NCPH Virtual Awards Ceremony
Saturday, March 27, 2021
7:00 pm EST
Twitter (@ncph)

2021 NCPH Awards

NCPH Founders Award

The NCPH Founders Award was established in 2015 to recognize those individuals, institutions, or programs who were present at the creation of NCPH and who played critical roles in the organization's success.

Award Winner
Loyola University Public History Program

The National Council on Public History's (NCPH) Council of Past Presidents is pleased to present its 2021 Founders Award to the Loyola University Chicago public history program.

Loyola embarked on public history education in the spring of 1980 as NCPH was organizing. Drs. Robert Kelley and G. Wesley Johnson, founders of the public history program at the University of California Santa Barbara, provided advice to Loyola's faculty, and Dr. Johnson brought Dr. Theodore Karamanski into an NCPH leadership role as a member of the first board of directors and an incorporator that same spring.

Since 1980 Loyola's students, alums, and faculty have held leadership positions in NCPH. Both Drs. Karamanski and Patricia Mooney-Melvin have served on the NCPH Board of Directors as officers (including chair/president) and on the editorial board of *The Public Historian*. Loyola faculty have led NCPH initiatives to advance the practice of public history. Dr. Karamanski was a national leader in developing a code of ethics for public historians and edited the 1986 issue of *The Public Historian* on "Ethics and the Public Historian." Dr. Mooney-Melvin was a key faculty member for NCPH's National Endowment for the Humanities-funded 1984 Institute on Teaching Public History. Reflecting ongoing efforts to define public history in the academy, Loyola faculty have published eight articles on curriculum in *The Public Historian*. They actively participate in the burgeoning international public history movement in the People's Republic of China and through the International Federation for Public History. Faculty have served the national public history movement through program reviews at other institutions and participated in "Integrating Public History Into the Curriculum," the Organization of American History/Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education Workshops for the Revitalization of the Teaching of History (1986-1989), when public history programs were still new ideas in many history departments.

As public history institutions around the country work on diversifying their faculty and student bodies, Loyola has again been "present at the creation" of these efforts. It has hosted a colleague through the American Historical Association Faculty Career Diversity Institute and recruited tenure track public history minority faculty. Since 2007 it has provided fellowships for African American, Latinx, and Native American students.

Loyola has expanded beyond the Public History MA to offer the MA/MLIS with Dominican University and Public History/American History PhD. Through the fall of 2020, Loyola has graduated 181 Public History MAs, 16 Public History MA/MLIS (begun in 1984), and, since 1998, 24 Joint Public History/American

History PhDs. Loyola's faculty and students have produced an impressive list of projects that have served the needs of public history institutions, including the Forest Service, National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense, US District Courts, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and local agencies like the Chicago Maritime Museum and Chicago Historical Society. These projects provide critical experience for students and serve Loyola's outreach mission.

In a competitive job market, Loyola graduates have found positions at the Arab American National Museum, Illinois Humanities Council, Wisconsin State Historical Society, USS Constitution Museum in Boston, and National Park Service. They are teaching in public history programs at the University of Illinois-Springfield, Southern Illinois University, North Park University-Chicago, University of Southern Indiana, Northern Kentucky University, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and University of New Mexico. Alums also have held leadership roles in the American Association for State and Local History and the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites.

We appreciate Loyola's decades of support and look forward to the program's continued leadership into the future.

Board of Directors Award for Extraordinary Service

The Board of Directors Award for Extraordinary Service is given when the NCPH Board seeks to recognize publicly an individual who has, through long-term and substantive effort, made transformational contributions to the work of NCPH.

Award Winner
Bill Bryans, Oklahoma State University

The NCPH Board of Directors is delighted to recognize Bill Bryans with the NCPH Board Award for Extraordinary Service. A member for over thirty years, Bill has been an ever-present force in NCPH leadership now for two decades. He served as NCPH President from 2007-2009, becoming the first person to take on a two-year term. Then, after completing his own term as Past President (2010-2012) he stepped back into that latter role to serve a second term when called upon. Bill twice chaired successful searches for NCPH executive directors, helping to bring two very talented and capable individuals into that position, including the organization's first full time executive director. During Bill's last years of Board service he also worked with the Board (including leading members Dee Harris and Mary Rizzo) and Development Committee to create the organization's Digital Integration Fund, which made possible essential upgrades to the organizations digital presences and publications. Bill was also involved in the efforts to create NCPH's Council of Past Presidents, which has been instrumental in documenting the history of our now forty-year-old organization, as well as providing advice and input to leadership as we continue to grow.

Since 2015, Bill has served as co-chair and now chair of the Development Committee and guided its efforts to secure the organization's future through the *2020 Vision* endowment campaign. This campaign has been essential to ensure NCPH's ability to meet the needs of its members. After extending the campaign into Spring 2021, the committee hopes to announce success in meeting the ambitious goal of growing the Endowment to over $1 million, a stunning achievement in any time, but especially remarkable given the circumstances of our final year of campaign fundraising. Bill's heartfelt appeals and good-natured arm twisting have been a major factor in the campaign's success. Bill has also dedicated his time and effort to NCPH serving on numerous other committees, including the Long Range Planning Committee, the Curriculum and Training Committee, and the Program Committee for the 1996 Annual Meeting. This record of service is in itself remarkable, but Bill has consistently worked to increase the capacity of the organization, which means that he's worked on difficult problems and often

in the background with good humor and a commitment to the greater good. And in doing so he has served as a model and mentor for the NCPH leaders who have followed him.

As extensive as Bill's service to NCPH has been, it is only part of the story. He has been a tireless advocate for public historians and an ambassador for the field of public history. Keenly aware of the struggles that public historians faced in academic positions, Bill became a leader in efforts to bring equity to the tenure and promotion process. He represented NCPH as a member of the Working Group on Evaluating Public History Scholarship, a joint committee of NCPH, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Historical Association charged with addressing these concerns. He was a co-author of the working group's report "Tenure, Promotion, and the Publicly Engaged Academic Historian," as well as the accompanying white paper, which provides best practice guidelines for academic departments to credit publicly engaged scholarship in tenure and promotion decisions. He has also worked to raise the profile of public historians in other professional organizations, such as the Western History Association where he helped to reestablish a public history committee. He is also the author of the entry on "Collaborative Practice" in the NCPH and American Association for State and Local History's *Inclusive Historian's Handbook*.

Bill recently retired after a distinguished career as a teacher, administrator, and publicly engaged scholar at Oklahoma State University (OSU). He earned his BA and MA at Colorado State University before moving up the road to Laramie and the University of Wyoming, where he completed his PhD in 1987. That same year he joined the faculty at OSU where for much of his career he worked as a one-person public history program. In addition to United States and Oklahoma History, Bill taught courses in public history, historic preservation, museum studies, and college pedagogy. During his tenure at OSU, he also directed the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey for eight years and served as department head for nearly a decade. Despite Bill's heavy teaching and administrative commitments, he also remained a practicing public historian, completing numerous National Register nominations and Intensive Level Surveys for the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, and serving as both chair of the Oklahoma Humanities Council (now Oklahoma Humanities) and president of the Oklahoma Museums Association. All the while he never wavered in his dedication to his students, to NCPH, or to his fellow public historians.

Bill has often been heard to say that he owes his career to NCPH. That might be true, but it is also true that the organization we know today bears the imprint of his dedication and service. For his distinguished career, record of service, and dedication to our organization we present him with the Board Award for Extraordinary Service to the National Council on Public History.

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: Timothy Kneeland (Chair), Caroline Klibanoff, and Katie Stringer Clary.

Award Winner
Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, Howard University

Elizabeth Clark-Lewis exemplifies the practice of public history and making its insights available to lay audiences. Dr. Clark-Lewis is deserving of this award for her decades of service as the Founder and Director of the public history program at Howard University, which launched a generation of practitioners in the field who have reshaped the methods, practices, and scope of the discipline; and for her service on the executive boards of the Organization of American Historians and the National Council on Public History, as well as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Her work

includes her publications, award-winning documentaries, curatorial work, and collaboration with the Smithsonian, the National Park Service, and the National Archives, just to name a few. She is an excellent teacher and mentor to her students, as one indicated, "Due to her profound creative teaching abilities many of Dr. Clark-Lewis's students continue to pay it forward by mentoring future generations as well as making certain [that] students interested in the field understand the expectations and commitments required not only to obtain a career … but … to have one with meaning and sustainability." Congratulations, Dr. Clark-Lewis!

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: Peter Wong (chair), Kathleen Franz, Angela Smith, and Ashley Bouknight.

Award Winner

Mapping Prejudice

Kirsten Delegard, Ryan Mattke, Kevin Ehrman-Solberg, University of Minnesota; and **Penny Petersen**, Co-Founder and Volunteer

The committee is proud to announce *Mapping Prejudice* as the winner of this year's NCPH Outstanding Public History Project. (https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/)

Mapping Prejudice tackles the issue of redlining through a multi-faceted approach—utilizing ArcGIS mapping technology and 20th century property deeds to show how citizens had been segregated in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, between 1910 and 1955. The project confronts the substantial issue of systemic racism and provides the tools going forward with a Speaker Series, "Virtual Activism" section, and other avenues to get involved.

Collectively, *Mapping Prejudice* demonstrates the promise of public history and its potential for working with the local community to have broader public conversations and working toward restorative justice.

Honorable Mention

Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project

Eric Zimmer and **Heather Dawn Thompson**, on behalf of the Project Team

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: Jill Titus (chair), Alicia Barber, and Martin Blatt.

Award Winner

Digital Community Engagement: Partnering Communities with the Academy

(University of Cincinnati Press, 2020)

Editors: **Rebecca S. Wingo**, University of Cincinnati; **Jason A, Heppler,** University of Nebraska at Omaha**;** and **Paul Schadewald**, Macalester College

This much-needed volume offers practical examples of collaborative digital history work that foreground shared authority and community-based partnerships. The nine case studies, most of which are co-authored by academic and community partners, are accessible and engaging, with a pronounced focus

on the democratizing and collaborative elements of digital history. Going beyond the familiar territory of the power of digital history projects to help enact social change, the case studies model partnerships structured around egalitarian power dynamics and demonstrate the value of such digital community engagement projects to a diverse range of community organizations, as well as institutions of higher learning. The volume fills a critical gap in current public history literature, and in addition to being required reading for public historians pondering any kind of community work, also has great potential for classroom use.

The "products" described in the essays are diverse, ranging from digital archives and web portals showcasing artifacts and interviews to podcasts, "History Harvests" (pedagogically driven community digitization events), and digital storytelling projects. The case studies feature partnerships with groups ranging from civil rights organizations and grassroots coalitions combatting police violence and homelessness to the Girl Scouts of America. Despite the diversity of products and projects, the essays center upon exploring a handful of core themes from multiple vantage points, namely establishing meaningful relationships between partners; navigating financial challenges and shifting political fortunes; and practicing shared authority in all phases of a project. Not only do the projects themselves amplify voices too often marginalized (in both past and present), but thanks to the commitment to co-authorship, so does the volume itself. Furthermore, the editors' steadfast insistence on an open access edition of the book despite the costs takes the commitment to accessibility a step further, ensuring that this sophisticated reflection on community engagement in the digital sphere will reach a diverse readership.

Honorable Mentions

Standing with Standing Rock - Voices from the #NODAPL Movement
(University of Minnesota Press, 2019)
Nick Estes, University of New Mexico, and **Jaskiran Dhillon**, The New School

Call My Name, Clemson: Documenting the Black Experience in an American University
(University of Iowa Press, 2020)
Rhondda Robinson Thomas, Clemson University

Excellence in Consulting Awards

These awards recognize outstanding contributions to the field of public history through consulting or contract work. Award committee members: Jessica Knapp (chair), Jeff Pappas, Donna Graves, and Melody Hunter-Pillion.

Individual Award Winner

Expert Witness Reports and Testimony re: Native American Land and Water Rights
Ian Smith, Historical Research Associates, Inc.

Ian Smith's "Expert Witness Reports and Testimony re: Native American Land and Water Rights" demonstrates the power of historical research and interpretation in the outcomes of two legal cases involving Indigenous tribes and their struggles to retain land and water rights. Principal Historian for Historical Research Associates, Inc., Smith's work in Idaho and Montana underscores how the application of history can aid marginalized groups, in this case assisting Native Nations in their battle for tribal sovereignty and rights to natural resources. Smith used land records, Congressional records, legal history, aerial photography, and historical maps as the building blocks for interpretive work featured as expert testimony in two cases.

In a Montana lawsuit regarding a proposed RV park access road through Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal (CKST) land in the Flathead Indian Reservation, the judge's April 2020 ruling included maps prepared by Smith. The judge also cited "undisputed" historical evidence from Smith's report. Referencing Smith's research of "over 150 years of historical data," the judge found in favor of the tribe's legal rights to their ancestral homeland. Tribal leaders credit Smith's research and ability to clearly articulate its meaning as the key to prevailing in a legal system where their community has been historically marginalized. "Too often Indian tribes seek justice for wrongs that occurred decades or centuries earlier, and without experts such as Mr. Smith that justice is often elusive," the Chairwoman of the CKST Council wrote in a letter, calling Smith's report the cornerstone of the tribe's case.

Smith used the same rigorous research methodology when the State of Idaho tried to restrict the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's rights to water use solely to agriculture. Historical primary sources proved the Coeur d'Alene Reservation in Idaho was created in 1873 for a broad homeland purpose, which included fishing, gathering, and ceremonial uses of the waters by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. "Waters flowing through our lands are central to our culture and survival," said a tribal leader quoted in the regional news outlet, *Indian Country Today*. With the benefit of Smith's research, the Idaho Supreme Court agreed. The court's September 2019 ruling upholds the tribe's rights to water in the Lake and throughout the reservation.

While Smith's research, interpretation. and presentation conveyed a convincing argument in the realm of law, his public history expertise also proved instructive to the larger public. Regional news agencies covered not only the legal contests for land and water, but also the historical context behind the struggles for land ownership and stewardship. Ian Smith is to be applauded for work that helps Native Peoples assert their tribal sovereignty and exercise their power. Smith's attention to the rigor of interpretation, piecing together archival evidence, and crafting clear messages, reveals truths on which communities can then act. That is the power of historical research and public history.

Individual Award Honorable Mention
Crafting Herstory and ***Dismantle Preservation***
Sarah Marsom, Heritage Resource Consultant

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

Award Winner
"Ancestry.com and the Evolving Nature of Historical Information Companies,"
The Public Historian Vol 42, No 1
Jerome de Groot, University of Manchester

Jerome de Groot's article, "Ancestry.com and the Evolving Nature of Historical Information Companies," offers an innovative analysis of how the genealogy and biotech company Ancestry has become a public history actor in its own right by reframing how we and members of the global public research and conceive of history. De Groot's article is notable for the ways it reminds us that Ancestry is a profit-

seeking corporation and for how it asks us to rethink the messages about history its web-based platform of digitized documents and DNA resources conveys to the public. It also raises especially significant questions about the promises and ethical conundrums of using corporations to activate the masses in historical research. As the most unique essay in this year's journal, it is a must-read for all public historians.

Honorable Mention
"Scaling Invisible Walls: Reasserting Indigenous Persistence in Mission-Era California,"
The Public Historian Vol 42, No 4
Tsim D. Schneider, University of California, Santa Cruz; **Khal Schneider**, California State University, Sacramento; and **Lee M. Panich**, Santa Clara University

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: Marissa Petrou (chair), Katherine Preissler, Shannon Haltiwanger, Harvee White, and Claire Du Laney.

Award Winner
Integration: Women in the Canadian Air Force
Camas Clowater-Eriksson, Carleton University

The Student Awards Committee presents the 2021 Student Project Award to Camas Clowater-Eriksson for her project "Integration: Women in the Canadian Air Force." Clowater-Eriksson's nomination fulfilled all of the committee's expectations of our Student Project Award recipient. "Integration: Women in the Canadian Air Force" developed out of her work for the graduate public history seminar "HIST5702 Materiality and Aurality as Historical Evidence" while a graduate student at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Camas completed her project at Ingenium: Canada Aviation and Space Museum as a Garth Wilson Fellow in Public History throughout 2020. "Integration" moved the needle in public history and supported the museum's mission by advancing attention to women in military history and history of technology. The project exhibited highly original research, especially through oral history interviews and the public facing project of a podcast series. Clowater-Eriksson also made the material accessible to multiple audiences through transcription and translation. The work is exciting, fresh, and has the potential, as noted in the Museum's letter of support, to be the basis for many public engagement activities, as well as research and collecting in the future. This wonderful body of work covers a much-needed research topic, tracing the early history of women in the Canadian military and allowing these trailblazing women to tell their stories and participate in the interpretation of their own history. In addition, the project used oral histories to expand our understanding of how technology is gendered by looking at how the military used technology to exclude women, how women interacted with technology designed for male anatomy, and how the Air Force repackaged women's tampons as a male technology before allowing them inside their aircraft. We look forward to learning of the future exhibits, collections, and research that develop out of this important project.

Honorable Mention
Reading Frederick Douglass Together and ***Rage, Fragility, & Antiracism***
Keidrick Roy, Harvard University

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: Patrick Moore (chair), Deirdre Clemente, and Bob Carriker.*

HRA Travel Award Winner
Cheryl Dong, University of Northern Iowa

Cheryl Dong recently completed the first Public History PhD at North Carolina State University and is already actively promoting the field as the director of the Public History program at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). UNI is not only going through a rebuilding process of its public history program but, like many institutions, is also reckoning with administrative failure to address racial injustices on campus. Dong's participation in NCPH 2021, facilitated by this award, will allow her to make critical connections with other professionals and engage in important discussions to help her support UNI's students.

NCPH Travel Award Winner
Jacqueline Hudson, Bowling Green State University

Jacqueline Hudson is a current PhD candidate at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) who currently works at the BGSU Ray Browne Popular Culture Library and was recently a consultant for the National Museum of African American Music from June 2020 to December 2020. In receiving this award, Hudson intends to build relationships with other public historians and learn new perspectives to help her in her mission to promote community engagement, particularly in communities of color. Taking the theme of our conference, "The Presence and Persistence of Stories," to heart, Hudson looks forward to finding "innovative ways to tell under-told stories of the past from underrepresented communities to future generations."

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: Marissa Petrou (chair), Katherine Preissler, Shannon Haltiwanger, Harvee White, and Claire Du Laney.

Congratulations this year go to the following:

Lydia Biallas, Appalachian State University
Sarah Anne Maske, University of North Carolina Greensboro
Aubrey Parke, Duquesne University
Stephanie Townrow, University of Delaware

Congratulations to the 2021 award recipients, and thank you award selection committees!

Submissions for the 2022 NCPH Book and Robert Kelley Memorial awards are due November 1, 2021, and all other award submissions are due December 1, 2021. Please see www.ncph.org for details.

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.