



NATIONAL COUNCIL  
ON PUBLIC HISTORY

NCPH Awards Ceremony  
Saturday, March 21, 2020  
8:00 am – 10:00 am  
Westin Peachtree Plaza  
Atlanta, Georgia

## 2020 NCPH Awards

### Robert Kelley Memorial Award

*This award honors distinguished achievements by individuals, institutions, or nonprofit or corporate entities for making history relevant to individual lives of ordinary people outside of academia. Award committee members: Katie Stringer Clary (Chair), Caroline Klibanoff, and Timothy Kneeland.*

#### Award Winner

**Martin Blatt**, Northeastern University

Martin Blatt is a great example of the impact public history work can have. Blatt is deserving of this award for his decades of service to the National Council on Public History and the field at-large, his work with students and public historians at all levels, and for bringing his considerable practitioner experience to an academic setting. He has also shown a commitment to inclusion, diversity, and grassroots history through his work with the National Park Service and with a variety of organizations in the Boston area and beyond. As one of his nominators explained, "Dr. Blatt is a career public historian who deserves the recognition brought with the Robert Kelley Memorial Award because of his sustained efforts to enact social justice by continuously seeking to expand the stories shared in some of our nation's most historically-significant sites." Congratulations, Marty!

### 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: Angela Smith (chair), Kathleen Franz, and Peter Wong.*

#### Award Winner

**Chicago 1919: Confronting the Race Riots**

**Karen Christianson, Elizabeth Cummings, D. Bradford Hunt, and Liesl Olson**, Newberry Library

This project is a model umbrella initiative that stretched across the city and brought people together to remember one dark event and its aftermath. The website, [Chicago1919.org](http://Chicago1919.org), is well-designed and provides a contextualized and layered resource for educating the public on the uprisings of 1919. Throughout the city, events were scheduled to discuss related topics and expand the discussion. The most impressive aspect of the project is the way diverse organizations such as the Chicago Urban League, Chicago Architectural Club, the Chicago History Museum, the Chicago Public Library, and the Newberry Library worked together to make this project happen.

#### Honorable Mentions

***The New South and the New Slavery exhibit and [The Georgia Incarceration Performance Project]***  
**Chuck Barber, Jan Levinson Hebbard, Amma Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin, Barbara McCaskill, Mary Miller, Emily Sahakian, Sidonia Serafini, Jill Severn**, University of Georgia; and **Keith Arthur Bolden, Julie Johnson, Kathleen Wessel**, Spelman College

### ***Truth Telling: Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells***

**Lori Osborne** and **Ella Wagner**, Frances Willard House Museum and Woman's Christian Temperance Union Archives at the Center for Women's History and Leadership

### **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: Alicia Barber (chair), Peter A. Kopp, and Jill Titus.*

#### Award Winner

#### ***Active Collections***

(Routledge, 2018)

**Editors: Elizabeth Wood**, The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens; **Rainey Tisdale**; and **Trevor Jones**, History Nebraska

*Active Collections* represents the latest stage of an extensive grassroots process initiated by Rainey Tisdale and Trevor Jones in 2012 and soon joined by their fellow editor Elizabeth Wood and seventeen authors and collaborators. This thought-provoking collection includes a manifesto, surveys, programs, and presentations, all with the intent of helping the field to rethink and reconsider practices ranging from acquisition and conservation to interpretation and deaccession. It appears at a critical moment when more and more institutions are working hard to serve their communities, engage new audiences, and embrace new models for their work, while the impact of their efforts is often constrained by continued adherence to traditional collections practices.

This volume shines a spotlight on this contradiction, clearly articulates the costs (financial, environmental, and operational) of maintaining the status quo, and offers practical suggestions for reinventing collections practices in the 21<sup>st</sup> century museum. The individual pieces are well-researched, eminently readable, and varied in both topic and length, and together maintain a useful balance between provocation and practicality. This makes the book a valuable resource for museum professionals, educators, and students alike.

#### Honorable Mention

#### ***Monumental Mobility: The Memory Work of Massasoit***

(University of North Carolina Press, 2019)

**Lisa Blee**, Wake Forest University, and **Jean M. O'Brien**, University of Minnesota

### **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), Jessica Knapp, and Jeff Pappas.*

#### Group Award Winner

#### ***The Métis Nation of Ontario Historic Métis Communities Video Project***

**Tom Van Dewark**, **Todd Brown**, and **Courtney Vaughan**, Know History Inc.

It was only in 1982 that Canada's constitution legally recognized the Métis people as a protected Indigenous group. Their past was one of alienation and discrimination, leaving few public records. The Métis Nation of Ontario in 2018 engaged the consulting firm Know History Inc. to create and produce its seven-region Historic Métis Communities Video Project. Designed as a curriculum tool for students in grades six through ten, the material informs diverse audiences while conveying an energized, youthful spirit. Know History likewise relied on a versatile team. Project Lead Tom Van Dewark immersed himself

in research for the development of seven original scripts balancing historical accuracy with engaging storytelling. GIS Specialist Todd Brown created original maps wedding traditional knowledge and archival material. Courtney Vaughan, a Métis woman possessing her Master's in Indigenous Studies, served as Cultural and Community Liaison, paving access to significant people and locations, as well as facilitating interviews. Collectively, the Know History team counted: 350 hours of archival and image research at various national, regional, and local repositories; 28 oral histories; and twenty nights in the field visiting nearly two dozen communities. The Historic Métis Communities Video Project is due for release later this year.

#### Individual Award Winner

##### ***Enslaved at Homewood***

**Abby Schreiber**, William & Mary, National Institute of American History & Democracy

Perhaps it is no surprise (or maybe it is) that significant historic sites across the country are *still* negotiating the most effective way to tell some truly awful things about their facilities. Such is the case at Homewood Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, whose campus is shared with its benefactor, Johns Hopkins University. Bequeathed to the university almost a century ago, Homewood Museum tells the story of the Carroll family and their ties to the Antebellum South. With grant money received from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, Homewood Museum hired public historian Abby Schreiber to do a deep dive into the history of the people enslaved by the Carroll family. The resulting research informed several new interpretive plans, including general guidance for a house tour called "Families of Homewood" and a special subject tour called "Paradox of Liberty." Schreiber's work was first-rate and the writing balanced and germane, as the Museum introduces a more nuanced history about enslaved people during those tumultuous years before the Civil War.

#### Individual Award Honorable Mention

**Janie Campbell**, Rogers Lewis Jackson Mann & Quinn LLC

#### **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: Stella Ress (chair), Jessica Jenkins, and Judith Ridner.*

#### Award Winner

##### **"Public Disclosures of Private Realities: HIV/AIDS and the Domestic Archive,"**

"Queering Public History: The State of the Field" special issue, *The Public Historian* Vol 41, No 2

**Stephen Vider**, Cornell University

Stephen Vider's "Public Disclosures of Private Realities: HIV/AIDS and the Domestic Archive" is an exemplary piece that bridges scholarly research and personal experience into an innovative and dramatic consideration of the relationships between history, the arts, and public presentations. It is both a "how-to" (curate a successful and meaningful exhibit), as well as a "why you should" (examine the porosity of the public and private spaces). The committee sees this piece as timely and on-point, particularly in its expert blending of public history and the arts, as well as its compelling discussion on the push and pull between private materials and public archives and collections. As such, it is recommended reading for all public historians.

### Honorable Mention

#### **“A Heritage of Resilience: Ho-Chunk Family Photographs in the Visual Archive,”**

“Conversations on Critical Cultural Heritage” special issue, *The Public Historian* Vol 41, No 1

**Amy Lonetree**, University of California, Santa Cruz

### **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: Clarissa Ceglio (chair), Marissa Petrou, Katherine Preissler, Joseph Rizzo, and Kathryn Wilson.*

### Award Winner

#### **#MeToo in Minnesota History**

**Paige Mitchell**, University of Minnesota

This exhibition, researched and developed by Paige Mitchell in collaboration with community members, advocacy and support organizations, and the staff of the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, grounds contemporary conversations about the pressing issue of sexual assault and violence against women in local historical, intersectional, and personal contexts. This award honors the project’s process as much as it recognizes the impact achieved within the institution, among collaborating groups, and within the broader public. To appreciate *#MeToo in Minnesota History* as an example of ethical public history practice, one must look beyond the rapid-response aesthetic of its thoughtful, spare design. The documentation of its development speaks to respectful navigation of individual and collective trauma; negotiation through pockets of initial resistance at the host institution; commitment to non-extractive modes of community collaboration; mindfulness of the larger systems of oppression that bear on individual stories; and, finally, production of a compelling exhibition for a modestly-sized, free-admission gallery that does not accommodate display of loaned or collections materials.

### **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: James Williams (chair), Deirdre Clemente, and Patrick Moore.*

### HRA Travel Award Winner

**GVGK Tang**, Independent Scholar

For someone who recently finished a master's degree, GVGK Tang has already made significant contributions to the practice of public history. Tang has formed a vibrant, continually growing network of public historians of color — Black, Indigenous, Latine, and Asian scholars originating and leading conversations that emphasize grassroots cultural work. Tang is active in several NCPH committees and task forces and organized a roundtable for this year's annual meeting: "Diasporic Desires: Queer API Storytelling and Community Building." The selection committee commends Tang’s leadership in the organization and efforts to bring interdisciplinary, decolonial perspectives to public history.

### NCPH Travel Award Winner

**Carys O’Neill**, International Museum of Surgical Science

Carys O'Neill recently completed a master's degree in public history and is already active in the

profession. O'Neill's work bridges the Atlantic, from a visitor services position at the International Museum of Surgical Science in Chicago to research on Scottish heritage tourism and contributions to museum exhibitions. The selection committee encourages O'Neill's attendance at the annual meeting to further her desire to foster positive change, network with peers and mentors, and "break down traditional parameters for medical history."

### **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: Clarissa Ceglio (chair), Marissa Petrou, Katherine Preissler, Joseph Rizzo, and Kathryn Wilson.*

Congratulations this year go to the following:

**Megan Crutcher**, Duquesne University  
**Ari Green**, California State University, Sacramento  
**Lindsay Mulcahy**, University of Southern California  
**Erika Slocumb**, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
**Carlie N. Todd**, University of South Carolina

---

### **Congratulations to the 2020 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>.