

NEW NCPH GRASSROOTS AWARD TO SUPPORT NON-TRADITIONAL PUBLIC HISTORY WORK



STASIA TANZER / ATANZER@IU.EDU

The National Council on Public History (NCPH) is excited to announce the creation of a new award: the NCPH Grassroots

Public History Award. This

award reflects NCPH's commitment to acknowledging the many different kinds of work public historians do and the wide array of places we do it, particularly outside of large and predominately white institutions. For the purpose of this award, grassroots is defined as an effort spearheaded by people on-the-ground that supports the communities they belong to or represent.

The process to establish this new award was long, with starts and stops along the way. The seeds for a grassroots award were planted as early as 2016, when the 2017-2022 Long Range Plan (LRP) was developed. A number of goals and activities in the LRP relate to the

inclusion of grassroots efforts, even if they aren't referred to as such. For example, Pillar 1, Goal A asks that we "nurture a collaborative environment between all who are part of a broadly defined public history community (including those who do public history work but do not use the term public history)." Under that Goal, Activity 6 recommends reviewing "criteria for NCPH awards to identify areas where the guidelines too narrowly define the public history community or discourage collaboration." The NCPH Grassroots Public History Award will directly address these goals of the LRP by recognizing people, groups, or organizations that have done public history work, even if that isn't their main focus.

Additional work for the award began in 2018 with the launch of the 2020 Vision Endowment-building campaign. The Endowment has long funded inclusion, diversity, equity, and access work, and one of the three pillars of the campaign was "to catalyze our capacity to lead

via scholarship, excellence, and best practices in the field through our awards and travel grant programs." This is related to Pillar 2, Goal C, Activity 6 of the LRP, which tasked us with reviewing and recommending use of the Program Committee co-chairs' discretionary fund for diversity, such as with the "creation of scholarships to promote annual meeting access for participants... from underrepresented groups." As the fundraising campaign picked up speed and success looked imminent, we also received suggestions and proposals from a number of members and conference attendees for material ways to achieve these goals, such as in the form of an award.

The NCPH Board of Directors began brainstorming and drafting the creation of a new award in this vein in 2019, and was progressing toward a proposal in early 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily sidelined it until the summer of 2021.

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: AND SO IT ZOOMS



GREGORY E. SMOAK /
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Well, I spoke too soon. At the conclusion of my previous column in *Public History News* I confidently asserted that I would deliver

my presidential address in person in Montreal in March. As you all know by now, that is not to be. In December the NCPH Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel the in-person component of our annual meeting. Coming to this decision for the third straight year was heartbreaking, but with the health and safety of our staff and members foremost in our minds, it was what we had to do. The subsequent surge in cases stemming from the Omicron variant has further proven it to be the right decision. Although we will not be meeting in person, we will once again gather in a virtual space to share the meaningful and exciting work of our public history community. So welcome to NCPH 2022!

First, some basics on navigating this year's virtual meeting. The conference dates have been moved back to May 2-6. As chance would have it, May 2 is also NCPH incorporation day, that is, our 42nd birthday! That means we will get to celebrate our organization's actual birthday, something we do not get to do when the conference falls, as it usually does, in March or April.

If the pandemic has taught us resilience, it has also taught us how to better operate in a virtual environment. With two years of online conferences under their belt, our amazing NCPH staff is implementing what we have learned to improve your experience. This year we will again be working with the team from Hutchinson Design to produce the conference, using the now-familiar PheedLoop platform. Like last year, there will be a mixture of pre-recorded and live content. Live sessions will take place in the afternoon for our members in the East (1:00-2:30 and 3:30-5:00 PM Eastern), which means those of us out West won't have

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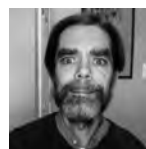


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NEW NCPH GRASSROOTS AWARD TO SUPPORT NON-TRADITIONAL PUBLIC HISTORY WORK // CONT'D. FROM PAGE 1

After several rounds of editing, we created the current award and selected our inaugural award committee members: co-chairs Romeo Guzmán (Claremont Graduate University/South El Monte Arts Posse) and Liz Ševcenko (Humanities Action Lab – Rutgers University-Newark); Mayela Caro (University of California Riverside); and Brittani Orona (Hoopa Valley Tribe/University of California Davis). Upon joining the committee, Guzmán wrote that he was “drawn to the idea of acknowledging and awarding grassroots organizations and collectives that are doing some sort of public history labor outside the academy and formal institutions... I hope that in awarding grassroots projects, we begin to build relationships and imagine how we can be useful to those working on the ground.” Ševcenko noted that they “have found that the most exciting public history work is being done by people who would never call themselves public historians... I have long advocated for public historians to attend to the work happening outside the formalized field, and this award gives that listening and learning wonderful impetus and structure.”

There are, of course, challenges to administering this award. NCPH is predominantly a community of so-called traditional public historians who work in traditional public history institutions, from universities to museums to archives. Both

Guzmán and Ševcenko acknowledged a concern that the people and organizations we are hoping to reach that are not part of our network will be overlooked for this award. NCPH has devised several strategies to avoid this. The first is the creation of a subsidized annual meeting rate for underemployed public historians and community members. The second is the creation of two new membership levels at low cost (approved by the board in December 2021 and made available February 4, 2022)—the Under-/Unemployed and the Public History Adjacent rates, both set at \$37. These options are intended to support public historians who: have been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; are seeking employment in the field, or are otherwise underfunded; or do public history work without considering public history to be their primary career. Ideally, these initiatives will bring some of our target audience into the NCPH fold.

Another major tool is you, our NCPH members. Ševcenko put it well: “We’ll have to rely on the NCPH community’s commitment to exploring outside its known world.” Go out and discover the work being done in your communities and invite the people doing the grassroots work to join us if they can. Keep these colleagues informed of our initiatives including this award, and nominate them when the time comes.

This award is place-based for accessibility and for practical reasons. In this first year of the award, with the annual meeting originally scheduled to take place in Montreal, Quebec, the prize will be given to a person, group, or organization working in the province of Quebec, Canada. The winner will be invited to showcase their work by presenting at the May virtual meeting as a session or an exhibit in the virtual exhibit hall. This fulfills yet another piece of the LRP (Pillar 2, Goal D, Activity 4) that suggests developing “a plan to include [the] annual meeting host city community in established meeting activities.” When the annual meeting is again in-person, awarding a person or organization geographically proximate to the host city will make it more affordable for them to attend, share their work, and be recognized.

This year, the Grassroots Public History Award Committee and Local Arrangements Committee will be choosing the 2022 winner. This process will give committee members a chance to see the kinds of work being done, to consider how to finesse the award’s criteria, and to provide an example for future years. We look forward to gathering your submissions and exploring the wonderful work grassroots public historians are doing in and around Atlanta, Georgia, next year.

-Stasia Tanzer is NCPH’s membership coordinator.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS: AND SO IT ZOOMS // CONT'D. FROM PAGE 1

to be online at the crack of dawn! There will also be several lunchtime and evening events.

As last year, there will be an online portal where you can check out the “Poster Session” for the duration of the conference, but new this year there will also be a dedicated poster event—Thursday, May 5, from 5:00–6:00 PM Eastern—as a way to give the folks who worked so hard on the posters the recognition they deserve.

Networking and accessibility are central concerns. While they can never take the place of sharing a meal or beverage in person, some familiar networking events (like the Consultants’ Speakeasy) will once again take place in a virtual format. Informal coffee breaks and virtual Dine Arouds will also be back. Plans are in the works to supplement the conference platform with an NCPH Group Chat or a live chat application, such as Discord or Slack, to facilitate networking (and more fun). Keep an eye out for more details coming soon. To improve accessibility, our goal is to caption as many of the live sessions as possible. This, in addition to PheedLoop’s accessibility

features, will let us maximize accessibility. Finally, low registration rates for student and underemployed/community participants will make it financially feasible for these important segments of our community to attend.

While we will not be able to experience Montreal’s cultural and historical “Crossroads” in person, we will enjoy a full program assembled by Program Committee co-chairs Jean-Pierre Morin and Kimberly Springle and over a dozen thoughtful and dedicated members. I am grateful for their careful attention and hard work. The pivot to an online meeting and shifting the meeting dates necessitated some rescheduling, but the full program will be available soon. And join me in thanking the 2022 Local Arrangements Committee and its co-chairs Jessica Knapp and Joel Ralph. Someday soon I hope to make my way to Montreal and experience its history and culture as they had planned.

This marks my last column in *Public History News*. The past two years have, please forgive me, literally zoomed by. While I regret not

getting to see everyone in person, I now have the distinction of being the first NCPH president never to have presided over an in-person meeting of any kind during their term. Fingers crossed that I am also the last. Kristine Navarro-McElhaney will assume her new role as NCPH president at the conclusion of our virtual meeting in May. If you don’t know Kristine, you should. She is deputy director of New Mexico Historic Sites, an accomplished oral historian, and a stalwart in NCPH leadership, having previously served as secretary-treasurer. NCPH enjoys a tradition of service unlike any other organization that I am acquainted with, and it has also been an honor to work with all of the talented and dedicated folks who have served on the board of directors during my tenure. Finally, a heartfelt thanks to the NCPH staff—Meghan Hillman, Stasia Tanzer, and our indefatigable leader Stephanie Rowe—who excel at doing more with less. Suffice to say that the organization is in capable hands.

-Gregory E. Smoak is the President of NCPH and is director of the American West Center and Associate Professor of History at University of Utah.

NCPH ANNOUNCES EXCITING MEMBERSHIP CHANGES



STASIA TANZER / ATANZER@IU.EDU

In December 2021, the NCPH Board of Directors voted to approve the creation of three new member types, rate increases for current membership levels, and new benefits for some existing member types.

Rate and benefit increases will be implemented in mid-May when our new membership database, hosted by association management software Your Membership, launches. This new system will improve both the member experience and how the office communicates with you. We are currently working to build the new site and migrate information to it. As we get closer to the launch, we will communicate with you the information you'll need to make the transition as seamless as possible.

THE NEW MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

We are adding two new categories, at the same rates as our student membership, to make membership more accessible for underfunded public historians as well as those adjacent to our field. The Under-/Unemployed rate, set at \$37, is intended for historians who struggle to find positions in the field, were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, or labor as volunteers or interns. We hope that offering this rate allows anyone in an underemployed status to be involved with NCPH and make use of our resources. The Public History Adjacent rate, also set at \$37, is for those who aren't self-described public historians, or don't practice public history as their primary career, but may work with public historians or have conducted related work. For example, a person who does grassroots work that connects a community with their history could join at this rate. Both of these new rates are available *right now*, while the dues increase for existing levels and the new database will be introduced in May.

We are also introducing an Institutional level membership, set at \$250 and coming in May, for organizations and institutions interested in accessing NCPH membership benefits for several staff members but seeking a more affordable option than our higher Partner and Patron levels of support. This level is accompanied by the following benefits: 1 print copy of *The Public Historian*; 3 log-ins for digital access to *The Public Historian*; 1 print copy of *Public History News*; up to 3 staff members can receive the weekly *Public History News Update* e-blast, the member rate at the annual meeting, and the member rate for mini-cons and webinars; and all staff can join the Members' Forum group on Facebook.

NEW MEMBER TYPES

UNDER-/UNEMPLOYED

For historians who continue to be negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for those who struggle to find positions in the field and labor as volunteers or interns.

PUBLIC HISTORY ADJACENT

For those who aren't self-described public historians, or don't practice public history as their primary career, but may work with public historians or have conducted related work.

INSTITUTIONAL

For organizations or institutions interested in accessing NCPH benefits for several staff members but seeking a more affordable option than our higher Partner and Patron levels.

OVERVIEW OF THE MEMBERSHIP RATE INCREASE

To cover the growing costs of our work and services, we must impose a small rate increase as follows:

MEMBER TYPE	NEW FEE
Student	\$37
New Professional	\$47
Retired	\$59
Individual	\$84
Sustaining	\$150
Partner	\$450
Patron	\$650

The increase for Partners and Patrons is accompanied by an increase in benefits as well, listed at <https://ncph.org/about/patrons-partners/>.

It has been eight years since NCPH increased dues for membership, and in that time we have introduced a number of benefits that the rate increase will help cover. This includes in-person mini-cons and after work events, such as the upcoming Dismantle Preservation Learning Lab, and virtual programs like the Consultants' Grumpy Hour, Public History Hangouts, and the Public History Book Club. We also convened the Teaching Public History Online Working Group to support public history educators during the COVID-19 pandemic, and recently published the 40th Anniversary E-Pub.

This dues increase is also necessary to secure the ongoing stability of the organization and its staff and keep annual meeting registration fees low, which in turn helps us welcome the broadest possible audience of public historians, both pillars of the 2017-2022 Long Range Plan. The board had previously approved similar increases in 2019 but postponed implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These increases will also help subsidize costs for members that join or renew at one of the new membership types.

Wondering what you have to do next? Not much! You are welcome to renew anytime between now and May to lock in your membership at the current rate for another year. When you renew before May, the system will automatically tack on a year of membership from the end of your current membership at the current rate. For example, if your membership is set to expire November 1, 2022, and you renew today, it will move your expiration date to November 1, 2023. (Note: You must be logged in to the system before it reflects an accurate renewal date.) If you renew after the new database launches in May then you will renew at the new rate. **After May 2022, when you join or renew it will be at the new rate and on our new system.**

-Stasia Tanzer is NCPH's membership coordinator.

NCPH AWARD WINNERS FOR 2022

Please join us in congratulating the recipients of this year's awards for outstanding achievement in a variety of public history formats. Full details about the award winners' projects will be released in conjunction with the NCPH Virtual Meeting. We hope you will help us celebrate during the 2022 Virtual NCPH Annual Meeting, May 2-6, as we spotlight the winners on our social media platforms each day.

ROBERT KELLEY MEMORIAL AWARD

Constance Schulz, University of South Carolina

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECT AWARD

NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf that makes this award possible.



LARGE INSTITUTION AWARD WINNER

Diana Sierra Becerra, University of Massachusetts Amherst; **Jennifer Guglielmo** and **Michelle Joffroy**, Smith College; and **Anna Duncan**, **Raquel Laviña**, and **Lisa Moore**, National Domestic Workers Alliance; *We Make History*

HONORABLE MENTION

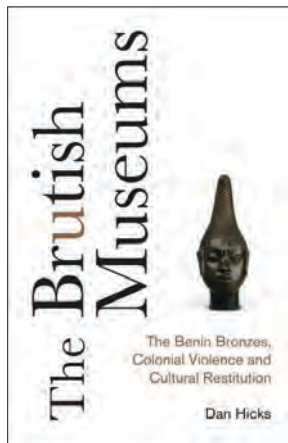
Hana Maruyama and **Noah Maruyama**, with Densho; *Campu Podcast*

SMALL INSTITUTION AWARD WINNER

Morris "Dino" Robinson, Jr., Shorefront Legacy Center, and **Jenny Thompson**, Evanston History Center; *Evanston Policies and Practices Directly Affecting the African American Community*

HONORABLE MENTION

Howdice Brown III (Iñupiaq), **Alice Qannik Glenn (Iñupiaq)**, and **Marie Acemah (Founder/Director)**, See Stories; *The Forgotten Slavery of Our Ancestor*



HONORABLE MENTION

Tim Gruenewald, University of Hong Kong; *Curating America's Painful Past: Memory, Museums, and the National Imagination* (University Press of Kansas, 2021)

G. WESLEY JOHNSON AWARD

For the best article in *The Public Historian*.

Diana Bell-Kite, North Carolina Museum of History, for "QuiltSpeak: Uncovering Women's Voices in the North Carolina Museum of History's Permanent Collection," *The Public Historian* Vol 43, No 4

HONORABLE MENTION

Katie Stringer Clary, Coastal Carolina University, and **Carolyn Dillian**, Coastal Carolina University, for "Printing the Past: Building Accessibility and Engagement Through 3-D Technologies," *The Public Historian* Vol 43, No 2



EXCELLENCE IN CONSULTING AWARD

GROUP AWARD

Anne Mitchell Whisnant and **David E. Whisnant**, Primary Source History Services, *Black Lives and Whiteness Stories: From the Lowcountry to the Mountains (A Historic Resource Study of Black History at Rock Hill/Connemara, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, National Park Service)*

NCPH BOOK AWARD

Dan Hicks, University of Oxford; *The Brutish Museums: The Benin Bronzes, Colonial Violence and Cultural Restitution* (Pluto Press, 2021)

INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Joan M. Zenzen, Independent Historian, *Using Oral History to Affect Community Change: Action in Montgomery at its 20th Anniversary*

HONORABLE MENTION

Laura Miller, Independent Historical Consultant, *"An Island Apart": The Job Corps at Acadia National Park, 1966-1969*

STUDENT PROJECT AWARD

Acoma Gaither and **Andrea Manolov**, University of Minnesota, *History for the Future: How Can Histories of Mutual Aid Help Us Build Radical Futures?*

NEW PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AWARDS

HRA NEW PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AWARD
Laurel Overstreet

NCPH NEW PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AWARD
Joel Zapata

GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

Monica El-Amin, University of West Georgia

John Flynn, University of Utah

Cheyenne Grimes, IUPUI

Madeline Hellmich, IUPUI

Saskia Lascarez Casanova, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

NCPH awards and travel grants are possible in part due to your donations to the NCPH Endowment. One of our primary goals of our 2020 Vision Endowment Campaign was to "expand travel grants and award offerings to increase diversity and inclusion in the organization and field." To help support these awards, and help us to grow our future award and travel grant offerings, please consider giving or pledging to the Endowment: <http://ncph.org/giving/endowment>.



PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

National Council on Public History

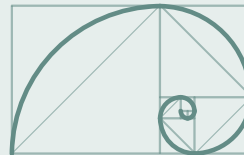
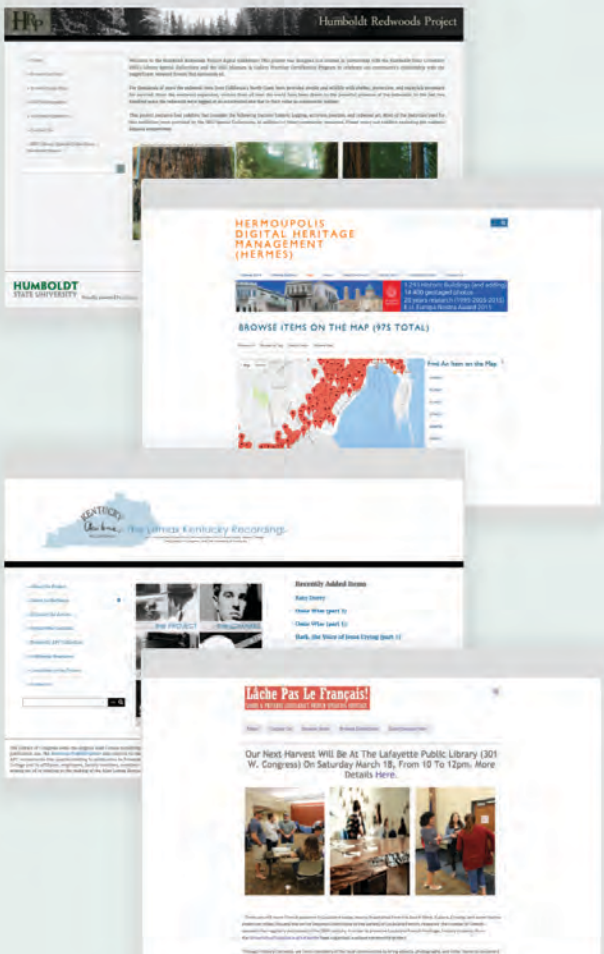
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