PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

MARLA MILLER / MMILLER@HISTORY.UMASS.EDU

I can’t wait to welcome you all to Atlanta in March, and to this extended marking of our past, present, and future as we celebrate our 40th anniversary year!

Our 2020 conference theme, “Threads of Change,” gestures toward Atlanta’s rich history and contemporary community around fiber arts and industries as it invites us to contemplate generation and regeneration, tradition entwined with revolution, roots alongside reinvention. “From threads, fragments, and disparate materials,” our Program Committee co-chairs Ashley Bouknight and Brian Joyner write, “public historians create multi-layered quilts of historical meaning that reflect, frame, deconstruct, reassemble, and repurpose narratives.” To press another fabric metaphor, we will consider our “big tent” of public history, and direct attention to the wide array of practitioners who have long gathered under our capacious canvas. “Public history work lives in museums, archives, publications, and historic places,” but it is also, as our thoughtful Program Committee reminds us via this year’s Call for Proposals, “history as activism, history as storytelling, and history as healing. Our challenge is to reconnect to our local, activist roots, to forge new and stronger partnerships, great privilege comes great responsibility—a quote the internet assures me comes either from Voltaire or Spider-Man—and so I’m here to share some tips for the upcoming Atlanta conference for those of you who are hankering, as I always am, to get a sense of place from the city we visit.

1) A deep dive at the Atlanta History Center. This year the Atlanta History Center is hosting us for an evening of dinner and exploration on Thursday night, March 19, where we’ll be celebrating our 40th anniversary as an organization. The Center will have exhibits in their main building open including the new restoration and reinterpretation of the Battle of Atlanta Cyclorama. On a site visit in the summer of 2017, I was able to tour the then-in-progress exhibit and was blown away. I’m excited for attendees to see it too—particularly since you’ll have the opportunity to learn more about the behind-the-scenes work at a session on the program Thursday afternoon.

2) Hit the town. Thanks to a sponsorship from the University of Georgia, we’re

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

40 YEARS OF NCPH

STEPHANIE ROWE / ROWE@IUPUI.EDU

Welcome to the first issue of the 40th volume year of Public History News! All of us here at NCPH are excited to begin recognition of our organization’s 40th anniversary. The year will be full of reflection and celebration, and we hope you will join us.

Activities will begin in earnest during our 2020 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia where we will feature a slate of events exploring the occasion. Our 40th Anniversary Ad Hoc committee has been hard at work planning for well over a year. Please join them in the Exhibit Hall in Atlanta to share your birthday wishes for NCPH and more, and join us in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

NCPH 2020 AND THE POWER OF PLACE

MEGHAN HILLMAN / MEGHILLM@IUPUI.EDU

My job as NCPH Program Manager is in many ways a typical office job. I spend a lot of time with spreadsheets; I send and receive many emails; I collate and number-crunch. This work is satisfying, but there is one thing that stands out when people ask me what I love about my job: getting to know new places.

Public historians talk a lot about a sense of place, but until I started this position, I didn’t realize the extent to which this concept also informs NCPH’s philosophy on conferences. This year alone I traveled to Hartford, Atlanta, Montreal, and Salt Lake City for work. Four more different North American cities could hardly be imagined, all of them with unique histories and vibes and cultural touchstones, all with incredible museums to explore, people to meet, and food to eat.

Before each NCPH conference, I make a deep dive into a new city, working with our local arrangements committees to get to know the history, public history work, and institutions through their eyes. In addition to site visits, I spend over a year there in my head, learning what makes that city tick and inevitably growing to love it. Then, I get to help translate that love—the love locals have for their town, and the growing, almost evangelical love I develop over the course of planning—to the pages of our Program and the conference itself.

Before NCPH 2020, my only experiences with Atlanta were transit-related. I’d connected through Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, well-known as the world’s busiest airport; I’d sat in bumper-to-bumper traffic on the way to Florida for vacation during the height of the 1996 summer Olympics. Now, after over a year of getting to know the city, I realize that my youthful impression of Atlanta—as a place to travel through on the way to other destinations—couldn’t have been more wrong.

The places we hold conferences are not incidental, to be passed through from the airport to the hotel and back. They are fundamental. To spend my working life immersed in the great public history you do and learning more about the places in which you do it is a great privilege. But with
HISTORY supports the NCPH for promoting the value and significance of history every day.
PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

CANDIDATES FOR THE 2020 NCPH ELECTION

Current board and committee members are listed at http://bit.ly/NCPHcommittees.

Vice President/President Elect
(one candidate)
Kristine Navarro McElaney, New Mexico Historic Sites

Board of Directors
(six candidates for three positions)
Rosalind Beiler, University of Central Florida
Rachel Boyle, Omnia History
Suzanne Fischer, Michigan History Center
Rebecca Shrum, IUPUI
William Stoutamire, University of West Georgia
Daniel Vivian, University of Kentucky

Nominating Committee
(four candidates for two positions)
Patrice Green, University of Georgia
Amber Mitchell, National WWII Museum
Anne Mitchell Whisnant, Duke University
Rebecca Wingo, University of Cincinnati

Balloots and candidate statements were distributed by email to members on November 12. Please contact ncph@iupui.edu if you are a member and did not receive an electronic ballot. The election closes January 15, 2020. Your vote counts!

Stevy Acevedo
Arcadia, CA

Kristen Addessi
Staten Island, NY

Karen Adjei
Germantown, MD

Keth Alexander
Shepardstown, WV

Nicole Allison
Woodland, CA

Scarlett Andes
Vernon Hills, IL

Jesse Bayker
North York, ON, Canada

Aneka Beasley
Rincon, GA

Madison Bifano
London, ON, Canada

Steven Bishop
Sudbury, United Kingdom

Heather Bloom
Kilmilton, OH

Shannon Browning-Mulls
Savannah, GA

Eric Bryan
Harrisonburg, VA

Adrienne Burke
Yulee, FL

Katherine Bynum
Fort Worth, TX

Alonna Carter
Pittsburgh, PA

Romita Choudhury
Calgary, AB, Canada

Courtney Christner
Philadelphia, PA

Allison Clark
Dallas, TX

Rosa Clemente
Albany, NY

Maxwell Close
Silver Spring, MD

Nina Cole
Davis, CA

Sharron Conrad
Iving, TX

Abby Currier
Indianapolis, IN

Catlin Cutrona
Columbia, SC

Michelle Duster
Chicago, IL

Katherine Faz
Asamosa, CO

Kelly Feller
Springfield, MA

Holly Floyd
Florence, SC

Amanda Fountains-Scheuerman
Lehi, UT

Damien Frierson
Washington, DC

Rowen Germain
Kitchener, ON, Canada

Sarah Graf
Springfield, MA

Sharyn Green
Tuscaloosa, AL

Jeffrey Green
Monroe, MI

Ian Gregory-Graff
Lafayette, LA

Naili Guillon
Brooklyn, NY

Stephen Hausmann
St. Paul, MN

Michala Hulme
Middlewich, United Kingdom

Sarah Jane Weicksel
Crofton, MD

Kathryn Julian
Maryville, TN

Gregory Kelly
Washington, DC

Nicole LaBouff
Minneapolis, MN

Rachel Lachut
Louisville, KY

Barbara Lau
Durham, NC

Randall Law
Birmingham, AL

Katie Leeper
Westminster, CO

Jenna Lemay
Sault Ste Marie, ON, Canada

Laura Leppink
Minneapolis, MN

Rustin Lloyd
Lakeland, FL

Ted Long
Sylvania, OH

Kera Lovel
Incheon, South Korea

Isaac Makos
Arlington, VA

Michella Marino
Indianapolis, IN

Maria Mazzenza
Arlington, VA

Kate McDonnell
Greensboro, NC

Ryan McDonnell
Yardley, PA

Sam McKelvey
Warsaw, VA

Thomas Meyer
Cincinnati, OH

Harrison Meyers
Potomac, MD

Brian Miller
Meadville, PA

Denni Mitchell
Lincoln, NE

Paige Mitchell
Burlington, IA

Sara Mohr
Providence, RI

M. J. O’Brien
Vienna, VA

Lauren O’Brien
View Park, CA

Joey O’Dell
Columbia, TN

Alex O’Gorman
Philadelphia, PA

Chris On
Rapid City, SD

Erica Peplowski
Henderson, NV

Traci Picard
Providence, RI

Dana Pinelli
Vero Beach, FL

Sarah Potter
Washington, DC

Phoeda Powell-Zecher
Sequim, WA

Katherine Pozgay
Medford, MA

Sarah Prescott
Anchorage, AK

Tamar Rabinowitz
Brooklyn, NY

Sondra Reieison
Saint Paul, MN

Olaya Sanfuentes
Santiago, Chile

Elise Schebler Roberts
Plymouth, MN

Rebecca Schmitt
Nashville, TN

Margaret Schultz
Birmingham, AL

Angela Scott
Long Beach, CA

William Scott
Caryns, GA

Stephanie Seketa
Poughkeepsie, NY

Cody Shelley
Savannah, GA

Andrew Sistrand
Bethany, CT

Kirbie Sondreal
Milford, NY

Amy Sullivan
Minneapolis, MN

Alex Tabor
Pittsburgh, PA

Hannah Tanner
Hemlock, MI

Sarah Toch
Simspsonville, MD

Tracey Trump
Lewesville, TX

Janny Turman
Wise, VA

Adrienne Usher
Kearneyssville, WV

Jessica VanLanduyt
Atlanta, GA

Patricia Wallace
New Haven, CT

Alexandra Warren
Centennial, CO

Alyssa Wilhilte
Tyler, TX

Rebecca Wingo
Cincinnati, OH

Berry Wolff
Evanston, IL

Amy Zanoni
New Brunswick, NJ
After the March 28 meeting of the NCPH Board of Directors in Hartford, Connecticut, and prior to the fall meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, the board convened electronically and by telephone and took the following actions:

- Approved the Minutes of the Fall 2018 Board Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, the November 2018 Virtual Meeting, the December 2018 Virtual Meeting, the December 2018 Executive Committee Virtual Meeting, and the February 2019 Executive Committee Meeting.
- Approved institutional subscription rate increases for The Public Historian.
- Reviewed 2019 conference events as they related to the Events Code of Conduct and sexual harassment in the field.
- Voted to create a subcommittee of the board (with members from outside of the board) to address issues of sexual harassment and gender discrimination in the field.
- Adopted “Job Posting Recommended Best Practices” document.
- Approved the Minutes of the June 2019 Virtual Meeting and the August 2019 Virtual Meeting.
- Discussed staffing changes and budget forecasting.
- Endorsed “Teaching Hard History: American Slavery” initiative.
- Reviewed progress towards the 2017-2022 Long Range Plan goals.
- Reviewed and approved the 2018 biennial audit.
- Voted to adopt the 2020 Operating Budget.
- Heard reports on current fundraising efforts.
- Voted to adopt an amended NCPH Events Code of Conduct.
- Reviewed a proposal to create an organizational Ombuds and agreed to do additional research.
- Reviewed written and oral reports from NCPH committees, subcommittees, and task forces.
- Reviewed progress towards the 2017-2022 Long Range Plan goals.
- Reviewed a member proposal for consideration of grassroots organizations in our membership and conference rate structures and in our awards program and task existing and ad hoc groups with following up on the proposal.
- Reviewed and approved the 2018 Form 990.
- Voted for a marginal increase to membership dues to be put into effect Summer 2020.
- Voted to approve the 2018 biennial audit.
- Voted to approve submission of the 2018 Form 990.
- Voted to adopt the 2020 Operating Budget.
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Thank you to NCPH’s Sustaining-level members! Sustaining members make the work of NCPH possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members of the NCPH Board of Directors at work in Indianapolis, Indiana during their Fall meeting. Image courtesy Nicole Belolan.</th>
<th>On Saturday, October 26 the board met in Indianapolis, Indiana and took the following actions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keri Adams</td>
<td>• Reviewed the 2020 Board and Nominating Committee Election slates submitted by the Nominating Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrollton, GA</td>
<td>• Approved the Minutes of the September 2019 and October 2019 Virtual Meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Arning</td>
<td>• Heard reports from the President, Executive Director, Digital Media Editor, and The Public Historian Editors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunenburg, MA</td>
<td>• Voted for a marginal increase to membership dues to be put into effect Summer 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianne Babal</td>
<td>• Voted to approve the 2018 biennial audit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Valley, CA</td>
<td>• Voted to approve submission of the 2018 Form 990.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Battle</td>
<td>• Voted to adopt the 2020 Operating Budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>• Heard reports on current fundraising efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelley Bookspan</td>
<td>• Voted to adopt an amended NCPH Events Code of Conduct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara, CA</td>
<td>• Reviewed a proposal to create an organizational Ombuds and agreed to do additional research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane E. Boyd</td>
<td>• Reviewed written and oral reports from NCPH committees, subcommittees, and task forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara, CA</td>
<td>• Reviewed a member proposal for consideration of grassroots organizations in our membership and conference rate structures and in our awards program and task existing and ad hoc groups with following up on the proposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Brooks</td>
<td>• Approved the Minutes of the September 2019 and October 2019 Virtual Meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Collins, CO</td>
<td>• Heard reports from the President, Executive Director, Digital Media Editor, and The Public Historian Editors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leil Carr Childers</td>
<td>• Voted for a marginal increase to membership dues to be put into effect Summer 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>• Voted to approve the 2018 biennial audit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Chamberlain</td>
<td>• Voted to approve submission of the 2018 Form 990.</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Adams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Covart Williamsburg, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Chamberlain New Orleans, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Dellinger</td>
<td>• Reviewed written and oral reports from NCPH committees, subcommittees, and task forces.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keri Adams Carrollton, GA</td>
<td>• Reviewed progress towards the 2017-2022 Long Range Plan goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Arning Lafayette, CO</td>
<td>• Reviewed a member proposal for consideration of grassroots organizations in our membership and conference rate structures and in our awards program and task existing and ad hoc groups with following up on the proposal.</td>
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</table>
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; committee chairs and members can be found at: http://bit.ly/NCPHcommittees.

COMMITTEE FOR GOVERNMENT HISTORIANS

The mission of our committee is to support NCPH members who work for or with local, state, and federal government agencies, recognizing that government workers’ experiences and needs can be quite different from those of public historians working in educational or private institutions.

We are planning a conversation with the editors of History@Work and The Public Historian about the peculiar constraints government historians face in communicating about their work and look forward to working together to develop guidelines that will ensure that government historians have more opportunities to contribute to NCPH publications going forward.

Two committee-sponsored sessions have been accepted for inclusion on the program for the 2020 conference. These include a structured conversation entitled “Working in Government: Creative Solutions to Political Constraints” and a point-counter-point session entitled “Does the NHPA Need to Be Fixed?”

Finally, the committee has been considering ways of increasing participation among NCPH members who are working in or with government and of better serving members who are unable to attend the annual meeting. Anecdotal feedback suggests that many who might benefit from engagement with our committee do not realize that we represent them. Many of those who are doing history work within government are not actually working in a “historian” title and, thus, may not feel that our committee is an appropriate place for them. We seek to get the message out that we are here for anyone affiliated with government, including people working in non-historian titles at government-operated archives, museums, historic sites, historic preservation offices, etc. We hope to survey NCPH members associated with government in coming months to gauge their interests and solicit input on everything from naming, messaging, and platforms for sharing information beyond the annual meeting.

-Submitted by co-chairs Rachel Kline and Christine Ridarsky

CURRICULUM AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

It’s a transition year for the C&T Committee, as Leslie Madsen and Jennifer Dickey have stepped into new roles as co-chairs. As the Board has charged us with quite a few responsibilities, we’re looking to build the committee’s capacity.

While our immediate focus has been on organizing the Educators’ Forum at the 2020 Annual Meeting, this year we also will review existing “best practices” documents and propose or create new ones, revitalize the Public History Educators listserv, and liaise with other committees and groups to collaborate on such issues as updating standards for tenure and promotion; expanding and improving professional development opportunities; contributing to high-quality programming at the annual meeting; and identifying the needs of state and local historical societies, federal agencies, museums, and other entities to ensure alignment between public history curriculum and practice.

See an issue or task that interests you? We welcome assistance from faculty, students, and practitioners at all levels. Contact committee co-chairs Jennifer Dickey at jdickey2@kennesaw.edu and Leslie Madsen at lmadsen@boisestate.edu.

-Delivered by co-chairs Jennifer Dickey and Leslie Madsen

DIGITAL MEDIA GROUP

The Digital Media Group’s (DMG) teams have been hard at work on several projects. Our social media team launched an NCPH Instagram account (@publichistorians) in June, led by former Membership Manager Christine Crosby. The content consists of “Instagram Takeovers” by NCPH members, and we are excited to report that we already have over 850 followers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

40 YEARS OF NCPH // CONT’D. FROM PAGE 1

Thanking our 40-year partner, the University of California Santa Barbara, for sponsoring our anniversary activities in Atlanta.

We’re organizing a special opening plenary event in Atlanta on Wednesday evening, exploring the founding of NCPH and reflecting on the evolution of the field in the past 40 years. The day on Friday is full of reflective and forward-looking sessions sponsored by our 40th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee and our Council of Past Presidents. The first session block includes the session, “Threads of Origin” which will examine a broadly representative cohort of men, women, nonbinary people, people of color, and LGBTQ+ individuals and groups whose careers and professional activities broke new ground or made enduring contributions to public history. Right after, we’ll explore “Developments in International Public History” with participants from China, Chile, England, and Italy. In the first afternoon block, we’ll discuss “Public History and Gender Equity: A Long View of the Field,” and we’ll round the day out with our public plenary: “Public History as Activism: Recognizing Power in Memory Making.”

Celebrations will abound at our 40th Birthday Bash on Thursday evening, March 19 at the Atlanta History Center. The Center is generous enough to sponsor our party, opening up their entire main building, including the newly interpreted and restored Battle of Atlanta cyclorama. The party will also be a small fundraiser with the goal of putting our 2020 Vision Endowment Campaign over the top—growing NCPH’s endowment to $1 million and allowing us to expand professional development opportunities, further fund our awards and travel grant programs, and get several steps closer to achieving fiscal independence. In acknowledging the importance of students in the history and life of our organization, tickets to this event for current students are subsidized. We hope you’ll all join us to celebrate!

Rest-assured, the anniversary activities will not end on the last day of the annual meeting. The 40th committee is working with NCPH Digital Media Editor and NCPH staff to produce a 40th anniversary e-publication for release in Summer 2020. The goal of the e-publication is to record and reflect on NCPH’s history as an organization beyond the founding years, and to think about where the public history field is going as we enter into the future. In a series of 1,000-word essays, we’ll explore turning points in NCPH’s history as well as the larger field, and we’ll look back on some classic reflective essays from The Public Historian.

It’ll be a year of excitement, reflection, celebration, challenge, and forward-thinking and I look forward to starting the next 40 years of NCPH with all of you.

-Stephanie Rowe is NCPH’s Executive Director.
The committee is now in the last stages of a multi-year project: an extensive white paper on public history education and environmental sustainability. This document will serve as a toolkit providing guidance and a bibliography for public history instructors looking to integrate environmentally sustainable perspectives and practices into the values and skills we already teach.

The committee is sponsoring two sessions at the 2020 Annual Meeting. A working group titled “Public Historians in Our Climate Emergency” will explore how public historians can use their skills to help communities address the emergency of climate disruption. Another working group will discuss the opportunities and challenges of making NCPH’s conference practices more environmentally sustainable. See above for a description of that work and note the working group will be open to all in Atlanta.

Members of the committee have also collected proposals for an essay volume looking at the public history of trees. The book has its roots in sessions at the NCPH conference and will bring together practitioners and academics to look at how trees are serving as objects of preservation, obstacles to other preservation projects, and locations of public historical meaning and engagement.

-Submitted by co-chairs William Ippen and Philip Levy

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
At the 2019 Annual Meeting in Hartford, the NCPH Board of Directors voted to establish a Governance Committee. The Governance Committee’s responsibilities include the review and assessment of NCPH bylaws, committee structures, and committee responsibilities. The Committee also functions in an advisory role, in terms of making recommendations about governance best practices.

The inaugural Governance Committee is comprised of Krista McCracken (chair), Sharon Leon, Kimberly Springle, Kristin Ahlberg, Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, and Chandler Lighty. All of us are deeply invested in the work of NCPH. We are committed to building sustainable governance structures to support NCPH.

The Governance Committee began its work by reviewing and suggesting changes to the NCPH Events Code of Conduct. The Committee worked alongside the Board-Led Sub-Committee on Gender Discrimination and Harassment to suggest wording changes to the Code and provide suggestions on implementation of the Code. The revised code is now available on the NCPH website and in the annual meeting Program.

Recently, the committee has turned its focus to updating and revising the NCPH Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. As part of this work, we will be soliciting feedback from NCPH committees, via a History@Work post to engage the NCPH membership more broadly, and surveying comparable codes of ethics. We are working to make this process as transparent as possible and met as a committee in November to discuss progress.

-Submitted by chair Krista McCracken

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
The Long Range Planning Committee is implementing a new strategy designed to improve our ability to assist the board, staff, and committee chairs with achieving the goals and objectives of the current Long Range Plan. A subcommittee led by co-chair Abby Gautreau is in the midst of developing a series of customized worksheets intended to help those tasked with implementing portions of the plan track their own progress towards their specifically assigned goals and objectives. A second subcommittee, led by co-chair Will Stoutamire, will then transfer the results of those worksheets to a larger tracking document and periodically evaluate overall progress towards the full implementation of the plan, adjusting the timeline and goals/objectives, as needed. We hope this new strategy will help to simplify the process for all involved!

-Submitted by co-chairs Abigail Gautreau and William Stoutamire

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Following a productive meeting at the annual meeting in Hartford, the Membership Committee is pursuing several items associated with our 2019–2020 charge.

As part of ongoing responsibilities, each member has contacted 10–12 lapsed NCPH members with a personal email, encouraging them to renew their NCPH membership. Working with the NCPH office, the Committee will send additional emails to lapsed members prior to the annual meeting in Atlanta.

The Committee has continued to expand the “After Work” networking program, which provides a more local and casual setting for NCPH members and potential NCPH members to discuss professional items of common

As part of our work toward the DMG’s Long Range Plan goals, the History@Work team recently completed its yearly review of the blog’s editorial practices and updated its editorial guidelines. We also conducted training this fall for our affiliate editors, to ensure they are familiar with the blog’s editorial processes.

Our Digital Public History Projects Directory team recently began drafting a proposal to create a searchable, categorized directory of digital public history projects to be hosted on the NCPH website. The DMG’s members had a lively discussion about the draft proposal in our September conference call, and the team will updating and improving the proposal based on this feedback.

Last but not least, our planning for the Digital Public History Projects Directory (formerly THATCamp) at the 2020 NCPH Annual Meeting is underway. This year’s workshop will feature a full slate of preplanned breakout sessions on digital practice, projects, and tools. There will also be time for informal conversations and connections, and all levels of tech-savviness (or lack thereof) are welcome.

-Submitted by chair Laura Miller

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
Over the past few months the Environmental Sustainability Committee has been completing a report on the Green Meetings movement and providing recommendations to the NCPH Board of Directors. This task is a part of the committee’s charge and represents a concerted effort to reduce the carbon footprint and other environmental impacts of the NCPH annual meetings. Many academic and commercial societies have been taking steps toward more environmentally sustainable meetings. These efforts have produced a body of collected wisdom and practical ideas. The report reviews this literature and offers suggestions. The first draft of the report went to the Board for comment in October and there will be a follow up discussion in December. We are planning to share some of the simpler and more specific ideas with the NCPH membership in advance of the 2020 Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

This summer NCPH launched an Instagram account to share the varied work and interests of our members.
interest. Several “After Work” events have taken place in Denver-Boulder area, Louisville, and Washington, DC (co-sponsored by the Society for History in the Federal Government) this summer and fall, with additional events planned.

In advance of the 2020 meeting in Atlanta, the Committee is evaluating its outreach to members and is considering hosting another Twitter chat to provide useful conference information to NCPH members attending their first NCPH meeting. Presently, members are putting together a “Shared Wisdom” session for the annual meeting on ways in which NCPH members can increase their involvement in the organization. This session will build on the success of a similar one that appeared on the program in Hartford.

-Submitted by co-chairs Kristin Ahlberg and Krista McCracken

NEW PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE

The New Professional and Graduate Student Committee is engaged in multiple initiatives to empower and engage NCPH members throughout their academic careers and as they enter the professional field. Notably, we will be submitting a request to formally change the name of our committee to the “New Professional and Student Committee.” We believe that the work of our committee is important to undergraduates as well as graduate students and new professionals, especially as more universities are offering public history classes and programs at the undergraduate level, and we see an increase in conference attendance by undergraduates. We will be seeking to add at least one undergraduate member to our committee.

-Submitted by co-chairs Julie Peterson and Harvee White

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Professional Development Committee continues to work towards meeting the goals of the Long Range Plan as the organization continues to grow. At the same time, co-chairs Nick Sacco and Jessica Knapp are working with other committee members to formulate a transition as a new chair will be appointed for the committee next year to replace Nick and Jessica, who have been co-chairs of the committee for the past five years.

The committee recently worked with the NCPH staff to evaluate workshop proposals for the 2020 Annual Meeting. The number and quality of incorporating events that serve our constituents at the Atlanta meeting. We hope to use the conference as a time to provide support and guidance for new professionals and students.

We continue to be active on Twitter—embracing the guidelines that NCPH updated this summer, we seek contributions to the History@Work blog, and are continuing to develop a Public History Navigator for the job market. Numerous committee members are also involved with collaborative projects with other committees.

-Submitted by co-chairs Julie Peterson and Harvee White

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-Submitted by co-chairs Julie Peterson and Harvee White

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Professional Development Committee continues to work towards meeting the goals of the Long Range Plan as the organization continues to grow. At the same time, co-chairs Nick Sacco and Jessica Knapp are working with other committee members to formulate a transition as a new chair will be appointed for the committee next year to replace Nick and Jessica, who have been co-chairs of the committee for the past five years.

The committee recently worked with the NCPH staff to evaluate workshop proposals for the 2020 Annual Meeting. The number and quality of incorporating events that serve our constituents at the Atlanta meeting. We hope to use the conference as a time to provide support and guidance for new professionals and students.

We continue to be active on Twitter—embracing the guidelines that NCPH updated this summer, we seek contributions to the History@Work blog, and are continuing to develop a Public History Navigator for the job market. Numerous committee members are also involved with collaborative projects with other committees.

-Submitted by co-chairs Julie Peterson and Harvee White

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workshop proposals was strong and almost all committee members participated in assessing and ranking the workshops. The committee will also work with the staff to organize and promote the annual Speed Networking session for the annual meeting.

The committee also looks forward to utilizing its new “subcommittee” format to subdivide work on long-term goals. These subcommittees will consist of roughly three to four committee members and will better help the co-chairs implement the committee's goals. These subcommittees are dedicated to improving the NCPH Jobs Page; promoting webinars for public history practitioners; revising the guidelines for workshop proposals; promoting and implementing the Speed Networking session at the annual meeting; and establishing external partnerships with outside organizations such as HBCUs, HSIs, Tribal colleges, and community colleges.

-Submitted by co-chairs Jessica Knapp and Nicholas Sacco

AASSLH-AHA-NCPH-OAH TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC HISTORY EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION
The Joint Task Force on Public History Education and Employment has completed its report on the survey of alumni of public history programs and will begin publicizing it this fall. A panel held at the American Historical Association meeting in Chicago, Illinois, on January 4, 2019, presented the major findings of the report and stimulated extensive discussion. Daniel Vivian also shared information from the report in a presentation to the Department of History at the University of Alabama on February 14, 2019. Philip Scarpino presented findings from the survey of public history employers at two conferences: the Italian Association for Public History in Santa Maria Capua Vetere, Italy, in June, and the Third National Public History Training Program at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China, in July. Now that the task force has completed the two major projects it decided to undertake in response to its initial charge, the group will consider its future in the coming months and determine if it should continue.

-Submitted by co-chairs Philip Scarpino and Daniel Vivian

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION
Co-chaired by Kristen Baldwin Deathridge and Mary Rizzo, this subcommittee continues work begun by the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force around ending sexual harassment and gender discrimination at our conference, in our organization, and in the public history field. The group includes consultants, museum workers, university-based public historians, graduate students, and new professionals. Our subcommittee has taken on several tasks and divided into four teams in order to move things along. First, we’ve completed work with the Governance Committee to update the Events Code of Conduct and those changes were submitted to the board for a vote in October 2019. The same team is reviewing the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, and will make suggestions to the Governance Committee for its revision. Second, we are assembling and assessing resources on these topics in order to empower public historians at work and in universities to address these issues. Third, we are developing a survey of the field, to be conducted in partnership with other professional organizations, that will help us understand the scope of the problem. Finally, we are researching revocation policies and other punitive measures in other professional organizations in order to submit a draft of such a policy for NCPH to the Governance Committee. Our teams met throughout September and October on these tasks. We are in discussion with an organization devoted to ending sexual violence about listening sessions for our members and training for staff and board.

-Submitted by co-chairs Kristen Baldwin Deathridge and Mary Rizzo

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NEW PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES FROM AASLH
and to incorporate new fabric into our collective endeavor, one thread at a time.”

The city of Atlanta (ATL) is, of course, an excellent setting for this moment of reflection and recommitment, as well as introspection, enterprise, and invention. “Hotlanta”—as I came to know it when I moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina—is one of the fastest growing cities in the US, and well-known as an incubator of innovation in the arts, technology, and business. Its contemporary influence on popular culture is hard to overstate, as the music we listen to and the TV and movies we watch come increasingly from the vibrant creative energies swirling in and around ATL. That verve and drive is by no means confined to the arts: Atlanta has also long been a hotbed of activism, as agents of social change there have joined together to advance voting rights, access to public resources, housing markets, and reproductive justice. It is no wonder, then, that the community of public historians in the city has much to offer in the ways of instruction and inspiration. You’ll find their work well-represented on this year’s program.

To help us think through the many ways that threads of both continuity and change are interwoven, braided, and sometimes entangled, our hardworking and dedicated Program and Local Arrangements Committees have crafted a panoply of offerings. At this year’s public plenary, we’ll hear from local Atlanta activists about the role of their activism in the formation of counter-narratives and the power of informal, intersectional storytelling to preserve the history of marginalized groups in their city. A slate of sessions and events will reflect, on the occasion of our 40th anniversary, on NCPH in the past, present, and future. A special opening plenary will put us in conversation with founding members “present at the creation” of NCPH, and we’ll celebrate the culmination of our 2020 Vision Endowment Campaign at the Atlanta History Center. Given that 2020 also marks anniversaries of the 15th and 19th amendments, the program will explore reenfranchisement, disenfranchisement, and citizenship—issues relevant for our moment in time for reasons far more urgent than the strictly commemorative.

On a service trip, we will lend our minds and shoulders to Historic Washington Park, a landscape (currently observing its own anniversary moment, as the park is in its centennial year) that was part of the first planned African American suburb. Tours will explore Sweet Auburn, Martin Luther King National Historical Park, and the Atlanta University Center campuses of Morehouse University, Clark Atlanta University, and Spelman College. We will explore Atlanta’s culinary, civil rights, and LGBTQ+ histories; we will visit New Echota—the removal-era capital of the Cherokee Nation; we’ll discover histories of public health in the David J. Sencer CDC Museum at the headquarters of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and we’ll consider preservation and gentrification in Decatur.

Our annual meeting is a time to come together to share the best of our current practice, and to set our highest aspirations for the future. Our anniversary year invites us, as individuals, as a community, and as a professional association, to reflect on where we have been and determine where we want to go in the future. What fabric will we next weave, with the threads before us?

-Marla Miller is the President of NCPH and is Professor and Director of the Public History Program in the History department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

NCPH 2020 AND THE POWER OF PLACE // CONT’D. FROM PAGE 1

able to offer an expanded slate of tours designed to get you out and about. Thanks to our Local Arrangements Committee, some ATL museums and sites have promised free or discounted admission to NCPH attendees if you’d rather visit on your own or in a smaller group. There’s a MARTA stop right across the street from the conference hotel, and a robust culture of street art with self-guided tours at https://streetartmap.org/. I hope you’ll take a morning or afternoon off from sessions to go explore: you’ll learn as much about public history practice from your time outside the hotel as you will in sessions.

3) Lend Atlanta your backs, hearts, and minds. Those of us traveling to Atlanta from colder climes will relish the opportunity to see a little sunshine. I hope you’ll help us give back to the community hosting us by participating in our Saturday service trip to historic Washington Park, where we’ll help its conservancy clean up and plan for future preservation.

4) Threads of change, literally. You may have noticed we’ve been featuring the work of Atlanta-based quilter Aisha Lumumba on many of our promotions for the 2020 conference, from the Call for Proposals to our emails all the way to the Program cover. Ms. Lumumba will have a booth in our exhibit hall, where you can see “Threads of Change” in action. NCPH swag is great, but save room in your suitcase for shopping local. (You can also check out her work via her website, O.B.A. Quilts, at https://obaquilts.com/.)

5) March is a good month for public history in ATL. We’ll be visiting Atlanta in March, which will coincide with the 2020 Phoenix Flies Celebration, an annual monthlong festival from the Atlanta Preservation Center that celebrates local historic buildings, landmarks, and neighborhoods and their preservation efforts. Phoenix Flies features free public tours, lectures, and events, and they’ll be releasing their 2020 program soon, so keep an eye out. You’ll also notice a “thread” of sessions related to historic preservation on our program.

6) Do the fun kind of homework. Atlanta’s one of the cultural capitals of the US, known for its influential music scene (particularly hip hop and trap) and as the filming location for dozens of your favorite TV shows and movies. Along with a series of History@Work posts highlighting public history work in Atlanta, our Local Arrangements Committee is also working on an “Atlanta syllabus” of sorts to help you get acquainted with the city before your plane lands. In the last few months I’ve been watching the show Atlanta, listening to Migos, and playing the Buried Truths podcast on my way to work.

-Meghan Hillman is NCPH’s Program Manager
#CampingCon2019

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#CampingCon2019 already going pretty well when the orca whales showed up.
Abby Rhinehart of the Washington State Historical Society was leading a session about how to create interactive outdoor learning experiences. #CampingCon2019 sessions were scheduled at different locations on San Juan Island to take full advantage of the historic fabric and natural beauty of the island. Rhinehart was about two-thirds of the way through her engaging session when the pod of orca whales rose out of the water behind her, in unison, and began to put on a show. Given the sudden distraction, conference co-organizer Brandon Cadwell asked her what we should do about her presentation.

“I don’t know about you, but I’m going to check out the whales,” Rhinehart answered.

You have to be flexible when your public history conference is taking place outdoors. #CampingCon2019 took place on September 20th and 21st on San Juan Island. The conference was a sponsored NCPH Mini-Con, and was part of a partnership between the National Park Service and Eastern Washington University. Conference-goers came from across the country, including Washington DC, Atlanta, and New Mexico. Eighteen presenters offered sixteen sessions about doing history in the wild.

#CampingCon2019 drew its inspiration from the first CampingCon, which took place in 2016 at Cade’s Cove Campground in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Organized by Anne Whisnant and Tammy Gordon, the idea behind the CampingCons is that doing public history in the outdoors presents its own unique opportunities and challenges, enough so that a separate conference on the topic makes sense. And that clearly, that conference should not be indoors.

Larry Cebula of Eastern Washington University and the Washington State Archives, who attended that first CampingCon, and Brandon Cadwell, Chief of Interpretation at San Juan Island National Historical Park, organized #CampingCon2019 with huge assistance from NCPH Executive Director Stephanie Rowe.

The conference highlights were many. We began by getting on a bus for “A Personal (And Highly Subjective) History of San Juan Island,” led by Sheila T. Cavanagh and Deborah Middleton. Cocktail historian Renée Cebula’s session “Campfires and Cocktails: Drinking and the Making of the American West” began with the history of whiskey and westward expansion and ended with us all making whiskey sours. A robust book discussion involving Nina Simon’s The Art of Relevance around the campfire ended the first day. And yes, there were s’mores.

Day 2 of #CampingCon2019 was a bluebird day, and we fanned out for multiple sessions. Formats ranged from campfire talks to an interdisciplinary walk up Young Hill with a commanding view of the islands. Participants also went to find “Women on Historic Trails” within the historic grounds of English Camp, and later to discuss the difficulties of creating an exhibit about the harrowing stories of McNeil Island Prison inside of a historic barracks building.

As the sun faded Saturday evening and the picnic shelter came under the glowing of Edison bulbs, keynote speaker Cheryl Bryce, took center stage. Cheryl “Cee Bee” Bryce is a member of the Songhees Nation of the Lək̓ʷəŋən People in British Columbia, Canada. Over the next hour, she expounded on how public history can be activism. One of her banner projects is a “Colonial Reality Tour” of Victoria, British Columbia which “decolonizes the landscape.” In leading these sold-out tours, Bryce takes participants around the provincial capital and shows them traditionally associated and important areas to the region’s tribal members, the land’s history, and colonial demise. This hour gave conference attendees a calling to work with tribal nations and a mission of telling a more holistic story because every site is a tribal site.

On Sunday, participants left their canvas tents for one last communal breakfast. Future CampingCons were the principal topic of discussion, with attendees from Indiana, New Mexico, and California promising to explore the idea at their home institutions. If you are reading this and would like to organize a CampingCon, please reach out to Larry and Brandon.

-Brandon Cadwell is Chief of Visitor and Youth Engagement at San Juan Island National Historical Park.
-Larry Cebula is Professor of History at Eastern Washington University and Assistant Digital Archivist at Washington State Archives.
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