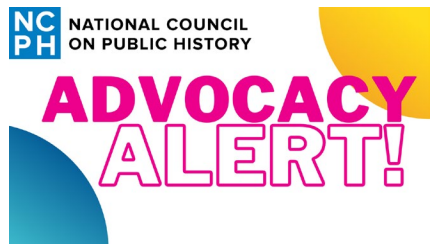


NCPH Advocacy Alert - August 21, 2025



We are continuing to witness many large-scale attacks against public history and public historians in the United States. This week, NCPH's Advocacy Committee of the Board shares updates, calls to action, and upcoming events to support advocacy efforts.

NCPH condemns [White House review of the Smithsonian](#) and joins our colleagues at the [American Council of Learned Societies](#) (ACLS) in the belief that, "The historical materials at the Smithsonian Institution museums are intended to paint a full and accurate picture of the American experience; by forcing them to edit their exhibits at the administration's command, the White House is engaging in authoritarian censorship. It is taking another step toward divesting in professional expertise and dismantling principles of academic freedom." NCPH also joins ACLS in the call for "making your voice heard through op-eds, on social media, at community forums, and by contacting your elected representatives. If you can, support scholars by spreading the news of their work, especially the untold stories in our nation's diverse history."

NCPH objects to the recent executive order (EO) "[Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking](#)." The EO undermines the autonomy and integrity of history organizations by allowing political appointees to overrule peer review, replacing expert judgment with political agendas. This politicization of grantmaking [risks](#) silencing important historical research and public programming that may not align with shifting political priorities. It also hinders long-term projects and planning by making it possible to arbitrarily terminate grants "for convenience." This order runs counter to our [shared values](#) as public historians who are committed to inclusive, community-centered, and equitable practices. Allowing political appointees to control grantmaking undermines our ability to steward resources, advocate for historically underrepresented communities, and support the free, open, and respectful exchange of ideas.

NCPH continues to [defend our colleagues](#) in the federal government and the importance of [truthful public history](#) at National Park Service sites by signing a [letter from the Coalition for Outdoor Renaming & Education](#) to Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum calling for the full and immediate rescission of [Secretarial Order 3431: Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History](#). We strongly agree that "this order undermines the Department of the Interior's responsibility to steward not only the landscapes we all share but also the layered histories embedded within them," and "to interpret and present those histories with honesty, depth, and care."

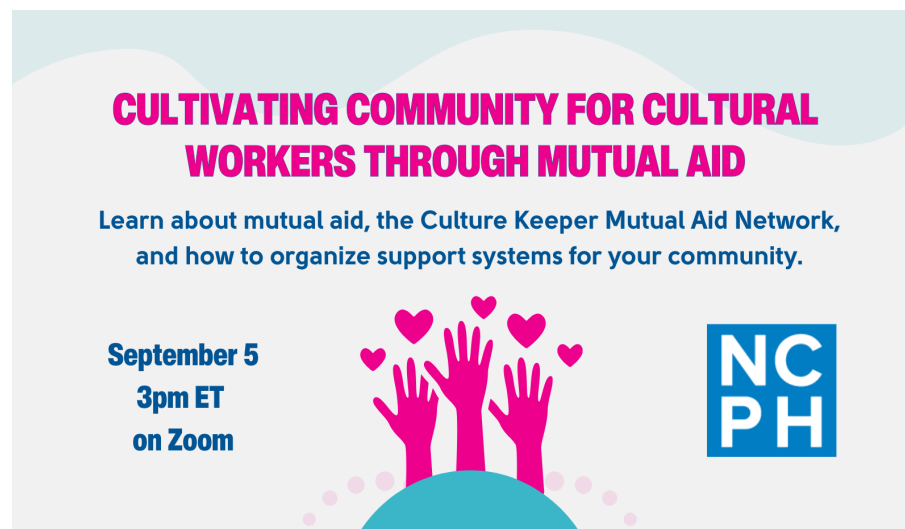
For advocacy inspiration and solidarity, check out these recent posts on *History@Work*:

- [Labors of love and organizing for solidarity within, across, and beyond the cultural industries](#)
- [Meeting the moment in tiers \(not tears\): a resistance guide for public history educators](#)

Do you have an advocacy success story? Consider submitting a pitch to our [open call](#) on “#Advocacy in the Field.”

Join us in Cultivating Community for Cultural Workers Through Mutual Aid on September 5, 3:00 pm ET, organized by NCPH’s Advocacy Committee and the Labor Task Force. As cultural workers navigate layoffs, funding loss, and efforts to erase their labor, it is important for us to stand united. Higher Ground Society launched the Culture Keeper Mutual Aid Network—a bold effort to unite and support the cultural community through collective action and mutual aid. Join this webinar to learn what mutual aid is, what led to the creation of the Cultural Keeper Mutual Aid Network, how you can become involved, and strategies for you to organize support systems for your community. Register here:

<https://community.ncph.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?alias=MutualAid>



Join us for a September postcard writing session. The NCPH Advocacy Committee is hosting a lunchtime write-in on September 17, at 1:00 pm ET on Zoom. Bring your postcard and letter-writing supplies, and we will provide ideas, tips, and company while you write to your representatives to advocate for history or write your support to public history institutions doing essential work in difficult times. Register via <https://community.ncph.org/event/PostcardCampaign> and you’ll get the Zoom link.

For more information on NCPH’s Advocacy work, and to find resources you can use to advocate for public history and public historians, visit <https://ncph.org/what-is-public-history/advocacy/advocacy-resources/>.