



NCPH Awards Ceremony  
Saturday, March 30, 2019  
8:00 am – 10:00 am  
Connecticut Convention Center  
Hartford, Connecticut

## 2019 NCPH Awards

### Outstanding Public History Project Award

*This award is presented for work completed within the previous two calendar years that contributes to 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: Erin Bernard (chair), Ashley Bouknight, and Angela Smith.*

#### Award Winner

***We are the Roots: Black Settlers and their Experiences with Discrimination on the Canadian Prairies***  
**Jenna Bailey**, Centre for Oral History and Tradition, University of Lethbridge; **Deborah Dobbins**, Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots; and **David Este**, University of Calgary

In *We are the Roots: Black Settlers and Their Experiences of Discrimination on the Canadian Prairies*, the Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots undertook an ambitious project in its scholarship, methodology, and quality of work. Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots is commended for its intervention in the Canadian North Star narrative, raising the voices of Black settlers. In addition, this project presented its scholarship in multiple formats both experiential with oral history participants and for the wider public in a documentary accessible online. Additionally, the Alberta Human Rights Commission published this project's findings. Shiloh's grounding and development within the grassroots public history framework, including two universities and the Shiloh Baptist Church, indicates that this project was not created as an outreach effort from one institution, but as a consortium including the community of memory presented. *We are the Roots: Black Settlers and Their Experiences of Discrimination on the Canadian Prairies* sets an example in how we as public historians can blend critical history work with our public practice.

#### Honorable Mention

##### ***The Orange Story***

**Jasmine Alinder** and **Patrick Hall**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; **Erika Street Hopman**, Chavo Bart Digital Media; **Jason Matsumoto** and **Eugene Sun Park**, Full Spectrum Features

### 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: Peter A. Kopp (chair), Rolf Diamant, and Alicia Barber.*

#### Award Winner

***Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits: Inside the Fight to Reclaim Native America's Culture***  
(University of Chicago Press, 2017)  
**Chip Colwell**, Denver Museum of Nature and Science

In *Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits*, Chip Colwell offers a moving and detailed account of his role in returning American Indian artifacts and human remains to their proper owners after passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Through the stories of four artifacts—Zuni war-god sculptures, Cheyenne and Arapahoe body parts collected after the Sand Creek Massacre, a ceremonial Tlingit robe, and Calusa bones—the author discusses the bureaucratic and cultural challenges related to repatriation, as well as the demands of caring for these objects in the museum and in transport. He does so deftly, with vibrant prose and sensitivity for the process.

Colwell, the senior curator of anthropology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, is forthright about his status as an outsider with respect to the communities to whom these objects belong. He thus takes his time to remind readers of the origins of North American ethnography and the reasons why American Indian artifacts ended up in the Smithsonian or museums like his own. He also recounts the origins of NAGPRA in legal and moral terms as a late-20<sup>th</sup> century response. But it is through his vivid accounts of working with indigenous communities in repatriation that the story truly shines. The reader encounters a genuine spirit of shared authority in the common goal of overcoming legal obstacles and cultural sensitivities to help sacred objects return home. While Colwell acknowledges that there is more work to be done, this book inspires and offers a path for cross-cultural respect and remembrance.

#### Honorable Mention

***Memory Lands: King Philip's War and the Place of Violence in the Northeast***

(Yale University Press, 2018)

**Christine M. Delucia**, Mount Holyoke College

#### **Excellence in Consulting Awards**

*These awards recognize outstanding contributions to the field of public history through consulting or contract work. Award committee members: Lynn Kronzek (chair), Lila Teresa Church, and Jeff Pappas.*

#### Group Award Winner

***Commemoration and Collaboration: An Administrative History of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail***

**Jackie Gonzales, Emily Greenwald, Dawn Vogel, Jessi Frank, Kayla Blackman, and Nick Kryloff**,  
Historical Research Associates, Inc.

*Commemoration and Collaboration: An Administrative History of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail* numbers nearly 500 pages and took two years to complete. Co-authored by Jackie Gonzales and Emily Greenwald, this comprehensive work also benefits from the skills and expertise of four additional Historical Research Associates (HRA) staff and colleagues representing the company's Missoula, Montana, Seattle, Washington, Eugene, Oregon, and Washington, DC offices. The 3,700-mile Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail remains one of the nation's oldest and by far the longest National Historic Trail, winding from Illinois to Oregon. As the authors explain, administrative histories help unit managers and staff—in this case from the National Park Service (NPS)—“understand their unit's purposes, constituents, accomplishments, and challenges.” Ten chronologically arranged chapters cover a variety of subjects. Some like “Visitors Centers (1983-2017)” are rather specific to parks, others like “Planning the Bicentennial (1983-2017)” incorporate diverse stakeholders. HRA's administrative history is alive with the engagement of many NPS partners contributing outreach, administrative, and fundraising skills that sometimes clash, but more often than not contribute to enduring, innovative, solutions.

#### Individual Award Winner

##### ***“Our Only Alma Mater:” The Civilian Conservation Corps and the C&O Canal***

**Josh Howard**, Passel Historical Consulting

Josh Howard prepared “*Our Only Alma Mater*” as a “special history” to provide new interpretation at the C&O Canal by the National Park Service (NPS) and the C&O Canal Trust. This skillfully conceived work was commissioned to better understand one of the very few all-African American Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps organized during the 1930s and early 1940s. Howard’s clever treatment of the topic draws from a variety of primary and secondary resources framed by the history of the CCC during the tumultuous Jim Crow era. “*Our Only Alma Mater*” is a welcome addition to an otherwise brief and incomplete history of the New Deal and how it played out in progressive politics, particularly as the country struggled to comprehend the devastating effects of segregation. As an example of applied history, Howard’s easily digestible prose and recognizable periodization will give the National Park Service an accessible document by which to develop a host of interpretive media. Scholarly, informed, readable, and interesting, “*Our Only Alma Mater*” fulfills a notable void and will help draw attention to an otherwise less developed part of NPS and US history.

#### Individual Award Honorable Mention

##### ***A History of the Cushman Hydroelectric Project: Tacoma Power, the Skokomish Tribe, and the Skokomish River, 1910-2016***

**Paul Sadin**, Historical Research Associates, Inc.

#### **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: George Boudreau (chair), Malgorzata Joanna Rymysza-Pawlowska, and Stella Ress.*

#### Award Winner

##### **“Building Homes for Black History: Museum Founders, Founding Directors, and Pioneers, 1915-95”**

“State of Black Museums: Historiography Commemorating the Founding and Existence of Black Museums over Four Decades” special issue, *The Public Historian* Vol 40, No 3

**Fath Davis Ruffins**, Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Fath Davis Ruffins has produced a tour de force. “Building Homes for Black History” provides important information that remains under-studied in the history of the Black Museum Movement. This essay is methodologically innovative and addresses the ever-present conundrum of connecting the doing of public history with the studying of public history in a novel way. This essay will be inspiring to emerging public historians as well as current practitioners in the field.

#### Honorable Mention

##### **“The Impact of Social Movements on the Development of African American Museums”**

“State of Black Museums: Historiography Commemorating the Founding and Existence of Black Museums over Four Decades” special issue, *The Public Historian* Vol 40, No 3

**John E. Fleming**, National Museum of African American Music

## 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: Anne Lindsay (chair), Annie Anderson, Clarissa Ceglie, Joseph Rizzo, and Kathryn Wilson.*

### Award Winner

#### ***Owning Up: Racism and Housing in Minneapolis***

**Kacie Lucchini Butcher and Denise Pike**, University of Minnesota

*Owning Up: Racism and Housing in Minneapolis* was an exhibit developed by University of Minnesota students Kacie Lucchini Butcher and Denise Pike in collaboration with the Hennepin History Museum and Sabathani Community Center. *Owning Up* commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fair Housing Act (FHA) by challenging visitors to “own up” to its resultant legacies of social injustice and racial inequality brought about by policies such as red-lining and housing covenants. By chronicling the lives of African American families and their struggles to find housing under FHA policies, and the realities of white violence related to housing practices, Pike and Lucchini Butcher expose a history not commonly discussed but essential to understanding policy and community in Minneapolis. The students created an exhibit that has become a forum for discussion among African American and white residents and encourages a greater understanding of current issues of systematic racism and inequality in the city. Additionally, the students have also given gallery talks to lawyers, realtors, church organizations, and others, bringing a troubling element of Minneapolis’ past to light and showing its relevance for current policy and advocacy. *Owning Up* brings a community together in an active dialogue, creating spaces to share experience and foster a greater understanding of privilege and inequality historically and at the anniversary of the FHA.

### Honorable Mention

#### ***An Extraordinary Look into Ordinary Lives: Uncovering Dorchester’s Industrial School for Girls, 1859-1880***

**Sarah Black**, University of Massachusetts Boston

## 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 NCPH 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: Lara Kelland (chair), Cecelia Moore, James H. Williams, and Deirdre Clemente.*

### HRA Travel Award Winner

**Porsha Dossie**, National Park Service, Park History Program

Porsha Dossie is a 2018 graduate of the public history track in the graduate history department at the University of Central Florida. She is currently an American Conservation Experience (ACE) Fellow at the National Park Service (NPS), Park History Program in Washington, DC. Building on her previous research focus on Black history and the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Dossie’s primary project with the NPS is implementation of the African American Civil Rights Network, which recognizes sites with ties to the Black freedom struggle in the United States. As an emerging public historian, Dossie’s passion for social justice has directed her

interest in racial equity and representation in cultural institutions. The committee applauds her scholarly and public work that range from her roles with NPS and historic preservation to 20<sup>th</sup> century African American history.

#### NCPH Travel Award Winner

**Sonya Laney**, Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum and North Carolina State Historic Site

Sonya Laney earned her master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in May of 2017 and has already distinguished herself with a number of projects and experiences in museum education. Currently, she is the Education Coordinator at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum and State Historic Site. The committee was impressed by Laney's efforts to provide educational programming at the only North Carolina site to honor the accomplishments of an African American woman while carefully balancing the difficult history of segregation and the politics of the day. Laney has demonstrated commitment to NCPH through past conference participation and has a vision for how the 2019 conference theme of "Repair Work" will enhance her organization's work. Through these endeavors, Laney has clearly shown what an asset she will be for her organization as well as the NCPH community as a whole.

#### **Graduate Student Travel Awards**

*The Graduate Student Travel Awards provide 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 NCPH annual meeting. Award committee members: Anne Lindsay (chair), Clarissa Ceglio, Annie Anderson, Joseph Rizzo, and Kathryn Wilson.*

Congratulations this year go to the following:

**Nichelle Frank**, University of Oregon  
**Holly Genovese**, University of Texas at Austin  
**Daniel Milowski**, Arizona State University  
**Heather Stanfiel**, University of Notre Dame  
**Jackie Swihart**, IUPUI

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#### **Congratulations to the 2019 award recipients, and thank you award selection committees!**

NCPH relies on its endowment to support the awards program and a variety of other programs and projects that fulfill the organization's mission. A primary goal of our *2020 Vision Endowment Campaign* is to "expand travel grants and award offerings to increase diversity and inclusion in the organization and field." To help grow our future award and travel grant offerings, please consider giving or pledging to the campaign: <http://ncph.org/giving/endowment>.