

**2026
JOINT
CONFERENCE**
September 16–19
Providence, RI

**The Work of
REVOLUTION**

American Association for State and Local History
National Council on Public History



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

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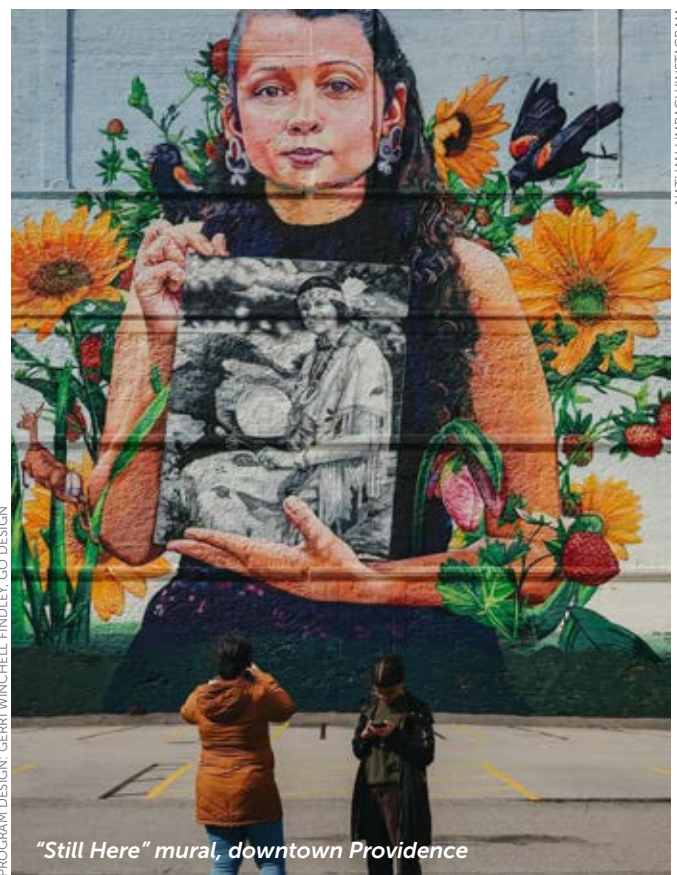
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PROGRAM DESIGN: GERRI WINCHELL-FINDLEY, GO DESIGN

NATHAN LIMBACH/INSTAGRAM

"Still Here" mural, downtown Providence

Cover photos (left to right): *Anne Burlak speaks at labor rally, Rhode Island Historical Society; Ian Turner, of I.W.W. committee in Columbus Square, NYC, Library of Congress; Members of the Brown University chapter of the NAACP picket outside the State House to support passage of the Citizens United bill for fair housing. Providence Journal Staff, File; Women's Suffrage March, Rhode Island College; Blackstone Manufacturing Company, North Smithfield, RI, Rhode Island Department of State.*



On behalf of the AASLH/NCPH Joint Conference Host Committee, we are honored to invite you to our city, Providence, Rhode Island, in September 2026 for the first joint conference of our professional organizations. You will be arriving in the last days of summer, a particularly lovely time of year when the days are still warm, but after a beautiful sunset, the nights will likely have a bit of a chill—all to set the stage for those storybook New England autumns.

It is the perfect time to visit New England, and Providence has so much to offer. The city is teeming with history, but that is only the beginning. Close by, you'll have the opportunity to explore the complex stories of our city, state, and nation. To us, Providence is the perfect place for us to gather as America 250 winds down, and as we can begin to reflect upon the work we have done and share plans for what's to come, all in the inspiring setting of the place known since 1663 as a "Lively Experiment."

Our Joint Host Committee has worked hard to make sure that you'll have ample opportunities, if you can pull yourselves away from the sessions in the Convention Center, to delve into the city and surrounding areas. We have planned engaging tours, literally from farm to factory, and fabulous evening events that highlight the work of both AASLH and NCPH, spotlight the history of Providence, and offer opportunities to meet the individuals who work in the public history and museum sector in our state.

While it is the history that will bring many of you to the Ocean State this September, we would be remiss if we didn't mention that Providence is also home to a thriving arts and culture scene, inventive chefs, and frankly, just cool things to do, all wrapped up with centuries of history rooted in an independent spirit. Dubbed "The Creative Capital," Providence is distinctive, charming, and always welcoming.

And we can't wait to welcome you to Providence!

Sincerely,

C. Morgan Grefe
Host Co-Chair
Rhode Island Historical Society

Karin Wulf
Host Co-Chair
John Carter Brown Library, Brown University



From the PROGRAM CHAIRS

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are delighted to serve as co-chairs of the Program Committee for the Joint Conference of the American Association for State and Local History and the National Council on Public History.

It did not take long for us to settle on a theme for this year's gathering: *The Work of Revolution*. When we meet this September, we will be closing out the US semiquincentennial year and will have an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of the Revolutionary War and on our ongoing work to make its lessons meaningful for contemporary audiences. Just as importantly, we invite you to consider the ways our daily efforts are revolutionary in their own right. Whether standing firm in our commitment to historical truth-telling or speaking truth to power about inequities within our field, each of us is part of a transformative moment. This year's conference will explore the many ways we are, or aspire to be, changemakers.

Equally important, we are excited to gather together in community. We know that this has been a challenging and tumultuous time for many. In Providence, we look forward not only to learning from innovative programs and inspiring sessions, but also to connecting with one another—sharing conversation, commiserating, and laughing over lunch. Now more than ever, members of AASLH and NCPH need one another to inspire, uplift, and strengthen our collective resolve as we work to engage the public in a fuller, more honest history of America. For many of us, the annual conference rekindles our passion for this work and prepares us to meet the challenges ahead.

We can't wait to welcome you to Providence on September 16–19. With its own independent spirit and rich history, Providence offers an ideal setting for conversations about revolutions past and present and the important work that still lies ahead. We look forward to reconnecting with old friends, welcoming first-time attendees, and meeting kindred spirits across both organizations. Most of all, we look forward to learning from you, our brilliant colleagues.


Sincerely,

Kacie Lucchini Butcher
Rebecca M. Blank Center for Campus History
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jennifer M. Saunders
New York State Museum



RI COMMERCE CORPORATION



2026
JOINT
CONFERENCE
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Providence, RI

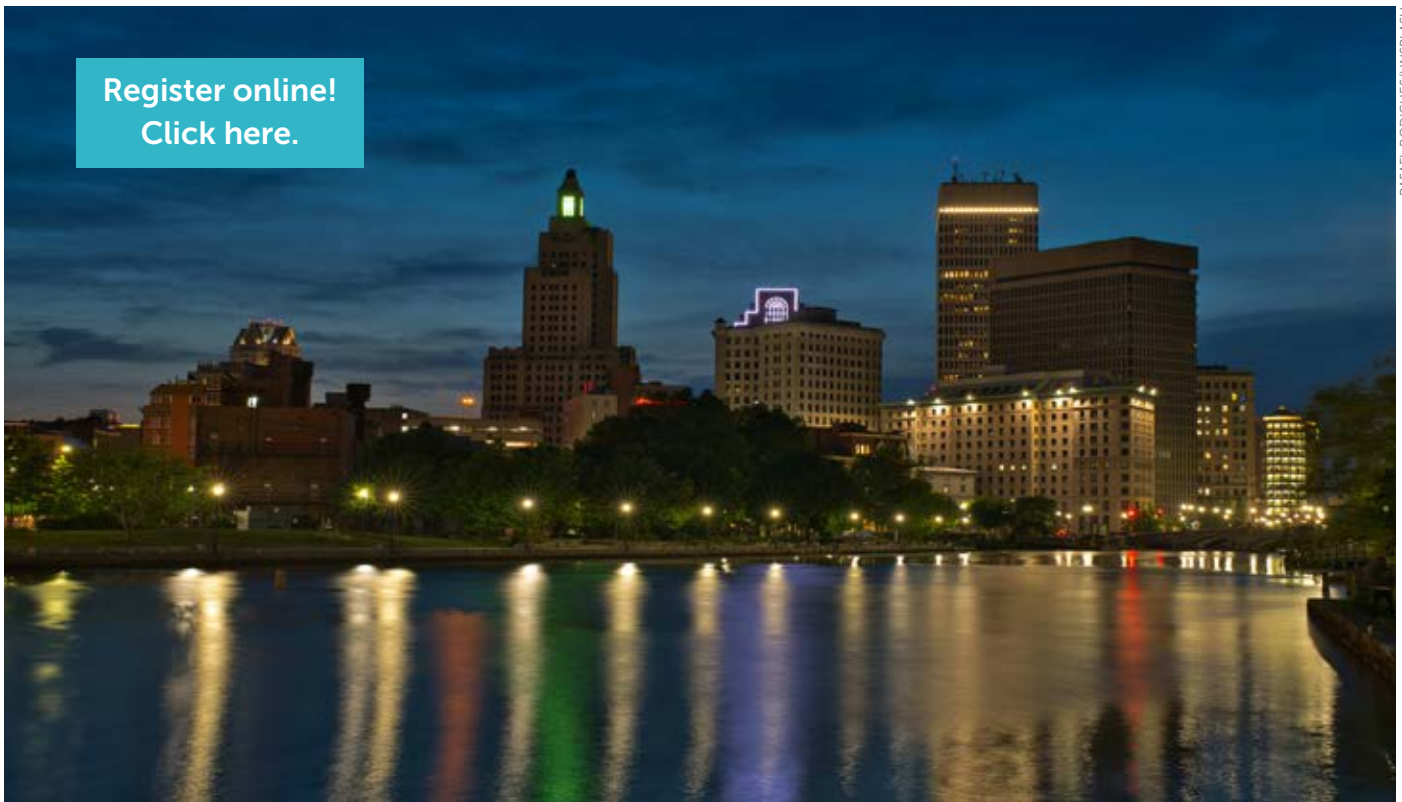
The Work of REVOLUTION

American Association for State and Local History
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The Lepage Center presents an annual event series tied to a theme of public interest and other in-person and virtual lectures, workshops and discussions.

Whether you're local to the Lepage Center or halfway across the world, our programming gives scholars and students a chance to connect, share expertise and inform the public.



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PROVIDENCE WARWICK CVB

A Short History of Providence, Rhode Island

It's hard to describe Providence without invoking the entirety of the smallest, mightiest state. For some perspective, with an area of 1,214 square miles, 221 Rhode Islands could fit inside Texas. But these are just numbers. The Ocean State's history is as expansive as its coastline and as rich as any state or region, and we're excited to welcome you to explore it.

To begin, there is no Rhode Island history without the history of the Indigenous people who have lived on these lands since time immemorial. The Narragansett, now the only federally recognized tribal nation in Rhode Island, were the largest nation in the region, and had many alliances with nearby tribal nations including the Wampanoag, Niantic, Nipmuck, and Shinnecock. These tribes respected each other's leadership, and visited, traded, and married, which deepened their kinship relationships and alliances. The Narragansett warriors protected not only their own territorial boundaries and villages but also supported protection of the neighboring nations during times of conflict, solving such struggles diplomatically whenever possible.

In 1636 the English settler Roger Williams traveled south into Narragansett lands from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which had expelled him for his radical beliefs. Williams and his followers were helped by the Wampanoag along the way and found a new home among the Narragansett people when the leaders Miantanomi and Canonicus allowed him to create a settlement in what is now known as Providence. The Narragansett believed that they had made an agreement in which Williams could use land that was under Narragansett jurisdiction; the English settlers asserted that the signed documents represented purchase of the land. This conflict of perspectives on how land was to be used or owned led to future conflicts between the two cultures.

In 1644 Williams returned from England having secured a Parliamentary Patent for Rhode Island. But it was the Royal Charter of 1663 that set Rhode Island's boundaries, protected it against land claims from other colonies, virtually granted it the right to self-govern, and established religious toleration. Yet the expansion of the colony displaced the Narragansett and other Indigenous people in the area even further. In 1675, Metacomet, a Wampanoag leader known by the English as King Philip, rebelled against the encroachment, which led to war. The Narragansett and Rhode Island stated they wished to remain neutral, but the United Colonies of New England (Massachusetts, Plymouth Bay, and Connecticut), fearing the Narragansett would join this war, massacred hundreds of women, children, and elders seeking refuge at Great Swamp in South Kingstown, RI. This brought the war into Rhode Island and brought the Narragansett into the War for New England. Despite hostile language in the charter and these examples of extreme violence, the Narragansett remained a sovereign nation, and continue to be a vital part of Rhode Island.

By the eighteenth century, Providence, Newport, and the other colonial towns on the shores of Narragansett Bay were ideally situated to become maritime trading centers. Merchants were early examples of free enterprise, unencumbered by tithing to an official church; the merchant fleet grew from 24 vessels in 1708 (when the population numbered 7,000 total with 1,500 in Providence) to more than 500 in 1763 (when Providence held 4,000 of Rhode Island's 50,000 inhabitants). Principal sources of trading wealth were the West Indies trade, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and fisheries, which early on included whaling. They traded heavily in rice, cotton, wines,



Newport Casino, 1885, 1908, and 1886.

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

indigo, and cocoa—there were several chocolate mills in Rhode Island. Rhode Islanders also traded for sugar and molasses, and distilled the latter into rum.

From early days, the business of slavery permeated nearly every area and industry in early Rhode Island. Most enslaved persons in Rhode Island lived in Newport, Providence, and the Narragansett Country, and labored as shipbuilders, rum distillers, farm laborers, textile artisans, sailors, bakers, nurses, coopers, domestic servants, and dairymaids. By the time of the Revolution, the enslaved population amounted to nearly 10% of the overall population, but locally higher, making it the highest percentage in New England.

It was maritime trade, in fact, that caused relations between Rhode Islanders and Great Britain to be tense almost from the founding of the colony, particularly regarding trade. In the run up to revolution, enraged colonists burned the British Revenue schooner, the *HMS Gaspee*, in 1772. The Gaspee Affair became a rallying point for resistance to British rule, even compelling the creation of the Committees of Correspondence.

On May 4, 1776, the General Assembly renounced allegiance to King George III, two months before the Continental Congress declared independence from Great Britain. The Rhode Island Regiment, a corps of men of color, some enslaved and some free, many of

African and others of Indigenous heritage, was formed and fought in the American Revolution with great distinction, including at Yorktown; the members of the regiment were promised freedom for their service. This served as a remarkable example for an army still more than hesitant about arming men of color, despite their obviously keen understanding of what it meant to fight for liberty.

The British occupied Newport from late 1776 to the fall of 1779, disrupting the economic and social fabric of the entire colony. Even so, Rhode Island, loath to agree to be ruled by anyone, even Congress, was the last state to ratify the US Constitution, on May 29, 1790, and then only on the assurance that a Bill of Rights would be included.

While before 1776 Newport was the colony's largest city, after the Revolution, Providence emerged as Rhode Island's major city. The College of Rhode Island, founded in 1764 in Warren, moved to Providence in 1770 and was named Brown University in 1804 to honor contributions from the

Nicholas Brown family. Many Providence merchants used the profits and capital from maritime trade, including the newly popular China Trade, to invest in commodity speculations, real estate, textile mills, privateering, and in the stock of banks, turnpikes, canals, and insurance companies. In Pawtucket in December



New England Industrial History

DEB BOUCHER

1790, Samuel Slater's new mill successfully spun cotton into yarn using a water-powered machine, heralding the dawn of the American Industrial Revolution. By 1840, there were more than 225 textile mills in Rhode Island alone.

In 1840, Rhode Island was the only state that still limited voting to property owners (white men who owned at least \$134 in real estate). By this point all of the other original colonies had written state constitutions, but Rhode Island was still operating under its 1663 Royal Charter, with the word "colony" replaced with "State." In the early 1840s, Thomas Wilson Dorr and his followers first tried to force a convention to pass a new constitution, and when that failed, staged an armed rebellion against the standing Rhode Island government. Though the "Dorrites" were defeated, their efforts led to a new state constitution that finally expanded suffrage.

Though deeply connected to the American South through the cotton textile industry, Rhode Island responded early to President Lincoln's call for troops and its units took part in every major battle of the Civil War, from First Bull Run to Appomattox. Rhode Island factories provided significant logistical support by producing uniforms, swords, and guns, and Portsmouth Grove Military Hospital cared for more than 10,000 patients during the war.

A massive influx of immigration peaking in the years before the outbreak of World War I, brought 84,000 immigrants into the Port of Providence between 1911 and 1934. Despite federally imposed quotas, it was the fourth busiest immigration port in the US. The city was a leading manufacturer of industrial products, from steam engines to precision tools to silverware, screws, and textiles. In the "Bloodless Revolution of 1935," in the wake of the Great Depression, Democrats regained control of the General Assembly and the State Supreme Court for the first time since the Civil War. This resulted in more equitable representation for the highly industrialized northern part of the state. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, factories across the state retooled to produce supplies, residents rationed wheat, gasoline, and sugar, and women worked in defense plants and volunteered



for war-related organizations. At Fields Point on the border of Cranston and Providence in late 1942, the Walsh-Kaiser Company employed over 14,000 and built sixty-three "Liberty Ships" between 1942 and 1945.

Chartered as a city in 1817 with a population of 17,000, Providence grew to 253,504 in 1940 and declined to only 179,213 in 1970, as white, middle-class residents moved to the suburbs—faster than any American city other than Detroit. And from the 1950s to the 1990s, Providence was a notorious bastion of organized

crime.

In the late 1970s, Providence began improving the infrastructure of its neighborhoods, downtown, and commercial districts. In the 1990s, as a planned part of its urban renaissance, city officials uncovered and moved the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers running through downtown. Now edged by cobblestone walkways, park benches, and landscaping, the rivers are spanned by Venetian bridges connecting downtown to the city's East Side. Waterplace Park is a modern take on the historical waterways that flowed through downtown. It includes an amphitheater for summer concerts and hosts the internationally recognized art installation WaterFire, featuring bonfires in elevated baskets mid-stream along the Providence River, accompanied by piped music and a street fair. Since 2000, the city began reunifying neighborhoods formerly divided by highway construction on the city's West Side, freeing 19 acres of land and marketing it as Providence's "Innovation & Design District," highlighting the city's history of design, industry, and enterprise.

Providence's reputation as a foodie city, its beautifully preserved historic architecture, and robust higher education and cultural heritage sector have made it a beloved home for longtime as well as new Rhode Islanders. The Ocean State's connection to the economy and ecology of the abundant fresh and saltwater environment has shaped its culture for thousands of years. This history, built and natural, will be yours to explore this September as we welcome you to the biggest little state in the Union. ●



15

THINGS

YOU MAY NOT KNOW About Providence, RI

Rhode Island State House

Everyone knows that Rhode Island is the smallest state, but here are some lesser-known things about Rhode Island and Providence to help you prepare for your visit.

- 1 Judge Darius Baker of Newport imposed the first jail sentence for speeding in an automobile on August 28, 1904.
- 2 The era known as the Industrial Revolution started with the development and construction of Samuel Slater's water-powered cotton mill in Pawtucket in 1790.
- 3 The Flying Horse Carousel is the nation's oldest carousel. It is located in the resort town of Watch Hill.
- 4 Providence is home to the world's largest bug, a giant 2-ton, 58-foot-long termite. Named "Nibbles Woodaway," this creature waits for his next feast of wood chips on top of the Big Blue Bug Solutions Pest Control building. He is 928 times actual termite size.
- 5 Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island, established the first practical working model of democracy after he was banished from Plymouth, Massachusetts, because of his "extreme views" concerning freedom of speech and religion.
- 6 St. Mary's in Newport was the location for John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier's wedding in 1953.
- 7 Built in 1763, the Touro Synagogue is the oldest synagogue in North America and houses the oldest Torah on the continent.
- 8 The first African American regiment to fight for America made a gallant stand against the British in the Battle of Rhode Island in 1778.
- 9 Mr. Potato Head, the first toy advertised on television, was named the official "family-travel ambassador" of Rhode Island in 2000. It makes sense with the Hasbro headquarters located in Pawtucket.
- 10 The official drink of Rhode Island is coffee milk, a sweet, creamy beverage made by mixing coffee-flavored syrup with milk, similar to chocolate milk, and served cold.
- 11 The Rhode Island State House, located in the capital city of Providence, is home to the 4th largest self-supporting marble dome in the world. It is preceded by St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Minnesota State Capitol, and the Taj Mahal.
- 12 Don't miss trying a "stuffie," oversized clams stuffed with a savory mix of chopped clams, breadcrumbs, and herbs, and a "hot wiener" served "all the way," with a layer of mustard, a meat sauce topping, diced onions, and a sprinkle of celery salt.
- 13 Famous people from Rhode Island include actresses Viola Davis and Debra Messing, directors the Farrelly brothers, explorer and inventor Bob Ballard, artist Dale Chihuly, musician Jeffrey Osborne, artist Edward Bannister, and boxer/actor Kali Reis.
- 14 The documentary *Secret Mall Apartment* (Netflix) tells the story of a group of artists who created an apartment in the Providence Place mall, originally as a response to development projects in their neighborhood, and lived there undetected for four years.
- 15 The Westminster Arcade is a historic shopping center in downtown Providence, built in 1828. It is notable as the first enclosed shopping mall in the United States.

AASLH and NCPH'S FIRST JOINT CONFERENCE

The 2026 AASLH/NCPH Joint Conference is not to be missed. It is the first time since NCPH's inception in 1976 that the two groups have met together. As much as possible, the conference has been designed to truly be a "joint" conference. Here are some highlights:

Time for Networking and Exploring Providence

This year, there are even more opportunities to network with your colleagues, meet people new to AASLH and NCPH, and see our host city.

Joint events for making connections include:

- **New Professional and Graduate Student Social**
Wednesday, 4–6 pm, \$15
- **New Member Breakfast**
Thursday, 7:30–8:30 am, \$10
- **First-Time Attendee Reception**
Thursday, 9:45–10:45 am, Free
- **Climate and Sustainability Luncheon**
Thursday, 12:30–1:45 pm, \$48
- **Speed Networking**
Thursday, 2–4 pm, Free
- **Justice for All: AASLH and NCPH**
Friday, 8–11 pm, Free

Why Attend?

- This is the "Must-Do" event for public history professionals and practitioners in 2026.
- Many history professionals and volunteers are struggling with the state of the history field and the ongoing impact of federal orders and oversight. Gather with colleagues in Providence to talk about what this means for the field. It is also an opportunity to remind yourself why public history is so important.
- Choose from more than 110 sessions that will inspire and challenge you in your work.
- Recognize our achievements as a field and think about how our work impacts us as individuals.
- Explore the Exhibit Hall to find the newest products and services that directly improve the way history professionals operate.
- Have fun and get to know Providence, its people, and its history organizations.

Breaks in the Exhibit Hall

Coffee and refreshments included.

Dine Arounds

AASLH and NCPH are looking for volunteers to host Dine Arounds for lunch or dinner on Thursday, September 17. Dine Arounds are small group conversations (no more than ten people) focused on a specific topic in public history. By volunteering to lead a Dine Around, you pick the topic, the restaurant, and the group size, and you agree to make the reservation and lead the group there. We'll put out sign-up sheets onsite so your fellow conference attendees can sign up to join you, and then you'll meet at registration at the appointed time and head out together. Everyone pays for their own meal, and we recommend selecting restaurants no more than a twenty-minute walk from the Rhode Island Convention Center. To propose a Dine Around, fill out the form at naph.org/conference/2026-annual-meeting/call-for-proposals/dine-around-proposal by June 1, 2026.

Receptions and Happy Hours

Don't miss out on the breaks in the Exhibit Hall.

Evening Events

The Providence Host Committee offers you a great chance to get out of the hotel and convention center, see some museums and historic sites, and have fun with colleagues. The Evening Events are one of the best ways to meet new people and learn more about your host institutions.



SESSION FORMATS

The Joint Conference Program Committee worked diligently to offer a variety of session types to appeal to a wide range of learning styles. This will help you decide what type of session you prefer to attend during the conference. The session formats are:

Experiential 75 minutes	Do a program—don't just talk about it. Immerse your colleagues in a playful (or challenging) experience exploring your topic. Attendees should spend time doing something, not just talking.
Community Viewpoints 75 minutes	This session type showcases projects that include a variety of stakeholder and collaborator perspectives across stages of the project's development, with a particular focus on community participants and grassroots collaborators. Community participants and collaborators should be represented on the panel.
Lightning Round 75 minutes	A strong moderator puts together a session around a particular theme. Then, they recruit speakers who can teach something specific to the audience in ten minutes or less. An ideal Lightning Round session would have 10 minutes for introduction, 50 minutes for 5 presentations, and 15 minutes for Q&A.
Learning Labs 2–4 hours	This session type gets you outside the convention center and into a public history discussion centered around a specific program, historic site, or museum at that location. It includes a tour, time in an exhibit, or participating in a program. There is an extra charge to attend Learning Labs.
Nuts and Bolts 75 minutes	This session type focuses on a particular skill. It is not designed to be a "show and tell," but a "show and how to." For example, it could be creating a collections management plan, developing a mission-driven budgeting process, or creating an education program for autistic children. It should be specific enough that attendees leave with a practical skill, but flexible enough that any size museum can adapt it for their needs.
Roundtable 75 minutes	Roundtables are typically about half presentation and half discussion among presenters and the audience. Presenters examine complex historical or professional issues in discussion before an audience. These should go beyond "show and tell" presentations and instead be information-rich, emphasize practical takeaways, and include discussion of the complexity of the issues. Presenters should bring targeted questions to pose to others at the table in order to learn from and with each other. Ample time must be allowed for audience discussion.
Working Groups 2 hours	Facilitators and discussants grapple with a shared concern. Before and during the meeting, working groups articulate a purpose they are working toward or a problem they are actively trying to solve and aim to create an end product.
Workshops	These long-form, in-depth sessions are designed to teach special skills in a small group setting and may occur on- or off-site. Participants in workshop sessions pay fees which contribute to the conference budget.

GENERAL SESSIONS

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17**

11 am – 12:15 pm

**OPENING
KEYNOTE**

Ned Blackhawk



Ned Blackhawk is the Howard R. Lamar Professor of History and American Studies at Yale University, where he serves as the faculty coordinator for the Yale Group for the Study of Native America. A graduate of McGill University, he holds graduate degrees in history from the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Washington. He is the author of the 2023 National Book Award Winner *The Rediscovery of America: Native*

Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History. He is also the author and co-editor of four books in Native American and Indigenous history, including *Violence over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West* that garnered half a dozen professional prizes, including the Frederick Jackson Turner Prize from the Organization of American Historians. His articles and review essays have appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, *American Quarterly*, *Reviews in American History*, *The American Historical Review*, *Ethnohistory*, and *The American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, among others. An enrolled member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, he lives in New Haven, CT.

YALE UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

6:30–8 pm

PUBLIC PLENARY

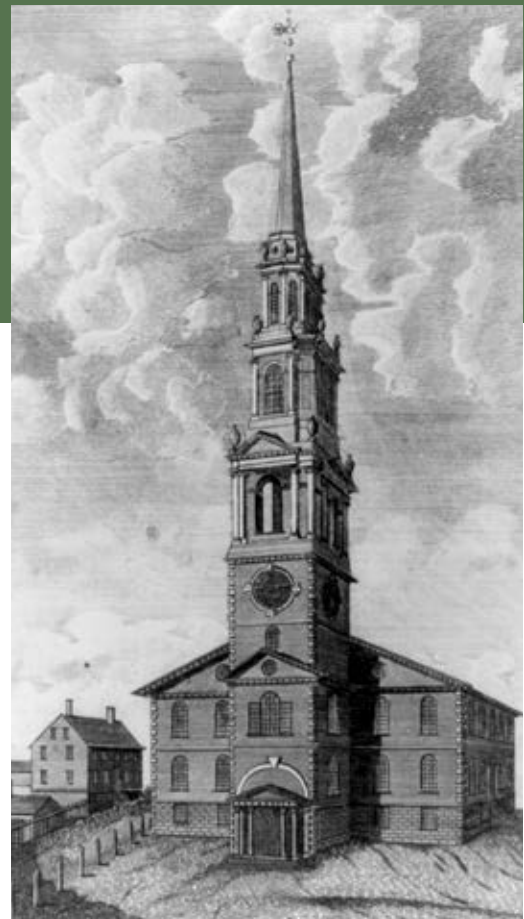
**Freedom Of and From:
Church and State in 1636, 1776, and 2026**

The NCPH Public Plenary is free and open to the public.

Together, conference attendees and members of the Providence community will gather at the First Baptist Church in America (75 N. Main Street, Providence) for a conversation about the ways that religion has shaped the formation of the United States in its first 250 years—and the way it continues to shape the social and political fabric of the nation in the present.

The state of Rhode Island was founded by Roger Williams in 1636 on the fundamental premises of the separation between church and state and freedom of conscience, making him an outcast from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. His arrival in Providence, and his founding of the First Baptist Church two years later, made Rhode Island a safe haven for people of many faiths, including Baptists, Quakers, and Jews. Many of his ideas were eventually enshrined in the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

With Christian nationalism on the rise in the US, the boundaries between church and state blurring, and religion front and center in international wars and conflicts, what can we take from Williams' legacy in 2026?



*Baptist Meeting House, Providence, RI.
Engraving by Samuel Hill, c. 1789.*

COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RARE BOOK AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION. LC-USZ62-31789

WEDNESDAY TOURS ≈ SEPTEMBER 16

These events are not included in the Joint Conference registration fee and require preregistration. [See the registration form for details.](#)



7:30 am–6 pm

Boston's Freedom Trail

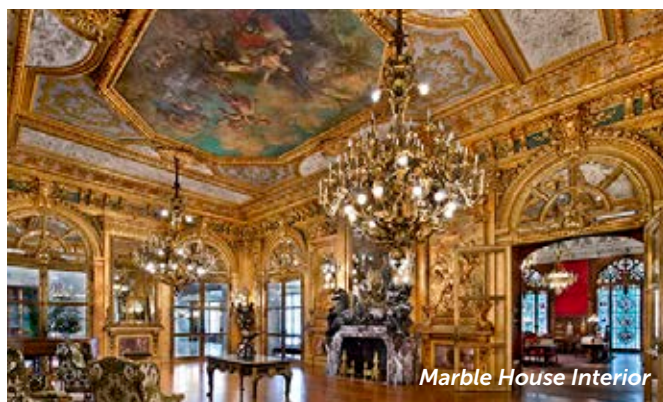
Cost: \$78; Preregistration Required

As we reflect on America 250, join fellow historians for a day in Boston exploring some of the sites on the Freedom Trail. Stops may include the Paul Revere House, Old North Church, and the Old South Meeting House. Lunch will be on your own at Faneuil Hall, site of America's first town meeting. A final list of stops will be announced soon.

Providence Walks: Self-Guided Historic Walking Tours

Don't have time for a full tour and want to learn more about Providence? Immerse yourself in Providence's fascinating history, local lore, and quirky tales by taking a free self-guided walking tour. Learn about the historic East Side, the rich culture of the West Side, the evolution of the Jewelry District, the reinvention of Downtown, and the city's early Black history. Download the tours on the Go Providence website.

www.goprovidence.com/things-to-do/tours-and-excursions/providence-walking-tours



8:30 am–5 pm

Newport's Gilded Age

Cost: \$90, Preregistration Required

Step into the world of the Gilded Age on a full-day tour in Newport, where vast fortunes reshaped the landscape into a "summer playground" of architecture, art, and social spectacle. This tour pairs an iconic Newport mansion, Marble House, with a visit to the Newport Casino, now home to the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Explore how wealth expresses itself not only in grand living, but also in fashionable leisure. During a lunchtime talk, Theresa Guzmán Stokes, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, will share the important contributions of the African heritage community to Newport. During the Gilded Age, Newport hosted many crucial African heritage entrepreneurs who leveraged their commercial enterprises to promote their community's economic security and build wealth to invest in and advance African heritage civic, recreational, social, and political interests. If time allows, the tour will stop at "God's Little Acre," the historic burial ground that is the final resting place of the 17th and 18th century African enslaved and free persons of color who contributed greatly to the commerce, social, and religious life of colonial Newport. Adjacent to this is Island Cemetery, which is the final resting place of a number of Gilded Age notables, including a famed architect and some of the of African heritage entrepreneurs.

WEDNESDAY TOURS CONTINUED

These events are not included in the Joint Conference registration fee and require preregistration. [See the registration form for details.](#)

8 am–12 pm

Myth and Memory at the Eustis Estate

Cost: \$45; Preregistration Required

The Eustis Estate, built in 1878 with more than 18,600 square feet, is one of New England's most intact examples of an Aesthetic movement style home designed by architect William Ralph Emerson. Participants will receive a tour of the house with a focus on the exhibit *Myth and Memory: Stories of the American Revolution* which brings together material from Historic New England's vast permanent collection to explore the multifaceted history of the American Revolution as it played out in New England. It engages with the memories and mythologies embedded in this collection, calling attention to how we remember the American Revolution and reckon with its legacy while spotlighting the deeply personal experiences of individuals, families, and communities caught up in extraordinary circumstances.

1:30–5:30 pm

Library Crawl of Providence

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

Providence is home to a world-class collection of libraries which contain archives and special collections that draw researchers from around the world. And, even more extraordinarily, all the sites are within walking distance! This Library Crawl will take participants on a route to view some special items at the Providence Public Library, the Providence Athenaeum, the Rhode Island Historical Society's Robinson Research Center, the John Hay Library at Brown University, and the John Carter Brown Library.



9 am–5 pm

A Day in New Bedford: Then & Now

Cost: \$94, Preregistration Required

Spend a day in New Bedford, MA, once the wealthiest city in the US due to commercial whaling, home to the largest population of color in the Northeast per capita, a center for textile production, and a haven for immigrants and freedom seekers. The tour includes a visit to four regional organizations where participants will learn how colleagues interpret local history for diverse audiences. At the New Bedford Whaling Museum, experience a volunteer-led tour of three main galleries focused on whales and whaling, and choose 2 of 3 experiences: a facilitated collections visit in the Research Room, curator-led tour of a new exhibition, or demo of a four-stop local history school program with a hands-on classroom workshop about mapping, and enjoy lunch with views of the harbor. At The Fishing Heritage Center, tour the galleries, learn about the contemporary commercial fishing industry, and hear from staff about an oral history project to preserve local stories. Visit the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park visitor center and enjoy a walking tour of the historic downtown to learn about individuals like Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville and the 19th-century history of the region. The tour will end at The New Bedford Historical Society with a special guided tour focused on the historic Nathan & Polly Johnson House and Abolition Row Park.



THURSDAY TOURS ≈ SEPTEMBER 17

These events are not included in the Joint Conference registration fee and require preregistration. [See the registration form for details.](#)



RI COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

7–8:30 am

Providence Rhode Tour Run

Cost: \$12, Preregistration Required

Designed by Rhode Island Humanities staff and based on content from the collaborative project *Rhode Tour*, this running tour traces a 2.75-mile loop highlighting stories of local and national historical significance. Covering parts of Downtown and the East Side, the run starts across the street from Union Station, goes up to the Rhode Island State House, past the Roger Williams National Memorial, up College Hill at the First Baptist Church, along Benefit Street (Mile of History), back down the hill, and across the Providence River via the Michael S. Van Leesten Memorial Bridge before looping back to end near Burnside Park. This tour requires running on hilly terrain and uneven streets.

Delve into this fascinating history as your guides shed light on racial tensions, community resistance, and how Providence's diverse demographics, including peoples of varied heritage and cultures, were shaped. From the historic neighborhoods to the legacies for struggle and resilience, from abolition to the fight against gentrification, this journey illuminates Providence's Black history, honoring both the triumphs and challenges faced by its people. This tour includes walking on hilly terrain and uneven streets.

11:30 am–2 pm

Roots of Revolution Walking Tour

Cost: \$28, Preregistration Required

Join the Rhode Island Historical Society for a walking tour of Providence, examining the roots of the American Revolution in Rhode Island. From the Gaspee Affair to the Act of Renunciation, discover how locals reacted to the "shot heard round the world" and how rebel actions led to the small state breaking from King George III in May of 1776, making it the first colony to do so and taking a significant step towards American independence. This tour covers approximately one mile and includes hill terrain.

11:30 am–2 pm

Black History on Providence's East Side Walking Tour

Cost: \$28, Preregistration Required

Join Rhode Island Historical Society site staff and explore the complex history of Providence's East Side, including Black communities dating back to the early 18th century.

THURSDAY TOURS CONTINUED

These events are not included in the Joint Conference registration fee and require preregistration. [See the registration form for details.](#)

1–5 pm

The Tomaquag Museum

Cost: \$35, Preregistration Required

The Tomaquag Museum is Rhode Island's only Indigenous-led museum focusing on the history, culture, and ecological knowledge of the first peoples of the Southern Dawnland (Southern New England). In the spring of 2026, Tomaquag Museum opened an updated exhibit in recognition of the United States Semiquincentennial. This exhibit explores how Indigenous communities of Southern New England are reckoning with 250 years of colonization. In addition to this new exhibit, the museum will also have on view an educational garden exhibit, a contemporary longhouse and mishoon (canoe) exhibit, and a traditional ecological walk. Participants will visit each area with an Indigenous educator.

1:30–5:30 pm

The Revolution in Rural Rhode Island

Cost: \$35, Preregistration Required

Historic New England's farms that face each other across the bay in Southern Rhode Island, Casey Farm in Saunderstown, and Watson Farm in Jamestown, tell two sides of the same Revolutionary story. With the occupation of Newport by the British the lives of rural people were disrupted and they turned to action. At Casey Farm, patriot activity is the headline, with Casey's mercantile ships turning to privateering, a Casey son serving in the American militia, and militia troops quartered in the Casey farmhouse. This activity drew the ire of the British and culminated in a fight for control of the property in 1777. Watson Farm, on the other hand, was owned by New England's most famous Tory, Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson. His ownership did not protect the farm from harm by British troops. The land was taken from Hutchinson following the war and given to three patriot soldiers. One personal struggle was won by an enslaved African man, Orman Remington, who purchased his own freedom from the farm's tenant farmers during the war years. The tour begins at Casey Farm with an hour-long guided walk with time to visit the museum gallery, grounds, and family cemetery. At Watson Farm, a guide will introduce the property and provide walking tour maps for attendees to follow a loop trail before returning to Providence.

1:30–5:30 pm

Revolutions in Survival: Jewish and AAPI Histories of Resistance and Cultural Preservation

Cost: \$29, Preregistration Required

This tour brings participants to two community-based institutions in Providence whose work reframes "revolution" as both public protest and the quieter, enduring labor of cultural survival. At the Asian American Pacific Islander History Museum, visitors will explore the exhibit "Grace Lee Boggs and Unfinished AAPI Revolutions" tracing how Boggs, a Providence-born philosopher and activist, linked Asian American thought, labor struggles, and cross-racial solidarity across the twentieth century. A curator-led tour will highlight how contemporary AAPI communities use exhibits, youth projects, and mobile museums as tools for civic engagement and democracy-building. At the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center, participants will examine Jewish histories of resistance through acts of cultural preservation during the Holocaust. Anchored by a rescued Torah scroll from Bohemia and Moravia, the tour will feature a virtual presentation by strategist and educator Lois Roman on the work of Jewish curators in Prague, who safeguarded hundreds of thousands of Judaica objects under Nazi occupation. Throughout the day, facilitators will invite participants to consider how AAPI and Jewish histories of survival, organizing, and remembrance can inform present-day museum practice, public history, and coalition-building in an era of resurgent authoritarianism and racialized violence.

Register online!
Click here.



THE SANDRA BORNSTEIN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTER

FRIDAY TOURS ≈ SEPTEMBER 18

These events are not included in the Joint Conference registration fee and require preregistration. [See the registration form for details.](#)

1–3:30 pm

Mary Williams, Making History in Providence

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

Roger Williams is the most written about 17th-century colonist. Mary, however, was the head of the Williams household. Throughout almost a half century of marriage, Mary alone made many of the decisions for her family and the wider community as her husband travelled far and wide. Join Professor Charlotte Carrington-Farmer and National Park Service Ranger Andrew Schnetzer on a tour of the Providence Mary Williams knew. The tour begins at the Rhode Island Historical Society's John Brown House to view the new Mary Williams exhibit, the first public history exhibit to tell her story. Then visit Roger Williams National Memorial and Statehouse Charter Museum, where participants will explore the former Williams property. The tour ends at Prospect Terrace, the final resting place for Mary and her husband.

1:30–5:30 pm

American Cemetery Design through North Burial Ground and Swan Point

Cost: \$29, Preregistration Required

Providence is home to two significant historic cemeteries, North Burial Ground (est. 1700) and Swan Point (est. 1846). Explore each cemetery with a guide and see how mourning culture, urban planning, and landscape design manifested themselves in centuries, spanning the colonial burying round to the rural or garden cemetery movement. These landscape concepts differ in each cemetery, and this tour gives visitors a chance to compare a burying ground retrofitted into a garden cemetery to a ground that started as one. Guides will share monuments, interments, and features that make each landscape unique and how these two distinct places serve the Providence community. The tour will also include information about North Burial Ground's efforts to open to academic research and its future as a historic site.

1:30–4 pm

Barrio South Providence

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

Take a walk down Broad Street (aka La Broa') with Marta V. Martinez, founder of Rhode Island Latino Arts, and experience Broad Street through the Caribbean flavors, smells, and sounds of this busy street. Learn about its Dominican roots, including the former site of Fefa's Market, the first bodega in Rhode Island. Along the way, you will taste a freshly made chimi—a beloved Dominican sandwich—and visit a fruiteria for tropical fruits and juices. You will be able to step into one of the many bodegas and also learn about a religious institution that asked the National Trust to translate the application for its historic designation into Spanish. This tour is about more than food, it's about connection, culture, and community. The round-trip tour includes approximately 1.8 miles of walking. Note: food is not included. Attendees should plan to spend around \$20 on their meal.



CHARLOTTE CARRINGTON-FARMER

Mary Williams Exhibit

SATURDAY TOURS ≈ SEPTEMBER 19

These events are not included in the Joint Conference registration fee and require preregistration. [See the registration form for details.](#)



New England Industrial History

9 am–4 pm

New England Industrial History

Cost: \$115, Preregistration Required

New England has a rich history of industry. Many of the towns were shaped by the mills that dotted the landscape. This tour will explore the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park with a stop at Slater Mill, widely considered the birthplace of America's Industrial Revolution. Then visit the Museum of Work and Culture where you will eat lunch (included), with a French-Canadian theme menu. After lunch, explore the compelling and touching story of immigrants, particularly French Canadians, who came to America to find a better life before returning to Providence.

9 am–5 pm

Colonial Newport Uncovered

Cost: \$115, Preregistration Required

This tour begins in the streets of downtown Newport, where history is still written into the city's layout, buildings, and public spaces. Visit the Newport Historical Society to learn about how the port city was shaped by faith, commerce, politics, and slavery. Participants will then visit the Great Friends Meeting House (1699), the Edward W. Kane and Martha J. Wallace Center for Black History at the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House (c. 1697), and the Colony House (1739), using each site to examine how different communities experienced and shaped life in the colonial city. Between stops, the walk itself becomes part of the story, moving along preserved colonial streets to consider how people lived, worked, worshipped, protested, and governed in close quarters. After lunch (included), head to Hunter House (c. 1748), the Preservation Society's colonial era property located on Newport Harbor. Experience a 90-minute outdoor play that brings to life the stories of those who once inhabited the house: Sarah Wanton (merchant's wife), Dinah (enslaved woman), and Admiral de Barras of the French navy. This production, created through a multi-year collaboration between the Preservation Society and Plays in Place, invites audiences to engage with little-known stories that highlight the complicated issues around race, slavery, women's roles in colonial society, and political divides within a community.



Colonial Newport Meeting House

SHANNON HAMMOND, NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

12:30–5:30 pm

Northern Urban Enslavement in Bristol

Cost: \$50, Preregistration Required

Recent research on the history of enslavement in Bristol, RI, offers an intriguing window into urban slavery in the American North. While the town is best known as the center of the 19th-century DeWolf slave trading empire, in fact, enslaved people were present in Bristol at the town's founding in 1680 and occupied many of the houses that still stand on Bristol's streets today. This high-intensity walking tour consists of three parts, each exploring what we know and what we don't (yet) know about the experiences of the enslaved in Bristol. The tour begins conceptually at Bristol's founding, with participants walking through the town's

historic plan to stop at sites where enslaved people are known to have lived and worked from the town's founding to the American Revolution. The second part of the tour immerses participants in the post-Revolutionary DeWolf period with visits to two former distillery sites, the historic DeWolf warehouse complex, and Linden Place Museum, which was constructed by George DeWolf in 1810 using the proceeds of a single slaving voyage. The last part of the tour will focus on New Goree, a community created outside the town's boundaries by free descendants of Bristol's enslaved community. Time permitting, the tour will conclude with a visit to the Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Memorial, which honors those who were enslaved in Bristol.



BRISTOL HISTORIC AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Linden Place

EVENING EVENTS

Unless noted, these events are not included in the Joint Conference registration fee and require preregistration.

See the registration form for details.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Progressive Providence

6:30–9 pm

Cost: \$58, Preregistration Required

Conference participants are invited to join Brown University and the Rhode Island Historical Society for a progressive dinner while enjoying some of their most historic spaces. From 6:00 to 7:30, sample the food and savor the history at locations including the John Carter Brown Library and the RIHS's John Brown House Museum; at 7:30, guests will make their way to a final, stunning College Hill location for dessert, cocktails, and conversation.



1348 COLLEGE HILL - CARRIE TOWER - BROWN UNIVERSITY - DETAIL BY CTHUHUWFOI (WILL HART) IS LICENSED UNDER CC BY 2.0

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Constitution Day at the Capitol

6:30–9 pm

Cost: \$45, Preregistration Required

Atop Smith's Hill, overlooking the City of Providence, stands Rhode Island's magnificent state house. Designed by McKim, Mead, and White and built between 1895 and 1904, this monument to Rhode Island's industrial might is topped with the gilded Independent Man, which reflects the small state's unconventional spirit. Join with friends and colleagues this Constitution Day to celebrate all things Rhode Island. From coffee milk to quahogs and bubblers to the Big Blue Bug, Rhode Island has its own way of doing things. This evening's cocktail reception, hosted by the RI250 Commission and the Rhode Island Department of State, will feature tours of this extraordinary building, RI-inspired appetizers, and non-alcoholic drinks, as well as a chance to explore some of Rhode Island's treasures, including its remarkable 1663 Charter.



RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Justice for All: AASLH and NCPH After Hours

8–11 pm

Cost: Free, Preregistration Not Required

All are welcome to enjoy a lively evening of networking sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Come meet AASLH & NCPH committee members, other conference attendees, and local Providence professionals to celebrate the diversity of the field. The mixer is a great space to connect with peers and learn about future initiatives of both committees. Organized by AASLH's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and NCPH's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee.



PRE-CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

These events are not included in the Joint Conference registration fee and require preregistration. [See the registration form for details.](#)

8:30 am–12:30 pm

MORNING WORKSHOPS

From Resource to Resonance: Creating Impactful Visitor Experiences

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

This immersive half-day workshop introduces “Program in Your Pocket,” a practical method grounded in Sense of Place Narratives. Participants learn to reveal layered, inclusive stories from any resource using interpretive “doorways.” Through hands-on exercises and collaborative reflection, they will leave with a tangible concept, repeatable skills, and renewed confidence. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Erica Wheeler, Sense of Place Consulting, Colrain, MA

Kick Start Your Disaster Planning

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

Boost your emergency readiness! This interactive workshop guides cultural heritage professionals and volunteers through a risk assessment, creation of a basic disaster plan, and a disaster plan stress test. Participants will receive actionable checklists, templates, and a resource guide to strengthen preparedness and protect collections when disaster strikes. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Alyssa Magnone, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MD; Jesse Keel, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MD; Mary Kate Kwasnik, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MD

Field Services Alliance Meeting

Cost: Free, Preregistration Required

The Field Services Alliance (FSA) is a professional network of individuals who, on a statewide or regional level, offer educational services to local historical organizations and others who practice history. Join us for the FSA annual meeting where we’ll network, share updates on our programs, discuss trends we are seeing across the regions we serve, and plan topics for future trainings. Registration includes coffee or tea and a snack.

Chair: Tamara Hemmerlein, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN

8 am–4:30 pm

FULL DAY WORKSHOPS

Public History at the Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice

Cost: \$45, Preregistration Required

Location: Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice

This full-day workshop will allow attendees to do a deep dive into the work done by Brown University’s Ruth J. Simmons Center. It will include presentations from faculty and Public Humanities MA students about the history of the program, its public education initiatives and community

outreach, and the exhibits and global projects conducted by the Center. Participants will also get to take the Center’s Slavery and Legacy Walking Tour. The registration fee includes transportation and a morning and afternoon break. Lunch is not included but there are several nearby restaurants recommended by the hosts.

Presenters include staff and students who work in the Ruth J. Simmons Center.

9 am–5 pm

Consulting in a Changing Landscape

Cost: \$45, Preregistration Required

Join experts for a two-part workshop focused on consulting in public history, museums, and historic preservation. Topics include drafting proposals, marketing, business and legal concerns, and accounting, as well as collaboration with fellow professionals on current challenges. All experience levels, including students, are welcome! The registration fee includes coffee and tea in the morning and sodas and water in the afternoon. Lunch will be on your own. *Sponsored by NCPH’s Consultant Committee.*

Julie Coco, New South Associates, Stone Mountain, GA; Kathleen Conti, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL; Dominique Luster, The Luster Company, Richmond, VA; Frank Ordia, Clemson University, Charleston, SC; Morgan Young, Historical Research Associates, LLC, Portland, OR

Speak Up for History: Proactive Local Advocacy

Cost: \$45, Preregistration Required

Want to be a champion for your organization but don’t know where to begin? Join us for a day of practical skill-building, discussion, and learning based on the tools, strategies, and examples from Speak Up for History, a new hub for state and local advocacy efforts from AASLH. The registration fee includes coffee and tea in the morning and sodas and water in the afternoon. Lunch will be on your own.

Kate Betz, Story + Reason, Austin, TX; Evan Windham, Story + Reason, Edgerton, WI

1:30–5:30 pm

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Creating Strong Digital-First Content

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

This workshop will be a crash course for digital practitioners at any size museum to know how to reorient their workflow to create strong digital content that will actually get found and read. The presenters may work at the Smithsonian now but have worked at small museums and know what it means to wear all the hats. The session is a great fit for digital professionals, professionals at small organizations, those that seek to collaborate better with the digital teams, and students hoping to break into the field. Sodas and water will be provided.



PRE-CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY CONTINUED

These events are not included in the Joint Conference registration fee and require preregistration. [See the registration form for details.](#)

Amelia Grabowski, Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC; Amanda Laughead, Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC

Doing Oral History

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

This workshop covers the practical, hands-on process of oral history, including the steps in conducting oral history: selecting narrators, background research, question-framing, appropriate equipment, knowing how to use that equipment, informed consent, conducting the interview, transcription, and depositing the audio and transcript in a library or archive. Sodas and water will be provided.

Philip Scarpino, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN

Revolutionary Conversations

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

To effectively respond to the challenges of our field and the larger world, we must strengthen our capacities for connecting and understanding. Dialogic conversations can be revolutionary work. In this participatory workshop, participants will explore dialogic question crafting and bringing people together across differences. Sodas and water will be provided.

Linda Norris, Creative Futures, LLC, Treadwell, NY; Braden Paynter, Creative Futures, LLC, Brunswick, ME

1–5 pm

LEARNING LABS

Arboretums as Educational Institutions in Bristol

Cost: \$45; Preregistration Required

This Learning Lab begins with an exploration of Juniper Hill Cemetery landscape, led by arborist and historian Chris Fletcher. This cemetery is significant for its mid-nineteenth-century ornamental design and its wide variety of specimen trees, including linden, juniper, beech, and oak. The tour will then move to Bristol's streetscape to find and examine those trees that descend from the original plantings of former nineteenth-century estates in Bristol, Samuel P. Colt's Linden Place among them. Throughout the tour, participants will discuss current preservation techniques developed by the International Society of Arboriculture and learn the dos and don'ts of tree care as understood today, a task well in keeping with Loudon's view of trees as sources of education. Transportation provided.

Building Resiliency in a Coastal Historic Landscape

Cost: \$45; Preregistration Required

Listed on the National Historic Register in 1984, Blithewold's landscape provides a behind-the-scenes case study in managing a historic cultural landscape amid accelerating

environmental change. Designed in the early 20th century, its interconnected garden zones now face compounding threats from sea level rise, upland flooding, and land subsidence—challenges increasingly familiar to public history sites nationwide. This professional practice tour will examine how Blithewold has approached climate adaptation through a multi-year Master Planning process and the development of a Cultural Landscape Report. Participants will gain insight into how staff, consultants, and stakeholders evaluated historic significance, design intent, and long-term stewardship needs across multiple garden zones. Participants will engage in candid discussion about decision-making, tradeoffs, regulatory considerations, and lessons learned—offering transferable strategies for sites balancing climate resilience, historic integrity, and public access. Transportation provided.

4–6 pm

New Professional and Student Social

Cost: \$15, Preregistration Required

A new conference can be intimidating, and a joint conference doubly so! Come meet other NCPH and AASLH newbies to network in a casual environment over light food and drinks, covered by your ticket price (alcohol must be purchased separately). All with a student or new professional mindset are welcome regardless of age or graduation date! *This year, the New Professional and Student Social is co-organized by NCPH's New Professional and Student Committee and AASLH's Next Gen Subcommittee.*

5:30–6:30 pm

Affinity Happy Hours

Cost: Free (food, drink, and transportation not included)

Join some of AASLH's Affinity Groups at a local establishment for informal networking. More information will be available in August.

History Leadership Institute Reception

Cost: Free, Preregistration Required

Join the History Leadership Institute for an evening reception! Connect with program alumni, facilitators, and history professionals to learn about the premier professional development program for the field's emerging leaders. This gathering is also an opportunity to meet and celebrate this year's cohort. Tickets include light appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will be available.

6:30–9 pm

EVENING EVENT

Progressive Providence

Cost: \$58, Preregistration Required

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**THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION**



NETWORKING



MORNING TOUR

- 8 am–12 pm • Myth and Memory at the Eustis Estate, Cost: \$45

FULL DAY TOURS

- 7:30 am–6 pm • Boston’s Freedom Trail, Cost: \$78

- 8:30 am–5 pm • Newport’s Gilded Age, Cost: \$90

- 9 am–5 pm • A Day in New Bedford: Then & Now, Cost: \$94

MORNING WORKSHOPS

- 8:30 am–12:30 pm • From Resource to Resonance: Creating Impactful Visitor Experiences, Cost: \$25
- Kick Start Your Disaster Planning, Cost: \$25
- Field Services Alliance Meeting, Cost: Free

FULL DAY WORKSHOPS

- 8 am–4:30 pm • Public History at the Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Cost: \$45

- 9 am–5 pm • Consulting in a Changing Landscape, Cost: \$45
- Speak Up for History: Proactive Local Advocacy, Cost: \$45

AFTERNOON TOUR

- 1:30–5:30 pm • Library Crawl of Providence, Cost: \$25

LEARNING LABS

- 1–5 pm • Arboretums as Educational Institutions in Bristol, Cost: \$45
- Building Resiliency in a Coastal Historic Landscape, Cost: \$45

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

- 1:30–5:30 pm • Creating Strong Digital-First Content, Cost: \$25
- Doing Oral History, Cost: \$25
- Revolutionary Conversations, Cost: \$25

NETWORKING

- 4–6 pm • New Professional and Student Social, Cost: \$15

[Register online! Click here.](#)

EVENING EVENTS

- 5:30–6:30 pm • Affinity Happy Hours, Cost: Free
- History Leadership Institute Reception, Cost: Free

- 6:30–9 pm • Evening Event: Progressive Providence, Cost: \$58

Join AASLH and NCPH
in PROVIDENCE!
September 16–19, 2026



MORNING TOURS

- 7–8:30 am • Providence Rhode Tour Run, Cost: \$12
- 11:30 am–2 pm • Black History on Providence’s East Side Walking Tour, Cost: \$28
- Roots of Revolution Walking Tour, Cost: \$28

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST

- 7:30–8:30 am • New Member Breakfast, Cost: \$15

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 8:30–9:45 am • A Call for Solidarity: Building Coalitions
- Caring for a Sound Revolution: A Deep Listening Session into HBCU Radio
- Co-Creating Meaningful Museum Experiences for Teens with Disabilities
- Freedom, Enslavement, and its Legacies in Southern New England
- From NPS to A250: Digital Humanities in Place
- I Give a Damn! Caring as Revolution
- Love the Mission, Fix the Job: Rethinking Museum Work
- Museums and Mental Health Education
- New Approaches to Anniversary Events
- Our Future Depends on Remembering: Uplifting Emerging Generations
- Reclaiming Native Southern California: Healing as Revolutionary Work
- Revolutionize Fundraising for Your Small Institution

WORKING GROUPS

- 8:30–10:30 am • Solid Succession: Succession Planning Tools for History Organizations
- Working for “The Man”: Government Museum Employees Group

RECEPTIONS AND NETWORKING

- 9:45 am–10:45 am • Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall, Cost: Free
- First-time Attendee Networking Reception, Cost: Free

OPENING KEYNOTE

- 11 am–12:15 pm • Ned Blackhawk

LUNCH

- 12–1:30 pm • Dine Arounds

AFFINITY GROUP LUNCHEONS

- 12:30–1:45 pm • Climate and Sustainability, Cost: \$48
- Historic House Museums, Cost: \$48
- Small Museums, Cost: \$48

WORKING GROUP

- 1–3 pm • Building Humane Leadership and Work Cultures

AFTERNOON TOURS

- 1–5 pm • The Tomaquag Museum, Cost \$35
- 1:30–5:30 pm • The Revolution in Rural Rhode Island, Cost: \$35
- Revolutions in Survival: Jewish and AAPI Histories of Resistance and Cultural Preservation, Cost: \$29

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 2–3:15 pm • The Burnout Escape Room: A Museum Crisis Simulation
- Cultivating Tomorrow’s Voices in American History at Small Institutions
- Descendant-Led Histories of Enslavement and Revolution
- Dramatically Engage with the Revolution
- Innovating Practice with *The New Museum Educator’s Manual*
- Learning from Failure in University-Community Collaborations
- Mapping History in Classrooms and Communities
- Moments That Made US: An America250 Exhibition for Everyone
- Public History at 50: Past, Present, and Future
- Revolutionizing Museum Leadership: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders
- We Can Be the Revolution
- Who’s In Control? Digitally Archiving Disability and Self-Advocacy

NETWORKING

- 2–4 pm • Speed Networking, Cost: Free

EXHIBIT HALL

- 3:15–4:15 pm • Break in Exhibit Hall

WORKING GROUP

- 3:30–5:30 pm • The Afterlives of Sacred Spaces

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 4:15–5:30 pm • A Revolution in Management: Rethinking Team Dynamics
- Approaches to Sharing Slavery Research
- Experiment to Practice: Emerging Methods in Public History
- Immigration and Latino Public History in Virginia
- Interpreter Professionalization: Public History’s Disenfranchised Front Line
- The Label Lab: Experimenting with Interpretive Text
- Rebel Strategies for Small Museum Workers
- Revolution in the Digital Age
- Teaching Resistance in Field Trips
- Thinking Big and Starting Small: Incorporating Accessibility in House Museums
- Transforming Heritage Tourists into Preservationists and History Advocates
- The Work of History in Trump’s America

NETWORKING, DINNER, AND EVENING EVENTS

- 5–7 pm • The Consultants’ Speakeasy, Cost: Free
- 7–9 pm • Dine Arounds
- 5:30–6:30 pm • IDEA/D&I Afternoon Mixer, Cost: Free
- 6:30–9 pm • Evening Event: Constitution Day at the Capitol, Cost: \$45

BREAKFASTS

7:30–8:30 am • Women’s History Affinity Group Breakfast, Cost: \$40

8–10 am • Public History Educators’ Forum, Cost: \$40

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 8:30–9:45 am**
- An Introduction to Organizing Your Workplace
 - Climate and Sustainability Revolution through Sites and Collections
 - Dementia-Inclusive Programming at History Museums
 - If Everyone’s a Historian
 - Place-Based Boston Museum Collaborations for the 250th and Beyond
 - *Reading Revolutionaries*: How Audience Engagement Provokes Meaning-Making
 - Rethinking Collections Stewardship: Incorporating Indigenous Care Considerations
 - Revolutionizing Historical InQUEERies Through Participatory Mapping
 - Small Organizations Packing a Punch
 - The Substance of Solidarity: Revolution and AAPI Community Remediation

WORKING GROUP

8:30–10:30 am • Reckoning Well: Working Toward Reparative Institutional Histories of Slavery

EXHIBIT HALL

9:45 am–10:45 am • Break in the Exhibit Hall

POSTER SESSION

10 am–12 pm • Poster Session and Reception

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 11 am – 12:15 pm**
- A New Revolution of Belonging
 - Challenging Assumptions with Gender-Diverse Narratives
 - Low-Budget Strategies for Exhibit Renovations
 - Meeting Youth Audiences with Nuance and Care
 - Rapid Response Session
 - Recontextualization, Reinterpretation, and Redress: Monuments in Museums
 - Reimagining and Reclaiming the 1811 Slave Revolt Plantation
 - Rethinking Revolutionary Newport
 - The Revolutionary Power of Genealogy
 - Revolutionizing Industrial History: Community Deep Mapping and Place-Making
 - Tools for Finding Common Ground in Polarized Times
 - Using Historical Recovery and Storytelling to Change the Narrative on Policing

AASLH LUNCHEON

12:15–2 pm • AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards Presentation and Luncheon, Cost: \$30

WORKING GROUPS

1–3 pm • Challenges and Solutions for the Public History Workforce
• Public Historians and the Housing Crisis

AFTERNOON TOURS

1–3:30 pm • Mary Williams, Making History in Providence, Cost \$26

1:30 – 5:30 pm • American Cemetery Design through North Burial Ground and Swan Point, Cost: \$29

1:30 – 4 pm • Barrio South Providence, Cost: \$28

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 2–3:15 pm**
- The Creation of Sowams National Heritage Area Through Grassroots Empowerment
 - Facing Slavery and the Subversive Digital Work of Revolution
 - From Selma to Detroit: The Power of Place
 - History in Conversation: Introducing Dialogue at Your Site
 - Joy as Resistance: A Small Museum’s Revolutionary Approach to Jewish History
 - Pride as Revolution: LGBTQ+ History in Action
 - Reclaiming Roots: Black Genealogy as Revolutionary Public History
 - Revolution in Preservation: Community Voices and BIPOC Heritage Sites
 - Revolutions in History Labor: Reports from the Front Lines
 - University-Community Partnerships Under Executive Order 14253

EXHIBIT HALL

3:15–4:15 pm • Closing Reception in Exhibit Hall

WORKING GROUP

3:15–5:15 pm • As Above, So Below: Guiding Historic Cemetery Futures
• Revolutionizing the Work of Teaching

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 4:15–5:30 pm**
- Be the Historian: Reframing Visitors as Historians-In-Practice
 - Cultivating Belonging in Preservation through a Transformative Justice Framework
 - Ethical Frameworks for Community Oral History in Contemporary Contexts
 - Researching, Reclaiming, and Reinvigorating Local African American History
 - Small Museums Affinity Committee Open Meeting
 - Square Peg, Round Hole: Community-Centered Work in Institutions
 - Urgent Legal Issues for the Public History Practitioner
 - Utilizing Historic Sites for Trades Training

EVENING EVENTS

6:30–8 pm • Public Plenary: Freedom of and From: Church and State in 1636, 1776, and 2026, Cost: Free

8–11 pm • Justice for All: AASLH and NCPH After Hours, Cost: Free

BREAKFAST

8–9:30 am • NCPH Awards Breakfast, Cost: \$40

MORNING TOURS

9 am–4 pm • New England Industrial History, Cost: \$115

9 am–5 pm • Colonial Newport Uncovered, Cost: \$115

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 9–10:15 am
- ¡Aquí Estamos! Revolutionizing the Record through Community Collaboration
 - America's Next 250: The Work of Civic Renewal
 - Applied and Academic Public Historians Collaborating in Crisis
 - Can Memory Build a Movement?
 - Doing Revolutionary Public History in Rural Communities
 - History Workers, the Media, and the Public
 - Interpreting Slavery Through the Archives
 - New Strategies for Program Development in Museum Education
 - Reckoning with Urban Renewal: Interpreting Displacement and Redevelopment
 - Things We're Afraid to Say Out Loud

FULL DAY WORKSHOP

9 am–5 pm • Employing Cultural Competency When Interacting with Disparate Communities, Cost: \$45

LEARNING LAB

9:30–11:30 am • Reflecting Together: Place-Based Prompts and Poetry "Walkshop", Cost: \$20

10:15– 10:45 am BREAK IN FOYER

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- 10:45 am – 12 pm
- 2027 AASLH Annual Conference Roundtable
 - Before 1776 there was 1636: Revolutionary Authentic Teaching
 - Building the Rhode Island News Media Archive
 - Engaging the Public with Challenging History
 - From Regulation to Relevance: Historic Preservation's Inflection Point
 - More Than a Field Trip: Interactive Experiences Sparking Investigation
 - Old Dog, New Tricks: Futureproofing with Gen Z
 - The People's Pages: Archiving Civil Rights Cold Cases
 - Real World Reparations
 - Revolution by Design: Teen+Museum Co-Design Lab

AFTERNOON TOUR

12:30–5:30 pm • Northern Urban Enslavement in Bristol, Cost: \$50

LEARNING LABS

- 1–4 pm
- Avi's Something Upstairs Walking Tour, Cost: \$20
 - Reinterpreting the John Brown House Museum, Cost: \$20

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

- 1–5 pm
- Graphic Design 101: Theory and Practice for Public Historians, Cost: \$25
 - Making the Past Speak: Makerspaces and Historic Craft in Public History, Cost: \$25

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:30–8:30 am

New Member Breakfast

Cost: \$15, Preregistration Required

New NCPH and AASLH members are welcome to join members of the NCPH Board, AASLH Council, and staff of both organizations for a continental breakfast and mingling on the first morning of the conference. Get to know the leadership of your organizations and fortify yourself for a day of sessions, fellowship, and fun. *Organized by the NCPH and AASLH Membership Committees.*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8:30–9:45 am

A Call for Solidarity: Building Coalitions

Roundtable

The semiquincentennial marks a pivotal year—not for celebratory reflection, but for public historians to do “the work of revolution.” Channeling revolutionary movements of the 1960s and 1970s which challenged discriminatory laws, white supremacy, authoritarian attitudes, and unethical institutional policies, history practitioners representing Asian, Latin, and Indigenous cultures will discuss why building coalitions across cultures, communities, and ideologies is the revolutionary work needed to forge the future of public history.

Rob Buscher, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Marian Carpenter, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC; Brian Joe, Toronto Ward Museum, Toronto, Canada; Richard Laurin, Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre, Winnipeg, Canada; Priscilla Martinez, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX

Caring for a Sound Revolution: A Deep Listening Session into HBCU Radio

Experiential

Born from the 1960s era of Black self-determination, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) radio stations serve as vital platforms for education, activism, and creativity. *The HBCU Radio Preservation Project* is a multi-institutional effort that works within this legacy, functioning as resistance and reclamation amid ongoing efforts to sanitize and erase Black and Brown histories. In this session, participants will be immersed in the sounds of HBCU radio using preserved audio from stations and engage in real-time surveying, collaborative reflection, and group discussion. Together, the group will create taglines, soundbites, and craft a communal “Revolutionary Playlist” inspired by the audio stories they interact with in this session.

Jenohn Euland, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Houston, TX; Dana Green, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC; Olivia Green, HBCU Radio Preservation Project, Brooklyn, NY; Chinyere Neal, HBCU Radio Preservation Project, Shoreline, WA; Vincentt Sutton, HBCU Radio Preservation Project, Danville, VA

Co-Creating Meaningful Museum Experiences for Teens with Disabilities

Nuts and Bolts

This session explores how co-creation shaped the National Postal Museum’s *Youth Stamp Collective*, a program developed with community partners and students with disabilities. Learn how collaborative design fosters inclusion, independence, and authentic teen voices and gain practical strategies for building meaningful, sustainable museum education programs for teens with disabilities.

Allison Hoegsdorf, SchoolTalk Inc., Washington, DC; Phoebe Sherman, National Postal Museum, Washington, DC

Freedom, Enslavement, and its Legacies in Southern New England

Roundtable

This roundtable brings together colleagues from three historical societies to share how their institutions are engaging with complicated histories of freedom and slavery, creating new interpretations that center Black history, and revising or offering corrections to previous forms of institutional storytelling in collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including students and community.

Akeia de Barros Gomes, Newport Historical Society, Newport, RI; Rick Ring, Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, RI; Marina Wells, New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA; Emily Whitted, New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA

From NPS to A250: Digital Humanities in Place

Nuts and Bolts

How can public history sites of any size approach digital humanities projects and use digital tools to reach new public audiences or enhance visitors’ in-person experience? Join the ACE American Conservation Experience Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program’s Digital Strategy team as they share examples, resources, and lessons learned that can be applied to organizations at any scale who want to expand or deepen their digital initiatives. Attendees will learn strategies for creating effective digital media, developing and using training resources, creating meaningful professional development opportunities, and communicating the story of your organization in creative ways.

Jessica Dauterive, American Conservation Experience ACE, New Orleans, LA; Michael Faist, American Conservation Experience ACE, Concord, NH; Cait Johnson, American Conservation Experience ACE, Raleigh, NC; Helen LaCroix, American Conservation Experience ACE, Washington, DC; Perri Meldon, American Conservation Experience ACE, Waynesboro, VA

8:30–9:45 am CONTINUED

I Give a Damn! Caring as Revolution

Roundtable

What does it mean to be revolutionary? This session reframes acts of care for ourselves, our colleagues, and our audiences as revolutionary practices that transform our mindsets, the institutions we work at, and the way we share public history. Attendees will be encouraged to share stories and strategies, and will leave ready to give a damn in their own work.

Patty Arteaga, Smithsonian Office of the Undersecretary for Education, Washington, DC; Odalys Lugo Morales, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC; Demi Mohamed, Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art, Washington, DC; Orlando Serrano, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC

Love the Mission, Fix the Job: Rethinking Museum Work

Roundtable

Debates about museum work culture have unfolded online and through worker-led movements, yet formal literature has lagged behind. This session, hosted by contributors to the 2026 American Alliance of Museums publication *Transforming Museum Workplace Cultures*, bridges administrators, thought leaders, and museum workers, synthesizing voices across roles to move from critique to institutional practice.

Rebekah Beaulieu, Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, OH; Bill Peterson, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismark, ND; Amanda Tobin Ripley, Independent Consultant, Berlin, Germany; Max van Balgooy, Engaging Places, LLC, Rockville, MD

Museums and Mental Health Education

Roundtable

Museum language around mental illness is long overdue for an update. Past depictions of mental health in museum spaces have often drawn on images, narratives, and ideas that re-stigmatize mental illness and those who experience it, alienating visitors we could be greeting with compassion, decency, and care. Practitioners will leave this session with an enhanced understanding of ethical mental health interpretation practices and ideas for introducing new interpretations at their own sites.

Michelle Gormley, The Sports Museum, Boston, MA; Kathryn Leann Harris, Interpreting Sports, Somerville, MA; Paul Pivko, National Museum of Mental Health Project, Milford, MA; Lucy Pollack, Revolutionary Spaces, Boston, MA

New Approaches to Anniversary Events

Roundtable

This year, the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States coincides with the erosion of democratic norms and the fierce, relentless rewriting of our national history. What would it mean to mark this anniversary by writing a eulogy for the American republic? As public historians, librarians, museum and historical society workers, and scholars of memory, presenters will ask how anniversaries have been used in their respective

commemorative spaces and, together with the audience, consider how reconceptualizing these acts as funerary open new avenues for understanding the American past and this current moment of crisis.

Meral Agish, Queens Public Library, Jamaica, NY; Erin Royston Battat, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA; Eliana Chavkin, Brown University, Providence, RI; Beth Folsom, History Cambridge, Cambridge, MA; Katrina Stack, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Our Future Depends on Remembering: Uplifting Emerging Generations

Roundtable

As institutions navigate generational transitions, how do history professionals uplift emerging voices as storytellers rather than passive recipients of history? This session explores youth-centered models—young artists documenting elder stories and creating response art, and next-generation staff leading programming—demonstrating how authentic intergenerational knowledge transfer avoids extractive practices while honoring multiple perspectives.

Erin Aoyama, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH; Naomi Kawamura, Densho, Seattle, WA; Mitch Maki, Go For Broke, Los Angeles, CA; Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong, Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Portland, OR

Reclaiming Native Southern California: Healing as Revolutionary Work

Roundtable

This session will explore healing as revolutionary work within tribal communities in Southern California. This future-facing framework anchors two public history projects: the UCLA Fowler Museum exhibit *Fire Kinship: Southern California Native Ecology and Art* and short documentary, "Pa'Čapa: A Mt. Rubidoux Story" that assert truth-telling through community-centered histories and land-based healing practices.

Rosemary Cabrera, Riverside Community College, Riverside, CA; Daisy Ocampo Diaz, California State University, San Bernardino, Riverside, CA; Lina Tejeda, UCLA Fowler Museum, Hemet, CA

Revolutionize Fundraising for Your Small Institution

Nuts and Bolts

For small to medium history organizations lacking dedicated development staff, the struggle to secure consistent general operating support is a quiet but critical threat to our ability to preserve and share history. Using real-world examples from two small organizations that have recently and successfully revolutionized their development programs, attendees will be guided through a simple fundraising analysis and leave with a solid plan to make one aspect of their fundraising program more successful—with less stress.

Haley Blake, Wilson Museum, Castine, ME; Julia Gray, Wilson Museum, Castine, ME; Linda Marshall, Nichols House Museum, Boston, MA; Rosalie Wilbur, Nichols House Museum, Boston, MA; Julie Williams, Hall Williams Consulting LLC, Hampton Falls, NH

WORKING GROUPS

These sessions involve an in-depth discussion on an issue in the field. A small group of people will have prepared ahead of time for a discussion on the topic. Audience members can listen to the conversation or participate if they want.

8:30–10:30 am

Solid Succession: Succession Planning Tools for History Organizations

Workplace conversations about succession are hard, and many organizations aren't sure where to start. Members of this working group, which began at NCPH 2025 in Montréal and continued this year, will share lessons from their work and workshop a series of questions designed to help public historians at history organizations navigate the real challenges of succession planning.

Sara Patton Zarrelli, Museum Insights (facilitator); Abby Battis, Historic Beverly; Jennifer Betsworth, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Billye Chabot, Seward House Museum; JJ Compton and Mette Flynt, Oklahoma State University; Meghan Gelardi Holmes, The Society of Colonial Dames of Massachusetts; Doria Hughes, Rosemarie Beck Foundation; Naomi Kawamura, Denshi; Rachel Lewis, Minnesota Historical Society; Marla Miller, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Heather Scheele-Clark, Science Museum Oklahoma

Working for "The Man"

This working group, comprised of workers at US museums at all levels of government, federal, state, and local, will present and challenge 'revolutionary thinking' for government-run museums. Working within bureaucratic statutes and processes, how can government museum workers build a sustainable framework for future growth in these politicized times and beyond? Participants will be encouraged to share successes, challenges, and opportunities they've experienced and learn from their colleagues.

Elizabeth Burgess, Museum of Connecticut History (facilitator); Jodi Polsgrove, Connecticut SHPO Museums (facilitator); Ellen Cone Busch, Beth Foulds, Emily Hermans, and Inez Wolins, Texas Historical Commission; Araceli Hernandez, Nebraska History Museum; Katie Humphreys, Morris County Park Commission; Harry Klinkhamer, City of Venice; Jennifer Landry, Irving Archives and Museum; Aaron Noble, New York State Museum; Karen Stone, St. Mary's County Museum; Lauren Whitley-Haney, National Park Service

1–3 pm

Building Humane Leadership and Work Cultures

This working group, entering its third year, will discuss the evolution of leadership training and needs in the public history field, focusing on democratizing work cultures and empowering leaders at all levels. Discussants will offer case studies on humane leadership, bringing the group's mission and values into action internally, and the possibilities of a humanistic leadership paradigm.

Aja Bain, American Association for State and Local History (facilitator); Elliot Archer, University of Missouri-St. Louis; Janna Bennett, Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County; Ann Bennett, Howard County Historical Society; Araceli Hernandez, State Historical Society of Nebraska; Matthew Kear, AECOM; Ellie Lawson, Vancouver Holocaust Education Center; Maria Quintero, JFK Presidential Library and Museum; Deana Thomas, University of Kentucky Libraries

3:30–5:30 pm

The Afterlives of Sacred Spaces

More than a third of North America's places of worship are likely to close in the next five years. As important neighborhood institutions, these congregations are repositories of ethnic and immigrant histories, archives of urban change, and multigenerational touchstones of family and community memory. How can public historians document this moment of religious change and preserve the histories of those communities that will close? This working group establishes a community of practitioners interested in the afterlives of sacred spaces, which will build a resource list of sample projects, funding sources, and relevant organizations, and discuss future activities or publications focused on the public history of church closures and the transition of sacred sites.

Christopher Cantwell, Loyola University Chicago (facilitator); Margo Shea, Salem State University (facilitator); Emily Arledge, Saint Vincent College; Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Appalachian State University; Nicolette Rohr, Pomona College; Rasha Shaheen, Egyptian Museum in Cairo

THURSDAY CONTINUED

9:45–10:45 am

Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall

Cost: Free

Grab a cup of coffee and snack and get to know conference sponsors and exhibitors.

First-time Attendee Networking Reception

Cost: Free, Preregistration Required

Join members of the AASLH staff and Council and NCPH staff and Board of Directors to learn more about our two organizations and get tips for navigating the conference.



11 am – 12:15 pm

OPENING KEYNOTE

Ned Blackhawk

12–1:30 pm

Dine Arounds

See page 13 for more information.

12:30–1:45 pm

Affinity Group Luncheons

Cost: \$48, Preregistration Required

○ Climate and Sustainability

Anyone interested in climate, environment, and sustainability at historic sites and museums is invited to this luncheon co-hosted by AASLH's Climate and Sustainability Committee and NCPH's Environment Committee. You'll hear about the work of each committee and meet committee members. This is also an opportunity for committee members to exchange ideas, resources, and information and to network. The menu for this luncheon is vegetarian. *Organized by AASLH's Climate and Sustainability Committee and NCPH's Environmental Sustainability Committee.*

○ Historic House Museums

This is a time of the year when historic house museum folks get together and crowd source answers to your burning questions. Bring your questions for the "Historic House Doctor!" They can be about anything related to historic house museums. If chosen, your question will be thrown out to your colleagues for answers and suggestions. *Organized by AASLH's Historic House Museum Committee.*

○ Small Museums

Join us for a fun and informative luncheon with other small museum professionals! This annual event is an opportunity to meet and share ideas with other people in the field, and is always a lot of fun. We will also hear from Kate Betz and Evan Windham of Story + Reason Consulting, who will explain how all of us can help advocate for small museums and the unique needs we have. There will be prizes, too!

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2–3:15 pm

The Burnout Escape Room: A Museum Crisis Simulation

Experiential

This hands-on session will transform real museum headaches, such as low turnout, last-minute cancellations, and board requests, into a timed "Escape Room." Teams will navigate scenarios using communication, planning, and resource triage. This immersive challenge reveals how burnout forms, what patterns emerge under pressure, and which practical strategies actually help museum staff break the cycle.

Neecole Gregory, Morton Museum of Collierville History, Collierville, TN; Graham Linton, Morton Museum of Collierville History, Collierville, TN

Cultivating Tomorrow's Voices in American History at Small Institutions

Roundtable

This roundtable brings together emerging professionals to explore what it takes to build meaningful and sustainable careers in small historical institutions and how the field can actively cultivate the next generation of leaders to ensure its vitality beyond the 250th. Participants will discover the barriers that persist for new entrants, particularly those from nontraditional or underrepresented backgrounds, while panelists share strategies for cultivating mentorship, stability, and community derived from real life experiences from within the field.

Abby Addams, Boscobel House and Gardens, Garrison, NY; Riley Richards, Boscobel House and Gardens, Garrison, NY; Laini Farrare, University of Delaware, Wilmington, DE; Cameron Katz, Made by Us, Atlanta, GA

Descendant-Led Histories of Enslavement and Revolution

Experiential

Modeling the power of descendant-led work, descendants of the families of two New Hampshire revolutionaries—William Whipple, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Prince Whipple, an African man enslaved by Whipple who co-signed the 1779 *Petition for Freedom*—will facilitate a collaborative annotation of, and dialogue around, these connected histories of privilege, oppression, and revolution.

Tonya Singer, Courageous Literacy LLC, Santa Rosa, CA; Laurel Yancey, Atlanta, GA

2–3:15 pm CONTINUED

Dramatically Engage with the Revolution

Experiential

Site-specific plays can engage audiences with the American Revolution in new and deeper ways. In this session, attendees will experience a scene from *The Hunter House Plays*, created by Plays in Place with the Preservation Society of Newport County, and dig into the nuts and bolts of creating site-specific dramas at historic sites.

Patrick Gabridge, Plays in Place, Florence, MA; Kate Petterson, The Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI

Innovating Practice with *The New Museum Educator's Manual*

Lightning Round

The new third volume of *The Museum Educator's Manual* is in progress, offering updated strategies on accessibility, virtual learning, programming, K–12 engagement, interpretation, and more. In this lightning round session, five authors and the book's editor share key insights to help museum educators address current challenges and strengthen the field.

Brandon Dillard, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA; Bethany Hrachovec, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN; Elisabeth Nevins, Seed Educational Consulting, Jamaica Plain, MA; Heather Pressman, Achieving Access: Museum Access Consulting, Portland, OR; Jeff Sellers, Tennessee State Museum, Nashville, TN

Learning from Failure in University-Community Collaborations

Roundtable

This roundtable brings together four university-based practitioners to discuss failures in collaborative public history projects. Drawing from their experience in the *Chicory Revitalization Project*, the *Queer Newark Oral History Project*, and the *Without Judgment* podcast, presenters reflect on the obstacles they experienced including unaligned expectations, semantic confusion, and uncomfortable collisions over how we remember.

Abigail Perkiss, Kean University, Amherst, MA; Troy Reeves, University of Wisconsin-Madison Archive, Madison, WI; Mary Rizzo, Rutgers University-Newark, Newark, NJ; Shannon Rooney, Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; Kristyn Scorsone, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Verona, NJ

Mapping History in Classrooms and Communities

Experiential

In this hands-on experiential session, participants will be introduced to *Map250*—a crowd-sourced digital mapping and story platform supporting community archiving and citywide historical collecting. The project was launched in Portland, ME, Madison, WI, and Long Island, NY, to coincide with the nation's 250th celebrations in spring and summer 2026. Through a series of real-time prompts from facilitators, and using only the technology they

have on-hand, attendees to this session will build mini-collections and sharpen their digital humanities skills.

Ava Danzer, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI; Gwyn Parker, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI; James Levy, The Whose Land Project Providence, RI

Moments That Made US: An America250 Exhibition for Everyone

Nuts and Bolts

This session explores a collaborative exhibition development model designed to provide tangible assets for use by institutions of all sizes—especially small and volunteer-run museums. Learn how a multi-state team implemented a modular, print-on-demand exhibition designed for simultaneous, broad community use and easy local customization. The team will share the development process, examples of how the tool was utilized across western states, lessons learned, and explore the potential for future application.

Jay Baersten, Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, WA; Nicole Harvey, Oklahoma History Center Museum, Oklahoma City, OK; HannaLore Hein, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, ID; Gwen Lockman, History Colorado, Denver, CO; Laura Terech, Arizona Secretary of State's Office, Phoenix, AZ

Public History at 50: Past, Present, and Future

Roundtable

The term "public history" was coined in 1976, making this joint conference a unique moment to assess the movement and the roles of the organizations that have nurtured and advanced it and to plan for the future of the field. In lieu of formal presentations, the session's presenters—past and present leaders from AASLH, NCPH, the newer International Federation for Public History, and public history institutions—will respond to provocative questions designed to facilitate frank and open discussion about our successes and our future.

Thomas Cauvin, Centre for Contemporary and Digital History, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Belgium; Omar Eaton-Martinez, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC; Barbara Franco, Independent Historian and Retired Museum Director, Harrisburg, PA; James B. Gardner, retired, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC; Denise D. Meringolo, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD

Revolutionizing Museum Leadership: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders

Nuts and Bolts

As museums face workforce shortages, external pressures, and changing public expectations, the future of museums depends on leaders who are prepared, adaptive, and equipped to navigate uncertainty. This session calls for reconceptualizing leadership preparation as intentional, equitable, and aligned with the evolving needs of communities and institutions alike.

Felicia Abrams, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA; Kimberly Robinson, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry, WV; Dorette Sobolewski, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia, Staunton, VA

2–3:15 pm CONTINUED

We Can Be the Revolution

Experiential

Racial justice is a moving target, and this work within the history field in particular is more urgent than ever. Committing to revolutionary and radical truth-telling that can withstand shifting political and cultural tides requires that public historians approach this work rooted in reflective practice, trust, and care. Using two practical tools—the *Liberating Structures* models and *Museum & Race's Report Card*—facilitators will guide attendees in enhancing trust and collaboration and building a process for accountability.

Karlisa Callwood, Perry Institute for Marine Science, Waitsfield, VT; Barbara Cohen-Stratynier, Independent Historian, New York, NY; Jackie Peterson, Jackie Peterson Exhibit Services, Seattle, WA

Who's In Control? Digitally Archiving Disability and Self-Advocacy

Roundtable

Community archives are a tool for redistributing power and building equitable knowledge-sharing practices. Through a two-year digitization project, The Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance examines how reparative archiving of the self-advocacy movement can resist narratives that have historically been used to oppress the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Jim Conroy, Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance, Philadelphia, PA; Karen Hayes, Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance, Philadelphia, PA; Dee Katovitch, Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance, Philadelphia, PA; Jess Petrazzuoli-Gallagher, Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance, Philadelphia, PA; Ashten Vassar-Cain, Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance, Philadelphia, PA

2–4 pm

Speed Networking

Cost: Free, Preregistration Required

This professional twist on “speed dating” creates stress-free networking opportunities at the joint conference. This is one of the NCPH conference’s most popular events! Graduate students, recent graduates, and new professionals will have the opportunity to meet with five established public history practitioners over the course of five fifteen-minute rotations. Before the buzzer sounds, participants may discuss career options, professional development, and any other aspects of the field. Prepare some questions in advance, bring your business cards, and expect to talk and listen a lot! Advance registration is required; space is limited to 90. *This year, the Speed Networking event is co-organized by NCPH's Professional Development Committee and AASLH's Next Gen Subcommittee.*

3:15–4:15 pm

Break in Exhibit Hall

4:15–5:30 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A Revolution in Management: Rethinking Team Dynamics

Experiential

Meet Conrad, Ernesto, and Janice: three very different individuals, with different needs, all of whom report to you. This experiential session will offer strategies and tools for understanding different needs and leveraging challenging situations as a space for staff empowerment. This session will be lively and playful, with concrete and useful takeaways.

David Bowles, Museum Questions Consulting, Baltimore, MD; Rachel Ropeik, Museum Questions Consulting, Baltimore, MD; Rebecca Shulman, Museum Questions Consulting, Baltimore, MD

Approaches to Sharing Slavery Research

Lightning Round

This session showcases the varied and multi-modal approaches that five very different public history institutions are taking to share slavery research with their physical and digital audiences, with an emphasis on slavery as it relates to the American Revolution and America 250. Presenters will share their perspectives on collaborative research and interpretation, spanning physical and digital contexts, fostering community engagement, the promise and pitfalls of new technologies, and more.

Christopher Barnes, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY; Kaela Bleho, Newport Historical Society, Newport, RI; Daisha Brabham, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Abolition, and Resistance, Yale University, New Haven, CT; Mikayla Harden, Historic New England, Milton, MA; Kristina Poznan, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Experiment to Practice: Emerging Methods in Public History

Roundtable

This roundtable discusses both innovative research methodologies in public history and public history projects that employ established methods in new ways. Presenters will consider the processes behind methodological development—how they theorize new research methods, what ethical frameworks guide them, and how experimental approaches transition into established practice.

Gina Lewis, Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Frostburg, MD; Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Loyola University, Chicago, IL; Kayla Nelson, Historical Consultant, Wichita, KS; Stella Ress, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, IN; Abby Thomsen, University of Massachusetts-Amherst and National Science Foundation Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science, Amherst, MA

4:15–5:30 pm CONTINUED

Immigration and Latino Public History in Virginia

Roundtable

The place of Latinos and immigrants in American society has become a major source of contention in the public sphere. Police, court actions, and government policies have questioned longstanding historical rights. Public history is at the center of four projects in Virginia: the *Latino Virginia Oral History Project*, *World in Our Commonwealth* exhibit, James Madison University's *Dia de los Muertos*, and the *Nuestras Historias: Latinos in Richmond* exhibit that collectively impact the narratives around immigration. Presenters and the audience will discuss how making space for immigrant and Latino experiences in public history creates new resources for educators and communities.

Meg Hughs, The Valentine, Richmond, VA; Julie Kemper, Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Richmond, VA; Fawn-Amber Montoya, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA; Daniel Morales, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Interpreter Professionalization: Public History's Disenfranchised Front Line

Roundtable

Interpersonal interpretation is a core part of public history work, yet interpreters are regarded at many institutions as temporary workers in customer service, with consequences for the quality of educational programs. This solutions-focused roundtable brings together professionals with diverse interpretation experiences, to show how public history institutions can support professionalized interpreters.

Joan Cummins, President Lincoln's Cottage, Washington, DC; Kevin Lukacs, Bloomsburie, LLC @ National Museum of the US Army, Ft. Belvoir, VA; Nathan Schultz, Alamance Battleground State Historic Site, Burlington, NC; Olivia Spann, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument, Jackson, MS; Lacey Wilson, Underground Railroad Education Center, Albany, NY

The Label Lab: Experimenting with Interpretive Text

Experiential

Participants will audit and remix museum labels to challenge authority, foreground marginalized voices, and spark visitor-driven narratives. Through hands-on exercises and group discussion, attendees will explore practical strategies for inclusive, participatory interpretation, gaining tools to rethink exhibit text and redesign visitor experiences in history museums.

Alyssa Brown, Syracuse University, Moravia, NY

Rebel Strategies for Small Museum Workers

Nuts and Bolts

Small museums face tight constraints, but resilience can be downright revolutionary. This hands-on session explores how staff use strategic mischief—plots, loopholes, and gray areas—to drive mission-focused change. Through real scenarios and practical tools, participants learn creative tactics to innovate, secure funding, and spark institutional transformation from any level.

LaShell Martinez, Kaleidoscope Heritage Focus, Anna, TX; Jennifer Rogers, Collin County Farm Museum, McKinney, TX

Revolution in the Digital Age

Lightning Round

Presenters representing five organizations will share projects and initiatives that unite the work of public historians, librarians, digital specialists, and content experts to align digital scholarship with in-person semiquincentennial programming. These efforts in digital history champion access, education, and preservation so that resources about America's 250th are available for years to come.

Katie Hatton, North Carolina Historical Digital Publications Office, Raleigh, NC; Zoie Horecny, The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, VA; Henry Kemp, The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, VA; Paul Fuller, Osher Map Library & Smith Center for Cartographic Education, Portland, ME; Baynard Miller, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA; Molly Shaddix, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY; Ashley Spenneberg-Perkins, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY

Teaching Resistance in Field Trips

Roundtable

In the face of nationwide divisiveness around teaching history, presenters from California and New Jersey come together to discuss the similarities and differences of their respective state standards and how those standards impact their approach to a shared question in elementary programming: How do you teach oppression versus personal revolution?

Hannah Gaston, Liberty Hall Museum, Union, NJ; Rachael Goldberg, Liberty Hall Museum, Union, NJ; Sam Ricci, History San José, San José, CA; Bill Schroh, Jr., History San José, San José, CA

Thinking Big and Starting Small: Incorporating Accessibility in House Museums

Nuts and Bolts

This session explores methods for creating more accessible public history spaces. With one in four Americans identifying as disabled, accessibility must be prioritized for both staff and visitors. Presenters from one of the most famous—and once infamously inaccessible—historic homes in America share philosophical and practical approaches to interpretive, physical, and digital accessibility to help attendees meet and exceed their accessibility commitments.

David Moffat, The House of the Seven Gables, Salem, MA; Tanya Rose Lane, The House of the Seven Gables, Salem, MA; Paul Wright, The House of the Seven Gables, Salem, MA

THURSDAY CONTINUED

4:15–5:30 pm CONTINUED

Transforming Heritage Tourists into Preservationists and History Advocates

Roundtable

Revolutionary heritage tourism strategies can leverage the momentum behind America's 250th anniversary into a consistent flow of visitors and their spending to historic destinations. Opportunities exist to transform heritage tourists into more active history advocates, but only if organizations can deploy valued interpretation strategies and engage with a robust call to action.

Ashley Abruzzo, Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, Trenton, NJ; Cheryl Hargrove, Hargrove International, Inc., St. Simons Island, GA; George H. McDaniel, Middleton Place Foundation, Charleston, SC

The Work of History in Trump's America

Roundtable

This roundtable uses the work of the *History, Archives, and Records Preservation Project (HARPP)* to understand organized responses to recent White House attempts to restrict the teaching and public presentation of history, and to censor and erase historical information across federal websites and national parks.

Jason Chernesky, Federal Employees and Contractors Oral History Project, Baltimore, MD; Beth English, Organization of American Historians, Bloomington, IN; Susan Ferentinos, Independent Consultant, Port Townsend, WA

5–7 pm

The Consultants' Speakeasy

Cost: Free, Preregistration Required

Do you work as a consulting historian, or are you interested in becoming a consultant and looking to learn more about consulting and contract work? Head to the Convention Center's Rotunda, grab a drink with the NCPH Consultants Committee, and join new and experienced consultants in the Speakeasy for an informal gathering that will include hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and lively conversation. *Organized by the NCPH Consultants Committee.*

5:30–6:30 pm

IDEA/D&I Afternoon Mixer

Cost: Free, Preregistration not required

NCPH's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) Committee and AASLH's Diversity and Inclusion Committee invite conference attendees to this informal mixer for light refreshments and conversations about both organizations' core values of public history practice: that history is for everyone, that everyone's history matters, and that public historians and history practitioners must have equitable and accessible workplaces. If you are passionate about

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equity work or you just want to meet your people in a lowkey environment, pop in to say hello, learn more about the work of our committees, and fortify yourself for a fun evening to come.

7–9 pm

Dine Arounds

See page 13 for more information.

6:30–9 pm

EVENING EVENT

Constitution Day at the Capitol

Cost: \$45, Preregistration Required

See page 23 for more information.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:30–8:30 am

Women's History Affinity Group Breakfast

Cost: \$40, Preregistration Required

8–10 am

Public History Educators' Forum

Cost: \$40, Preregistration Required

This annual event is an opportunity for public history faculty to share ideas about running graduate and undergraduate public history programs and to talk about university, departmental, and a wide variety of other issues. The discussion is always lively. *Organized by the NCPH Curriculum and Training Committee.*

8:30–9:45 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

An Introduction to Organizing Your Workplace

Nuts and Bolts

This session will guide participants through the basic steps of organizing in their workplace, both via formal labor unions and beyond. Participants can ask questions and share experiences as they learn organizing tactics and legal frameworks, understand the relative risks involved, and collectively generate a list of resources for those wanting to do this work.

Sarah Marsom, Heritage Resource Consultant, Bear Lake, MI; Amanda Tobin Ripley, Independent Consultant, Berlin, Germany

Climate and Sustainability Revolution through Sites and Collections

Roundtable

In the face of climate crisis and accelerating social transformation, museum collections and archives are not neutral repositories but active sites of resistance, care, and survival. As we commemorate America 250, this session explores how museum professionals and public historians can reframe research and collection practices through a climate and sustainability lens to shape current conversations with an eye toward fostering sustainability.

Alison Bruesehoff, Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site and Museum, Long Beach, CA; Debra Reid, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI; Kimberly Robinson, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry, VA

Dementia-Inclusive Programming at History Museums

Nuts and Bolts

Over 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and by 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million. Despite the growing need, dementia-inclusive programs are not yet implemented widely in history museums. By becoming dementia-friendly, museums can transform into spaces of dialogue, connection, and community-building. From examples shared by the Alzheimer's Association-Michigan Chapter and three different history institutions, session attendees will gain practical tools to support people living with dementia and ideas to transform your museum into a space of community connection.

Caroline Braden, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI; Jordan Brinker, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis, IN; Kayla Dietz, Alzheimer's Association Michigan Chapter, Southfield, MI

If Everyone's a Historian

Roundtable

This session will explore the landscape of popular history, from podcasts and TikTok to YouTube and self-published books. Focusing especially on creators without formal historical training, the presenters, representing both practitioners and scholars, will discuss who produces this work, what forms it takes, and the challenges and possibilities it brings to public history practice and institutions.

Clarissa J. Ceglie, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT; Andrew McLeod, California State University, Sacramento, CA; Tracy Neumann, Historic New England, West Hartford, CT; Katherine Spiers, Independent Historian, Los Angeles, CA; M.J. Rymysza-Pawlowska, American University, Washington, DC

Place-Based Boston Museum Collaborations for the 250th and Beyond

Community Viewpoints

Since 2016, the Place-Based Boston Museum, a collaboration of seven museums on the Freedom Trail, has collaborated on leading teacher education programs over the summer. In this roundtable session, the museums will share their partnership best practices, demonstrating how place-based collaboration can reinforce community resilience and pride, while inspiring new generations to care for and contribute to their city's cultural heritage.

Anneliese Beaulieu, USS Constitution Museum, Boston, MA; Emily Holmes, Paul Revere House, Boston, MA; Sage Morgan-Hubbard, Museum of African American History Boston and Nantucket, Boston, MA; Carina Ohlen, Revolutionary Spaces, Boston, MA; Catherine Radonic, National Parks of Boston, National Park Service, Boston, MA

8:30–9:45 am CONTINUED

Reading Revolutionaries: How Audience Engagement Provokes Meaning-Making

Experiential

Reading Revolutionaries, part of the Plantation Futures Project, is designed to spark a revolution in historic site interpretation. Public historians from historic sites across the country will guide the audience through a communal reading of the Declaration of Independence and the National Anthem, seeking connections between founding documents and American revolutions led by people of color and women.

Selvin Backert, Museum of African American History Boston and Nantucket, Boston, MA; Maureen Chavez, Sky City Cultural Center & Haak'u Museum, Albuquerque, NM; Elon Cook Lee, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Columbia, MD; Traci Picard, Center for Reflective History, Providence, RI

Rethinking Collections Stewardship: Incorporating Indigenous Care Considerations

Nuts and Bolts

A new resource for collections stewardship, the *Indigenous Collections Care ICC Guide*, provides a framework for museum and Indigenous communities to engage in conversations around culturally appropriate care. Learn how the *ICC Guide's* accessible language and practical guidance can support and assist communities and organizations to make meaningful change to stewardship practices.

Shaleigh Howells, River to Ridge Consulting, Roanoke, VA; Sara Restrepo, Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Williamstown, MA; Tessa Schultz, National Geographic Society, Washington, DC; Marla Taylor, Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology, Andover, MA

Revolutionizing Historical InQUEERies Through Participatory Mapping

Nuts and Bolts

Presenters will introduce a participatory digital mapping project highlighting stories of Queer history across Minnesota. Participants will engage in discussion on applying revolutionary praxis throughout all project stages. The session will conclude with time to create an action plan centered on relational approaches to place-based public history.

Leila Stallone, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; Kimmy Tanaka, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN

Small Organizations Packing a Punch

Roundtable

Small institutions can leverage limited resources to broaden historical narratives. Three AASLH Award of Excellence winners share lessons from projects rooted in lesser-known site histories, including a civics program for immigrants, a public history timeline of enslaved people's experiences, and an initiative to restore African American and Native American stories.

Marjory O'Toole, Little Compton Historical Society, Little Compton, RI; Cathy Saunders, Lippitt House Museum, Providence, RI; Catherine Zipf, Bristol Historical & Preservation Society, Bristol, RI

The Substance of Solidarity: Revolution and AAPI Community Remediation

Roundtable

How do history professionals plan and act to be in solidarity with community, especially in times of resource scarcity, division, and recalcitrant institutions? Members of the NCPH AAPI working group, formed three years ago, will share examples of inclusive grassroots community building, tactics for collective empowerment across identities, and build towards a future where everyone's history counts.

Rob Buscher, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Brian Joe, Toronto Ward Museum, Toronto, Canada; Selena Moon, University of Minnesota, Edina, MN; Susan Huyah, North Carolina DNR, Greensboro, NC; Lily Anne Tamai, California State University, Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA; Michael Yee, San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, San Diego, CA

9:45–10:45 am

Break in the Exhibit Hall

10 am–12 pm

Poster Session and Reception

Posters will be on display and their creators will be on hand to discuss their projects, with light refreshments served. The poster session is a format for public history presentations about projects that use visual evidence. It offers an alternative for presenters eager to share their work through one-on-one discussion, can be especially useful for works-in-progress, and may be a particularly appropriate format for presentations where visual or material evidence represents a central component of the project. A full list of posters can be found on the next two pages. *Organized by the National Council on Public History.*

2026 POSTERS

10 am–12 pm

The following posters will be on display, and their creators on-hand to discuss them, at the NCPH Poster Session and Reception.

“Segregated Minds”: Race, Power, and Memory at Central State Hospital

John Peyton, George Mason University

“But Not Their Song”: The Lost Colony in Public History

Talia Brenner, North Carolina State University

“The Photographer of Your Town”: Recovering a Community Through the Photographs of Richard Samuel Roberts

Rachel Young, Center for Civil Rights History and Research, University of South Carolina

A Memorial Playhouse in the Nation’s Capital: Trauma and Public History at Ford’s Theatre

Rebekah Turnmire, University of South Carolina

Advancing the Visibility of Black History in Western Pennsylvania

Brooks Whittaker, Heinz History Center

An Unfinished Revolution: America 250 Through Chicago’s Eyes

Connor Barnes, Eleanor Carter, Charlie Chmielewski, Rachel Shugarts, and Casey Welby, Loyola University Chicago

Aren’t You Hot in That?: A Reexamination of Historical Clothing Practices in a World of Climate Consequences

Augusta Rudnick, City of Greeley Museums

Community Deep Mapping for Public Heritage: The Keweenaw Time Traveler

James Juip, Donald Lafreniere, and Sarah Scarlett, Michigan Technological University

Connecticut’s Revolutionary War Trail

Kellie Bielonko and Anthony Martin, Central Connecticut State University

Connecting Your Collections to School Programs

Sarah Salto, Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County

Cultural Diversity in Shared Ground: the Cemetery Records of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Britta Lind, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Digital Surrogates Pipeline

Carrie Wicker, Michigan State University Museum

Dining with the Washingtons: Food Programming at Historic Sites

Sofia Almeida, University of South Florida

Dirty Days in Fun City: An Archival Media Documentary about the 1968 New York and Memphis Sanitation Worker Strikes

Katie Heiserman and Elana Meyers, 2 Train Productions

Exhibiting Child Labor: A Look at Lewis Hine’s Exhibit Panels for the NCLC

Claire Brady, Merrimack College

Forged in Iron: Commemorating Chinese American Worker Contributions to the Transcontinental Railroad

Madeline Bonner, Gilbert Correa, Diana Hernandez, and Noah Price, World Heritage USA

Forty Acres & The American Revolution: Stories of Independence & Servitude

Elizabeth Pangburn, University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum

From Private Shelves to Public Good: Preserving the Butler Hospital Historic Library

Alesia Antoine, Brown University; Phoebe Bean, Butler Hospital Historical Library; and Ian Whiteley, Moses Brown School

Georgia’s Historic Bridge Marketing Program

Cayley Champeau and Matthew Kear, AECOM; Caroline Staley, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

Historic Suburbia: Preservation in Pittsburgh’s Suburbs

Olivia Wanat, Duquesne University

Historical Recovery and Preservation at Tillman Watson Cemetery

Brooke Lefler and Edith Ritt-Coulter, University of Central Oklahoma

History in a Box: Bringing the 250th to Life Through Traveling Trunks

Janet Palmore, Robertson County History Museum

History is a Call to Action: Using LDF’s Recollection to Uncover Civil Rights History

Kimberly Barzola, NAACP Legal Defense Fund

How Can Applied Anthropology Help Inform Historical Interpretation?

Nikki Gorrell, College of Western Idaho

Improving Searchability: Assessing and Remediating Metadata of Cultural Heritage Digital Collections

Evan Miller, Indiana University Indianapolis

In Our Own Words: Oral History and AIDS Activism at UW-Madison

Haleigh Smith, University of Wisconsin-Madison

In the Room Where it Happened: A Transnational Perspective on Embodied Museum Experiences

Dani Willcutt, Omeka

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

2026 POSTERS

10 am–12 pm CONTINUED

Knowledge, Power, and Archaeological Networks in an American Aerial Expedition to the Yucatán, 1930

Peyton Beeli, University of California, Riverside

Leaving Home: Archivists Teaching Outside Their Home Departments

Claire Dunker and Lori Schwartz, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Loni Ding, The Godmother of Asian American Documentary Filmmaking

Michelle Okawa, University of California, Riverside and Densho

Memorializing the Person: Robert Hall's Lynching, Photography, and a Historian's Role

Savannah Cravey, George Mason University

Miss Archivist: Helen Chatfield & the Development of Archival Practice at American University

Catherine Wise, American University

Painting for the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area's Civil War Trail in Northwest Alabama

Kurt Vettters, University of North Alabama

Passing the Torch: Intergenerational Memory of the National Women's Conference Through Sharing Stories from 1977

Sophie Biernat, Presleigh-Anne Johnson, and Patrick Willoughby, The University of Alabama; Sophie Biernat, The University of Alabama

Queering the Midwest: Lessons Learned from the Akron LGBTQ+ Archive

Tony Pankuch, Cummings Center for the History of Psychology; Cassidy Kuhar and Hillary Nunn, The University of Akron

Reference Isn't Dead: Building and Maintaining a Patron-Oriented Reference Team

Morgan Miller Scarborough, Maryland State Archives

Returning Home from Home: Documenting the Japanese American Sengo Kibei through Oral History

Masako Miki, California State University, Fullerton and Japanese American National Museum

Revolutionary Methodology of Participatory Archiving

Faith Joell Leone, University of Michigan; Kristina Mullenix, University of Alabama; Christyna Reagan, Rocky Mountain Prep RISE High School

Rust Belt Religion: Preserving the Religious Experience in Northern Appalachia

Emily Arledge and Katherine Folmar, Saint Vincent College

Shared but Unsettled: The Journey of Two Totem Poles

Emma MacDonald, University of Western Ontario, Canada

Small Institutions, Big Impact: A Community College Framework for Museum Partnerships

Jennifer Cronkright, Mott Community College and the University of Michigan

Stars, Stripes, and Celebrations: Missourians Commemorating America's Founding in Times of Uncertainty

Ethan Chapman, Madelyn Geiler, and Emily Skidmore, University of Missouri

The Downings: America's Foremost Underground Family

Katherine Spiers, food historian

The Fort Valley Ham and Egg Show, 1916-1966

Kyle Harris, Florida A&M University; Dawn Herd-Clark, Hillsborough Community College; Kymara Sneed, Mississippi University for Women

The July Revolution in Bangladesh: Smashing Icons of Tyranny

Ummul Muhseneen, University of South Florida

The Life of Hiram Young: A Guided Tour of Independence, Missouri

Stephen Kelley, University of Central Missouri

The National Mall Gateway: Navigating the Semiquincentennial and Digital History in Our Nation's Capital

Daiki Tsumagari, Trust for the National Mall

The Victory Kitchen: Turning a Podcast into a Multi-Sensory Public History Project

Sarah Lee, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Veterans and Visionaries

Kristin Horan, Kennesaw State University

Virginia is for Preservation Lovers

Joanna Hejl, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

When Material Culture is Scarce: How Archives can Fill In the Gaps

Kathryn Prinkey, Salisbury University

Youth as Public Historians: Engaging Youth in Public History Practice

Ivan Guzman, Loyola University Chicago and Raices Chicago Story Coalition

WORKING GROUPS

These sessions involve an in-depth discussion on an issue in the field. A small group of people will have prepared ahead of time for a discussion on the topic. Audience members can listen to the conversation or participate if they want.

8:30–10:30 am

Reckoning Well: Working Toward Reparative Institutional Histories of Slavery

As institutions reckon with histories of slavery, many work in isolation. This working group builds a practitioner network to share challenges, successes, and ethical dilemmas as participants collaboratively draft a practical framework for responsible research, descendant engagement, and transparent interpretation that strengthens institutional accountability and supports community repair.

Janika Dillon, Northeastern University (facilitator); Cassandra Good, Marymount University (facilitator); Roeshana Moore-Evans, Equity Empowerment Consulting (facilitator); Maya Brooks, University of Maryland; Caroline Emmons, Hampden-Sydney College; Kristin Gallas, MUSE Consulting; Rayshauna Gray, National Public Housing Museum; Mike Kelly, Amherst College; Traci Picard, Primus House and Brown University; Rhondda Thomas, Clemson University; Khloe Williams, Indiana University Bloomington; Emma Winger Zeig, 9/11 Memorial and Museum and Historic Northampton

1–3 pm

Challenges and Solutions for the Public History Workforce

What are the biggest labor challenges facing the public history community? How do these challenges overlap with one another? How do they relate to other sectors and the broader economy? How can our field improve individual career satisfaction and create more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable workplaces? This working group, facilitated by AASLH staff and committee volunteers along with NCPH's Labor Task Force, will attempt to address this complex and interconnected set of questions and generate recommendations for the field.

John Garrison Marks, American Association for State and Local History (facilitator); Aaron Noble, New York State Museum (facilitator); Amanda Tobin Ripley, NCPH Labor Task Force; Terri White, Charlotte Museum of History (facilitator); Michele Counter, DHR Global; Hannah Fuller, Loyola University Chicago; David McKenzie, University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Rachael Nadeau Johnson, Dr. Pepper Museum; Lacey Wilson, Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Public Historians and the Housing Crisis

This working group aims to gather public historians to take stock of how the field interprets housing and to identify strategies, best practices, and interpretive frameworks for public history organizations of all kinds to thoughtfully engage with housing access, affordability,

and housing justice in their respective institutional contexts.

Lynne Calamia, Roebling Museum (facilitator); Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan, Rutgers University (facilitator); Brian Whetstone, University of Pennsylvania (facilitator); Rebeca Amato, Illinois Humanities; Wes Cunningham, Pinion Advisors; Jennifer Doherty, Barrett Planning Group LLC; Laura Macaluso, Friends of the Howe House

3:15–5:15 pm

As Above, So Below: Guiding Historic Cemetery Futures

In this working group, cemetery professionals and researchers come together to ask: "How do we activate historic cemeteries for interpretation, research, tourism, and recreation while maintaining respect for the relatives and descendants of those buried within?" Inspired by *Engaging Descendant Communities in the Interpretation of Slavery at Museums and Historic Sites* (The National Summit of Teaching Slavery), this group will work together to create a working roadmap document that can be shared as a resource for any cemetery looking to broaden their capacities for engagement with public history and beyond.

Annalisa Heppner, City of Providence Cemeteries (facilitator); Jordi Rivera Prince, Brown University (facilitator); Adrienne Burke, Community Planning Collaborative; Sharon Carpentier and Kelly Perry, Swan Point Cemetery; Savannah Cravey, George Mason University; Kurt Deion and A.J. Orlikoff, Congressional Cemetery; Elyssa Ford, Washington State University; Greg Howard, River Bend Cemetery; Matthew Kear, AECOM; Amy Michaels, University of North Hampshire; Nancy Parode, Sacred Heart/White Marsh Historic Cemetery; Spencer Roberts, Clemson University; Ella Scalese, Temple University; Rebecca Shrum, Indiana University Indianapolis; Kate Sullivan, Monument Lab; Ana Swatz, Harmony Grove Cemetery; Jon Taylor, University of Central Missouri; Jessica VanLanduyt, Historic Oakland Foundation; Melissa Wyllie, Florida State University

Revolutionizing the Work of Teaching

This working group, led by the NCPH Curriculum & Training Committee, will examine the state of the field of teaching in light of the challenges we face teaching public history in the 21st century, with view toward the ways in which the revolutionary work of teaching is changing and evolving.

Caroline Emmons, Hampden-Sydney College (facilitator); Jared Pack, York University (facilitator); Rachel Alwine, Fairfield Foundation; Laura Arata, Oklahoma State University; Ian Beamish, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Elizabeth Belanger, Hobart and William Smith College; Kate Betz, Texas State University; Talia Brenner, North Carolina State University; Marta Cieslak, University of Alabama-Little Rock; Darcy Daniels, Mendon Upton Regional School District; Whitney Martinko, Villanova University; Jennifer Morris, Mount St. Joseph University; Gretchen Pineo, Boston Architectural College

11 am–12:15 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A New Revolution of Belonging

Nuts and Bolts

The American Revolution was shaped by people who believed a better future was possible and worked together to build it. This session uses that same spirit to explore guiding questions that help belonging grow—how we work together inside our organizations, how we welcome and support the people who visit us, and how we build strong and lasting relationships with our communities.

Terry Abrams, Niagara History Center, Lockport, NY; Alison Bruesehoff, Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, Long Beach, CA; Veronica Gallardo, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, Clinton, MD; Richard Josey, Collective Journeys LLC, Hampton Roads, VA

Challenging Assumptions with Gender-Diverse Narratives

Roundtable

This roundtable builds on industry-wide America 250 work and draws on the experience of four historic house museum professionals to explore strategies for creating gender-diverse narratives that challenge visitor assumptions of a heterogenous past.

Matthew Champagne, Surratt House Museum, Clinton, MD; Rob DeHart, Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH; Callie Hawkins, President Lincoln's Cottage, Washington, DC; Elizabeth Reece, Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria, VA; Amanda Roper, Independent Public Historian, Manassas, VA

Low-Budget Strategies for Exhibit Renovations

Nuts and Bolts

We've all been there. Your exhibit is demanding a refresh and major experiences are failing—but you lack the resources to completely redevelop it. Let's get scrappy! Through this interactive session, attendees will learn through the examples of seasoned exhibitions professionals sharing how they flexed their creativity to retool their exhibits.

Alison Costanzo, Lombard Historical Society, Lombard, IL; Jesse Kramer, Levine Museum of the New South, Charlotte, NC; Sarah Lima, Museum EXP, Minneapolis, MN; John Shaw, Museum EXP, Minneapolis, MN; Fern Linziger, The Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, MI

Meeting Youth Audiences with Nuance and Care

Roundtable

The work of revolution, of harnessing the power of history to shape meaningful public dialogue and inspire action, is central to the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience's global movement. This session will explore how three ICSC-affiliated museums and historic sites are inspiring young revolutionaries to right past wrongs and

become actors for positive social change in the present, informed by both the mistakes and the courage of those who came before them.

Sarah Case, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, New York, NY; Jenn Edginton, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL; Garrett Marino, John Brown Lives!, Tupper Lake, NY; Lauren Zalut, Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia, PA

Rapid Response Session

Roundtable

This responsive session is designed to meet the emergent needs of the conference. At a time of fast-paced change, the session's focus will be determined in the weeks leading up to the conference. Led by skilled facilitators, it will give conference-goers a structured place to engage on pressing issues that have emerged since the Call for Proposals closed in 2025. Please consult the final Program Guide and conference mobile app for updates on the content of this session when you arrive onsite in Providence.

Linda Norris, Creative Futures, Treadwell, NY; Braden Paynter, Longtrail Strategy, Brunswick, ME

Recontextualization, Reinterpretation, and Redress: Monuments in Museums

Roundtable

What happens to monuments when they become museum objects? In this roundtable, presenters will share insights from their own museum work and scholarship on the reinterpretation of monuments within a museum context, and how this work is a revolutionary act of challenging dominant historical narratives through public memory to engage in community-engaged processes of redress.

Erin Aoyama, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH; Loogee Claude, Brown University, Providence, RI; Maggie Goddard, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS; Evelyn Theall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS; Katie Wu, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Reimagining and Reclaiming the 1811 Slave Revolt Plantation

Roundtable

Descendant-led organizers and museum practitioners from *The Descendants Project* share how they are reimagining Woodland Plantation as a descendant-led museum and trauma-informed site of Black resistance, connecting the 1811 revolt, plantation slavery, and environmental racism in Cancer Alley to the work of revolution in the museum's governance, interpretation, and maintenance.

Joy Banner, The Descendants Project and Woodland Plantation Museum, Vacherie, LA; Dana Blandin, The Descendants Project and Woodland Plantation Museum, Vacherie, LA; Sultana Harris, The Descendants Project and Woodland Plantation Museum, LaPlace, LA

11 am–12:15 pm CONTINUED

Rethinking Revolutionary Newport

Lightning Round

Drawing on the experiences of artists, historians, and curators, this panel discussion presents new perspectives into Newport's revolutionary history, focusing on "forgotten founders"—including African heritage, women, and Indigenous Newporters. Each panelist will share work exploring the themes of liberty, self-expression, and justice through the research, presentation, and expression of revolutions.

Theresa Guzman Stokes, Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Providence, RI; Veronica Mays, Artist, Portsmouth, RI; Keith Stokes, Rhode Island Historian Laureate, Providence, RI; Gina Tangorra, Newport Restoration Foundation, Newport, RI; Nicole Williams, Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI

The Revolutionary Power of Genealogy

Roundtable

The session will present real world genealogical methods and tools—namely the FAN Method (Friends; Associates; Neighbors), family charts, and study projects—to demonstrate how practitioners are utilizing genealogy to capture the complexities and nuances of history by exposing overlooked stories and increasing access to the past.

Matthew Champagne, Queering Museums Consulting, Clinton, MD; Adrienne DeArmas, Shapell Manuscript Foundation, Kearneysville, WV; Jeremiah Ellis, St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, Minneapolis, MN; Makhai Pells, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; Meghan Sickman, American Ancestors, Dedham, MA

Revolutionizing Industrial History: Community Deep Mapping and Place-Making

Lightning Round

Case studies of Michigan's copper country and South Carolina's wood products, especially furniture, explore the legacy of American industry through new and dynamic modes of place-making. These community-engaged public history initiatives are shifting the historical narrative by revealing long-forgotten stories of people and environmental resources that shaped these post-industrial landscapes.

Jessica Elfenbein, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; GC Ramey, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; S. Wright Kennedy, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; Katie Hoskins, Thomas Cooper Library, USC, Columbia, SC; James Juip, Geospatial Research Facility, Great Lakes Research Center, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI

Tools for Finding Common Ground in Polarized Times

Roundtable

Research suggests that Americans take a more open-minded view of history than we're led to believe. Public historians can capitalize on that consensus, using a range of new aids from the Nationhood Lab, Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement, Educating for American Democracy, and more, to create something that feels revolutionary in this moment: productive civic conversations that center history, inspire action, and cultivate imagination across the political spectrum. The session will include current research on this theme and ideas for applying these tools in practical scenarios.

Låth Carlson, National Nordic Museum, Seattle, WA; Sarah Jencks, Every Museum a Civic Museum, Washington, DC; Whitney Owens, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, OH

Using Historical Recovery and Storytelling to Change the Narrative on Policing

Roundtable

Life and liberty, right of assembly, and armed personnel in American communities were grievances 250 years ago and still are in our time. This session deconstructs the PBS film *Paradox: Echoes of Reform & the Minneapolis Police*, a collaborative documentary and book, and the lessons learned from using it as a community engagement model of effective public history.

Daniel Bergin, Twin Cities PBS, St. Paul, MN; Kirsten Delegard, Mapping Prejudice, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, MN; Michael Lansing, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN; Yohuru Williams, Racial Justice Initiative, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

12:15–2 pm

AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards Presentation and Luncheon

Meeting Cost: Free

Lunch Cost: \$30, Preregistration Required

The annual meeting of AASLH will be held during this luncheon that is included in the conference registration fee. AASLH will also honor the best in state and local history at the 2026 Leadership in History Awards. Note: There is a fee for the lunch portion of this event. To attend the presentation without a meal is free and does not require preregistration.

2–3:15 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

The Creation of Sowams National Heritage Area Through Grassroots Empowerment

Community Viewpoints

Representatives from nine communities in two New England states collaborated on an extensive project to establish a new National Heritage Area interpreting the story of Sowams, the homeland of the Pokanoket leader Massasoit Ousamequin, who welcomed the Pilgrims in 1621. In this conversation, stakeholders from the Sowams area, including leaders of local government, historical societies, museums, land trusts, the Pokanoket Tribe, and arts and education nonprofits, will share how the National Heritage Area system enabled a participatory and transparent partnership network. *Don "Strong Turtle" Brown, Pokanoket Tribe, Barrington, RI; Courtney Garrity, Bristol Historic and Preservation Society, Bristol, RI; Chelsea Johnston, Carpenter Museum, Rehoboth, MA; Andrea Rounds, Sowams National Heritage Area, Bristol, RI; Stephen Venuti, Barrington Historic and Preservation Society, Rehoboth, MA*

Facing Slavery and the Subversive Digital Work of Revolution

Roundtable

Presenters partnered with the More Than A Fraction Foundation to record oral histories with descendants of the families who were enslaved on land that Virginia Tech now occupies. The resultant community-centered, student-involved project, *Face to Face with Slavery*, features the stories of thirty-five descendants of enslaved people and how their descendants reckoned with the history of slavery and reunited with one another in the process.

Jason Higgins, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA; Mariam Ismail, Virginia Tech University Libraries, Blacksburg, VA; Kerri Moseley-Hobbs, More Than A Fraction Foundation, Baltimore, MD; Jessica Taylor, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA

From Selma to Detroit: The Power of Place

Roundtable

Do historic objects lose significance when they leave their place of origin? In 2023, The Henry Ford acquired the Jackson Home, a notable site during the Voting Rights Movement, from Selma, Alabama. The museum then moved the home to Michigan. This session will use this as a case study to discuss the big question—does relocating objects affect the power of place?

Heather Bruegl, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI; Sarah Marsom, Heritage Resource Consultant, Bear Lake, MI; Amber Mitchell, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI; Athena F. Richardson, Heritage Consultant, Louisville, KY

History in Conversation: Introducing Dialogue at Your Site

Experiential

Historic sites have an opportunity to revolutionize the way we build conversations around history. In this hands-on session, facilitators will lead participants through conversations from the visitor perspective using tools they have developed at their sites, including Monticello's "Feast of Reason" civics conversation card deck, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's student activity on Chief Powhatan, and Lincoln's Cottage's "Brave Ideas" game. After experiencing dialogue-based programming, participants will brainstorm ideas for their own work, address resistance to change, and talk through ways to build trust.

Felicia Abrams, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA; Rachel Baum, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, VA; Callie Hawkins, President Lincoln's Cottage, Washington, DC; Sally Meyer, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA

Joy as Resistance: A Small Museum's Revolutionary Approach to Jewish History

Experiential

This immersive session uses Jewish public history as a case study to explore how joy can be a revolutionary interpretive tool. Participants will engage in interactive exercises that demonstrate how identity-affirming storytelling can counter antisemitism and inform practice with other communities facing marginalization or misrepresentation.

Dawn LaRochelle, Maine Jewish Museum, Portland, ME

Pride as Revolution: LGBTQ+ History in Action

Roundtable

Across the US, LGBTQ+ history is being legislated against and silenced. This roundtable brings together practitioners leading groundbreaking projects to share strategies for documenting, preserving, and interpreting LGBTQ+ history, demonstrating that this history is American history and that courageous, strategic work can strengthen institutions and communities.

Adrian Cardwell, Badge of Pride, Dallas, TX; Ben Garcia, American LGBTQ+ Museum, New York, NY; Jennifer Landry, Irving Archives & Museum, Irving, TX; Sam Moore, Missouri History Museum, St. Louis, MO; Mark Segal, Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia, PA

Reclaiming Roots: Black Genealogy as Revolutionary Public History

Community Viewpoints

This session explores how reconstructing the Nightingale family history from enslavement in Georgia to free Black life in Providence reveals the power of Black genealogy as resistance. Centering descendants and community partners, it highlights collaborative methods that challenge archival silences and reshape public memory in Rhode Island.

Peter Laarman, First Unitarian Church of Providence, Providence, RI; Brandon Nightingale, Howard University, Washington, DC; Traci Picard, Center for Reflective History, Providence, RI

2–3:15 pm CONTINUED

Revolution in Preservation: Community Voices and BIPOC Heritage Sites

Roundtable

Public historians working with BIPOC and working-class sites often face layered histories, modest or altered structures, and constrained archives. This roundtable brings together projects from Virginia, Colorado, Nevada, and Rhode Island to share community-centered strategies that confront white supremacy in preservation and reimagine what counts as “significant.”

Alicia Barber, Stories in Place, LLC, Reno, NV; Laura Fretwell, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL; Fawn-Amber Montoya, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA; Elisabeth Rios-Brooks, Boulder County Parks & Open Space, Longmont, CO; Catherine Zipf, Bristol Historical & Preservation Society, Bristol, RI

Revolutions in History Labor: Reports from the Front Lines

Lightning Round

History organizations are workplaces, too. Economic pressure and changing expectations demand new understandings of museum labor and worker experience. This lightning session begins with a look back at museum labor history, then explores and maps today’s most critical topics: wage transparency, compensation, unionization, recruiting, disability inclusion, internships, immigration, and more.

Michelle Moon, Saltworks Interpretive Consulting, Port Monmouth, NJ

University-Community Partnerships Under Executive Order 14253

Roundtable

Facing federal and state directives to remove “improper ideology,” how do public historians protect inclusive narratives? Presenters from five states will discuss Executive Order 14253’s impact on university-community partnerships and explore strategies for navigating political mandates while preserving accurate history in museums, municipalities, parks, and schools.

Elizabeth Belanger, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY; Elysa Engelman, Mystic Seaport Museum with Williams College, Williams-Mystic Program, Mystic, CT; Jacque Micieli-Voutsinas, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Lily Santoro, University of Missouri/Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, Columbia, MO; Geordie Vining, City of Newburyport, Newburyport, MA

3:15–4:15 pm

Closing Reception in Exhibit Hall

4:15–5:30 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Be the Historian: Reframing Visitors as Historians-In-Practice

Experiential

In an age of infinite, politicized information, this experiential session invites attendees to shift from defending the content at their site or museum to thinking of their visitors as historians-in-practice by teaching visitors to ask questions, weigh evidence, acknowledge uncertainty, and construct interpretations in public. Through hands-on activities and the Quincy Student Docent program, attendees will prototype small, iterative changes that foreground these “historian behaviors” over memorized narratives.

Robert Damon, City of Quincy, Quincy, MA; Erin Wederbrook Yuskaitis, Yellow Room Consulting, Boston, MA

Cultivating Belonging in Preservation through a Transformative Justice Framework

Roundtable

This session brings public historians, preservation workers, and community partners into conversation about what belonging means for Black professionals across state, local, and grassroots contexts. Drawing on key findings from Black in Historic Preservation’s BiHP IRB-approved *Preservation + Belonging* survey, it examines how Black practitioners navigate access, isolation, gatekeeping, and resilience—and how these experiences shape the stewardship of Black heritage sites.

Marcus P. Smith, Black Grassroots Heritage Preservation Network, Great Barrington, MA; K. Kennedy Whitters, Black in Historic Preservation, New York, NY

Ethical Frameworks for Community Oral History in Contemporary Contexts

Roundtable

As community oral historians across the US are documenting and preserving moments of crisis, protest, movement-building, state violence, and resilience, their projects can pose risks or cause harm to those sharing their stories. In this roundtable, presenters will explore how practitioners are responding to the current landscape and its risks.

Meral Agish, Queens Public Library, Jamaica, NY; Dory Klein, Boston Public Library, Boston, MA; Hannah Whelan, After Violence Project, Austin, TX

4:15-5:30 pm CONTINUED

Researching, Reclaiming, and Reinvigorating Local African American History

Lightning Round

Learn how to revolutionize local African American history by researching, restoring, and reclaiming African American cemeteries. Presenters will highlight their collaboration with public stakeholders, the projects' use of artifactual and archival primary sources, and how they have ensured future access to the projects' research. Learn how to reinvigorate your region's published African American history by assuring that African American cemeteries are not be the end of a community's historical narrative, but rather the foundation of a new, reaffirmed history.

Perky Beisel, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX; Deborah Liles, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX; T. DeWayne Moore, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX; M. Scott Sosebee, East Texas Historical Association, Nacogdoches, TX; Werner Steger, Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie, NY

Small Museums Affinity Committee Open Meeting

Committee Meeting

Do you want to deepen your connection to AASLH? Are you looking for ways to connect with other small museum professionals beyond each year's conference? Consider getting involved with the Small Museums Affinity Committee. Join us for our annual in-person meeting where you can get to know committee members, meet other small organization staff and volunteers, ask questions, share what needs you have, and learn about what we do. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend.

Chair: Sean Blinn, Consultant, Bridgewater, NJ

Square Peg, Round Hole: Community-Centered Work in Institutions

Roundtable

It can be challenging for public history practitioners to advance the field when their institutions are bound in tradition. This session will use three case studies to explore how practitioners can advocate for responsible community-based work to meet the urgency of this revolutionary moment.

Shanna Farrell, The Oral History Center, UC Berkeley, San Francisco, CA; Maria D. Quintero, JFK Library Foundation/JFK Presidential Library and Museum, Brockton, MA; Amanda Tewes, Saint Mary's College of California, Walnut Creek, CA

Urgent Legal Issues for the Public History Practitioner

Lightning Round

Public historians are increasingly on the front lines of federal and state legal battles that will determine which places, stories, and ancestors survive this Semiquincentennial moment and beyond. This lightning round spotlights five urgent legal flashpoints and calls to action that demand practitioners' attention and action.

Ellen Chapman, Cultural Heritage Partners, Richmond, VA; J.P. Hall, Ball State University, Muncie, IN; Mary Okin, The Living New Deal Project, Berkeley, CA; Katherine Sorrell, Cultural Heritage Partners, Richmond, VA; Marion Werkheiser, Cultural Heritage Partners, Richmond, VA

Utilizing Historic Sites for Trades Training Roundtable

Historic sites face real and compounding challenges caused by a shortage of skilled tradespeople and deferred maintenance projects. Join the Campaign for Historic Trades' experts to learn how historic sites have successfully hosted trades training programs to address these challenges, promote their properties, and protect their resources.

Janina Peppers, The Student Conservation Association, Inc., Arlington, VA; Kelly Pratt, Preservation Maryland's Campaign for Historic Trades, Baltimore, MD; Jordan Riggs, Preservation Maryland's Campaign for Historic Trades, Baltimore, MD; Andrew Rowand, Eric Sloane Museum & Kent Iron Furnace, Kent, CT; Kris Turgeon, Newport Restoration Foundation, Newport, RI

6:30-8 pm

PUBLIC PLENARY

See page 15 for more information.

8-11 pm

Justice for All: AASLH and NCPH After Hours

Cost: Free, Preregistration Not Required

See page 23 for more information.



Register online! [Click here.](#)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8–9:30 am

NCPH Awards Breakfast

Cost: \$40, Preregistration Required

Join us to celebrate the best in public history! There will be ample time to chat during breakfast before awards are presented for some of the most innovative work and admirable accomplishments in the profession today. The awards event is open to all conference registrants, although this ticket is required for the breakfast meal. Attendees without tickets will be admitted after the meal has begun and will be welcome to sit in the designated seating provided. *Organized by the National Council on Public History.*

9–10:15 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

¡Aquí Estamos! Revolutionizing the Record through Community Collaboration

Nuts and Bolts

Participants will leave this session with a practical action plan to build an active, mutually beneficial, and sustainable partnership with an underrepresented group in their community, guided by the experience of the archivists and the faculty of the Chicana/o and Latinx Studies department at the University of Northern Colorado.

Jonathan Alcántar, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO; Kate Okayasu, University of Northern Colorado, Archives and Special Collections, Greeley, CO; Jay Trask, University of Northern Colorado, Archives and Special Collections, Greeley, CO

America's Next 250: The Work of Civic Renewal

Experiential

Building on the momentum of 2026, this hands-on session explores how museums can sustain civic renewal using the *America's Next 250: What's Next, America?* program. Participants will experience mini deliberations and Talk-to-Action planning, learn from practitioner examples, and leave with adaptable tools for exhibitions, programs, and community partnerships.

Cristin Brawner, National Issues Forums Institute, Miamisburg, OH; Scotty Kirkland, David Mathews Center for Civic Life, Montevallo, AL; Abby Pfisterer, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI; Mark Wilson, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Applied and Academic Public Historians Collaborating in Crisis

Roundtable

Heightened scrutiny from the government and public has caused reductions in staff and funding for public history sites and projects. Both applied and academic practitioners have been affected. Rather than choosing sides or placing

value-judgements on whose problems are worse, this session brings presenters together to analyze both sides of the field, past and present.

Hannah Lahti, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, NE; Aaron Noble, New York State Museum, Albany, NY; Paul Ringel, High Point University, Greensboro, NC; Alaina Scapicchio, University of South Florida, Orlando, FL

Can Memory Build a Movement?

Roundtable

Can memory fuel movements? How do communities transform remembrance into resistance in this moment of profound change? Drawing on the work of the Japanese American National Museum, Michigan State University Museum, and International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, presenters will examine how collective memory—especially memory rooted in struggle, resilience, and resistance—can be harnessed as a force for movement-building, civic engagement, and democratic renewal.

Ann Burroughs, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Ereshnee Naidu, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, New York, NY

Doing Revolutionary Public History in Rural Communities

Roundtable

Drawing from the experiences of four public historians who live and work in rural Nebraska, this roundtable conversation considers practical strategies for public historians seeking to engage in the revolutionary work of public history with and in rural communities, museums, and historical societies.

Broc Anderson, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, NE; Autumn Langemeier, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, NE; Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, Legacy of the Plains Museum, Kearney, NE; William Stoutamire, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, NE

Colonial Newport Colony House



SHANNON HAMMOND, NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

9–10:15 am CONTINUED

History Workers, the Media, and the Public

Experiential

Whether showing how to interact with others, demonstrating new norms, or just impacting self esteem, media representation is more important than ever. This session will explore media portrayals of heritage, history work, and workers and consider how we, as those workers, can use media depictions of our profession and our work to address meaningful issues with the public.

Jessica BrodeFrank, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL; Rebekah Bryer, Amine College of Art and Design, Portland, ME; Sierra Van Ryck deGroot, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Jersey City, NJ; Lacey Wilson, Underground Railroad Education Center, Albany, NY

Interpreting Slavery Through the Archives

Experiential

How do museums interpret enslaved lives when physical evidence is scarce or nonexistent? As institutions confront long-standing gaps in their collections, revolutionary work lies in rebuilding narratives. This experiential session will guide participants in transforming archival documentation into interpretive practice, modeling how museums can lead a revolution in inclusive storytelling.

Elizabeth Allan, Morven Museum & Garden, Princeton, NJ; Sharece Blakney, Morven Museum & Garden, Princeton, NJ; Greer Luce, Morven Museum & Garden, Princeton, NJ; Jesse Gordon Simons, Morven Museum & Garden, Princeton, NJ

New Strategies for Program Development in Museum Education

Nuts and Bolts

In this session, presenters will demonstrate a new strategy for program development in museum education. The community-centered approach employs a matrix that encourages public historians to focus on learning outcomes and big ideas as much as on specific historical people, places, and events.

Starleisha Gingrich, LancasterHistory, Lancaster, PA; Mabel Rosenheck, LancasterHistory, Lancaster, PA

Reckoning with Urban Renewal: Interpreting Displacement and Redevelopment

Roundtable

This roundtable examines the complex legacies of urban renewal through diverse public history methods, including oral histories, National Register nominations, museum exhibits, and digital humanities. Presenters explore erased neighborhoods, institutional complicity, and the difficulties of documenting, interpreting, and preserving these histories, illuminating how communities confront and reinterpret mid-century planning's lasting impacts.

Marisa Brown, Providence Preservation Society, Providence, RI; Jane-Coleman Cottone, AECOM and Cottone Cultural Consulting, Nashville, TN;

Gwen Moore, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO; Adam Susaneck, AECOM, The Hague, Netherlands

Things We're Afraid to Say Out Loud

Nuts and Bolts

Public historians often have innovative ideas but fear political backlash, mistakes, donor displeasure, and appearing unprofessional, which restricts from revolutionary thinking. This session helps participants identify these fears, understand their origins, and turn a "risky" idea into a practical, ethical action plan aligned with their mission.

Rozanna Bennett, City of Tyler, Tyler Public Library, Tyler, TX; Mary Foster, City of Allen-Parks and Recreation Department, Allen Heritage Village, Allen, TX

9 am–5 pm

FULL DAY WORKSHOP

Employing Cultural Competency When Interacting with Disparate Communities

Cost: \$45, Preregistration Required

Cultural competency facilitates the ability to function with awareness, knowledge, and interpersonal skill when engaging people of different experiences and worldviews. Participants will be guided to examine personal perceptions and introduced to strategies to employ skills when interacting with disparate communities, e.g. workforces, visitors, and stakeholders. Lunch is not included.

Helen Wong Smith, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

9:30–11:30 am

LEARNING LAB

Reflecting Together: Place-Based Prompts and Poetry "Walkshop"

Cost: \$20, Preregistration Required

This experiential "walkshop" led by the Center for Reflective History immerses participants in a place-based, artist-facilitated exploration of revolutionary legacies, past and present. Through poetry, site interpretation, and participatory dialogue, participants will practice reflective history, asking: whose voices were amplified, whose were silenced, and how do those dynamics persist today?

Stephanie Fortunato, Center for Reflective History, Providence, RI; Charlotte Abotsi, Poet, Providence, RI; Traci Picard, Center for Reflective History, Providence, RI; Sussy Santana, Poet, Providence, RI; Chrysanthemum Tran, Poet, Providence, RI

10:15–10:45 am

Break in Foyer

10:45 am–12 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2027 AASLH Annual Conference

Roundtable

Roundtable

Join members of the 2027 AASLH Annual Conference Program Committee to kick off the planning for next year's conference in Madison, WI. This is a time to reflect on next year's theme and share ideas for sessions and other programming with the Program and Host Chairs.

Brigette Jones, Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, Stonecrest, GA; Bethany L. Hawkins, CAE, AASLH, Nashville, TN; Christian W. Overland, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI; Lance Wheeler, The Wright, Detroit, MI

Before 1776 there was 1636: Revolutionary Authentic Teaching

Roundtable

A team in Rhode Island is engaging the public about America's complex and revolutionary ideas. Provocative interpretation requires a solid academic foundation that benefits from partnerships among subject matter experts. This team will demonstrate authentic learning instructional techniques and deconstruct them in a roundtable format. Participants will be able to conceptualize interpretive techniques that can create exciting and meaningful experiences they can take back to their sites.

Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI; John McNiff, Retired Park Ranger, Providence, RI; Daniel Perkins, Old Sturbridge Village, Bellingham, MA; Andrew Schnetzer, Roger Williams National Memorial, National Park Service, Providence, RI

Building the Rhode Island News Media Archive

Community Viewpoints

In an era of media conglomerates and paywalls, creating a publicly-accessible news archive is a radical act. This session takes attendees behind the scenes of the Rhode Island News Media Archive's first year, exploring how to build a community facing archive with input from donors and users, reclaim stories from corporate control, and preserve collective memory.

Steve Ahlquist, SteveAhlquist.news, Providence, RI; Becca Bender, Rhode Island News Media Archive, Providence, RI; Marta Martinez, Rhode Island Latino Arts, Providence, RI; Ted Nesi, WPRI Channel 12, East Providence, RI; Rai Terry, Multimedia Artist and Archivist, Providence, RI

Engaging the Public with Challenging History

Experiential

This session is designed to provide attendees with the tools they need to deliver challenging content such as the history of colonization or enslavement to their constituent audiences with confidence and mindful understanding. In a

series of hands-on activities designed to model innovative, participatory practices in historical recovery, attendees will discover tools they need to deliver content that challenges audience and visitor comfort with confidence and mindful understanding.

Julia Butterfield, Historic Hudson Valley, Tarrytown, NY; Nicole Wallace, Historic Hudson Valley, Tarrytown, NY; Meadow Dibble, Atlantic Black Box, Portland, ME

From Regulation to Relevance: Historic Preservation's Inflection Point

Roundtable

Historic preservation faces climate change impact, technological shifts, calls for regulation reform, and changing public expectations. Museums and historic sites confront similar turbulence, alongside declining engagement. This roundtable explores whether preservation can—and should—endure, and what a future model might be as the field reaches a critical crossroads.

Michael Allen, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV; Carissa Demore, Historic New England, Haverhill, MA; Aaron Marcavitch, Town of Enfield, Enfield, CT; Wendy Soltz, Ball State University, Muncie, IN; Melissa Wyllie, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, FL

More Than a Field Trip: Interactive Experiences Sparking Investigation

Roundtable

How do we move beyond scripted tours to create revolutionary learning experiences? Museum professionals and a history teacher will address best practices for creating engaging field trips for today's students, as well as challenges that will potentially reshape the landscape of school trips for the next fifty years.

Rachel Alwine, Fairfield Foundation, Gloucester, VA; Mason Farr, National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Columbus, OH; Andrea Field, Naper Settlement, Naperville, IL; Jessica Toran, Naper Settlement, Naperville, IL; Dawn Welch, Frontier STEM Academy/Mansfield ISD, Mansfield, TX

Old Dog, New Tricks: Futureproofing with Gen Z

Roundtable

Futureproofing is a necessity for museums as each generation provides fresh expectations and challenges. In this session, hear from Gen Z professionals in the field representing different geographic regions, audiences, missions, and roles to discuss how to implement change sustainably to meet the needs of new generations.

Camryn Bembry, Conner Prairie Museum, Fishers, IN; Sarah Fling, White House Historical Association, Washington, DC; Taylor Fouts, San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum, San Antonio, TX; Ryan Shank, Conner Prairie Museum, Fishers, IN

10:45 am–12 pm CONTINUED

The People's Pages: Archiving Civil Rights Cold Cases

Roundtable

The Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board is a small federal agency tasked with releasing government-held records of unresolved cold cases from the civil rights era 1940–1979. Drawing from released cases in the National Archives, the roundtable will discuss identifying, processing, researching, and releasing cases for the public.

Nicole Navarro, Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, Washington, DC; Irene Newman, Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, Washington, DC; Emily Norweg, Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, Washington, DC

Real World Reparations

Roundtable

What can reparations look like in the real world? What can history organizations do to share in this reparative work? Join a roundtable discussion with Indigenous and non-Indigenous public humanities professionals that explores the successes and challenges of three ongoing reparation efforts involving Native land, collaborative histories, and archival justice.

Brad Lopes, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, Aquinnah, MA; Marjory O'Toole, Little Compton Historical Society, Little Compton, RI; Paula Peters, Native Land Conservancy, Mashpee, MA; Kimberly Toney, Brown University, Providence, RI

Revolution by Design: Teen+Museum Co-Design Lab

Experiential

In this hands-on co-design lab, youth leaders will guide participants through the *Youth250 Teen Toolkit* to prototype teen-centered offerings. Attendees will “do history” alongside teens, practicing collaboration, agency, and civic imagination to spark revolutionary change in their institutions.

Caroline Kliibanoff, Made by Us, Winston Salem, NC; Fernande Raine, History Co:Lab, Milton, MA

1–4 pm

LEARNING LABS

Avi's Something Upstairs Walking Tour

Cost: \$20, Preregistration Required

Step back in time and explore the streets of Providence through the lens of the book *Something Upstairs* by Avi. This work of historical fantasy has captivated young readers for three decades with its blend of time travel, ghosts, facts, and fiction. Join the team of the John Brown House Museum to walk the same streets as the characters Kenny and Caleb, visit the waterfront, and see the very house in which the story is set. Guests will learn about life in 1800, Rhode Island's involvement in the slave trade, and explore questions about the utility of historical fiction and fantasy in school programs to engage and excite often disinterested learners.

Reinterpreting the John Brown House Museum

Cost: \$20, Preregistration Required

In the 1970s, this spectacular 18th-century mansion was transformed into a house museum to help mark the nation's bicentennial. A unique combination of family objects and records meant a broad story of the Brown family could be told. But, in the 21st century, like at many other house museums around the country, our audiences were looking for something new, and the lack of a state museum in RI meant that we had more stories to tell than a house museum could hold. Join the team at the John Brown House Museum of Rhode Island Historical Society to learn about their new approach to sharing the story of Rhode Island and the world until 1850. The staff focused on research from scholars who utilized their collections or have written histories upon which our collections can shed further light for their study, creating adaptations of their scholarly work, with interpretation put into conversation with objects and archival material. Their goal is for visitors to learn from Rhode Island's fascinating history, but also to see how historians do their work and leave inspired to learn more, to visit more museums, to make connections, and explore the vastness of our history.

1–5 pm

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Graphic Design 101: Theory and Practice for Public Historians

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

This workshop teaches participants the fundamentals of graphic design to create visual communications used by public historians. We'll start with an overview of theory to develop a familiarity with the building blocks of design and then practice putting these ideas together in typography, color, and style.

Eleanor Carter, Loyola University, Chicago, IL

Making the Past Speak: Makerspaces and Historic Craft in Public History

Cost: \$25, Preregistration Required

This workshop uses hands-on historical making to explore how craft preserves the often-unheard voices embedded in intangible cultural heritage. Drawing from Betz's book, *Making History*, participants examine how makerspaces can spark small-scale revolutions in museums—empowering communities, elevating marginalized traditions, and redefining how public historians support self-determination and cultural resilience. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Tim Betz, Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, Breinigsville, PA

SPECIAL THANKS

AASLH and NCPH would like to recognize the many volunteers who contributed their valuable time, energy, and expertise to the success of this year's conference. Thank you!

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This year session proposals were reviewed in a two-round process. We would like to thank the volunteers who participated in the first round of reviews.

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AASLH would like to thank our Legacy Society members who have generously decided to include AASLH in their estate planning to help leave a lasting legacy for the history community. If you would like to know more about the AASLH Legacy Society or if you are interested in joining, please contact John Dichtl at dichtl@aaslh.org.

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COME EARLY, STAY LATE



Southeast Lighthouse on Block Island



Castle Hill Lighthouse

There is so much to see and do in the Providence area that we couldn't fit it all into the program. September is a beautiful time to visit. Here are some suggestions for things to do if you want to spend some extra time in the Rhode Island/New England area before or after the conference.

Special Treats in Providence the Week of the Conference

- **RI Seafood Festival** (\$, September 12–13): This annual event brings the best local seafood restaurants along with Ocean State beer, wine, and spirits to India Point Park.
- **Starts at Sunset** (Free, September 17): While Providence's famous WaterFire will not take place during the conference, they are doing a Starts at Sunset lighting on the Van Leesten Pedestrian Bridge where they light five braziers and offer live entertainment.
- **PVDFest** (Free, September 18–19): Providence's signature outdoor arts festival, featuring world-class performances, cutting-edge art, savory food options, and more.

Historic Sites and Museums

- While there are tours going to Newport, we cannot cover all the **Gilded Age mansions** in one visit. Spend the day at The Breakers, Marble House, or Rosecliff along with time on the Newport Cliff Walk.
- **Blithewold Manor** is a 33-acre summer estate with grand views of Narragansett Bay and is nationally significant in American history as one of the most fully developed and authentic examples of the Country Place Era.

- **Lighthouses**: Take a drive along the coast to see Conanicut Island Lighthouse, Rose Island Lighthouse, Castle Hill Lighthouse, Point Judith Lighthouse, and Southeast Lighthouse on Block Island.
- With a collection of more than 100,000 objects, ranging from ancient times to the present, the **RISD Museum** is a dynamic cultural center offering critically acclaimed exhibitions and lively public programs for all ages. It is open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, with free admission from 5–8 p.m. Admission is also free on Sundays.
- **African American Museum of Rhode Island** opened in April 2026 and is the first museum in Rhode Island dedicated specifically to honoring and preserving Black history.

Food and Drink

- **Eat at a diner.** A culinary institution, the diner was first started in Rhode Island in 1872 when Walter Scott first sold food out of a horse-pulled wagon outside the *Providence Journal*.
- Historic Clam Shacks: Visit **Iggy's Doughboys & Chowder House** (Warwick/Narragansett) or **Aunt Carrie's** (Narragansett) for authentic RI clam cakes, chowder, and clam bakes.



Marble House

- Visit **Dune Brothers** in Providence for a casual, local seafood shack experience, or check out their Fish Market.
- **Dine on Federal Hill**, Providence's authentic Little Italy neighborhood. Largely settled by Italian-American immigrants in the early 1900s, it offers world-class Italian dining.

Shopping

- Built in 1828, **Arcade Providence** is the nation's oldest indoor shopping mall. Located in downtown, the Arcade features 17 unique retail shops and 3 restaurants.
- The **Providence Flea** is an award-winning vintage and artisan/maker market with 80+ local vendors along the river in 195 District Park across from 225 Dyer St, outdoors in downtown Providence, every Sunday from June through October (11a-3p).
- History people love a **great independent bookstore**. Providence boasts several including Books on the Square, Paper Nautilus, Riffraff Bookstore + Bar, Symposium Books, and Weird Providence.

New England

Within about an hour's drive (or short train ride), you can visit some of New England iconic cities and towns including Boston, Plymouth, Hartford, or just drive along the sea coast with its beautiful scenery and towns begging to be explored.



RISD Museum





HOTEL AND TRAVEL

Conference Location

Rhode Island Convention Center

1 Sabin Street, Providence, RI 02903
 All concurrent sessions, Thursday Keynote, exhibit hall, and meal functions will be located in the convention center. Friday night's Public Plenary will be held at the First Baptist Church in America, 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02903.

Headquarter Hotels

The links below will allow you to book rooms in our blocks at the conference rate. Reservations must be made by August 21 to receive the conference rate. The room blocks may sell out before August 21, so make reservations early.

The Omni Providence Hotel

1 W Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02903
 Conference Rates: Single/Double Rate: \$219/night;
 Triple Rate: \$249/night; Quad Rate: \$279/night

Graduate Providence (a Hilton property)

11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI 02903
 Conference Rates: 1 bed: \$209/night; 2 beds: \$229/night

Courtyard by Marriott Providence Downtown

32 Exchange Terrace at Memorial Blvd, Providence, RI 02903
 Conference Rate: \$215/night (1 or 2 beds)

Transportation to and From Providence

Rhode Island is easy to reach from air, rail, or highway. The conference hotels are a 15–20 minute drive (10 miles) from T.F. Green International Airport in Providence (voted #1 Domestic Airport by *Travel and Leisure* in 2025). There are several ways to get to the hotels from the airport including bus, train, ride shares, and taxi.

Public Transportation

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) offers low-cost bus service throughout Rhode Island. From the Roger Williams Park Zoo to dining on Federal Hill to shopping on Thayer Street and more, you can get there on RIPTA's buses and trolleys. Buy a \$6 day pass on board for unlimited, statewide travel or pay just \$2 per ride. For specific routes and more information, visit RIPTA.com.

Amtrak

Providence is conveniently located on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor route, which runs from Boston to Washington, D.C. and back. High-speed Acela service easily transports passengers from New York City to Providence in

about two hours and 30 minutes. The Providence train station is located at 100 Gaspee Street, in the heart of the downtown area. For tickets call 1-800-USA-RAIL or visit amtrak.com.

MBTA

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) runs low-cost, round-trip rail service from Boston to downtown Providence and to Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport in Warwick.

Accessible Service Options

- The **Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA)** operates a fleet of fully accessible buses. Their buses and trolleys are equipped with the capability to kneel or lower to make boarding easier. Each bus has two spaces at the front for passengers in wheelchairs, which include safety belts for extra protection. To find out more about **RIPTA's accessibility**, [click here](#).
- **Wheelchair Getaways** is a national franchise that services Rhode Island with wheelchair accessible rental vans. These vans are available to rent for tours around Rhode Island.
- If you are looking to take a taxi, check out Rhode Island's wheelchair accessible taxi services at [Accessible RI](#).

Rideshares

Uber and Lyft both service the Providence area.

On-Airport Services

- **Executive Transportation** @ Baggage Claims 3 & 4
- zTrip taxis & private ride services at Ground Transport East on the Baggage Claim level.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All attendees, speakers, and exhibitors must register for the Joint Conference. Registration for the AASLH and NCPH Joint Conference will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center. When you receive your registration materials, please consult the Program Update or Conference App for the location of each activity you plan to attend.

Membership and Nonmember

While nonmembers may attend the conference, you are encouraged to become a member or renew your membership with AASLH and/or NCPH before you register for the Joint Conference. You can purchase membership or renew on either organization's website. You cannot join or renew while registering for the conference.

Scholarship Opportunities

There are three opportunities for scholarships to attend the AASLH/NCPH Joint Conference. Applications are due **June 12, 2026**.

Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko Memorial Scholarship

Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko will be best remembered because she used her power to change lives, inspire movements, and challenge the status quo for the better. In memory of Cinnamon and her generational impact on museums, historic sites, and public history, AASLH has created a special scholarship in her name to advance her legacy of transformational change across the museum community. The fund will provide one \$1,000 scholarship for the conference which includes a full conference registration. The remainder of funds can be used for ticketed events or travel costs. Eligible applicants include those working in small museums, as either full-time or part-time paid or volunteer employees and who are institutional or individual members of AASLH; and Indigenous persons and those employed as staff members with a tribal organization, program, or collection.

Douglas Evelyn Diversity Fellowship

The Douglas Evelyn Diversity Fellowship is named in honor of Douglas Evelyn, AASLH president from 1992–1994, and recognizes Evelyn's strong support of AASLH's professional development mission. A primary objective of the Douglas Evelyn Diversity Fellowship is to increase culturally diverse participation at the AASLH Annual Conference and in all the association's programs. The scholarship covers full registration and \$750 travel stipend. Ticketed events with an extra fee are not included in the scholarship but can be covered with a portion of the travel stipend. AASLH will offer up to five full conference scholarships for culturally diverse attendees.

Small Museum Scholarship

AASLH's Small Museums Committee offers scholarships to any AASLH members who are full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small museums. The

\$850 scholarship will cover the cost of registration. Any remaining funds can be used to offset travel and/or lodging expenses. To qualify, the applicant must work for a museum with a budget of \$250,000 or less and either be an individual member of AASLH or work for an institutional member.

Registration Deadlines

Early Bird Registration—August 3, 2026

Preregistration Deadline—August 21, 2026

If you are unable to register by mail before the preregistration deadline (August 21), plan to register on-site at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Registrations received after August 21 will be taken to the conference and treated as on-site registrations.

One-Day Tickets and On-Site Registrations

One-day tickets are valid only for the day of issue for program sessions, general sessions, coffee breaks, and admission to the exhibit hall. On-site registration will be available.

Student Volunteers

AASLH and NCPH are seeking student volunteers! In exchange for four hours of service at the joint conference, each student volunteer will receive a complimentary student registration and will be invited to book a reduced-rate student room at one of the three nearby conference hotels (subject to availability). Volunteers will help with wayfinding, tours, special events, session counts, and answering attendee questions. Student volunteers must be enrolled students as of September 2026, a student member of either AASLH or NCPH, and at least 21 years of age at the conference. To apply for a student volunteer slot, please fill out the form at naph.org/conference/volunteer-application and let us know your availability, since you will not be able to attend conference events while working your shift. Questions? Email NCPH Program Manager Meghan Hillman at meghillm@iu.edu.

Special Events, Workshops, and Learning Labs

Tickets are available in advance and require preregistration. AASLH and NCPH reserve the right to cancel workshops, labs, and special events if minimum numbers are not met. Refunds will be made after the meeting for any canceled event.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTINUED

Program Updates

Attendees will receive a program update at the registration desk with any program or activity changes. The update will list meeting room locations for all sessions and activities. In addition, there will be offering a free conference app to keep attendees informed of any updates or changes. AASLH and NCPH reserve the right to make changes in programming as necessary.

Accessibility

AASLH and NCPH are committed to providing access to all individuals attending the Joint Conference. Please mark the appropriate box on the registration form if you have special needs that require our consideration. Send your request to meghillm@iu.edu no later than August 3 so that we have adequate time to prepare for your accommodations.

Cancellation/Refunds

All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations post-marked on or before August 21 will be subject to a \$55 processing charge on the cancelled registration fee and a 50% cancellation fee on all special events, including workshops. No refunds for registration, workshops, and special events will be made after August 21. AASLH and NCPH are not responsible for cancellations that were mailed or emailed but never received. If you do not receive confirmation from AASLH within two weeks, please contact the AASLH office at 615-320-3203 or membership@aaslh.org.

Waiver and Photo Release

By submitting a registration for the AASLH and NCPH Joint Conference, you authorize AASLH and NCPH to use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to you—including your image, likeness, and/or voice without compensation. AASLH and NCPH may use this material in various publications, recruitment materials, or for other related endeavors in print and online, including the AASLH and NCPH websites and email correspondence. You also agree that you are not aware of health or medical conditions preventing your safe participation in the activities for which you register, and release and discharge AASLH, NCPH, their respective affiliates and subsidiaries, as well as any event sponsor, jointly and severally, from any and all liability, damages, costs (including attorney fees), actions or causes of action related to or arising from or out of your participation in or preparation of any of the events for which you register.

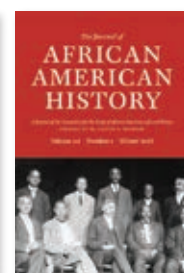
Meeting Safety & Responsibility Policy

AASLH and NCPH are committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants and AASLH and NCPH staff. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, AASLH and NCPH staff, service providers, and others are expected to abide by this Meeting Safety & Responsibility Policy. This Policy applies to all AASLH and NCPH meeting-related events, including those sponsored by organizations other than AASLH and NCPH but held in conjunction with AASLH and NCPH reserve events, in public or private facilities. See aaslh.org/annualconference/2026-annual-conference for the complete statement.

Register online!
Click here.

PUBLIC HISTORY

FROM CHICAGO JOURNALS



American Political Thought

Critical Historical Studies

Environmental History

The Journal of African American History

The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs:
An Interdisciplinary Journal

Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society

Transforming Anthropology

journals.uchicago.edu/history

REGISTRATION FORM PAGE 1 OF 2



We will produce the conference participant list and your name badge directly from this form. Please type or print legibly. All correspondence and written confirmations will be sent to the address below.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

AASLH Member Number _____ **First-time Attendee** Yes No **NCPH Member** Yes No

Would you like to appear in the Attendee List? (name, organization, city, state) Yes No

How would you like to be contacted by conference sponsors? Email Mail Do not contact me

I agree to the Joint Conference policies listed at aaslh.org/annualconference and ncph.org/conference/2026-annual-meeting.

Be sure to fax/mail BOTH pages of the registration form.

Do not mail registration forms or payment after **August 21**.

If payment has not been received by **August 21** you will be responsible for payment at the registration desk. Check your registration forms carefully. An incomplete form could delay your registration.

To become an AASLH member, visit aaslh.org/membership.

To become a NCPH member, visit ncph.org/about/join.

Register Online at aaslh.org/annualconference			
Full Conference Rate	Early Bird Rate by August 3	Preregistration by August 21	Onsite Rate
<input type="checkbox"/> AASLH or NCPH member	\$ 395	\$ 474	\$ 525
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonmember	\$ 453	\$ 565	\$ 615
<input type="checkbox"/> Staff of Partner Level Members	\$ 395	\$ 395	\$ 395
<input type="checkbox"/> AASLH or NCPH Student or Subsidized Member	\$ 195	\$ 195	\$ 195
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Volunteer Part-time students who are employed full-time do not qualify for the student rate.	Free	Free	Free
Daily Rate	Early Bird Rate by August 3	Preregistration by August 21	Onsite Rate
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day: AASLH or NCPH Member	\$ 224	\$ 250	\$ 271
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day: Nonmember	\$ 285	\$ 322	\$ 372
Circle the day: Wed, Sept 16 Thur, Sept 17 Fri, Sept 18 Sat, Sept 19			

Accessibility *Please check any special accommodations you may need during the conference.*

I will need the following accommodations in order to participate:

Assistive listening device Captioning Large print ASL Interpreter Reserved front row seat

Advance copy of slides to be projected Scent-free room Lactation room Gender neutral bathroom

Wheelchair access Wheelchair access to working tables throughout room Accessible transportation to offsite events

Diet Restrictions List: _____

Other Notes: _____

REGISTRATION FORM

THESE EVENTS REQUIRE PREREGISTRATION

Wednesday, September 16		Quantity	Cost	Total
Tours	Boston's Freedom Trail		\$78	
	Newport's Gilded Age		\$90	
	A Day in New Bedford: Then & Now		\$94	
	Myth and Memory at the Eustis Estate		\$45	
	Library Crawl of Providence		\$25	
Workshops	Check One: <input type="radio"/> From Resource to Resonance: Creating Impactful Visitor Experiences <input type="radio"/> Kick Start Your Disaster Planning		\$45	
	Field Services Alliance Meeting		FREE	
	Public History at the Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice		\$45	
	Check One: <input type="radio"/> Consulting in a Changing Landscape <input type="radio"/> Speak Up for History: Proactive Local Advocacy		\$45	
Labs	Check One: <input type="radio"/> Creating Strong Digital-First Content <input type="radio"/> Doing Oral History <input type="radio"/> Revolutionary Conversations		\$25	
	Check One: <input type="radio"/> Arboretums as Educational Institutions in Bristol <input type="radio"/> Building Resiliency in a Coastal Historic Landscape		\$45	
	New Professional and Student Social		\$15	
	History Leadership Institute Reception		FREE	
	Evening Event: Progressive Providence		\$58	

Thursday, September 17		Quantity	Cost	Total
	New Member Breakfast		\$15	
	First-time Attendee Networking Reception		FREE	
Tours	Affinity Group Luncheons (check one): <input type="radio"/> Climate and Sustainability <input type="radio"/> Historic House Museums <input type="radio"/> Small Museums		\$48	
	Providence Rhode Tour Run		\$12	
	Check One: <input type="radio"/> Black History on Providence's East Side Walking Tour <input type="radio"/> Roots of Revolution Walking Tour		\$28	
	Check One: <input type="radio"/> The Tomaquag Museum <input type="radio"/> The Revolution in Rural Rhode Island		\$35	
	Revolutions in Survival: Jewish and AAPI Histories of Resistance and Cultural Preservation		\$29	
	Speed Networking (for students and new professionals)		FREE	
	The Consultants' Speakeasy		FREE	
	Evening Event: Constitution Day at the Capitol		\$45	

Friday, September 18		Quantity	Cost	Total
Tours	Women's History Affinity Group Breakfast		\$40	
	Public History Educators' Forum		\$40	
	Mary Williams, Making History in Providence		\$26	
	American Cemetery Design through North Burial Ground and Swan Point		\$29	
	Barrio South Providence		\$28	
	AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards Presentation and Luncheon		\$30	

Saturday, September 19		Quantity	Cost	Total
Tours	NCPH Awards Breakfast		\$40	
	Check One: <input type="radio"/> New England Industrial History <input type="radio"/> Colonial Newport Uncovered		\$119	
	Northern Urban Enslavement in Bristol		\$50	
Wkshp/Lab	Employing Cultural Competency When Interacting with Disparate Communities		\$45	
	Reflecting Together: Place-Based Prompts and Poetry "Walkshop"		\$20	
	Check One: <input type="radio"/> Avi's Something Upstairs Walking Tour <input type="radio"/> Reinterpreting the John Brown House Museum		\$20	
	Check One: <input type="radio"/> Graphic Design 101: Theory and Practice for Public Historians <input type="radio"/> Making the Past Speak: Makerspaces and Historic Craft in Public History		\$25	

All registrations must be prepaid by check or credit card. Send completed Registration Form (both page 1 and page 2) with payment by:
Online – Registrations can be submitted through the Pheedloop website. **Click here.**

Fax – You may fax your registration form with credit card information to 615-327-9013, 24 hours a day.

Mail – AASLH
Attention:
Joint Conference Registration
404 BNA Drive, Suite 105
Nashville, TN 37217

Confirmation – You will receive a registration confirmation from AASLH. If you do not receive confirmation from the AASLH office within one week of sending your registration, please contact our office.

AASLH is not responsible for registrations faxed or mailed and never received.

Be sure to fax/mail BOTH pages of the registration form. Do not mail registration forms or payment after **August 21**. If payment has not been received by **August 21** you will be responsible for payment at the registration desk. Check your registration forms carefully. An incomplete form could delay your registration.

Payment Information

Check # _____
(Payable to AASLH)

MC Visa AmEx Discover

Card # _____

Security Code _____

Exp Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Payment Enclosed

Registration Rates \$ _____
(from pg 1)

Special Event Fees \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____