

**NC
PH** NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON PUBLIC HISTORY
2019-2020 Board of Directors

Officers



Marla Miller
President (2018-2020)
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Marla Miller's primary research interest is US women's work before industrialization. In five books (most recently *Entangled Lives: Labor, Livelihood, and Landscapes of Change in Rural Massachusetts*, with Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019) and several articles, she has explored the material culture and built environment of early American women's labor history. Miller also publishes in the field of public history. In 2016, with colleague Max Page, she published *Bending the Future: Fifty Ideas for the Next Fifty Years of Historic Preservation in the United States* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2016). In 2012, she and three co-authors released *Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service*, a multi-year study funded by the NPS Chief Historian's office and hosted by the Organization of American Historians. She is also the founding editor of the prizewinning UMass Press series *Public History in Historical Perspective*. As Director of the History Department's Public History program, Miller teaches courses in Public History, American Material Culture, Museum and Historic Site Interpretation, and History Communication. She also continues to consult with a wide variety of museums and historic sites.



Gregory E. Smoak
Vice President (2018-2020)
American West Center, University of Utah

Gregory E. Smoak, is currently the Vice-President/President Elect of the National Council on Public History. His previous service to NCPH includes election to the Board of Directors (2007-2010), Nominating Committee (2015-2017), and chairing the 2016 annual meeting Program Committee. He is director of the American West Center and Associate Professor of History at University of Utah and specializes in American Indian, American Western, Environmental, and Public History. Smoak is the author of *Ghost Dances and Identity: Prophetic Religion and American Indian Ethnogenesis in the Nineteenth Century* and a forthcoming environmental history of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. He is currently the principal investigator on several projects for the NPS, BLM, and Nevada Indian Commission. Smoak's association with American West Center began in 1988 and has included projects with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians, the Navajo Nation, the Nevada Indian Commission, and the Utah State Division of Indian Affairs. He has served on numerous committees for professional organizations including the NCPH, the Organization of American Historians, and the Western History Association.



Alexandra Lord
Immediate Past President (2018-2020)
National Museum of American History



Sharon M. Leon
Secretary/Treasurer (2018-2021)
Michigan State University

Sharon M. Leon is an Associate Professor of History at Michigan State University, where she specializes in digital methods with a focus on public history. She also serves as the Director of the Omeka web publishing platform. Currently, Dr. Leon is at work on a digital project to surface and analyze the community networks and experiences of the cohort of people enslaved and sold by the Maryland Province Jesuits in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Simultaneously, she is building a major methodological project on doing community-engaged digital public history. Prior to joining the History Department at MSU, Dr. Leon spent over thirteen years in George Mason University's History Department at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media as Director of Public Projects, where she oversaw dozens of collaborations with library, museum, and archive partners from around the country. Two of those projects have been recipients of the NCPH Outstanding Public History Project Award.

Appointed Directors



Stephanie Rowe
Executive Director
National Council on Public History

Stephanie Rowe was appointed NCPH Executive Director in 2016. Stephanie began at NCPH in 2012 as Program Manager, then served as Associate Director. She came to the organization after five years with Museumwise, now the Museum Association of New York, where she served as Program Coordinator and Regional Archivist. A native of New York State, Stephanie earned her BA in Social Studies (2006) from Ithaca College and MA in History Museum Studies (2008) from the Cooperstown Graduate Program. Stephanie is a steering committee member for History Relevance and is active in the National Coalition for History.



James F. Brooks
Editor, *The Public Historian*
University of California Santa Barbara



Nicole Belolan
Co-Editor, *The Public Historian* and NCPH Digital Media Editor
Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities, Rutgers University-Camden

Nicole Belolan is the Public Historian in Residence at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities at Rutgers University-Camden where she directs a continuing education program in historic preservation. She is the Co-Editor of *The Public Historian* and the Digital Media Editor for the National Council on Public History. Nicole is a historian of the material culture of disability in early America.

Elected Directors



Modupe Labode
2016-2022
National Museum of American History

Modupe Labode is in her second term as a member of the NCPH Board of Directors. She is curator at the National Museum of American History. Before joining the museum, she taught history and museum studies at IUPUI from 2007-2019, where she was also a Public Scholar of African American History and Museums. Modupe's previous experience includes working as the chief historian at the Colorado Historical Society and teaching at Iowa State University. She has published articles on the history of African Americans in Colorado and in Indianapolis, and her current research explores the relationship between public art and monuments.



Catherine Gudis
2017-2020
University of California, Riverside

Catherine Gudis is Associate Professor of History, Pollitt Endowed Term Chair in Interdisciplinary Research and Learning in the Humanities and Social Sciences, and Director of Public History at the University of California, Riverside. She has worked for over twenty years with art and history museums, in historic preservation, and on multi-platform, place-based projects that focus on Southern California and explore how public space is privatized, landscapes racialized, and inequalities of access contested. She co-founded two collectives, Project 51, whose [Play the LA River](#) urged Angelinos to reclaim the LA River as public space, and the Bureau of Goods Transport, a clearinghouse to explore the history and import of logistics from the LA Ports to the Inland Empire, and is a long-time member of a third, the [Los Angeles Urban Rangers](#). Cathy is piloting the [Relevancy & History Project](#) partnership between UCR and California State Parks, aimed to foster community engagement and co-produce more inclusive historical interpretation, and has collaborated with the [Humanities Action Lab](#) since its inception. She currently serves as a contributing editor for the *Journal of American History's* Public History Reviews. Cathy has held fellowships at the Getty Research Institute, Harvard University, Haynes Foundation, and Huntington Library, and is currently an ACLS-Mellon Foundation Society and Scholars Fellow. Cathy is the author of *Buyways: Billboards, Automobiles, and the American Landscape* (Routledge, 2004) and coedited anthologies and articles on place, race, and public culture, she is working on two books, *Curating the City: The Framing of Los Angeles*, which considers performance, art, and other public-engagement practices that unpack the power dynamics shaping Southern California, and *Skid Row, By Design: History, Community, and Activism in Downtown L.A.*



Na Li
2017-2020
Zhejiang University, China

Na Li is a Research Fellow/Professor at Department of History, Zhejiang University. She worked as Research Fellow/Professor at the Institute for Advanced Humanities and Social Sciences, Chongqing University (2013-2017). She is Editor for *Public History: A*

National Journal of Public History (《公众史学》), and International Consulting Editor for *The Public Historian*. She serves on the Board of Directors for the National Council on Public History.

Her research focuses on public history and urban preservation. Her first book, *Kensington Market: Collective Memory, Public History, and Toronto's Urban Landscape* (University of Toronto Press, 2015) investigates ethnic minority entrepreneurs in one of the most diverse neighborhoods, Kensington Market in Toronto, incorporates collective memory in urban landscape interpretation, and suggests a Culturally Sensitive Narrative Approach (CSNA) to urban preservation. Her second book, *Public History: A Critical Introduction* (《公众史学研究入门》), surveys key issues in public history (Peking University Press, 2019). She is working on a new book, *Prosuming History: Public History in China*.

Na Li contributes to a better understanding of public history at an international scale. She is International Affiliate of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University, Canada, and an Associate of Australian Centre for Public History at University of Technology Sydney, Australia. She is at a forefront to research and establish public history in China. She has organized the National Public History Seminar (Chongqing 2013); National Public History Conference (Suzhou 2013; Hangzhou 2018); Public History Faculty Training Program in China (Shanghai 2014, Chongqing 2015, Hangzhou 2019).



Joan Zenzen
2017-2020
Independent Historian

Joan Zenzen is an independent public historian working in the Washington, DC, area. She writes histories for the federal government, especially the National Park Service, and also conducts oral history interviews for local organizations and governments. You can read more about her at www.joanzenzen.com



Kristen Baldwin Deathridge
2018-2021
Appalachian State University

Kristen Baldwin Deathridge works with students at Appalachian State University and communities near Boone, NC. An Associate Professor in the History Department, she supervises the graduate concentration in Historic Preservation and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in public history, digital history, and history and film.

Baldwin Deathridge earned an MA in Archaeology from the University of Reading in 2005, and completed a PhD in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University in 2012. Some recent public history work includes working with the Junaluska Heritage Association for the historically black community in Boone, supervising creation of a digital exhibit on the naming history of campus buildings, and co-authoring a revised National Register of Historic Places nomination for Portsmouth Village at Cape Lookout National Seashore. For NCPH, she has served on the New Professional and Graduate Student Committee and the Digital Media Group in the past. She currently co-chairs the NCPH board-led subcommittee on gender discrimination and sexual harassment.



Krista McCracken
2018-2021
Algoma University

Krista McCracken is a public historian and archivist. They work as an Archives Supervisor at Algoma University's [Arthur A. Wishart Library](#) and [Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre](#), in Baawating (Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario) on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Métis people. Krista's research areas include community archives, Residential Schools, access, and outreach. Krista is an editor of the popular Canadian history website [Activehistory.ca](#) and they are a member of the Steering Committee on Canada's Archives – Response to the Report on the Truth and Reconciliation Task Force. When not working they can be found drinking tea, watching *Doctor Who*, and editing Wikipedia.



Kimberly E. Springle
2018-2021
Sumner School Museum and Archives

Kimberly E. Springle is an Historian with a focus on community history. Her research interests include 20th Century African American History, the history of public education, and capturing the untold stories of lesser known contributors to society.

Kimberly is the Founder and Principal Consultant of K.E. Springle Cultural Consulting, serving communities and individuals nationwide in preserving their cultural assets and lecturing on topics related to cultural heritage. Kimberly also presently serves as the Executive Director of Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, the official museum and repository for DC Public Education. In her capacity, she is the steward of the historic site and serves as the Historian and Archivist for the DC Public Education System.

Over her 17-year career in the museum field, Kimberly has worked with various cultural institutions including the Smithsonian Institution Archives, National Museum of American History and with Lord Cultural Resources, a Canadian-based museum consulting firm. She currently serves on the Executive Board of the National Council on Public History (NCPH), and is a member of the Editorial Review Board and Diversity and Inclusion Committee for American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). In addition, she is a member and First Vice President of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, DC State Organization, which promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education worldwide.

Kimberly earned her Master of Arts Degree in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program (State University of New York, Oneonta). She also earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History with a Minor in African American Studies from College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. She is a proud native of Greenville, South Carolina.



Nicole A. Moore

2019-2022

National Center for Civil and Human Rights & Independent Consultant

Nicole A. Moore is a public historian with 10 years of experience in interpreting the lives of the enslaved. She has facilitated workshops on best practices around the interpretation of slavery and how race and identity impact visitor learning. Bridging the gap between first and third person interpretation for all age groups, Nicole has also conducting training sessions at Old Salem Museum and Gardens, Andrew Jackson's Hermitage and Historic St. Mary's City. She serves on the board of directors for the National Council on Public History as well as the Slave Dwelling Project. She is also an active member of the American Association for State and Local History, serving on the Educator Interpreter Committee as well as the Annual Meeting Program Committee for several years. Publications include chapters for *Interpreting Slavery* and *Interpreting the Civil War for Museums & Historic Sites* (both on Rowman & Littlefield) as well as the forthcoming *Radical Roots: Civic Engagement, Public History and a Tradition of Social Justice Activism* (Amherst College Press). Nicole is currently the Director of Education at the National [Center for Civil and Human Rights](#) in Atlanta where she heads all educational initiatives at The Center and co-curates Voice to the Voiceless: The Morehouse College, Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection.



Caridad de la Vega

2019-2022

National Park Service, National Historic Landmarks Program

Ms. de la Vega is a historian with the National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service in Washington, DC. From 2003 to 2011, Ms. de la Vega was a weekend museum supervisor at the Carlyle House Historic Park in Alexandria, Virginia. She has worked in historic preservation since 2002 when she interned for the National Historic Landmarks Program as a National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) intern. As a freelance consultant and a native Spanish speaker, Ms. de la Vega has worked with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian and the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage on bilingual exhibitions, such as the indigenous Bolivian community in Washington, DC, and borderland culture in the American Southwest. As an independent consultant, she has also written numerous Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plans, a program of the National Register of Historic Places, on African American history.

Ms. de la Vega has written National Historic Landmark nominations, published exhibit reviews, and contributed several articles to cultural resource publications, particularly on diverse communities. In her capacity with the NHL program, Ms. de la Vega's most recent project involves the completion of the remaining two civil rights theme studies on housing and employment discrimination.

From 2004 to 2013, Ms. de la Vega served as a board member of the Arlington Heritage Alliance, a local preservation advocacy group in Arlington, Virginia. She has been active in NCPH since 2014 and was elected to the board in March 2019. Caridad is also active in the Society for Historians in the Federal Government and serves on their John Wesley Powell Prize Committee. Ms. de la Vega earned her BA in history from the University of Miami and her MA in public history from American University. She is a native of Miami, Florida.