

Labor Resources for Public History Employees

Winter 2025

The NCPH Labor Task Force

The National Council on Public History's (NCPH) mission is to inspire public engagement with the past and serve the needs of practitioners in putting history to work in the world. One of four key commitments to fulfill this mission is expanding professional tools. When NCPH adopted its [2023-2028 Long Range Plan](#), advocacy was identified as one of five organizational pillars with the intent to advocate for history and public historians with particular attention to public history as labor.

Providing resources for employees is one advocacy strategy to promote more equitable work for public historians and ensure that NCPH is supporting public history workers. The following resources provide information and resources for employees to help them better advocate for themselves and others. Resources will be added and updated periodically, so periodically refer back to this list for updated information about supporting the public history labor force.

The following resources were compiled by the NCPH's Labor Task Force to achieve NCPH's vision to be the "go to" public history organization that professionals turn to. Neither the NCPH Board of Directors, staff, nor members of the Labor Task Force verify the accuracy or completeness of the resources included below and do not endorse the information source. Readers are advised to seek legal counsel to verify jurisdictional legal requirements.

Resource: AFSCME Organizing Handbook.

[Resources for Organizing | Tier 1 National Org \(afscmeatwork.org\)](#)

Description: This handbook from the American Federations of State, County and Municipal Employees walks readers step-by-step through the organizing process from one-on-one to planning campaign strategy.

Resource: Architecting Sustainable Futures.

<https://architectingsustainablefutures.org/>

Description: This report looks at how best to fund community-based archives sustainably, which includes sections on staff capacity, funding, and training

Resource: Sarah Dziejdzic's Labor Reading List.

<https://sarahdziejdzic.notion.site/Labor-Resources-for-Cultural-Workers-Reading-List-b73435fce0bd481d8877d8e6639bc040>

Description: This is a reading list of labor resources for cultural workers. A living document, these resources are tagged for specific positions, types of resources, professional fields, and by date so employees can search for the most applicable.

Resource: *Equity in Pay + Pay Transparency Accountability Tracker.*

<https://airtable.com/shrnUHFzPpFsGZ0cb/tblMKOpHYllxmT2oJ>

Description: This list shows which museum job boards post salaries in their listings and which include unpaid internships

Resource: *Emerging Labor: Work and the New Public Historian.*

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26453357> and public link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k6Sc1tbOgtQiYbtnhvCERsBKVip5yce/view?usp=share_link

Description: This is an overview of issues facing Emerging History Professions, with a special focus on unpaid/low paying internships and jobs. It is published by published by AASLH and written by multi-disciplinary Jess Lamar Reece Holler.

Resource: *Labor Notes.*

<https://labornotes.org/>

Description: A media organization that shares news about the labor movement and provides resources for organizing. The magazine has a four-decade history. The website is linked and publishes books, conferences, and workshops.

Resource: Museums Moving Forward Database.

[Union Organizing – Introduction – Museums Moving Forward](#)

Description: This is a database of Art Museum union campaigns and their history with a great bibliography. It includes data origins and a modern advocacy history timeline.

Resource: *Museum Workers Unite.* Newspaper.

https://artandarthistory.uic.edu/newsmedia/news_792/1589409701_Museum_Workers_Unite_Newspaper.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3feKYnU_2EwBp0sTirVtSbcpbFYniU2rpbY0JqPFpJdoPkPwvKeGSMvI

Description: This publication by the museum and exhibition studies program at the University of Illinois at Chicago focuses on labor rights/issues for museum workers and includes resources on labor law.

Resource: National Forum on Labor Practices for Grant-Funded Digital

Positions. <https://laborforum.diglib.org/> and <https://toolkit.dobetterlabor.com/>

Description: This project seeks to address the specific problems of precarity created and reproduced by grant-funded positions, and how those impact the lives and careers of the workers, particularly workers from marginalized and underrepresented populations. Over two forums started in 2019 many stakeholders began meeting to create toolkits and strategic understanding of labor conditions created by grants.

Resource: National Labor Review Board's Employee Rights.

<https://www.nlr.gov/about-nlr/rights-we-protect/your-rights>

Description: The NLRB is an independent federal agency intended to safeguard employee's rights to organize and create unions. This page lists the rights they protect that employees may not know they have and establishes a baseline with or without union protection.

Resource: NCPH, "*Best Practices in Public History – Job Postings*"

<https://ncph.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Best-Practices-for-Job-Postings.pdf>

Description: The NCPH's Professional Development and New Professional, and Graduate Student Committees worked together to write these best practices for posting jobs.

Resource: *Organizing Power* Pamphlet.

<https://jessalynaaland.com/Organizing-Power-2019-present>

Description: This pamphlet, with two current issues, provides arts and nonprofit workers with organizing tools. Jessalyn Aaland, the pamphlet creator, is soliciting for the third edition.