



NCPH Annual Meeting
April 10-13, 2024
Salt Lake City, Utah

2024 NCPH Awards

Robert Kelley Memorial Award

This award honors distinguished achievements by individuals, institutions, or nonprofit or corporate entities for making history relevant to the individual lives of ordinary people outside of academia. Award committee members: Bill Peterson (chair), Bill Willingham, and Sharon Babaian.

Indiana University Indianapolis Public History Program

Featuring the contributions of **Philip V. Scarpino** and **Elizabeth Brand Monroe**

The Robert Kelley Memorial Award committee is pleased to select the Indiana University Indianapolis (formerly IUPUI) Public History program, Philip V. Scarpino, and Elizabeth Brand Monroe as recipients for the 2024 Robert Kelley Award.

The IUPUI Public History Program under the leadership of Scarpino and Monroe developed into one of the nation's leading public history education programs, offering sound, practical instruction, a wide variety of relevant internships, and excellent career placement.

The Robert Kelley Memorial Award is awarded to organizational entities who provide the following:

1. Innovative excellence in the training of public historians (either at the undergraduate or graduate level) as evidenced by a quality public history curriculum and/or success in placement and accomplishments of graduates in public history related jobs
2. Sustained commitment to the development of scholarly or other educational or teaching materials relating to the field of public history
3. Sponsorship and/or delivery of high quality training courses, conferences, or educational outreach to the public or the public history community
4. An outstanding record of public outreach programs (i.e. mass media, exhibitory, lecture series) that advance the appreciation of public history
5. Demonstrated commitment to the value of expanding the public's knowledge and appreciation of history in the institutional or corporate setting

Amy Wilson, a graduate of the program, writes Philip Scarpino “was also instrumental in making IUPUI the seat of the National Council on Public History for the last 33 years. Phil’s efforts to build strong relationships with a myriad of public history organizations and agencies in Indianapolis to provide IUPUI public history graduate students with paid internships have provided generations of students with real-world public history practice in both the public and private sectors. By the early 1990s, IUPUI’s program had become a national model.”

Wilson adds that as Executive Director of NCPH, Elizabeth Brand Monroe “brought further expertise to the IUPUI public history program and the local community, working with historic preservationists to

document the history of Indianapolis architecture. Liz served as director of the IUPUI Public History Program from 1995 to 2006, continuing to build the program's excellence and overseeing the graduate students' experiences. In 2003 she received an Indiana University-wide faculty award for civic engagement."

Graduates of the IUPUI (now IUI) public history program are employed in museums, universities, archives, and government agencies from coast to coast and from Canada to Texas. The teachings and leadership of Scarpino and Monroe continue to impact the world of public history exponentially through the work of the many successful graduates of the program.

After careful consideration the committee feels the IUPUI program, Philip V. Scarpino, and Elizabeth Brand Monroe have continually met all five criteria and are highly deserving of this award.

Outstanding Public History Project Award

These awards are presented for work completed within the previous two calendar years that contribute to broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serve as a model of professional public history practice. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf that makes this award possible. Award committee members: Cathy Gudis (chair), Rebecca Wingo, Lauren Cohen, and Callie Hawkins.

Large Institution Award Winner

Identification and Evaluation of Georgia's Historic Burial Grounds

Julie Coco, Mary Beth Reed, J.W. Joseph, and Hugh B. Matternes, New South Associates

Clocking in at nearly 500 pages, this context and handbook was clearly a labor of love for the authors at New South Associates working for the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT). It is a deep examination of the material culture of death and burial in the colony and then state of Georgia, especially for Black communities but also representing various faiths. The project provides a stunning amount of information, research, and vital tools necessary for understanding the nuanced and difficult history of death and burial from Eurocentric, African, and other cultural perspectives, and recognizing the impacts of these different perspectives on the cultural landscape. As the authors write, "Cemeteries are a physical place where historical, emotional, spiritual, and scientific interests overlap, making them complicated historic resources.... [They] can provide a tangible place to examine broader cultural questions." The handbook deftly explains and navigates the complexities of historic preservation, especially technical (Section 106) constraints and requirements as laid out in the National Historic Preservation Act and eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Moreover, it has potential to impact land use well beyond Georgia, to serve as a necessary template for other states to replicate with their own State Historic Preservation Officers and DOTs. In short, this project is an incredible addition to the fields of public history, state and local history, and historic preservation.

Small Institution Award Winner

Rule N° 5: The Library Is A Growing Organism

Amanda Belantara and Ashley Maynor Alpin, New York University Libraries

[Rule N° 5](#) is an immersive audiovisual exhibition that "centers the voices of library workers as they reveal to listeners the magical, mysterious, complicated, and controversial world of libraries." Comprised of one large and six smaller interactive sculptures, each beautifully crafted and imaginatively conceptualized, the exhibition—named for one of the five laws of library science published in 1931 by South Asian librarian S. R. Ranganathan—is installed in different locations within NYU's main library. All utilize tactile and aural elements to convey histories and anthropologies of the library. Audiences can

open a larger-than-life brass filigreed “secret” door within a bookshelf in the library atrium to gaze into an “infinity” mirror and activate artist-construed sounds of “the library as growing organism.” On another floor, they might pull open drawers of a gorgeously crafted card catalog and tune in to multilayered voices of librarians on “Cataloging and Classifying,” who also interrogate exclusionary naming practices that reinforce whiteness and heteronormativity. The use of outdated modes of communication as inspiration for several of the sculptural installations is beautifully rendered, as with an old-fashioned radio where you can change dials to hear a “History of Recorded Sounds” or “Librarian Stereotypes” or an oversized case where we can play switchboard operator, topped by a display of miniatures of obsolete modes of recording (cassettes, VHS, gramophone, etc.). The Committee agreed this is an exceptionally innovative and winsome exhibition that is also accessible, multimodal, and engaging to potentially broad audiences (10,000 people pass daily through the space).

Honorable Mentions

The Historic Douglass High School Education & Development Campus

Loudoun County Public Schools & DHS-CC, Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, Loudoun County Parks, and Recreation & Community Services

File/Life: We Remember Stories of Pennhurst

Lisa Sonneborn and **Margery Sly**, Temple University; **Maria Teresa Rodriguez**, Independent Media Artist; **David Bradley**, Independent Artist; **Nicki Pombier**, Columbia University; **Biany Perez**, Guiding Insights, LLC; **Alex Catanese**, Each + Every; **Jonathan Atiencia**, Delaware County Community College; **Harold Gordon**; **Ramona Griffiths**, Vision for Equality; **Cecelia and Jacob Lee**; **Danielle Moore**, Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General; and **Frank Orr**, City of Philadelphia, retired

NCPH Book Award

The NCPH Book Award recognizes outstanding scholarship that addresses the theory and/or practice of public history or that includes the products of public history work. Award committee members: Charlene Fletcher (chair), Donna Sack, and Jessica Taylor.

Award Winner

Who Would Believe a Prisoner? Indiana Women's Carceral Institutions, 1848-1920

(The New Press, 2023)

Edited by **Michelle Daniel Jones**, New York University, and **Elizabeth Nelson**, Indiana University Indianapolis

Representative of the bright state of the field is this year’s winning title, *Who Would Believe a Prisoner?: Indiana Women’s Carceral Institutions, 1848-1920* by members of the Indiana Women’s Prison History Project: Michelle Daniel Jones, Anastazia Schmid, Kimberly Baldwin, Lara Campbell, Nicole Hayes, Rheann Kelly, Christina Kovats, Natalie Medley, Molly Whitted, and Michelle Williams. The authors, all of whom are currently or formerly incarcerated women, worked in collaboration with educators and university academics to reconstruct the story of the first women’s prison in the United States, placing the challenges of doing this historical work under difficult conditions at the book’s forefront. Not just a book, *Who Would Believe a Prisoner?* is a public history project inclusive of cutting-edge pedagogy resulting in cutting-edge research, a determination to reach and tell the stories of women locked away in often inaccessible archives, a long-term collaboration between on- and off-campus voices, and an interrogation of mass incarceration in our present moment.

Our two picks for honorable mention (below), Daisy Ocampo’s *Where We Belong: Chemehuevi and Caxcan Preservation of Sacred Mountains* and Kidada E. Williams’s *I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War Against Reconstruction*, problematize historians’ reliance on well-trodden

archival sources and cultural institutions and take on dear and damaging myths in their respective fields. Ocampo and Williams pull us into the lived experiences of their historical actors, who illuminate their own hopes for the future even as they reveal present legacies of violence and destruction. These three books are in good company: books written by librarians, docents, journalists, and community organizers told new stories about memories of state violence in Eastern Europe and the Americas; their own experiences as public historians in small towns and at huge national museums; and crises facing communities as they consider dismantling monuments and rewriting historic interpretations. Educators taught us the latest in how to bring public history into the classroom and about embracing place-based learning. Authors across entries insisted on hard conversations about race, sexuality, gender, and power in the field. Join us in celebrating the work of these three authors, and the dozens more who are elevating conversations and practice in public history.

Honorable Mentions

Where We Belong: Chemehuevi and Caxcan Preservation of Sacred Mountains

(University of Arizona Press, 2023)

Daisy Ocampo, California State University San Bernardino

I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War Against Reconstruction

(Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023)

Kidada E. Williams, Wayne State University

Grassroots Public History Award – Salt Lake City

This award recognizes an individual or community organization doing important public history work in their community. For the 2023-2024 awards cycle, the Grassroots Public History Award – Salt Lake City was open to any project completed within the state of Utah. Award committee members: Brittani Orona (co-chair), Mayela Caro (co-chair), Liz Ševcenko, Romeo Guzmán, Lauren O’Brien, and Mariana Brandman.

Award Winner

Boa Ogoi (Bear River) Massacre Site Interpretation and Restoration

Darren Parry, Bradley Parry, Patty Timbimboo-Madsen, and Rios Pacheco, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation

The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation's Boa Ogoi (Bear River) Massacre Site Interpretation and Restoration project is the recipient of the 2024 Grassroots Award. Using a multi-faceted storytelling method, this project truly seems to be a historically significant effort spearheaded by Utah's indigenous peoples, with the goal of recovering their historical contributions and experiences.

The Boa Ogoi project serves as a prime example of the connection between story, place, and communal ownership. The committee was deeply impressed by the community's choice to purchase the site of the massacre, thereby granting them the opportunity to further their endeavors in healing via storytelling, reconciliation, and ecological restoration. These factors, along with the supporting letters and Darren Parry's resume and personal statement, clearly and effectively demonstrate the sacred responsibility of the Shoshone Nation as caretakers of the land.

As a public history community, we must ensure that underrepresented and marginalized people's voices are heard. The project's strength lies in its emphasis on shared ownership and the way it weaves together narratives about reclaiming and restoring the land. For public historians, this effort serves as an example and an inspiration. In addition to representing a silenced critical past, the Boa Ogoi project is an innovative example of how to comprehensively rehabilitate a site and its memory through storytelling

and landscape/ecology.

Excellence in Consulting Awards

These awards recognize outstanding contributions to the field of public history through consulting or contract work. Award committee members: Kayla Blackman (chair), Lisa Zevorich Susner, and Taylor Brookins.

Group Award Winner

AAHRC - African American Historical Research and Consulting, LLC

Represented by **Brandon A. Owens, Sr.**

The committee is pleased to recognize African American Historical Research and Consulting, LLC (AAHRC) for its significant and varied contributions to the field of public history. The organization demonstrates a wide range of client services, including serving as consulting staff and leadership, developing 3D tours, creating museum education programs, and helping preserve family and community histories. The committee particularly recognizes not only AAHRC's range of projects, but also their ability to serve a multitude of client types. Their projects have contributed to public understanding at large institutions like Fisk University and at smaller, individual sites such as the Original Church of God and L. M. Swanson's Nursing Home in Tennessee. AAHRC's strong emphasis in African American public history demonstrably connects the past to the present, centering and celebrating the African American experience.

Individual Award Winner

Mina's Place of Business

Katherine Hobbs, Independent Contractor

Mina's Place of Business, a project completed by Katherine Hobbs, is an exemplary example of transforming historical research into publicly accessible forms of knowledge sharing. Hobbs' multi-layered involvement with Thomas Edison National Historical Park demonstrates a deep commitment to serving the client's needs and to bringing to light new historical narratives. In addition to impacting visitor experiences and understandings, Hobbs contributed her keen eye for elevating Mina's story in the museum collections and on-site archives. The project particularly deserves accolades for its multi-faceted approach. The project delivered a scholarly narrative, an ADA-accessible public tour for the site, workshops for site staff, an exhibit, published articles, and social media outreach. *Mina's Place of Business* demonstrates Hobbs' commitment to rigorous research, the illumination and reexamination of received narratives, and service to public historians and the general public.

Individual Award Honorable Mention

California BIPOC Liberation Stories

Mi'Jan Celie Tho-Biaz, Independent Public Historian

G. Wesley Johnson Award

Named in honor of the founding editor of The Public Historian, this award recognizes the most outstanding article appearing in the journal during the previous volume year. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stan Hordes of HMS Associates in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and many of his friends for underwriting this award. Award committee members: Steven Mooradian (chair), Kaiti Hannah, and Sarah Fling.

Award Winner

“People First’: Interpreting and Commemorating Houselessness and Poverty,”

The Public Historian Vol 45, No 1

Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan, Rutgers University - New Brunswick

The committee has selected “‘People First’: Interpreting and Commemorating Houselessness and Poverty” as the G. Wesley Johnson Award winner for its uniqueness, relevance, and approachability by a wide range of audiences. The author uses comparative methodology of both US and UK sources to address houselessness and poverty throughout history and interpretation by modern public historians. Not only does the article provide an engaging discussion, it provides a “how to”, a call to action, and advice for public historians moving forward. It addresses the complicated ethics involved in working with vulnerable groups and confronts how to do so without exploitation. Perhaps most importantly this piece does not complicate the topic nor use intricate language, rather the author provides a straightforward tone and an accessible message for audiences of all backgrounds. As public historians continue to tackle difficult and seldom covered subjects, this article does an excellent job of outlining the role and responsibility of effective public history practice.

Student Project Award

This award is given to an outstanding public history student project initiated as academic coursework and implemented and recognized beyond the classroom for its contribution to the field of public history. Award committee members: Ari Green (chair), Porchia Moore, Tamara Feinstein, Monica Mercado, and LaQuanda Walters Cooper.

Award Winner

Bring Back 6th Mobile Museum

Jade Ryerson, Jessie Merriam, Angel Swann, Ayaan Natala, Carissa Thomas, and Hibaa Roba, University of Minnesota

The Student Award Committee presents the 2024 Student Project Award to Jade Ryerson, Jessie Merriam, Angel Swann, Ayaan Natala, Carissa Thomas, and Hibaa Roba for their project Bring Back 6th Mobile Museum. The Heritage Studies and Public History graduate students at the University of Minnesota submitted an amazing Student Project that exceeded the committee’s expectations. The theme of this year’s annual meeting is “Historical Urgency” and it forces us to recenter our attention on historical injustices and inequities both past and present. What is more urgent than addressing matters of displacement? The Bring Back 6th Mobile Museum student project emerged to memorialize and commemorate 6th Avenue and its importance to Minneapolis’ Black and Jewish Community. While the overarching theme of this project is displacement, Bring Back 6th Mobile Museum also presents a topic for historical urgency: confronting the legacy of the Federal Highway Act of 1956 and its impact on communities of color. Public history as a field wants to continue to foster an environment that allows for these histories to be told. The Bring Back 6th Mobile Museum is a perfect example of public history and the committee looks forward to the students’ future work and watching them continue to create innovative ways to engage communities and tell their stories.

New Professional Travel Awards

New Professional Travel Awards are for individuals who are new to the field and practice of public history. These two grants assist new professionals in attending the NCPH conference, helping them connect with other members of the profession early in their careers. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) for underwriting one of these awards. Award committee members: Taylor Voltz (chair), Morgen Young, and Susan Asbury.

HRA Travel Award Winner

Augusta “Gus” Rudnick, City of Greeley Museums

NCPH Travel Award Winner

Roman Cain, The Ohio State University

The committee for the New Professional Award has chosen Roman Cain and Augusta Rudnick as our award winners for the 2024 NCPH Annual Meeting. We'd also like to recognize Karina Gomez as an honorable mention. Both award winners have demonstrated a commitment to the field of public history in both their educational and early professional pursuits. Working with her current employer, Augusta is tackling the timely issue of museum decolonization. Roman is looking to the future by examining the use of technology in telling historical narratives. This year's theme of "Historical Urgency" will be well served by having these two new professionals at the meeting.

Honorable Mention

Karina Gomez, National Museum of American History

Graduate Student Travel Awards

The Graduate Student Travel Awards provide assistance for conference travel costs for five graduate students who will present a session or poster or will participate in a working group at the NCPH annual meeting. Award committee members: Ari Green (chair), Porchia Moore, Tamara Feinstein, Monica Mercado, and LaQuanda Walters Cooper.

Congratulations this year go to the following:

Dalena Collins, Duquesne University

Katherine C. Hughes, Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University

Arturo Perez Lopez, Arizona State University

Bri Matson, University of Colorado Denver

Marcus Smith, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Congratulations to the 2024 award recipients, and thank you award selection committees!

Submissions for the 2025 NCPH Book Award are due November 1, 2024, and all other award submissions are due December 1, 2024. Please see www.ncph.org for details.

NCPH relies on its endowment to support the awards program and a variety of other programs and projects that fulfill the organization's mission. A primary goal of our *2020 Vision Endowment Campaign* was to "expand travel grants and award offerings to increase diversity and inclusion in the organization and field" and enabled the creation of the Grassroots Public History Award first awarded in 2022. To help continue to grow our future award and travel grant offerings, please consider giving to the NCPH Endowment: <http://ncph.org/giving/endowment>.