice might look like.

Our discussion on Economic Benefits demonstrated that sometimes there is a disconnect between public historians and the communities they work in and for. Audience members asked about our role in gentrification, and we examined possible “solutions” to this problem such as community benefits agreements (CBA).

Ethical Training for Laboring Realities focused on undergraduate and graduate training and how public history educators can meet our students’ needs and expectations. We grappled with proposed ideas on how best to create a “space” that would be inclusive and provide



Discussants in the Economic Justice and Ethics working group at NCPH 2018. Photo by j.l.r. holler.

burgeoning practitioners and students not only with opportunities for discussion, but also with tangible benefits such as healthcare.

Moving forward, we see a few different outcomes. First, we are pursuing various publications both informal and formal. We envision a plethora of blog posts from our discussants, as well as a possible roundtable in *The Public Historian*. Second, we want to extend a call to action to fellow practitioners. If you would like to join us in creating new models of public history practice and training or even organizing among public historians, please contact us at: raaboyl@gmail.com.

- RACHEL BOYLE, THEODORE KARAMANSKI, DAN OTT, AND STELLA RESS

WG4: DISRUPTING INSTITUTIONAL POWER: IMAGINING A REGIONAL MODEL FOR PUBLIC HISTORY EDUCATION

Facilitators opened up the working group by summarizing their original goals, outlining the most fruitful aspects of pre-conference conversation, and acknowledging the problems and issues that had emerged from that conversation. Based on this summary, facilitators identified the five core questions that must be addressed in any effort to create a regional model for public history education. They were:

- What would a collaborative, regional internship initiative look like?
- What is a mission-oriented statement for regional collaboration that we might use to pitch the proposal to colleagues and administrators?
- How might a regional model for public history education address issues of resources?
- What kinds of processes might be put in place to help address conflicts in mission and workflow and enable long term regional collaboration?
- How might we disrupt institutional understandings of power so that all collaborators in a region are treated equally?

Facilitators asked for feedback on these topics from both the original working group discussants and the members of the audience. Based on a brief discussion, they combined the “resources” and “processes” topics and then broke into four discussion groups. Each group developed a working list of recommendations. Facilitators and discussants are drafting a summary of these recommendations for

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History@Work. Recommendations will also include suggestions for further study of this topic.

- DEVIN HUNTER, DENISE MERINGOLO, ELIZABETH NIX, KATHRYN OBERDECK, AND ANKE VOSS

WG5: AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC HISTORY



Discussants in the Agriculture and Public History working group deep in conversation in Las Vegas.

Eight people participated in this working group. Each prepared a case study as the basis for discussion before the conference. Debra Reid compiled a list of topics to consider when planning agricultural interpretation, but the conversation moved beyond this to aspirations, and methodology. Case studies and comments, all available via the NCPH Public History Commons, expressed some common concerns: advocating for humanities approaches to a Social Science and STEM subject; documenting local stories and developing broader significance; linking agriculture to the environment and to policy; and devising unending stories that affect public action.

Humanities methodology can/should prompt the public to question the orthodoxy of agriculture (the human-nature relationship that generates food, fuel, and fiber) and to recognize the contradictions at its heart. Inexpensive food comes at a steep price. Aspiring to change public understanding may begin with introducing a sensitive topic such as whiskey at a historic site within a temperate community, but can lead to challenging the exploitative capitalist agricultural system. The time is right to undertake these tasks. Public engagement in local food and drink systems has never been as high (not since before Prohibition). Museums and historic sites embrace opportunities to document sites of conscience, pursue social justice and civic good, and engage diverse communities in dialog. Agriculture and the human ecosystems that support it and depend on it offer rich opportunities.

The *History@Work* post, “Agriculture and Public History: A Working Group,” identified a support system that exists. Next steps involve allying with like-minded organizations, including farmer organizations, to better understand current and historic issues related to land and tenancy, agricultural practices, and policy and its implications. Public engagement should sustain conversations between public historians, farmers, and the public. Conversations between group members will continue with exchanges of information, another blog post on current action and next steps, at least two book-length projects on land and the environment, an effort to designate a historic plantation landscape as a site of conscience, and a working group for 2019.

- DEBRA A. REID WITH DAVID D. VAIL

WG6: CROSSING THE LINE: FACILITATING DIGITAL ACCESS TO PRIMARY SOURCES

Our group began by discussing the challenges and benefits of public-centered digital archives projects, and how projects of all sizes can engage with the public throughout the life of the project. In our pre-conference discussion on the NCPH Public History Commons, we engaged with questions about identifying and defining an audience, benchmarks for measuring success, and the ways in which digital projects can, and should, engage with silences in the record. These themes carried over into our discussion in Las Vegas.

At the conference, we broke our discussion into two parts. We began by discussing the themes that came up across the case statements: audience, public outreach, measuring success, accessibility, and addressing silences. The conversation was wide-ranging and thoughtful. We talked about useful and multi-pronged approaches to outreach for digital projects, and the importance of collecting user feedback on a variety of levels. Both points underscored how planning for these elements initially in a project’s beginning and incorporating it into the project’s design is key. This led to the second stage, where we defined best practices for digital projects, focusing on users and accessibility, using the American Association for State and Local History’s Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs) model as a guide.

Ultimately, we hope to build a page or site which can be used as a resource for digital primary source projects by public history professionals, academics, and students alike. Part of this resource will include the best-

practice guidelines we developed, and more in the future, to help direct current and future projects. Ideally, it will also include a directory of current digital projects, as a sort of annotated bibliography to connect digital projects with each other and provide examples of the many kinds of digital primary source projects.

-KATE JOHNSON AND MARIE PELLISSIER

WG8: MILLENNIALS AS CHANGE-MAKERS: THE POWER LINES BETWEEN GENERATIONS IN PUBLIC HISTORY INSTITUTIONS

The group enjoyed a productive and lively discussion with each other and was delighted to welcome a participatory and interactive audience to the conversation. In the months leading up to the conference, the nine group members discussed the issues of establishing authority, interoffice relations between generations, technology, advocacy, and several other topics. During the session itself, the group focused on four topic areas to solicit audience feedback: establishing authority/ interoffice relations, technology, advocacy, and the ethics of millennials advocating for future generations. Working group participants were solely comprised of millennials and members of generation Z, but found that diverse generational participation during the discussion was helpful, enlightening, and productive. One audience member, who teaches public history, suggested that “the teacher [may not be] the best learner,” and that younger individuals seeking to establish authority within their institutions should use their youth and knowledge to their advantage. She went on to suggest creating a dialogue to help facilitate change and/or teach more established professionals would be relevant.

The audience provided an array of ideas for continued reflection from the group. In the coming months, working group members will be producing three co-written pieces for *History@Work* on establishing authority, technology, and the ethical obligation to advocate for future generations. Audience member Bob Weyeneth suggested “taking the show on the road” by proposing a session for the American Association for State and Local History this fall. Bob, and the working group members, believe that this will help to further progress the discussion and to inform more employers about the issues discussed.

-KIMBERLY CAMPBELL, ALYSSA CONSTAD, AND KATHERINE CROSBY

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

that's a testament to our Local Arrangements Committee's dedication and passion for their city's history and public history institutions.

However, many people noted on their evaluations that the location of the conference hotel was less than ideal, with few walkable and inexpensive options for meals and post-conference entertainment. We were limited in our choices of conference venues in Las Vegas, owing to our need to be off the Strip and to avoid casino hotels (which allow smoking in the common areas, a non-negotiable issue for us). These requirements, as well as limits imposed by the size of our conference relative to the number of rooms we can guarantee our attendees will book, led us to the Renaissance. Renaissance staff did a great job with our conference, but it's true that the location left something to be desired for those of us who want to be able to grab a quick lunch between sessions. While every conference city has its own set of challenges—and in Vegas geography was ours!—

we enjoyed the opportunity to introduce our attendees to a version of Vegas not dominated by the Strip. Next year's conference in Hartford won't be as warm, but the trade-off is a centrally-located venue with easy walkability.

Another critique we noticed on this year's meeting evaluations is one we see every year: that sessions people want to attend often overlap or are scheduled against each other, necessitating difficult choices. We promise that the conference schedule isn't thrown together slapdash; NCPH staff and the Program Committee do everything we can to avoid scheduling similar sessions in the same block, and to make sure that session blocks are balanced. There's always some amount of guesswork and compromise involved—we try to anticipate (six months out) which sessions will be especially popular; we look at our room sizes and consider which sessions need more space due to the number of presenters or the presentation format; and we think about

whether people interested in X are likely to also want to attend a session about Y. In the end we know NCPH attendees will be spoiled for choice no matter how we schedule, and that there is no version of a perfect conference schedule—but we'll keep trying!

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our Program and Local Arrangements committees, NCPH committee members, our sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, and attendees. The NCPH annual meeting is a collaborative effort that could not be a success without all of those who dedicate their time, energy, and resources. On a personal note—I've been with NCPH in some capacity since 2014, but this was my first conference as Program Manager, and as such it felt really special and meaningful to me. I can't say enough what a joy it was to work with so many amazing people and to see it all come together onsite in Vegas.

-Meghan Hillman is NCPH's Program Manager.



A team from UNLV held the pop-up "Remembrance and Healing in the Mexican Ofrenda" on Thursday morning of the conference. Photo by Abbie Deville.



Immediate Past President Alexandra Lord with G. Wesley Johnson Award honorable mention recipient Gregory Rosenthal after the Awards Breakfast in Las Vegas. Photo by Katrina Wioncek.



Presenters from Rhodes University in South Africa led attendees in a demonstration of how dance, dialogue, and exploration can instruct and heal cultural wounds. Photo by Julie Peterson.



During Thursday evening's poster session, participants showed off their posters to attendees over dessert and coffee. Photo by j.l.r. holler.



Wes Johnson, founding editor of *The Public Historian* (and namesake of our G. Wesley Johnson Award) at the Consultants Speakeasy in Las Vegas. Photo by j.l.r. holler.



Immediate Past President Alexandra Lord with HRA New Professional Award winner Kimber Heinz. Our thanks to Historical Research Associates for sponsoring this award! Photo by Katrina Wioncek.



Attendees check in at the NCPH registration desk for NCPH 2018 to pick up their badge and lanyard. Photo by Katrina Wioncek.



Attendees from Rhodes University in South Africa during the Opening Reception. Photo by Julie Peterson.



The University of Nevada, Las Vegas put together a pop-up session on Vegas fashion! Teams of attendees (one pictured here) assembled their best Vegas looks and attendees voted on the winning team. Photo by Katrina Wioncek.



UNLV's Claytee White led a tour and field session on the African American experience in Las Vegas on Thursday morning of the conference. Photo by j.l.r. holler.



Grad students and new professionals explored The Mob Museum during Wednesday evening's New Professional and Graduate Student Social. Thanks to The Mob Museum for hosting our group! Photo by j.l.r. holler.



We were excited to welcome Adriel Luis of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center to deliver Friday's public plenary! Photo by Abbie Deville.



One NCPH tour led by Jim Bertolini (far right) took attendees out to the Hoover Dam. Photo by j.l.r. holler.

PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

National Council on Public History

127 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5148

ISSN 08912610

Editor: Stephanie Rowe

Editorial Assistance: Christine Crosby,
Meghan Hillman, and Stasia Tanzer

Design: Brooke Hamilton
openbookstudio.com



"The NCPH has meant so much to me in terms of my educational development and my professional connections.

Even though my finances are tight at the moment, I know that I had to give \$40 this year, and I hope to increase that amount for the next two years of the endowment campaign."



Building Our Future 2018-2020 Endowment Campaign

NCPH is embarking on a three-year campaign to secure the future of the public history community. With your help, by our 40th anniversary in 2020, we will raise \$250,000 to top our endowment at \$1 million. We seek to build our capacity and achieve three transformational goals.

<http://ncph.org/giving/endowment/>