



## Teaching Public History Online Call for Working Group Participants

It seems likely that some public history and museum studies classes will be at least partially online this fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to discussions among public history educators on our public history educators' listserv and Facebook Members' Forum, the National Council on Public History (NCPH) is looking into the creation of a summer 2020 working group to explore pedagogy and best practices for online public history education.

### ***What is a typical NCPH working group, and how would this be different?***

NCPH working groups are groups of up to five facilitators and up to fifteen discussants that usually form in October and work up through our annual meeting in the spring. They write and share case statements in advance of their in-person meeting at the conference. They are working to solve a specific problem, and from their work they create a tangible product (such as a best practices guide, a white paper, or a series of blog posts).

This working group would be entirely virtual and removed from the usual schedule of our other annual meeting working groups. The aim would be to help public history educators prepare for the coming fall semester; we would ask the working group to periodically update the public on its progress and to create an end product that will help other educators in their transition to online teaching.

### ***What is NCPH looking for?***

We're looking for up to five NCPH members to serve as facilitators of the working group; the facilitators will lead the group and will keep NCPH and the public updated on the work of the group.

We're also looking for up to fifteen discussants representing a wide variety of institutions (public and private, small and large, rural and urban, geographically diverse). While we assume most discussants will teach at colleges and universities, K-12 educators are also welcome. Discussants do not need to be members of NCPH.

If you are interested in facilitating the working group, please email [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu) by May 11, 2020. If you are interested in joining the group as a discussant, please email [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu) by May 15, 2020. Discussants should include a short paragraph introducing yourself and your particular teaching circumstances and describing what you'd like to get out of (and contribute to) the working group experience.

***What is the timeline?***

The fall semester will be here before we know it, so we'd like to have the working group assembled by mid-May 2020. We're tentatively planning a Zoom call for the group the week of May 18 or May 25 (depending on facilitator availability).

The group will work through the summer of 2020, checking in monthly with NCPH. The work of the group (including the frequency and format of meetings) will be determined by the facilitators. The suggested date for a progress report or draft of a product that can be shared more widely with other educators is August 1, 2020, although the group may find it beneficial to continue meeting beyond that date.