



## **Working Group to Collect Resources on the Invasion of Ukraine Call for Working Group Participants**

Like everyone else, public historians have been shocked by Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and its subsequent conduct of the war there. In response to discussions held at an online talk facilitated by NCPH, we are looking into the creation of a spring 2022 working group to potentially create a public-facing space, or other similar outcome, to support and showcase the work scholars of Ukraine have done in order to fight disinformation. The final project could showcase the best of the articles, blogs, panels, and lectures that have happened in response to the invasion, as search engines have not been able to keep up with it and also include disinformation.

### **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 modeled on the 2020 Teaching Public History Online Working Group (<https://ncph.org/conference/other-programs/teaching-public-history-online-working-group/>), which was entirely virtual and whose schedule was not determined by the annual meeting.

The aim would be to help public historians, and in turn the larger public, inform themselves about Ukrainian history and culture and the larger issues raised by the war with a collection of resources. At present, a large number of institutions and scholars are creating new initiatives, many of which are extremely praiseworthy, but they are hard to find unless you already know they are out there. Scholars of Ukraine and Russia post their works on social media, but when one tries to find them online, it is difficult. At the very moment when access to the best and most accurate information is crucial, it is not always available.

### **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 skill sets and wide variety of institutions (public and private, small and large, rural and urban, geographically diverse). Skills should range across the spectrum of the public history professions – preservationists, interpreters, archivists, curators, digital historians, professors. While about half of the group should be scholars of the region who are committed to the accurate and fair



study of Ukraine, public historians who have the ability and capacity to collect and review resources and compile them in an open-access, easy to navigate format are crucial to this

effort. Familiarity with digital history tools (i.e. Zotero, Omeka, etc.) for some participants in the group will also be crucial.

**If you are interested in being a facilitator, please email [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu) by March 25, 2022. If you are interested in joining the group as a discussant, please email [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu) by March 31, 2022.** Discussants should include a short paragraph introducing yourself and your technical or country expertise and describing what you'd like to get and give from the experience.

### **What is the timeline?**

Ideally, we would be able to explore and finalize project plans, determine the appropriate platform and needed resources, and start asking for submissions from country experts and public historians by the middle of April. The group would have their first virtual meeting in early April. The material will likely be crowdsourced by having people submit the projects they have done. There will need to be processes set in place so that the scholars of the region will be able to vet the uploaded materials in a regularized manner. Those with technical expertise will also be needed as the material on the website expands.

The group will work through the spring, checking in monthly with NCPH. The work of the group will be determined by the facilitators. The date the product should go live should be in mid- to late April. As the process continues, the members will determine how best to update the website in a continuous manner.