

TO BE DETERMINED: JOY, HUMILITY, AND NCPH 2023

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When we three program co-chairs began to talk about conference themes for the first in-person NCPH meeting since the appearance of COVID-19 in spring 2020, we had a lot on our collective minds. Of course there was a lot of joyful anticipation as we all looked forward to reconnecting with friends and colleagues after too many years apart; at the same time, the pandemic's ongoing lessons in humility were palpable, as we have all learned what can happen to best-laid plans. And so, we crafted this year's theme, "To Be Determined," to hold space for both the uncertainty of the present times—all the ways in which we don't necessarily know what's ahead—and the resilience necessary to navigate that uncertainty. Unknown futures are both unnerving and exhilarating. What can we build when we are determined?

In March 2020, the NCPH board was compelled to cancel the in-person meeting planned for Atlanta so thoughtfully crafted by Ashley Bouknight Claybrooks, Brian Joyner,

and their excellent program committee. Though inevitable in hindsight, the decision at the time was difficult and painful. We pivoted online, and the ongoing pandemic meant that both the 2021 and 2022 meetings also unfolded online. We have learned together the joys and challenges of gathering virtually. We have also learned what we missed most from in-person gatherings, the conference experiences that are worth preserving—and, on the flip side, the things we *didn't* miss and were doing out of mere habit.

And so, as we began to identify our individual and shared priorities for the Atlanta gathering, we thought long and hard about what it means to come together at our annual meeting. Having learned a lot about the comparative strengths and shortcomings of virtual and in-person gatherings, we asked ourselves, "What makes gathering in person worth the environmental costs and expense of conference travel? What can we do best when we are physically together?" We let these questions guide us as we developed the NCPH 2023 program.

Our planning recognizes these priorities in several ways:

Being comfortable with being uncomfortable and accepting uncertainty can be generative, and we embraced that potential in our planning conversations. At past conferences, NCPH has already hosted "On The Fly" sessions to address pressing current events. The 2023 program takes this principle further, setting aside time for a full "unconference-



Porchia Moore, Rose Paquet, and Aletheia Wittman's recently-published *Transforming Inclusion in Museums* will form the basis for a participatory activation on "future visioning."

style" session led by the stellar innovators of The Inclusionum (<https://inclusionum.com/>), Porchia Moore, Rose Paquet, and Aletheia Wittman. The Thursday afternoon participatory activation, "Future Visioning: A Collaborative Inquiry Activation with The Inclusionum," will create an on-the-fly collaborative space for

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: STILL SHARING THE SPOTLIGHT



KRISTINE NAVARRO-MCELHANEV /
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Again in this issue, I want to use the platform afforded to me by my presidential column to highlight and share the essential work being done by my colleagues in public history. In case you missed it, last issue I interviewed Dr. Katherine Bynum Chavez; the full interview is available on the NCPH YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzZuPCP9f3o>). I encourage you to make wide use of these interviews as you interrogate your own public history work and as many of you work to train the next generation.

This issue, I interviewed Amber Mitchell, director of education at Whitney Plantation about her journey into public history and her



Amber Mitchell is director of education at Whitney Plantation.

current work. Before joining the team at Whitney Plantation, Amber worked at The National WWII Museum as well as the American Association for State and Local History. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from Wayne State University and a master's in public history from IUPUI. She is passionate about telling the stories of underrepresented peoples in historical institutions as well as making these institutions more accessible to all people.

The interview that follows is only an excerpt and has been edited for space. You can find the full interview at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCatgYw0ziUPu6Ti5KKkxHZQ>.

Kristine Navarro-McElhanev (KNM): Can you tell me about your journey?

Amber Mitchell (AM): I am originally from Detroit, Michigan. I started out in museums and public history... interning at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in the curatorial department. I was surrounded by Black historians and Black museum professionals at one of the oldest Black museums in the country. It was a moment in my life that was transformative. It really laid the foundation for my path, in terms of not just being a historian of African American history, but thinking about: how do we tell this history in a public space? How do we empower people to tell their own stories and being an African American woman working in museum spaces and thinking outside of the box in terms of what we do, why we do, and how we do it.

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NCPH inspires public engagement with the past and serves the needs of practitioners in putting history to work in the world by building community among historians, expanding professional skills and tools, fostering critical reflection on historical practice, and publicly advocating for history and historians. *Public History News* is published in March, June, September, and December. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Individual membership orders, changes of address, and business and editorial correspondence should be addressed to NCPH, 127 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: ncph@iupui.edu. Tel: 317-274-2716. Join online or renew at www.ncph.org. Headquartered on the campus of IUPUI, NCPH is grateful for the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts and the Department of History.

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CANDIDATES FOR THE 2023 NCPH ELECTION

Treasurer

(one candidate for one position)

Sharon Leon, Michigan State University

Board of Directors

(six candidates for three positions)

Kirsten Delegard, Mapping Prejudice Project, University of Minnesota Libraries

Charlene Fletcher, Conner Prairie

Scot French, University of Central Florida

Charles Johnson, North Carolina Central University

Tom Scheinfeldt, Greenhouse Studios, University of Connecticut

Sierra Van Ryck deGroot, MuseumHue

Nominating Committee

(four candidates for two positions)

Bob Beatty, Lyndhurst Group

Torren Gatson, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, Indiana Historical Society

Krista McCracken, Algoma University



Full candidate info at <http://bit.ly/NCPH2023Slate>.

Current board and committee members are listed at <http://bit.ly/NCPHcommittees>.

Ballots and candidate statements were distributed by email to members on November 8. Please contact ncph@iupui.edu if you are a member and did not receive an electronic ballot. **The election closes January 15, 2023.** Your vote counts!

Welcome New Members!

Julie Abo Chevy Chase, MD	Analiesa Delgado Las Vegas, NV	Sarah Hoemke Irvine, CA	Steven Minniear Dublin, CA	Emily Shaver Bowling Green, OH
Kristin Anderson-Bricker Dubuque, IA	Janika Dillon Acton, MA	Joshua Hogan Stone Mountain, GA	James Mitchum Woodstock, GA	Robert Shoemaker Chicago, IL
Cliff Avery Pflugerville, TX	Jacqueline Drayer Richmond, VA	Olivia Holland Brooklyn, NY	Jennifer Moran Pullman, WA	McKade Shultz Temperance, MI
Emma Awe Ottawa, ON, Canada	Kasandra Fager Bowling Green, OH	Rachel Hooper Murfreesboro, TN	Anne Moseley Springfield, IL	Madeline Simmons Hiram, OH
Kaitlyn Ballinger-Smith Lexington, KY	Elizabeth Ferry Chicago, IL	Catherine Howell Charlotte, NC	National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation <i>(Institutional)</i> Arlington, TX	Katrina Stack Knoxville, TN
Teresa Barnett Los Angeles, CA	Carter Finch Rome, GA	Katherine Hysmith Carrboro, NC	Nemours Estate <i>(Institutional)</i> Wilmington, DE	Bethany Stewart Christiansburg, VA
Carson Benn Harrogate, TN	Hannah Fradkin Claremont, CA	Presleigh-Anne Johnson Rowlett, TX	Noor Nieftagodien Johannesburg, South Africa	Karen Stewart Moseley, VA
Hannah Berman Silver Spring, MD	Tiffany Gonzalez Dallas, TX	Jonathan Jones Charlottesville, VA	North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum <i>(Institutional)</i> Bismarck, ND	Whitney Stewart Dallas, TX
Karla Berrios Wilmington, NC	Alanna Greene Grover, NC	Julius Jones Wilmington, NC	Justine Orlovsky-Schnitzler Saxapahaw, NC	Bethany Sullivan Orange, VA
Deanna Berryman Pittsburgh, PA	Sarah Griswold Tulsa, OK	Laura Kitchings North Grafton, MA	Melissa Parchment Niceville, FL	Joseph Sylvester South Grafton, MA
Hilary Blum Beaverton, OR	Holly Gruntner Philadelphia, PA	Miharu Kobayashi Matsuyama, Japan	Jessica Parr Exeter, NH	Eric Thompson North Augusta, SC
Mackenzie Bodnar Oshawa, ON, Canada	Caroline Handley Rochester, MN	Peter Kuhs Lower Burrell, PA	Davin Perry Elizabeth City, NC	Cat Dang Ton Des Moines, IA
Rebekah Bryer Portland, ME	Kate Harlan Atlanta, GA	Amanda Laughead Washington, DC	Annie Rappeport Charlottesville, VA	Alison Turner Jackson, MS
Brian Burtka Chicago, IL	Kara Heitz Mission Hills, KS	Elsa Lora New Haven, CT	Samantha Rohman Palo Alto, CA	Karter Unverzagt Torrington, WY
Brittany Clark Clemson, SC	Lyn Hemmingway Athens, GA	Adreishka Luciano Hennigan Providence, RI	Samuel Ruttenburg Chico, CA	Jeanette Vigliotti St. Augustine, FL
John Clement Berea, OH	Dan Henderson Washington, IA	Oswaldo X. Manangon Brooklyn, NY	Jennifer Schaper Richmond, TX	Amanda Ward Bradenton, FL
Jennifer Cullison Turlock, CA	Kayleen Hermans Aberdeen, SD	Yujay Masah Chicago, IL	Thomas Schnare Sterling, MA	Holly Werner-Thomas Los Angeles, CA
Edward Curtis Indianapolis, IN	Chi Tim Ho Singapore	Ashley Cheyemi McNeil Denver, CO	Austin Schoenkopf Bozeman, MT	Auriana Woods Brooklyn, NY
Sandra Davidson Palacios, TX	Katherine Hobbs Los Angeles, CA	David Meron Pensacola, FL		

ACTIONS OF THE NCPH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This summer and fall the board convened electronically and took the actions listed below.



Kristine Navarro-McElhane gives her President's Report during the Fall NCPH Board Meeting held over Halloween weekend bringing some much-needed levity to another long day on Zoom.

At the June virtual meeting the board took the following actions:

- Heard an update from the co-chairs of the Committee for Government Historians on their experience and work and brainstormed ways to increase engagement and involvement.
- Approved the minutes of the March 2022 Virtual and Spring 2022 Board meetings.
- Approved an amendment to the Bylaws to dissolve the Digital Media Group and replace it with an Editorial Committee for *History@Work*.
- Discussed staff compensation.

At the August virtual meeting the board took the following actions:

- Approved the minutes of the June 2022 Virtual Board Meeting.
- Voted to join the CivXNow Coalition.
- Discussed the board's role in the annual meeting and in committee work.

At the September virtual meeting the board took the following actions:

- Approved the minutes of the August 2022 Virtual Board Meeting.
- Discussed fundraising plans and priorities for the future.

At the October virtual meeting the board took the following actions:

- Discussed ways to re-engage and support committees as we come out of the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Discussed ways we can continue to assess volunteer labor and to consider avenues for compensation where needed.

At the virtual Fall 2022 meeting the board took the following actions:

- Heard a report from the President on the state of the work of the Board.

- Approved the minutes of the September 2022 Virtual Board Meeting.
- Heard a report from the Executive Director on the status of the organization's membership, fundraising, annual meeting, social media, and other programs.
- Reviewed the organization's finances with the Treasurer, approved a new audit firm, and approved the 2023 Operating Budget.
- Heard reports from *The Public Historian's* Editor and Co-Editor/NCPH Digital Media Editor.
- Discussed the future of organizational Memorandums of Agreement.
- Reviewed reports from the organization's committee chairs and discussed ways to keep committees supported in their work.

During this time, the Advocacy Committee of the Board also voted to endorse the following:

- a statement concerning the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.
- LGBTQ+ and Women's History Education Act of 2022.

THANK YOU TO NCPH'S SUSTAINING-LEVEL MEMBERS! SUSTAINING MEMBERS MAKE THE WORK OF NCPH POSSIBLE.

Chuck Arning Lunenburg, MA	Shelley Bookspan Santa Barbara, CA	Suzanne Fischer Lansing, MI	Lara Kelland St. Louis, MO	Kristin Morris Los Altos, CA	Alan Rowe Indianapolis, IN	Beth van Duzer Concord, MA
Renee Ater Washington, DC	Jane E. Boyd Philadelphia, PA	Kathleen Franz Washington, DC	Lynn Kronzek Burbank, CA	Linda Morton New Albany, IN	Stephanie Rowe Indianapolis, IN	William Walker Cooperstown, NY
Marianne Babal Mill Valley, CA	James Brooks Athens, GA	Michael Glickman Great Neck, NY	Modupe Labode Silver Spring, MD	Kristine Navarro-McElhane Austin, TX	Philip Scarpino Indianapolis, IN	Anne Whisnant Chapel Hill, NC
Kristen Baldwin Deathridge Boone, NC	Larry Cebula Spokane, WA	Emily Greenwald Missoula, MT	Alexandra Lord Washington, DC	Tracy Neumann Detroit, MI	Tom Scheinfeldt Storrs, CT	Mieux Williamsen Northfield, MN
Bob Beatty Franklin, TN	Priya Chhaya Alexandria, VA	Donald Hall Silver Spring, MD	Katherine Maas Alexandria, VA	Monica Orozco Santa Barbara, CA	Angela Smith Fargo, ND	William Willingham Portland, OR
Rosalind Beiler Orlando, FL	Michael Devine Seattle, WA	Michelle Hamilton London, ON, Canada	Vanessa Macias Camacho El Paso, TX	Katherine Ott Washington, DC	Gregory Smoak Salt Lake City, UT	Amy Wilson Roswell, GA
Nicole Belolan Riverton, NJ	John Dichtl Nashville, TN	Keith Hebert Prattville, AL	CM Marihugh Austin, TX	G. Kurt Piehler Tallahassee, FL	Mark Speltz Lafayette, CA	Robert Wolff New Britain, CT
Padraic Benson Golden, CO	Jennifer Dickey Kennesaw, GA	Al Hester Columbia, SC	Barbara McCaskill Athens, GA	Melissa Prycer Dallas, TX	Jennifer Stevens Boise, ID	Joan Zenzen Rockville, MD
Randy Bergstrom Santa Barbara, CA	John Dickson Pittsfield, MA	Joshua Jenkins Orlando, FL	Denise Meringolo Alexandria, VA	Lynn Rainville Lexington, VA	Jon Taylor Lees Summit, MO	
Anthony Bertolini Fort Collins, CO	Michael Duchemin San Antonio, TX	Claire Jerry Washington, DC	Karen Miller Bellevue, NE	Jeannie Regan-Dinius Indianapolis, IN	Santi Thompson Houston, TX	
Melissa Blair Baltimore, MD	Kevin Fayles Salt Lake City, UT	Trevor Jones Lincoln, NE	Laura Miller Hadley, MA	Mary Rizzo Newark, NJ	Robert Townsend Alexandria, VA	
Martin Blatt Cambridge, MA	Susan Ferentinos Port Townsend, WA	Brian Joyner Washington, DC	Nicole Moore Canton, GA	Edward Roach Dayton, OH	Max van Balgooy Rockville, MD	

NCPH COMMITTEE UPDATES

These updates give a sampling of what NCPH volunteers are doing for the organization and the field of public history. The committees encourage your input throughout the year; committee chairs and members can be found at <http://bit.ly/NCPHcommittees>.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COLLABORATION

This Advisory Committee advises and assists with the cooperative agreement between NCPH and the National Park Service (NPS), by consulting on the selection of projects and project participants (but not selecting), advising the Board and NCPH staff on NPS issues, publicizing the program, and advocating for NPS within the organization. Our committee this year includes Anne Mitchell Whisnant from Duke University, Janet Ore from Montana State University, Jill Titus from the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, Courtney Hobson from the Dresser Center for the Humanities at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Lynn Kronzek from Lynn C. Kronzek and Associates, and Angela Sirna from the National Park Service.

In the past two months, our committee has reviewed three proposed NPS projects, including the scope of work and the budget, for three studies:

- Historic Resource Study of African American History and Experiences at Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland, which will combine traditional historical research and community engagement with the descendant community
- Historic Resource Study for Coltsville National Historical Park in Hartford, Connecticut, to inform critical decisions about the preservation, management, and interpretation of historic and cultural resources at the park
- Special History Study of Black History at the Vassall Estate to document and analyze the Black experience during and after John and Elizabeth Vassall's occupancy and to uncover the lives and communities of enslaved and formerly enslaved people who worked there and lived in the community before, during, and after the American Revolution

All three projects were advertised among the NCPH community, and proposals were due November 1, 2022. Once we receive the letters of interest and responses, our committee will review these requests and share our thoughts with the NCPH staff.

We will also continue to help the NCPH staff in this relatively-new partnership with NPS as requested.

1. Review potential NPS-NCPH collaborations
2. Review scopes of work as requested by NCPH staff to determine adequacy of

budget, appropriateness of NCPH's match for the project, among other ideas and concerns.

3. Review Request for Letters of Interest and responses. As requested by NCPH staff, review and provide recommendations for issuing requests for letters of interest and the resulting submissions from potential project contractors in response to open requests for letters of interest.

-Submitted by chair Ann McCleary

A RETURN TO IN-PERSON THANKS TO OUR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PARTNERSHIP!

NCPH staff were thrilled to return to in-person events with our Lincoln Home National Historic Site 50th Anniversary Symposium, co-sponsored by the National Park Service and the University of Illinois Springfield over October 21 and 22 in Springfield, Illinois. We brought together National Park Service staff, scholars, and students who used the Lincoln Home NHS as a learning lab to think more broadly about interpretation, preservation, and community engagement at a changing urban National Historic Site that seeks to be relevant to its community.



Participants tour the Lincoln Home National Historic Site with Chief of Interpretation and Historian at the Lincoln Home NHS, Tim Townsend. Photo by Ciara Koepke.



Participants visit the Old State Capitol in Springfield, IL. Photo by Ciara Koepke.



Symposium participants and University of Illinois Springfield students listen to Christy Coleman's keynote address. Photo by Ciara Koepke.



Symposium participants chat during a session break. Photo by Ciara Koepke.



The Lincoln Home National Historic Site.



NCPH Graduate Assistant Allison Reardon (left) and NCPH Membership Coordinator Stasia Tanzer (right) prepare to welcome attendees to our first in-person event since 2019!



Symposium convening scholar Devin Hunter (at podium) introduces a panel set to discuss "Lincoln and the Modern Civil Rights Movement." Photo by Ciara Koepke.

challenges the site faces; and made connections to other interpretive sites.

NCPH staff (Stephanie, Meghan, Stasia, and Allison) extend huge thanks to the following for their partnership and work in pulling off this fantastic event:

- Kimberly Craig, University of Illinois Springfield
- Tim Good, Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- Devin Hunter, University of Illinois Springfield
- Ciara Koepke, University of Illinois Springfield
- Tim Townsend, Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- Marcel Tworek, University of Illinois Springfield

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

In 2022, the Advocacy Committee of the Board has been a forum for consultation regarding ten advocacy actions endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Those actions range from statements drafted by the Advocacy Committee to recommendations that NCPH sign on to statements originating outside the organization. The committee also recommended that NCPH join the CivXNow Coalition, which supports civics education in K-12 schools. Behind these activities there has been lively, thoughtful group discussion and a shared drafting process for statements originating with NCPH.

of Illinois Springfield for a reception and keynote address delivered by Christy Coleman, Executive Director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

Day two presented a day of conversations informed by the previous day's tours and keynote. We discussed the past, present, and future of the Lincoln Home campus; brainstormed solutions for the

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Two statements drafted by the committee addressed the situation at James Madison's Montpelier, where leadership broke a landmark shared-governance agreement with the Montpelier Descendants Committee and took action against staff who had opposed this move. Thanks to advocates within the institution and beyond, these harmful actions were subsequently reversed, and the new interim president and CEO of Montpelier provided a reminder of why advocacy matters, writing to NCPH: "your statement and your support influenced the ultimate outcome."

The events of this year have sometimes tested the scope of NCPH's Advocacy Policy, with committee members taking different positions with respect to the range of actions that fall within that scope. These moments in the life of the committee have flowed into a broader conversation linked to one of the Board's charges for the group: to review the Advocacy Policy, adopted in 2015 and last revised in 2017. We have already had some discussion on this charge, and the committee met virtually in October to begin charting a review process. In addition to reviewing the language of the policy itself, we will consider whether there are any procedures that may need specification or modification.

-Submitted by chair Michael Brown

BOARD-LED SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT



The board-led gender discrimination and sexual harassment subcommittee has been continuing its work. We want to take a moment to thank Mary Rizzo for her excellent leadership as co-chair since 2019.

Mary will continue on the subcommittee, and longtime member lara kelland has stepped into the co-chair role. We also thank Oberg Consulting for compiling the [report](#) and for conducting the [webinar](#), both sharing the results of our 2020 survey on gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the field of public history. The report and webinar are available on NCPH's website. Late last year the subcommittee also published "[Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Resources for Public History Practitioners, Consultants, Educators, and Students](#)," also available on the website. If anyone knows of resources that should be added, please reach out to the subcommittee co-chairs, as this document will be updated in advance of the annual meeting. The policy team continues its work on drafts, including meeting with the Governance Committee and scheduling meetings with a couple of other groups for feedback, which further builds on the feedback

from the 2021 NCPH Annual Meeting session as well as what respondents requested in the survey. The team will be sharing the concepts behind this proposal at the 2023 NCPH Annual Meeting in a structured conversation, "Moving Towards Restorative Justice: What a Policy on Discrimination and Harassment may look like for NCPH," and we hope to see many of you there.

-Submitted by co-chairs Kristen Baldwin Deathridge and lara kelland

COMMITTEE FOR GOVERNMENT HISTORIANS

The Committee for Government Historians supports NCPH members who work for or with local, state, and federal government agencies, recognizing that government workers' experiences and needs can be different from those of other public historians. With representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies, we strive to promote public history done by governments throughout the United States and Canada. You can follow us on Twitter @NCPHGovHist or email us at NCPHgovhistorians@gmail.com.

Last time we reported on our idea to have an open meeting on burnout in the public history profession. We held the meeting in May 2022 with Raina Regan, author and creator of Uplifting Preservation, a monthly newsletter on creating mentally healthy history workplaces, who discussed her research on burnout and answered participants' questions. We had a great turnout and received positive feedback. We plan on holding our second open meeting in early 2023, so stay tuned for more details.

In August we partnered with the NCPH New Professional and Student Committee as part of their "public history hangouts," a series of informal gatherings where new professionals and students can gather and connect around common issues. We discussed our committee's mission, gave an overview of working in government, and provided tips on how to apply for government jobs.

Moving ahead, our committee plans to meet bi-monthly and hold two open meetings each year. We are also working on plans for the annual meeting where we are holding a workshop on writing for the public, an open committee meeting, and a committee social event. We hope to see everyone in person next year in Atlanta.

-Submitted by co-chairs Rebekah Dobrasko and Jessie Kratz

CONSULTANTS COMMITTEE

The Consultants Committee has been making progress on some of its main goals over the past year, including making updates to the "For Consultants" section of the NCPH website, brainstorming strategies to make the Consultants Directory more functional and user friendly, and holding regular committee meetings to address

relevant issues and better serve members of NCPH who consider themselves consultants. Speaking of consultants, our committee members represent the broad spectrum of people engaging in public history through consulting work. Many NCPH members may be interested in consulting work but have questions, or they are actually already doing work that would be considered consulting, but they may not classify themselves as consultants. One of our main goals for 2022-2023 is to be available to help all NCPH members interested in or active in consulting. This includes developing strategies to collaborate with other committees and potentially hold joint events, and having a visible and approachable presence at the Annual Meeting in April, through the first in-person Consultants' Speakeasy in three years and hopefully during other events as well. Look for us in April, we're excited to talk to everyone!

-Submitted by co-chairs Heather Carpini and Kathleen Conti

FINANCE COMMITTEE

During the summer and fall, the committee worked to recruit a new auditing firm. In May 2022, we surveyed other history-related organizations to identify a list of prospective firms to conduct NCPH's biennial audit. In June, after approval by the board, an RFP went out to five firms that were given a deadline of September 16 to submit proposals. The committee met on September 16 to discuss the draft 2023 budget and met again on October 3 to discuss the auditor proposals and finalize our 2023 budget recommendations. The committee forwarded its recommended audit firm and budget recommendations to the board for approval.

-Submitted by co-chairs Rosalind Beiler and Amy Wilson



COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Committee on Environmental Sustainability has focused its efforts on a few ongoing projects in addition to working to get thematic sessions into the annual conference schedule. We urge NCPH members and friends to check out the [History@Work posts](#) organized by committee member David Glassberg and independent scholar Donna Graves. This series of posts looks at different dimensions of climate change and

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KNM: Why is empowering people to tell their story so important? And how do you think that has changed your role and your perspective as well?

AM: A major part of that journey for me has been this transformation of finding myself in this history, to helping other people find themselves and learn how to make those connections and be critical thinkers, especially for Black children. Specifically, helping them, in this age of Black Lives Matter, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, to understand, why is it that we live in the way that we live? ... I think that there's no better person to be able to tell a story about a community than the people who that story happened to. And although I am not a native of Whitney Plantation, it is an extreme privilege and honor to be able to shepherd their stories, but ultimately, I want to be put out of that job.

My ultimate goal is for, especially the young people of St. John the Baptist Parish, where we are housed at Whitney Plantation, to be able to feel empowered enough to be able to make the connections from their local history, their history, as a family, to this overarching history that is played out or had been played out every day... Because this history isn't very much past, in fact, is very much present in our everyday in environmental racism, in issues of big industry... If we think about the history of redlining, we think about the history of what happened to plantations after 1865, you have a wonderful community of people who have made a way out of seemingly no way. And they deserve to be able to tell their stories. And we as public historians should be empowering others to take over our roles and be that for their own communities, especially for many of us, who are people of color...

KNM: Why do you think lifting others up is so important? How do you think that transformed you itself?

AM: I think especially as a Black woman, lifting as you climb is very important. Because somebody had to clear the pathway for you. It's important to clear the pathway for others, and then bring them along with you on the journey, whether they know it or not...

And I think that work starts where you are... where you have the power to make change that starts with whatever position I've been in, over the past several years to this one...

Because not everybody is able to go to school, not everybody is able to join groups like NCPH, not everybody is able to invest time into formal history education. I have that privilege...

KNM: So let's talk a little bit about the importance of mentorship.

AM: Yes, so it's hard being the only one, it's hard being the only fly in the buttermilk. It's hard being in a sea of white faces, and having to not just advocate for yourself, but also advocate for your people in the readings that you're doing, in the experiences that are being created. In just saying that, 'Hey, Black children deserve to be here, too.' [Mentorship] made all the difference to be able to create a community of one's own choosing of folks who are doing this work, who also look like me, that I can call on with any sort of craziness, petty feelings, or just cry it out because it just needs to come out. And that's not to say that I couldn't do that with other groups, but it hits much differently when it's people who have had similar experiences to you, who also come from your same background. I can say that... my community of strong, just amazing, Black, female public historians, archivists, librarians, educators, the vast majority of them I met through NCPH.

KNM: Can you explain a little more why it's important to have people of color, like you and me, in these conversations, and not to be the only one?

AM: Yeah, it's difficult because you're having to represent an entire group, with all of its diversity of thoughts, ideas, experiences, in a singular moment, and also represent yourself as an individual. There's an extra layer of labor that goes into being the only one and having to educate everybody on how not to be culturally incompetent... Ultimately, the work of diversifying and making these organizations like NCPH and others better, is not truly on us as people of color, or those who are considered the other... we are not the ones who need to change the organization because we aren't the ones who put the organization in this predicament. Ultimately, it is on those who are in power of that organization... and those who are working to better it, to put forth the effort and to be allies in that way and create a space where we are our best selves and can be our most authentic selves and bring every idea and thought to the table in a way that isn't performative and isn't tokenism.

I feel like we are at a point in our field that if you aren't actively dismantling the master's house, then what are you doing? ... If you're not here advocating for me, then why should I be giving you \$200 a year to maintain my membership? And I do that for NCPH because I was empowered in crucial critical moments by the staff of NCPH and the people in the community that helped build me up as a student, as a young professional, and now going into a mid-career professional. I continue to advocate for NCPH, and I shout the praises of NCPH because it's just such a great entryway into this field for young people of color to not just find themselves but to find others who look like them and to find their voice in this field.

KNM: How do we protect the communities?

AM: We have to think about communities as more than just sources of information, but again, allowing them their humanity, and respecting the fact that they may be descendants of the history that you're trying to tell. Or they may have had that history happen to them in a little bit of a different way than what you might understand. What you might realize is our institutions are members of or parts of a community as well, and so goes to the community, so goes your organization. It is our responsibility as organizations, institutions, cultural groups, artisans, to ensure that the community is not just a well that we're pulling from, but something that we're feeding into. We are part of the ecosystem... We don't want to replay the same old sad songs from the foundations of this field. We have the opportunity to change it. And in fact, I would argue that if we do not change as a community, as museums, as a field, we will no longer be one. There will be no people who are willing to speak to you in order to be involved with your organization, especially now, where we are at. In terms of climate change, in terms of other environmental issues, when folks are worrying about where their food is coming from and how their bills are getting paid, they aren't thinking about your organization, they aren't thinking about how you're paying the bills and paying people. They're not, not unless you are a critical member and partner within that community and for that community.

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KNM: Let's talk a little bit about your new initiative, the *Tilling the Soil* podcast.



Tilling the Soil is a podcast from the Whitney Plantation, listen wherever you find your podcasts.

AM: *Tilling the Soil* is a podcast about how we do what we do at Whitney Plantation. And I think it really came from general questions that we get from other African

Americans who are coming through the door who realize one, this is a safe space for me, because look at all these Black faces who are here, giving the tours, selling me my ticket, leading the interpretation, and other things on site. We were getting folks who are asking questions about, "Well, what's it like working here? What's it like being on a plantation? What's it like telling this history day in and day out?" And so, myself and our director of marketing, who is a descendant of Whitney Plantation, were just thinking about, "What if we had some sort of platform for us to talk about these things that we can't necessarily discuss?" What is it like being a Black interpreter of slavery? What is it like being a Black descendant of enslaved people working on a plantation site and interpreting this history to all people of all backgrounds, right? And then, like,

what's the history of plantation tourism? We are thinking about all these different intersections and how it's important and also very cathartic to be able to talk about the interesting challenges and successes of doing this work, but then also doing it as a Black professional in a uniquely Black space in a uniquely Black context in a descendant community... it's really kind of my own love letter to public history a little bit in some of the gaps that we have as a field.

KNM: Any advice for young scholars that might be helpful when they're going through their journey?

AM: I know for my introverts, you are not going to like this, but talk to people. I am not necessarily a people person either. But my trick was always to get people talking about themselves, get folks talking about their work. Because you never know who that person might bring you along to meet.

I would say take the opportunity to have a multitude of experiences. Don't get so bogged down with wanting to be a curator or a collections manager that you forget to experience all the different kinds of roles, so that you're better at the job that you end up getting. I'm not saying that you won't become a collections manager, but I'm sure that your work as a collection manager might be just that much better because you

have a more informed experience about how a collections manager might work with an educator, or how they might work with front of house staff, or how they might work with marketing.

I would say learning how to speak up for yourself, knowing when and where to fight your battles, and to protect yourself and your peace. And to speak up on your own behalf is a power that you will use any and everywhere. And it's best to start when you're young and make it a practice so that it's just an all-encompassing part of your lifestyle. And you will be surprised how many more people respect you because you are not willing to compromise on who you are as a person and the work that you're willing to do advocating to protect your community and to protect yourself.

Thank you Amber, for taking the time to virtually sit down with me and share your journey. Your thoughts resonated with my experiences, and I am so impressed with the incredible public historian you've become. I look forward to ceding my space next issue to another inspiring member of our NCPH community.

-Kristine Navarro-McElhane is the President of NCPH and assistant director for the Voces Oral History Center at the University of Texas at Austin.



IUPUI Graduate Program in Public History

Established in 1984, the Graduate Program in Public History at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) trains historians in the research, analytical, and communications skills needed to apply their work in the public arena. Students benefit from a combination of classroom instruction and practical experiences that prepare them for a wide range of public history occupations. Campus adjacent to downtown Indianapolis, which serves as a learning laboratory for public history students.

Program highlights include:

- A nationally-recognized public history degree program, with opportunities for students to pursue additional qualifications and certifications in Library Science, Museum Studies, and Documentary Editing
- Two academic years of half-time paid internships in local institutions provide significant practical training (interns also receive a substantial tuition remission and health insurance)
- Situated near several long-time partner institutions and research repositories (including the Indiana Historical Society, Indiana State Library and Historical Bureau, and Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art)

Graduate public history courses include: Digital Humanities, Historical Administration, Historic Preservation, Historic Site Interpretation, Introduction to Archival Practices, and Local and Community History

For more information, contact Dr. Rebecca Shrum, Director of Public History:
rshrum@iupui.edu | (317) 274-5983
<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/history> - Click on "Public History"



sustainability in public historical contexts. Along those lines, the committee is reviewing and updating the Resources White Paper it produced a few years ago to familiarize project planners and educators with the scholarship and written resources on climate change and sustainability. Maintenance of such a bibliography is something of a recurring task as the list of new materials grows regularly. Members of the committee are also working on essay revisions for an edited volume that emerged from the committee's conference activities. The book will be entitled *Branching Out: Trees and Public History* and is under contract with the University of Massachusetts Press's Public History in Historical Perspective series. That book will contain thirteen essays and will be submitted to the press before the year is over.

One of the main projects the committee has taken on is creating a set of guidelines that will allow environmental sustainability and climate change consideration to be part of the logic and language of historical preservation documentation. Our thinking is that there are many sites that either have important environmental history or climate dimensions, or are themselves significant for their role in environmental and climate change, but there is no systematic or official way to have that acknowledged in the current regime of historical preservation. Members of the committee are gathering possible sites so that the committee can better define our terms and criteria. NCPH members who are interested in this issue or know of sites that might fit are invited to contact us, or even attend our fall online meeting. Please email Philip Levy or William Ippen for details.

-Submitted by co-chairs Philip Levy and William Ippen

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee has had a busy summer and early autumn, meeting monthly to continue developing the new LRP to cover 2023-2028. In April, we presented our proposed pillars to the Board, along with broader statements explaining each term. These pillars will serve as the guiding principles for the new LRP. After receiving the Board's feedback, we revised and clarified the explanatory statements and sent our revised pillars back to the Board for further review.

Over the summer, we developed a plan to have membership focus groups evaluate the pillars and suggest some concrete actions that NCPH might take to achieve these goals. Each committee member volunteered to co-lead one hour-long focus group with participants from across NCPH's various constituencies. These groups gathered valuable, insightful feedback for the new

long range plan. On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank everyone in the membership who gave their time to participate.

In the coming months, our committee will draw from all of the input gathered over more than a year of surveys, listening sessions, board meetings, and focus groups to begin developing specific action items and objectives for the new Long Range Plan. Our goal is to develop a plan that is ambitious and yet manageable for an organization run by all-volunteer committees. We remain on track to present the next LRP to the Board during our spring meeting in Atlanta.

-Submitted by co-chairs Abigail Gautreau and William Stoutamire

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The NCPH Membership Committee is committed to connecting with existing, former, and potential NCPH members. In gearing up for the annual meeting held virtually last May, our committee attended and supported the Student & New Professional Committee's Public History Hangout in lieu of our usual pre-conference Twitter chat. Five committee members—including past and present co-chairs—also facilitated the ever-popular "Shared Wisdom" session, giving advice on how to make the most of both the annual meeting and NCPH membership in general. In addition to these virtual events, we are looking forward to facilitating the first-time attendee and new member events at the annual conference in Atlanta! This year, the Membership Committee welcomed members of the former Digital Media Group, and the committee is now responsible for managing NCPH's social media platforms, including Instagram and Facebook. We are always interested in having NCPH members conduct Instagram takeovers—if you're interested, or want to learn more, please reach out to co-chair Kacie Lucchini Butcher (contact@klbutcher.com). Finally, committee members are sending emails to lapsed members this fall to encourage our peers to reconnect with the organization.

-Submitted by co-chairs Kacie Lucchini Butcher and Julie Peterson

NEW PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT COMMITTEE

The New Professional and Student Committee spent the spring and early fall engaging in vibrant cross-committee collaboration to continue honing the Public History Hangout series to be a valuable resource and entry point into NCPH for students and new professionals. Designed as a series of informal virtual hangouts where students and new professionals can come together to discuss common issues or topics, public history hangouts have sparked some

generative conversations around contemporary issues in the field. In April, students and new professionals attended a hangout to discuss strategies for attending a virtual NCPH gathering, how to network in these virtual spaces, and advice for first-time attendees. We have also discussed some exciting plans to engage professionals and new students at the 2022 annual meeting and throughout the year. In August, our committee worked with co-chairs of the Committee for Government Historians to develop a public history hangout that centered on advice and tips for public historians applying to government jobs. Finally, in early September, our committee hosted a virtual event with the Center for Memory in Montreal as a callback to the 2022 annual meeting's original location and to hear about the Center for Memory's transition into a community-focused institution. Other virtual programming included a scavenger hunt and social hour at the 2022 annual meeting. In November, the committee hosted our final fall public history hangout centered on consulting with representatives from NCPH's Consultants Committee. As the annual meeting approaches in Atlanta, our committee is thinking of ways to connect students and new professionals in person as well as providing opportunities to engage with public history professionals in Atlanta through behind-the-scenes events or walking tours. Alongside programming, our communications and member resources working groups have been focused on maintaining our committee's social media presence and editing our *Public History Navigator*. As always, our committee looks forward to connecting with others at the annual meeting where we can continue to share resources and support new students and professionals.

-Submitted by co-chairs MaryKate Smolenski and Brian Whetstone

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This year, the Nominating Committee was tasked with identifying six candidates for three Board of Directors positions, a candidate for Treasurer, and four candidates for two Nominating Committee positions.

Nominating Committee co-chairs Anne Mitchell Whisnant and Kristen Hayashi met with NCPH President Kristine Navarro-McElhaney and Executive Director Stephanie Rowe to discuss thoughts on upcoming needs of the Board. In preparation for our selection process, we poured over lists of individuals who had been identified in prior years and/or who had served in various capacities throughout NCPH's leadership and generated a list of prospects as a starting point. The Nominating Committee soon met to discuss the upcoming needs of the organization and selection of candidates.

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NCPH COMMITTEE UPDATES // CONT'D. FROM PAGE 9

Given that Board service requires a significant commitment to the organization and Nominating Committee members play a key role in identifying potential leaders to guide the organization, we wanted to make sure that all of the individuals selected had an established connection to NCPH. We researched the NCPH membership status and past service of top prospects, as we felt that these were two qualities that signified solid candidates for these top leadership positions.

Reflecting on our discussion of the needs of NCPH as an organization and composition of the current Board, we prioritized the qualities, skill sets, and backgrounds that we felt should be reflected, keeping an eye out for candidates that represented:

- Southeastern part of the US (where much of NCPH's membership is based)
- Gender balance
- African American voice
- Native American/Indigenous voice
- Financial skill sets (since we know filling the Treasurer position and finance committee positions require experience in this area)
- Understanding of academic institutions
- Employment in public history organizations (museums, historic preservation, etc.)
- Seniority in career

Working from the initial "long list," we developed a shorter list of 21 individuals for the three Board positions, which we grouped

into three clusters. Members of the Nominating Committee ranked the individuals in each cluster, which helped us—after further discussion—to create an even shorter list with specific plans for sending formal asks.

For the Nominating Committee, we observed that none of the continuing members have previously served on the NCPH Board. Therefore, we prioritized identifying at least some candidates who have previously served on the NCPH Board or leadership in another capacity.

We were informed that current Treasurer Sharon Leon was willing to be re-nominated for that position. Given her excellent service and the organization's need for stability in this position, we elected to invite her to run again, and she accepted.

The final slate of candidates is presented on page 3 of this newsletter and voting is now open.

Finally, as we reflect on the process of identifying candidates for NCPH's elected leadership roles, we encourage future Nominating Committee members to engage more directly with chairs of NCPH's various appointed committees as well as general members to identify candidates for these positions. This will ensure a more intentional and inclusive leadership development process that will result in the Nominating Committee considering a diverse, experienced, and committed pool of candidates for these important positions.

-Submitted by co-chairs Kristen Hayashi and Anne Mitchell Whisnant

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This summer, the Professional Development committee held its fourth Public History Book Club event, featuring *Pennhurst and the Struggle for Disability Rights*, edited by Dennis B. Downey and James W. Conroy. Members also reviewed proposals for annual meeting workshops. Accepted workshops covered a variety of topics including academic and interpretive writing, digital tools, America250 planning, consulting, and place-based education.

The Professional Development Committee's next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2022. At this meeting, we will make plans for improving and expanding existing programs like workshops, the annual Speed Networking event, and the Public History Book Club. We will also explore ways that NCPH can better support mid-career professionals, a need identified in our listening session, and how professional development initiatives might strengthen NCPH's relationships with HBCUs, HSIs, Tribal colleges, and community colleges.

-Submitted by co-chairs Eric Hung and Sarah Soleim

THE CLARA BARTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES NEEDS INPUT FROM HISTORIANS



Glen Echo, Clara Barton Chapel, [Maryland]. LC-DIG-npcc-00232. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

Historians needed! The National Park Service (NPS) is currently in a planning process that would change the fundamental use of the Clara Barton National Historic Site (NHS)—one of fewer than a dozen sites in the entire National Park System that focuses on the history of American women—from its Congressionally designated (1974) purpose of preserving and interpreting Miss Barton and the American Red Cross. Their proposed "rehabilitation"

would shift most of the 10,000 square foot space to the adjacent Glen Echo park, an arts and crafts park and former amusement park. Miss Barton, while most famous for her Civil War work, founded the American Red Cross and expanded its mission to aid in disasters, enlisted the US in the Geneva Convention, and developed First Aid. She was part of the cohort of women involved in the progressive era who worked to organize labor, conservation, social welfare, women's suffrage, etc. Think Jane Addams, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, etc.

The National Parks Conservation Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and National Collaborative for Women's History Sites all support the restoration of this 10,000 square foot building now in poor condition and want to work with the NPS to identify an appropriate partner who will enhance the history of Miss Barton and the progressive era history. We need to help the NPS find an excellent partner.

We also need more people to join in the consultation process with the NPS for the Historic Preservation Act. Join us on Zoom by writing Charles_Cuvelier@nps.gov and stating that you want to be a Consulting Party in the NHPA Section 106 process and briefly state your concerns and qualifications.

As public historians, we need to be active in preserving and interpreting these sites. Because the NPS finally has money to work on many much-needed projects, the Clara Barton NHS project shows how much our involvement as historians is needed. This is precedent-setting.

Questions: Please email Pam Goddard at [National Parks Conservation Association](mailto:pgoddard@npca.org), pgoddard@npca.org or Chris Morris at [National Trust for Historic Preservation](mailto:CMorris@savingplaces.org), CMorris@savingplaces.org, or Lucy Beard at National Collaborative for Women's History Sites at luciennebeard@gmail.com.

necessary conversations. We encourage everyone to come ready to envision the future of public history together and make “good trouble.”

As always, the conference aims to explore and celebrate our host city and to lean into Atlanta-specific ideas around crafting, music, advocacy, and more. Given long and robust craft traditions in Atlanta and across the South (and picking up a “thread” from Ashley Bouknight Claybrooks and Brian Joyner’s 2020 program vision, “Threads of Change”), our 2023 gathering will focus on makers and making. Activities across the program include a keynote address by Torren L. Gatson and Tiffany Momon of the Black Craftspeople Digital Archive, and space and supplies in the Commons area of the exhibit hall for downtime crafting projects. These activities are meant to feed your creativity and also give you ways to decompress and work with your hands if the conference experience becomes overwhelming. We hope to welcome some local artisans to the exhibit hall so you can browse their wares, and we’ll be providing a list of local makers, galleries, and maker spaces so you can shop local.



The founders of Glad & Young, Anna Zietz and Erica Verges, at work in their Atlanta studio. Image courtesy of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.

This year’s public plenary also seeks to highlight Atlanta’s premier position in the national musical landscape. Atlanta hip-hop artists and producers, such as Jermaine Dupri, TLC, T.I., Ludacris, OutKast, Goodie Mob, and Migos, have shaped the recent history of the music industry and indelibly reshaped the city. To explore this history as well as ways it is being documented, preserved, and interpreted today, we’ll host a plenary conversation between well-known Atlanta historian and scholar Maurice Hobson; scholar of the hip-hop south Regina Bradley; and architect, designer, and founder of the Hip Hop Architecture Camp Michael Ford. This plenary will explore the impact of this musical genre on the city of Atlanta and the South in general. It will also look at the larger cultural impact of hip-hop on clothing, art, literature, museums, urban planning, and architecture.

Another thread of content that runs through the sessions, working groups, and special events focusing on slavery: the institution, its legacies, and the way we interpret and teach it. For the third of five planned roundtable conversations in partnership with the National Park Service leading up to the 250th anniversary of the US, an opening plenary led by historian Sylvea Hollis will explore the rhetoric of freedom and enslavement. To help interpreters who engage the public at sites of slavery and revolution, we’ll be following up that opening plenary with an interpreter vent and brainstorming session later in the conference.



The Hammonds House Museum on the West End exhibits “provocative” and transformative works by artists from the African Diaspora. Image courtesy of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Also in evidence is introspection about the field of public history in a time of crisis: the ways we care for ourselves and each other as we do public history work, our shortcomings as a field, and paths toward making our workplaces more inclusive, just, and equitable as we seek the same for the history content we make. Sessions like “A Recent Graduate, In This Economy?: Finding Your Footing During Times of Uncertainty” and “A Balancing Act: Navigating the Field as Racialized Public Historians” speak to the specific challenges of groups of public historians who bear disproportionate burdens in their work. Working groups like “Processing, Interpreting, and Healing from Historical Trauma” and “Empowering the Public History Workplace: Information, Advocacy, and Collective Power” tackle questions of self-care and workplace organizing.

We know not everyone will be able to join us in Atlanta. Whether you’re concerned about COVID-19, you cannot afford to travel, or recent legislation in Atlanta makes it unsafe for you to be there, know that we understand these are all valid reasons to sit this one out—and we’re planning a fall online conference to provide networking and learning opportunities for you. As we write this piece, the runoff election has once again put national attention on Georgia, and it’s tempting to think that NCPH and other organizations should avoid legislatively tricky states for our gatherings. However, public historians work in all fifty states, public history work is necessary everywhere, and we choose to honor our commitments to Southern public historians by convening in a city that is trying its very best to overcome systemic inequality, gerrymandering, and civil rights violations to envision for itself a more just future. Like the 2020 co-chairs before us, we welcome the opportunity to “come to Georgia, have important conversations loudly, demonstrate solidarity with local workers, give money to local businesses we believe in, and tip well,” and we hope to see you there.

-Marla Miller is Distinguished Professor of History at University of Massachusetts Amherst, a past President of NCPH, and 2023 NCPH Annual Meeting co-chair.

-Tara White is Assistant Professional of History at University of North Carolina Wilmington and 2023 NCPH Annual Meeting co-chair.

-Lacey Wilson is Public Historian for Albany African American History Project at the Albany Institute of History and Art and 2023 NCPH Annual Meeting co-chair.

PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

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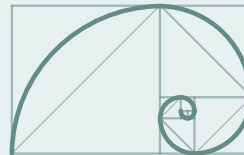
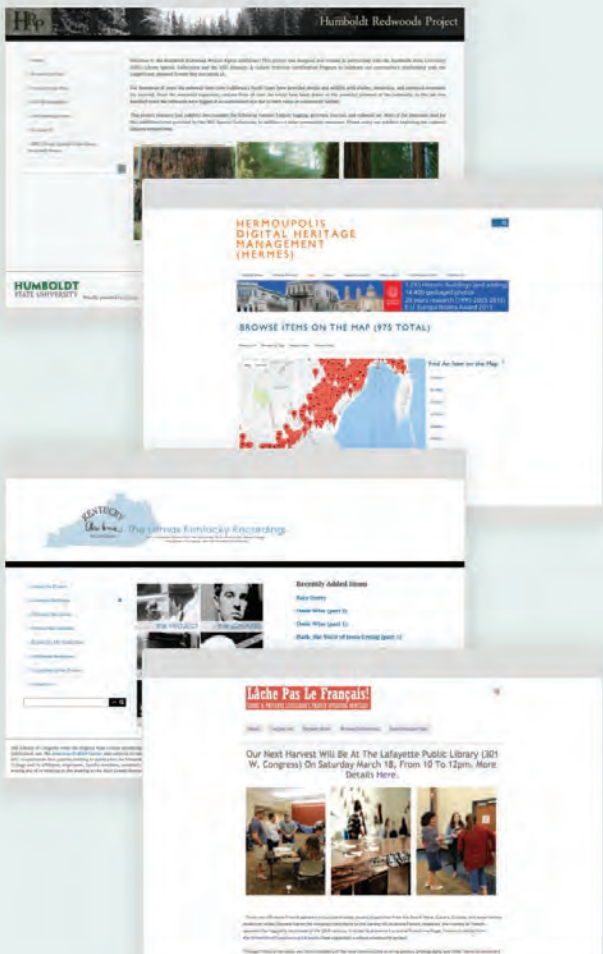
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