We are delighted to welcome you to the National Council on Public History’s 2024 annual conference in Salt Lake City, in partnership with the Utah Historical Society. Known as the Crossroads of the American West, Salt Lake City is not only the capital of Utah, but of a much larger intermountain region. It offers the kind of amenities—from arts and music to world class healthcare and an international hub airport—that are found in much larger cities.

The conference will offer many opportunities to explore lesser-known sides of Utah’s history and culture through dedicated programming from the Utah Historical Society, as well as tours and events that will help contextualize Utah as a Crossroads. Upcoming program highlights to keep an eye out for include:

- Joining fellow colleagues on a walking tour of Ogden’s 25th Street, home to the Porters & Waiters Club, which served the city’s significant African-American community and hosted famed Jazz musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington in a time of segregation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

THE NEXT LINCOLN: CONCLUSIONS FROM THE NCPH-NPS MINI-CONFERENCE AND WORKING GROUP ON LINCOLN-RELATED PUBLIC HISTORY

DEVIN HUNTER / DHUNTE2@UIS.EDU

It’s mid-summer in Springfield, Illinois, where “History Comes Alive” with daily schedules filled with programs catering mostly to tourists attracted to Abraham Lincoln’s hometown. Whether you plan it or not, you will likely catch a glimpse of the ubiquitous interpreters portraying Lincoln and his wife Mary. They’ll chat you up over ice cream at Historic Edwards Place against a brassy background from the Springfield Municipal Band. Maybe two hours later you’ll bump into them as your kids wrestle with wooden toys on the grass of an empty lot at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. On Tuesdays, if you’re in it for the long haul, you can conclude your day with a somber flag-lowering ceremony at Lincoln’s Tomb, complete with a 21-gun salute from Civil War reenactors. If you’re lucky (or chosen, divinely, by the spirit of Lincoln himself) you might win the raffle to take home the flag that flew over the tomb that day.

To come “alive” is to imply that the Lincoln of public history, not just in Springfield but anywhere, has pushed out of the past and into our present. Lincoln is a contemporary shape-shifter. Publics project onto him a myriad of social and political notions, some of which his image absorbs and some of which it reflects. The historical Lincoln is complex (and incomplete) enough to stand for emancipation or settler colonialism, for proto-cultural diversity or white supremacy. Many are turning to Lincoln as a totem of national unity during what they see as the greatest political divide since the Civil War—often neglecting the fact that it was through conflict that Lincoln confronted disunity, or that the conclusion of the Civil War brought unity for only some citizens. What is the status, the potential, the limitations, of Lincoln as a public history figure in an age of critical reevaluations of those often hailed as national heroes? These issues emerged as features of the NCPH and National Park Service’s partnership built around the 50th anniversary of the designation of Lincoln’s Home in Springfield as a National Historic Site (NHS). As convening scholar of the project’s October 2022 symposium and co-facilitator of the subsequent 2023 NCPH Working Group on “Reimagining Lincoln,” I offer here a short summary of our work and how it is contributing to my tenuous thoughts about the state of Lincoln-related public history and cultural heritage tourism.

Beginning in late 2021, under the auspices of an NCPH mini-conference, Tim Townsend of the Lincoln Home, graduate assistant Marcel Tworek, NCPH staff, and I built a two-day symposium held in Springfield in October 2022 (https://ncph.org/conference/2022-lincoln-home-nhs-symposium/) coinciding with the Lincoln Home NHS’s anniversary. Although the theme addressed some of the particularities of Lincoln public history, our goal was to keep the content and the discussions in the broad context of public history and interpretation. Refreshingly, many of our speakers and attendees prefaced comments with “I’m not a Lincoln expert...” On Friday, attendees visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to view the exhibits and then share their thoughts with museum staff. An afternoon tour centered on a behind-the-scenes look at the Old State Capitol and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
HISTORY supports the NCPH for promoting the value and significance of history every day.
NOTICE OF THE FALL BOARD MEETING

On October 21, the NCPH Board of Directors will be convening virtually in lieu of the typical in-person Fall Board Meeting. The board welcomes comments, questions, and suggestions from NCPH members throughout the year, and especially for the fall agenda. Please contact the executive director (rowes@iupui.edu) or the board at large (board@ncph.org). Individual board members are listed at http://bit.ly/ncphcommittees.

WELCOME, HUNTER!

Hunter Marsh is serving as the NCPH Graduate Assistant for the 2023-2024 academic year. He received his BA in History from Wabash College in 2017 and is currently in his second year in the Public History MA program at IUPUI. Before working at NCPH, Hunter was the 2022-2023 intern at the American Legion National Headquarters Library & Archives. He also works as a gallery interpreter at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis.

WELCOME, SARAH!

We are thrilled to welcome Sarah Singh to the NCPH team as our new Publications and Marketing Contractor. Sarah will help us with social media, History@Work, and Public History News! Sarah is a historian, artist, and community organizer. Sarah’s work is guided by her passion for connecting (with) others around public history and art. She has held positions with City Lore Inc., Operation Restoration (as a Mellon Fellow of Community Engaged Scholarship), and Xavier University of Louisiana’s Office of Inclusion and Social Justice. Sarah received a BA from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at NYU, an MA in twentieth century US History from Tulane University and is currently applying for MFA programs in Studio Art. Originally from NJ, residing in New Orleans, she loves to spend her free time drawing, running, or lounging next to the bayou. Her visual art project can be viewed on Instagram @slimmmdoodle or slimmmdoodle.com.
Explore these free resources for your classroom

• An Emmy Award-Winning Historical Documentary
• A Book
• PBS Learning Media
• A Heritage Trail
• Lesson Plans
• A Blog
• Community Dialogues
• A Historical Marker

Arab Indianapolis is a community history project made possible by the work of two dozen Arab Americans, ten IUPUI student researchers, and seventy-five supporters, including the William M. and Gail M. Plater Chair of the Liberal Arts at IUPUI.

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Find out more at WWW.ARABINDIANAPOLIS.COM
A trip north to the border of Utah and Idaho to witness the site of the Boa Ogoi, or Bear River Massacre, and see how the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation is restoring the land through Indigenous stewardship and shaping the historical understanding of the event.

A downtown Salt Lake City walking tour viewing the city through the lens of queer history and the long legacy of the LGBTQ+ community in Utah.

A guided tour of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers museum and international headquarters, a memory project and cabinet of curiosity documenting the Church of Jesus Christ, Latter-day Saints (LDS) experience in Utah.

Beyond the program and the tours, Utah is a place worth visiting and better understanding. First time visitors often come to Salt Lake City with preconceived notions, and misconceptions, about what they will find. They probably know it as the headquarters of a global religion and perhaps as an Olympic city, the host of the 2002 Winter Games. But they might not expect the diverse, vibrant, and metropolitan city that they encounter.

Like many Western states, Utah has seen significant demographic and economic shifts in the past fifty years, leading it to become the fastest growing state in the nation. With this growth have come changes to the on-the-ground, lived experiences of Utahns both new and old, and has amplified the growing need to rectify misconceptions about present-day Utah. An oft-cited factoid of this change includes The Advocate magazine in 2016 naming Salt Lake City the “queerest city in America;” more telling are statistics from the Utah State Board of Education that found 106 languages and dialects spoken in 2022 in Granite School District alone, a district that serves a primarily minority-majority population in Salt Lake City. Utah hosts the oldest arts council in the country and historically, Utahns support the arts and cultural sector, making it an economic driver of the state measured in the billions of dollars. These changing demographics are reflected in opportunities that attendees can readily access, including queer-friendly spaces across the city, a diversity of dining options, and access to world class art venues.

Utah is rightly known for its stunning landscapes and recreational opportunities, but it is much more. As we convene in Utah’s capitol city, we are excited to share what makes Utah a dynamic place with an incredibly rich history—one that is sure to inspire morning coffee chats and further exploration as we collectively address this year’s theme of Historical Urgency.

Jennifer Ortiz is Director of the Utah Historical Society and co-chair of the 2024 NCPH/UHS joint conference local arrangements committee.

Gregory Smoak is Associate Professor of History at the University of Utah, Immediate Past President of NCPH, and co-chair of the 2024 NCPH/UHA joint conference local arrangements committee.
Suellen M. Hoy was one of the “founding mothers” of public history. Midwest born and raised, she came to the field of history after seven years as a member of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. A PhD at Indiana University followed in 1975. During her time at Indiana University, she served as the first woman editorial assistant at the *Journal of American History*.

After a year as a university instructor in upstate New York, Dr. Hoy seized the opportunity to work in the yet unnamed field of public history. As part of the bicentennial of the United States, the American Public Works Association hired her to co-author with Michael C. Robinson a *History of Public Works in the United States, 1776-1976*. Hoy and Robinson went on to create the Public Works Historical Society with the backing of the American Public Works Association. As society director, Dr. Hoy played an important role in the spread of public history, speaking to the first public history students at the University of California, Santa Barbara and helping to arrange internships with public works agencies. Larry E. Tise remembers Suellen during these years as “a gifted history scholar who had chosen to work in an important public realm as a historian.”

While based in Washington, DC, she joined Dr. Arnita Jones at the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History and chaired its Resource Group on State and Local History. A key participant in the 1979 Montecito, CA, public history symposium, she was one of the founding members and an incorporator of the National Council on Public History in 1980 and served on the Council until 1985, including as secretary in 1982-83. She also co-chaired the 1982 meeting in Chicago. From 1981 to 1986, she served as Assistant Director of the North Carolina Division of History and Archives where she led the Institute for Applied History.

As young historians entering the field of public history, we found three women who served as excellent role models and mentors in navigating the public history landscape: Drs. Suellen Hoy, Anna Nelson, and Arnita Jones. As a group, they ensured that younger female voices would be heard and appreciated as NCPH grew. The National Council on Public History recognized Dr. Hoy’s role in the creation and shaping of NCPH by selecting her as a Founder’s Award recipient in 2018.


Dr. Hoy married fellow historian Dr. Walter Nugent in 1986. After more than thirty years in Indiana and Illinois, the couple moved to Seattle where Dr. Nugent died in August 2021 and she on May 4, 2023.

TO BE CONTINUED.

VIRTUAL NCPH 2023 | OCT. 4-6, 2023
REGISTRATION OPEN THROUGH 10/2

Join us to continue conversations from NCPH 2023 in Atlanta and begin new ones. Registration and a preliminary Program available at https://ncph.org/conference/2023-annual-meeting/virtual-ncph-2023-to-be-continued/.
Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Friday evening brought the crowd to the campus of the University of Illinois Springfield to hear the keynote (https://uis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/ECCE+Speaker+SeriesA+%22Whate%27s+Wrong+With+Lincoln%22+%7C+Remember%22%22+Oct+21%2C+2022%29/1_v6yvm0sj) from one of our field’s leading voices on reinterpreting historical narratives, Christy Coleman of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. On Saturday, we welcomed speakers organized in three panels: “Lincoln Home National Historic Site in the National Park Service Context,” “Civil Rights in Memory and Public History,” and “Horizons of Equity and Inclusion for Historic Sites and Cultural Heritage Tourism.” The program consisted of Civil War and civil rights scholars, public historians representing state, local, and federal institutions, and those with special perspectives on cultural heritage’s connection to African Americans and indigeneity. We concluded with an open discussion moderated by Ted Karamanski of Loyola University Chicago. With 15 presenters and over 50 attendees (and double that for the keynote), we counted the symposium a success, especially considering it was NCPH’s first in-person event since 2019.

For the subsequent NCPH conference working group (https://ncph.org/conference/2023-annual-meeting/working-groups/), Tim Townsend and I added Rutgers doctoral candidate Adam McNeil as a co-facilitator. We accepted as discussants 12 public historians from a range of institutions in the Mountain West, Midwest, South, and East Coast. We met via Zoom and traded case statements in the weeks leading up to the conference, adapting Karamanski’s symposium conclusion for our prompt for pre-conference discussion: “What do we need from Lincoln today?” On an internal blog, discussions expanded on their relationship to Lincoln-related public history. At the conference in Atlanta, we introduced four themes around which to draft statements of principle while also drafting a proposal for an information-sharing platform. Finally, Adam McNeil made a June trek to Springfield to visit the Lincoln sites and meet with public historians as background for his contribution to the overall project. My only certain conclusion, after almost two years on the project, is that the field of critical analysis of Lincoln-related public history is remarkably under-developed, especially in relation to Lincoln biography and historiography. Each year, it seems that traditional scholars and popular biographers publish at least a shelf’s-worth of books about the “historical” Lincoln. Yet Lincoln-related public history and tourism sites have attracted only the occasional critical and analytical eye, such as the two chapters on Lincoln’s New Salem that ethnographer Edward Bruner sandwiched between his exegeses on travel in Africa and Asia. Scholars are currently working on what will be much-welcomed historical studies of Lincoln sites, primarily in the Midwest. This gap is mirrored by the lack of a sustained network for front-line public historians working at Lincoln-related sites. While most sites likely have their own training and case study literature, there exists only informal and infrequent collaborations and communications across the subfield. Hopefully, the two possible outgrowths of the NPS-NCPH Lincoln project—the statements of principles and the networking platform—will contribute to ongoing efforts to address these challenges. By all means: if you or someone you know can be of assistance or would like to join either or both of the plans, please reach out!

Back at the Edwards Place for ice cream, you can’t quite get over the incongruity of talking to “Lincoln” about his 1850s social circle while the shorts- and-polo-clad band pushes through a medley of 1960s pop music (and, shouldn’t this Springfield-era Lincoln be beardless?). Later, while on the Lincoln Home’s new guided tour about the evolution of its stretch of 8th Street, you learn that the empty lot with the toys once held a Piggly Wiggly-turned-gift shop that the Park Service demolished in the 1970s, having deemed it inappropriate for its interpretive plans of the time. Whether you’re a casual tourist or an academic, you’ll have to come to terms with both the limits and possibilities—really, the inevitability—of a Lincoln that is in some ways ill-fitted and in other ways uniquely qualified to speak to us today. He’s not going anywhere anytime soon, even if he gets knocked off the occasional pedestal (https://www.npr.org/2020/12/12/951206414/statue-of-lincoln-with-free-slay-at-his-feet-is-removed-in-boston) or touched-up with some vernacular interpretive spray paint (https://abc7chicago.com/president-abraham-lincoln-statue-edgewater-senn-park/12492964/).

You check the time and decide that you can still make it out to the Tomb for the flag-lowering ceremony. Maybe you’ll wear that Lincoln-themed “Protect Trans Kids” shirt that you recently bought on impulse.

-Devin Hunter is Associate Professor of United States History and Public History at the University of Illinois Springfield and the convening scholar for the NPS-NCPH Lincoln Symposium and Working Group.
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Disability and disabled people are deeply underrepresented in place-based US history. In an effort to shift this reality, the National Park Service (NPS) is collaborating with NCPH to produce a Disability History Handbook. In 2022, the NPS and NCPH welcomed Dr. Kathleen Brian to serve as Lead Editor on this Handbook. Dr. Brian has fostered a generous and collaborative atmosphere among 30+ authors and reviewers, including members of the disability community, academic scholars, activists, and museum practitioners.

Set for publication in late 2024, the Handbook is meant to be an opening gesture. It signals a broader commitment, not only to bringing disability into the histories told at museums, historic sites, and national parks, but also to the ways that thinking with disability might change how those histories are created in the first place. This means a collective process is necessary for building the foundation from which NPS employees, as well as their partners and the public, serve.

Unlike other NPS handbooks, which prioritize chronology and major historical moments, places, and individuals, this project acknowledges the everyday experiences of disabled people. The Handbook recognizes that disabled people inhabit the past, the present, and, importantly, the future. Accomplishing this vision requires connecting place-based histories that have not necessarily been recognized or designated as “significant” in the sense used by the National Historic Preservation Act.

To ensure that the Handbook is created and aligned with the worlds we want to build, disability justice serves as a reference point from beginning to end. Drawing from the ten guiding principles articulated by Sins Invalid, members of the NPS-NCPH Handbook Team are committed to intersectionality, sustainability, interdependence, and collective access.

Meanwhile, the NPS Park History Program continues to broaden awareness of place-based disability history within the federal agency. In the summers of 2022 and 2023, the Park History Program held webinars for NPS colleagues to share tools and approaches for interpreting these histories, as well as recognize the work already being done in park units and historic sites across the nation. In each webinar, academic scholars joined NPS staff, including park rangers, curators, and accessibility specialists. Topics have spanned accessibility and technology, the Civil War and military disablement, material culture and “disability things,” and hot springs as places of “cure” and labor. The NPS Park History Program thanks speakers Dr. Nicole Belolan, Ray Bloomer, Dr. Dan Chmill, Frank Futral, Dr. Sarah Handley-Cousins, Dr. Bess Williamson, and Dr. Cynthia Wu for their knowledge of and dedication to the expansion of disabled people’s rights and representation in public spaces.

- Dr. Kathleen Brian is core faculty in the Honors College at Western Washington University and serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Disability History Association.

- Perri Meldon is a fellow with the National Park Service Park History Program and a PhD candidate at Boston University.

For thousands of years, thermal springs have served as places of “cure” for people with disabilities, healing for those in need, and recreation. This 1875 example from Hot Springs, AR, demonstrates the popularity of these sites among tourists. Stephen Mather, who served as the first director of the National Park Service, was known to have lived with bipolar disorder; He frequented Hot Springs and advocated for its designation as a national park. “Postcard – Central Avenue – View from 1875 Published in 1916,” courtesy of Hot Springs National Park Archives. Image Description for accessibility: This illustrated postcard depicts a wide road with horse-drawn carriage buggies and a streetcar, flanked on one side by several buildings and on the other by a creek. Many small footbridges cross the creek. The buildings, road, and creek are in a valley, sandwiched between two forested hillsides. At the top of the postcard are the following words “Hot Springs, Ark. The Worlds Sanitarium in 1875.”

**NPS DISABILITY HISTORY HANDBOOK**

KATHLEEN BRIAN / BRIANK@WWU.EDU
PERRI MELDON / PERRI_MELDON@PARTNER.NPS.GOV

**ADVENTURE WEST FOR NCPH-UHS 2024**

Join us and the Utah Historical Society in SLC ‘24 to broaden your perspective on Utah. Image by Austen Diamond Photography and used courtesy of Visit Salt Lake.

Between the in-person conference and virtual follow-up conference, we’re likely to have new opportunities for presenting your work come up in the next few months. Keep an eye on the conference website and our Twitter (twitter.com/ncph) for the latest calls for participation! Conferences in the West are always an adventure. In addition to the usual city trips and tours, we get to stretch our legs and enjoy some of the best vistas America has to offer. With new landscapes comes new partnerships: NCPH is thrilled to be partnering with the newly-rebranded Utah Historical Society for a joint 2024 conference that will showcase Utah history—in all its nuances and surprises—while offering the usual well-rounded public history content.

We invite you to reserve a booth in our exhibit hall at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center, advertise in the conference Program, or sponsor an event, feature, or product of the conference. Reach potential customers, partners, or students; promote the latest scholarship, forthcoming titles, and journals from your press; or share the vital feature, or product of the conference. Reach potential customers, partners, or students; promote the latest scholarship, forthcoming titles, and journals from your press; or share the vital opportunities to get on the program are either available now or will open soon. Our Call for Posters, Call for Working Group Discussants, and other open calls between now and next April will help you find the right venue to share your work and connect with your fellow public historians. The hub for all conference CFPs, where you’ll find information about what we’re looking for or a link to the relevant submission form, is https://ncph.org/conference/2024-annual-meeting/calls-for-proposals/.

**CALL FOR POSTERS**

The poster session is a format for presenters eager to share their work through one-on-one discussion and is particularly appropriate where visual or material evidence represents a central component of the project. While ideal for students, we also showcase work from practitioners and working academics. Poster proposals are due October 18.

**CALL FOR WORKING GROUP DISCUSSANTS**

Each working group will be led by facilitators, whose topic has already been proposed and selected by the Program Committee. They’ll be looking for 8-12 individuals to join them in preconference online discussion, to exchange brief case statements, and to meet in person during the conference. The Call for Working Group Discussants will open as soon as the working group selections are finalized (expected by mid-September) and will be open through the end of October.

**MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO COME!**
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF NCPH

DEE A. HARRIS / DEE.HARRIS71@GMAIL.COM

Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” What do you get from NCPH? What do you give to NCPH in return? Each day, we have an opportunity to access the many resources that NCPH provides for our professional careers as public historians. The infographic “Sustaining a High Impact Organization” shows how much NCPH gives to the individuals and institutions within the field of public history. I encourage you to take a moment to really look at the work of NCPH over the past five years.

Have you read a few of the 335 History@Work blog posts submitted by public history students, teachers, and practitioners? Did you present or attend a session at the annual conference? Were you one of the more than 1,250 attendees at the 29 virtual programs offered by NCPH? Did you receive one of NCPH’s 72 awards or serve on one of 29 committees? You might have donated some of the over $220,000 dollars raised to help NCPH reach our Endowment and annual fund goals. What else do you receive from NCPH that can’t be quantified on a chart? Networking? Collegiality? Professional and personal relationships?

As the leading advocate in our field, NCPH has accomplished all this work with three full-time staff members and one part-time graduate assistant. While the organization and its programs have grown exponentially over the past five years, our staff size has remained stagnant since 2014. That’s why the work of our 200+ volunteers is so crucial to the success of NCPH. But isn’t it ironic (in the immortal words of Alanis Morissette) that while NCPH has been a strong voice in advocating for paid internships and student workers, the organization itself is reliant on unpaid volunteer work at the committee and board levels (something the new 2023-2028 Long Range Plan calls on us to address)? While NCPH has increased travel awards to promote inclusion and is adding a new student board position to raise the voices of our younger members, we continue to struggle for the funding required to make program participation and travel accessible to all.

There is no shortage of needs our field has asked us to address, but our organization lacks the capacity to sustain our pace of growth and service without additional financial support.

In the June 2023 newsletter, our colleague Bill Bryans focused on the “Who We Are” section of the infographic, pointing out the importance of giving to help subsidize those in the categories of Students & New Professionals and Retired, Under/Unemployed & Public History Adjacent. Your support helps NCPH promote our bedrock values of access and inclusion by refusing to allow finances to dictate or limit involvement.

Your donations directly invest in the future of our field. Whether that is $5 or $5,000, I challenge you to think about what you get from NCPH and what you give to NCPH in return. Please join me in helping sustain the future of NCPH by making a donation today.

-Dee A. Harris is a member of both the NCPH Development Committee and the Finance Committee, former Co-Chair of the NCPH Endowment Campaign, and the Digital Exhibits Manager for the National Archives.

THANK YOU TO NCPH’S SUSTAINING-LEVEL MEMBERS!
Sustaining members make the work of NCPH possible.

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*42% of memberships are subsidized by your donations, creating a more inclusive organization

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- Book Reviews
- Other Reviews
- Articles
- Round Table Essays

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- 5 reports, including the state of public history training and sexual harassment in the field
- Inclusive Historians’ Handbook

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- 29 virtual programs
- 11 mini cons
- 1,257+ attendees
- 457+ attendees

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- 54 advocacy statements
- Increased reliance on unpaid labor

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