2021-2022 Board of Directors

Officers

Gregory E. Smoak
President (2020-2022)
American West Center, University of Utah

Gregory E. Smoak is currently the President 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 NCPH, the Organization of American Historians, and the Western History Association.

Kristine Navarro-McElhaney
Vice-President (2020-2022)
New Mexico Historic Sites

Marla Miller
Immediate Past President (2020-2022)
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.

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.

Sarah Case  
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.

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 conducted 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.

Rachel Boyle
2020-2023
Omnia History

Rachel Boyle, PhD, is co-founder of Omnia History, a public history collaborative that uses the past to promote social change. In addition to teaching and writing for public audiences, Boyle collaborates and consults with cultural organizations on historical research, interpretation, and digital history projects.

Suzanne Fischer
2020-2023
Michigan History Center
Rebecca Shrum
2020-2023
IUPUI

Rebecca Shrum is an Associate Professor of History at IUPUI and Associate Director of IUPUI's Public History program. Before coming to IUPUI, Shrum directed an undergraduate public history program at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. She is the author of *In the Looking Glass: Mirrors and Identity in Early America* (2017), "Selling Mr. Coffee: Design, Gender, and the Branding of a Kitchen Appliance" (2012), and co-author of *Introduction to Public History: Interpreting the Past and Engaging Audiences* (2017). She is currently working on an NEH-funded Curatescape project, *Discover Indiana*, collaborating with public history partners around the state of Indiana to develop local history stories about their communities. In addition to the National Council on Public History, Shrum is also an active member of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), and is the Book Series Editor for the AASLH Series with Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. She and her husband, Craig, are the proud parents of 9-year old Brady.

Vanessa Macias Camacho
2021-2024
El Paso Community College

Vanessa Camacho is an Associate Professor of History at El Paso Community College. She has been a member of NCPH since 2007 when she first joined as a Master's student at New Mexico State University. Vanessa lives in El Paso, Texas, with her husband, Gabriel, and children, José Miguel and Lucia. You can follow her on Twitter and Instagram @camachov_m.

Priya Chhaya
2021-2024
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Priya Chhaya is a public historian and associate director of content for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, where she directs digital content across the National Trust’s digital platforms. Over the years, she has volunteered for NCPH in a variety of leadership roles, most recently as co-chair of the NCPH 2020 Vision Campaign, and as an affiliate editor for *History@Work*. Priya also sits on the steering committee for the *Inclusive Historians Handbook*, a project co-sponsored by NCPH and the American Association of State and Local History, which supports inclusive and equity-focused historical work in public settings. In addition to considering multidisciplinary storytelling as a means to tell underrepresented histories, Priya self-published a children's book called "The Heart of the River." She has an undergraduate degree in history from the College of William and Mary and an MA in History, concentrating in Public History, from American University. You can learn more at https://priyachhaya.com/ and on Twitter/Instagram @priyastoric.
Ari Kelman
2021-2024
University of California, Davis

Ari Kelman is Chancellor’s Leadership Professor of History and Interim Dean of the College of Letters and Science at the University of California, Davis. He is the author, most recently, of *Battle Lines: A Graphic History of the Civil War* (Hill and Wang, 2015), as well as *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek* (Harvard University Press, 2013), recipient of several national awards and honors, including the Bancroft Prize, and *A River and Its City: The Nature of Landscape in New Orleans* (University of California Press, 2003), which won the Abbott Lowell Cummings Prize. Kelman’s essays and articles have appeared in *Slate, The New York Times, The Nation, The Times Literary Supplement, The Journal of American History, Reviews in American History*, as well as numerous other publications. Kelman has contributed to outreach endeavors aimed at K-12 educators, and to public history projects, including documentary films for the History Channel and PBS’s *American Experience* series. He has received many grants and fellowships, including from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Huntington Library; served on a variety of editorial boards, program, and prize committees; and held several administrative posts. He is now working on a book titled, *For Liberty and Empire: How the Civil War Bled into the Indian Wars* and editing the journal *Reviews in American History*. 