

## A Decade of Dialogue at Sites of Conscience

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One morning ten years ago, I ran to my local bodega to grab as many Sunday *New York Times* as I could carry. The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience—a grand name for what was, at that point, an idea shared by nine people—was getting its first review as a serious venture. I was working at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, using the stories of families from 20 different nations who once lived and worked at 97 Orchard Street, to foster dialogue across difference on the immigration questions our visitors were grappling with today. We offered English classes, inviting new immigrants to compare their experiences with those of their historic counterparts. We hosted “Kitchen Conversations”, public dialogues on topics like, “Who is American?” and “What does it mean to be a citizen?” Our community didn’t find this unusual; but our colleagues were deeply skeptical. Should a history museum raise questions about the present? We felt very much alone.



Constitution Hill, South Africa. Courtesy of Oscar G.

The Museum’s President, Ruth Abram, asked me to find more museums who believed the answer was “yes.” I corralled a wildly divergent group of nine: human rights and democracy leaders who had harnessed memory for social action, like the Gulag Museum at Perm-36 in Russia and the District Six Museum in South Africa; and venerable heritage institutions like the US National Park Service and the British National Trust, who sought to become more relevant by helping citizens consider

current questions. Despite their differences, they emerged from their first meeting with a common vision for what they called “Sites of Conscience”: museums that would “assist the public in drawing connections between the history of our sites and its contemporary implications” and “stimulate dialogue on pressing social issues.” They hoped, as Ruth told the *Times*, to “change the role of historic sites from one of passive history-telling to places of citizen engagement.”

As I prepare to step down as director this fall, NCPH asked me to reflect on where the coalition has come since its founding. Rereading the article, what struck me was that the main challenge we faced then remains the focus of our activity today: to put the facile phrase, “stimulate dialogue on pressing social issues,” into practice. The *Times* noted that for many museums, “the idea of courting yet more controversy by poking into contemporary issues is not necessarily enticing.” Asked to comment on the Coalition, one museum director said, “I don’t think museums are the right sort of places to actually pump for a particular message.” This was never our intention. So why was our mission to raise questions so quickly equated with conflict or grandstanding? Why was dialogue at museums so difficult to imagine?

It wasn’t just that dialogue was unconventional in a museum. In hindsight, the problem was that it was unconventional anywhere. From the U.S. to Uruguay, few of us could conjure models of ordinary citizens having open, equitable exchange on sensitive subjects. So we were trying to make museums new spaces to both reflect and catalyze the different visions for democracy being nurtured in each of our contexts.

Some tapped forgotten dialogue traditions. At Constitution Hill in South Africa, the new Constitutional Court was constructed beside a restored apartheid-era prison. After hearing

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## Forum on Consulting

*The contributors to this forum present different viewpoints on challenges and opportunities that independent consultants face. Their essays developed out of a series of email exchanges between members of the NCPH Consultants Committee, the NCPH executive director, and a handful of consultants in cultural resource management (CRM). In the initial email discussions, some raised the question of whether or not a “fairness doctrine” could or should exist with regard to how work contracts are divided up among different kinds of consultants (e.g., independent, those employed in small or large firms, and those with an academic employment base). They further asked if—given the unique challenges of being a fully independent contractor—these qualified professionals face “institutional exclusion from opportunity” to ply their trade. All of the contributors to this forum offer creative suggestions about what public historians as individuals or NCPH as an organization might do about these matters.*

### Hugh Davidson

In recent correspondence with the NCPH Consultants Committee, an independent consulting historian testified to challenges faced by independent public history providers. In a message, the consultant offered commentary that resonated with me as a fellow westerner engaged in consulting since the mid-eighties. Now that I am safely ensconced in my current cultural resource management setting—and

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involving the audience as active participants or those that reflect collaborative partnerships and/or conversations among teachers, public historians, research scholars and history educators at all levels and in varied settings.

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All participants are required to register for the Annual Meeting.

All proposals must include the following information:

- complete mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, and affiliation for each participant
- abstract of no more than 500 words for the session as a whole
- prospectus of no more than 250 words for each presentation; and
- vita of no more than 500 words for each participant

Proposals should be submitted electronically to the OAH Proposal System beginning October 1, 2010. Complete session proposals most often include a chair, participants, and, if applicable, one or two commentators (chairs may double as commentators, and commentators may be omitted in order for the audience to serve in that role). Session membership should be limited by the need to include substantial time for audience questions and comments. The deadline for proposals is **February 1, 2011**.



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# Forum on Consulting (from page 1)

fortunate enough to dispense contract work—I do not want to forget my prior difficulties, which echoed several of my correspondent's frustrations.

At the end of the day it is relevant to ask, what does the NCPH do for qualified professionals outside the favored environs of established consulting firms or academic scholars-as-contractors? Perhaps the NCPH is not well positioned to help, but perhaps the organization can broach how institutionalized exclusion from public history opportunities can be allayed to some extent. My correspondent's message cited challenges posed to public historians in cultural resource management (CRM), which I would specifically like to address.



Jamestown, Virginia. Courtesy of Carrie Dowdy.

As CRM guru Thomas King pointedly asserts, the acronym is largely synonymous with “public archaeology” to most people. Of course most CRM work derives from government agency compliance with *comprehensive* national historic preservation law, state antiquity and preservation acts, and local preservation ordinances. Archaeology, history, and architectural history certainly all pertain in these instances, as does an interdisciplinary array of collated fields, such as cultural geography, folklife, and material culture studies, to name a few. Independent historians following this tack most often serve as an on-call or adjunct staff member brought on board by an avowedly archaeological firm compelled to add a historian under a specific contract. The biggest risk for the public historian in this context is when historic compliance work ends—e.g. all the sites, buildings, districts, or public works have been evaluated—a “last hired, first fired” approach certainly pertained among my sporadic sponsors.

Lacking even this adjunct status, public historians have to contend with a pervasive CRM-as-archaeology mindset. Back to the seventies, when CRM was at its nascent stage, public land administrators continually reiterated a CRM-as-archaeology perception. Facing compliance with

new national preservation mandates, federal agencies quickly hired contract archaeologists whose decades-long familiarity with contracting and regulatory compliance was established—a yawning gap in expertise that historians never successfully bridged. To further establish their CRM niche, archaeologists successfully projected their field's formidable technical/scientific apparatus as an “arcane” that could only be deployed by its own credentialed practitioners. To embrace historic resources, CRM's cadre of prehistoric archaeologists generally delved into secondary sources to contextualize the resources at hand, and referenced expansion of the capitalist world system to loosely interpret salvaged material culture. To this day public land managers perpetuate this “historical” approach in CRM: namely, over-dependent on century-old vanity biographies, no credible primary source analysis, ignoring vernacular architecture studies, and seldom broaching recent historical scholarship.

A partial leveling of the CRM playing field has occurred over the last quarter century, to include more versatile public historians and adept historical archaeologists into the CRM mix. One might expect a shift in the CRM-as-archaeology perspective in hiring as well. Sadly, except for sporadic National Park Service interdisciplinary postings, we find the CRM-as-archaeology attitude has been thoroughly institutionalized in personnel categorization among the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and state and local government agencies. Perhaps NCPH could find the means to ensure every federal CRM job announcement (or contract call) compels federal-state agencies to recruit qualified candidates beyond “Series 0193” (archaeologist), and conceivably offer up the full array of CRM opportunities to “Series 0170” (historian) as well?

Rebuffed by federal regulators as lacking “cultural resource manager” qualifications, independent public historians face another contract hurdle—that of the privileged scholar-as-contractor. My experience mimics that of my independent historian correspondent; as witness to how well-salaried tenured “scholar-contractors” effortlessly fell into plum public history contracts. Identifying historic resources, executing evaluative procedures to signify important sites, and preparing historic context statements for parks and public lands agencies should comprise part of every public historian's portfolio. Still, it was a bit maddening when visiting research centers to find a tenured professor—or a newly minted PhD benefitting from an advisor's largesse—enjoying the privilege of doing multi-volume studies for a newly-founded park unit.

It is not that these practitioners are not excellent scholars; they are, but the level of institutionalized support, from libraries to campus technology centers, and dependable salary and benefits, made public history less interpretable as a level playing field as I might have liked.

I freely admit to feeling strongly ambivalent about this particular conundrum, as the high quality work of scholar-contractors elevates performance standards in public history. Simultaneously, when I observed that competition for highly sought after contract work seemed minimal, and projects appeared virtually steered to established scholar-contractors, I confess I thought something was awry. This represents a ticklish issue, perhaps even a volatile one, for NCPH to engage. We take justifiable pride that we comprise a diverse membership that encompasses superior public-private-academic sector practitioners. Should we assume, however, that a conversation should not take place regarding what comprises fair competition among us?

*Hugh Davidson is an environmental program manager for the Maricopa County, Arizona, Department of Transportation. Hugh's primary charge is cultural resources management for the agency.*

## Anonymous

Maybe I'm just getting cranky in my old age, but there is one issue that still gets me riled up: archaeologists who double as historians. Now don't get me wrong—I like and respect archaeologists. I work with them frequently on a variety of CRM projects where I write the historical reports and they write the archaeological ones. Heck, some of my closest friends are archaeologists. But I don't like it when they take on historical projects by themselves.

In case you are unaware of this situation, it happens all the time. Archaeologists have become the all-purpose employee, the Leatherman of CRM. Need an ethnologist? historian? Just let the archaeologist do it all. This is true in private consulting firms as well as state and federal agencies. I routinely see archaeologists doing everything from recording historic buildings, to conducting oral histories, to writing historical reports. While some of this work is



Jamestown, Virginia. Courtesy of Carrie Dowdy.

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decent, some is quite poor, with inadequate research, incorrect information, and lack of historical context. (In fairness, I've seen a few historians turn out poor reports, too.) This can result in erroneous conclusions which in turn can have irreversible consequences for historic sites. The problems are compounded when such reports are reviewed and approved by archaeologists in state and federal agencies. In my state, for instance, there are no historians in the SHPO, Department of Transportation, or Forest Service.

This obviously takes work away from historians. More importantly, however, it diminishes the value of historians and their work. If people without a degree in history are acceptable as historians, then why did we go to all those classes? Why have we honed our research skills? Who will provide the wider historical context that is necessary to understand, evaluate, and interpret historic sites? If we can't justify our training and our work, then we may as well cede the CRM field to archaeologists. I believe that both professions provide valuable skills and insights, that we complement but cannot replace each other.

As I was exploring this and other issues in an email conversation with several of my colleagues, all of us independent historians not connected with any consulting firm or agency, a couple of other issues came up. Three people noted that they did not belong to the NCPH or other professional organizations, partially for monetary reasons. Those of us who are self-employed pay all of our own expenses to attend conferences, leading one of my colleagues to suggest that these professional groups, including NCPH, "cater to salary-paid academics or public sector historians, rather than those who are in the trenches." Another echoed this theme saying, "It's like the sponsored historians have soft white hands that haven't been hardened by work in the fields. My hands are rough and tough by comparison. People with rough hands find themselves somewhat lower on the status bar, for some reason."

This same person went on to say, "I didn't exactly resent my academic colleagues their sponsored travel and paid expenses. I do believe their ability to travel—while you and I do not—gives them great advantages in setting the agenda for the organization. The academic outlook is not exactly my outlook. I have never desired to write for an academic audience (although I would always want the respect of an academic audience). At a conference in Spokane . . . I heard the PhDs ream Steven Ambrose's work on Lewis and Clark for what I felt were the wrong reasons. Instead of analyzing how it was that he had an audience for history in the

millions of readers, they seemed to consider his wide audience a problem."

A final issue raised during our email exchange was what happens to the end-product of our work. My colleagues and I write many reports each year that fulfill the requirements of the contracting agency but never reach a wider audience. Instead, they sit on a shelf or in a file somewhere, rarely read even by other historians. One person wrote, "A lot of the information would be interesting to a local or statewide audience. As an independent contractor, I don't have the luxury of rewriting my work to fit the needs of a journal—I can't afford to take that time. More public dissemination of this information needs to be done."

In my experience, people are hungry to read about their local history. I would like to make our reports available to a wider audience, but we contractors do not have control over the disposition of our work. It belongs to the agency that hired us for the job. If our reports were available to a wider audience, perhaps working in conjunction with local and regional historical societies, they would expand the available written history of a region while raising the bar for those who write such histories. It could be a win-win result.

*The author of this contribution to the forum, "Anonymous," is an independent consultant who works in the western United States. We have concealed the author's identity to protect his/her business relationships with archaeologists and state and federal officials.*

## Rebecca Conard

Consultants are a constituency that remains persistently underserved by NCPH, although not for lack of repeated efforts to figure out what consultants want and need from the organization, and what, realistically, NCPH can provide.

"Institutionalized exclusion" inhibiting the freedom of independent consultants to pursue their work seems a rather harsh assessment. There are unlimited opportunities to "do" public history, but not all of them pay, or pay well. Part of the core problem is that society as a whole perceives history-making as something that anyone with some level of education can do, and this spills over into the hiring and operating practices of consulting firms that are geared toward providing architecture and engineering services. As a public history educator, I am constantly seeking opportunities that will give students real-world experience, and typically those opportunities are with public agencies or nonprofit organizations that cannot pay the full cost of a private consultant or may only be able to pay for supplies and materials.



Courtesy of Flickr User Cofrin Library.

As a consultant with two different private firms, experience taught, in both cases, not to bid on certain types of projects because independent consultants would likely underbid us. As I see it, there is not one market for public history; there are different markets, and public historians do, for the most part, have the freedom to choose which market they want to work in.

I also am not sure what a "fairness doctrine" would look like, or whether any such instrument would work in practice. People often gravitate to independent consulting for a time or as a career because they prefer being unfettered by organizational structures, regular work hours, or any number of things in an institutional setting that interrupt research and writing. Whenever a student says to me that he or she just wants to research and write history, my response is to seriously consider working for a consulting firm, at least for a stretch. The issue of "fairness" undoubtedly boils down to money: consulting rates, overhead rates, and benefits packages, and NCPH cannot tell independent consultants, consulting firms, or universities how to run their businesses. What NCPH can do is promote standards and ethics of professional practice across the field, which it does. What NCPH also can do, by opening up the conversation, is encourage a renewed effort to raise federal qualification standards for historians working on federally funded projects, which would be a step toward achieving parity with archaeologists. What NCPH might be able to do is function as a clearinghouse for independent consultants, similar to the way OAH works with the National Park Service, under formal agreement, to vet historians for various NPS contracts through a competitive bid process. This would require developing a higher level of organizational capacity than currently exists in NCPH, but it is not outside the realm of possibility.

*Rebecca Conard is Professor of History and Director of the Public History Program at Middle Tennessee State University. She also is a past president of NCPH and an associate of Tallgrass Historians L.C.*

## Lynn C. Kronzek

Though they spanned the 1970s, my undergrad years in history were analogous to the 1950s: between eras, waiting for something big to happen. NEPA was enacted a few years earlier,

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but “history as an alternate career” had yet to be conceived. None of my academic advisors told me I could do anything with my history degree, other than linger in school.

Meanwhile, my anthropologist friend was digging her way through college. I’m not sure she appreciated that her sweat equity would yield two career options and, as she advanced in her chosen path, she could leave the more earthy pursuits to either her undergraduates—or junior associates.

Archaeology is the most labor-intensive of all CRM fields. I always assumed that its practitioners had triumphed under NEPA because they controlled the human resources. Or maybe they just were visible, earlier: good, organized, grassroots lobbyists who saw opportunity outside of the academy. (The Society of Professional Archaeologists was founded in 1976, citing certification as a primary objective).

But labor intensity may be diminishing with new technologies, and as interdisciplinary professionals who enjoy taking a broad perspective, historians are possibly in the best position to identify *new issues* and *manage their exploration*. Rapid urban development was the siren for NEPA; the ensuing legislation achieved greater balance between economic growth and the preservation of cultural resources.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Although that need continues, we now find new situations—and motivations—for our work. During the Portland conference, I happened upon a thought-provoking workshop, “Care and Feeding of Declining Small Towns: The Role of Local History.” There are other historical-demographic phenomena awaiting documentation. How about second-wave suburbs (sometimes with strong planning/environmental ethics) or 1960s urban renewal projects begging for upgrades? From its Midwestern location at the geographic center of many recent changes, NCPH might engage its members in

either documenting these processes or helping local residents to do so. Organizationally, we could enter partnerships with state and local historical societies, related cultural institutions (museums), and government agencies—some-what along the lines of the OAH-National Park Service collaboration. Finances are undoubtedly scarce, but a combination of public education, resource development, and lobbying might work, even today.

And how can we reconfigure the CRM hierarchy? Again, the answer is to take a broader view. I was approached two months ago by an archaeologist who wanted to subcontract with me. What of his crews? Well, this gentleman traveled lightly—or at least quickly. He had abandoned pick-and-shovel methods for Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), magnetometry, resistivity, conductivity, geothermal imaging, and GIS. (GIS is familiar, but...). While these techniques are not yet widely accepted, he confided, a few government agencies have begun to appreciate their environmental non-invasiveness and the speed (and consequently, the cost-effectiveness) with which archaeological surveying now can be accomplished.

Information technologies also may be heading that way. I know we historians love wading through archives, but as online search engines, collections, and other aids proliferate in numbers and develop deeper layers, we might not have the time for our traditional “excavations.” In a recent bid, I included a savvy librarian to conduct research “on-call.” Her involvement, when necessary, would allow me to review materials more deliberatively and decide which substantive issues really were important. I’d also be able to spend a greater portion of my time editing, a function that would make our brochures increasingly accessible to the public.

By playing a central role in project/team development and facilitation, historians ultimately could ascend the CRM leadership ladder. Furthermore, in emphasizing our position as public historians, we can heighten popular interest, document major cultural and social changes, and generally strengthen our profession.

*Lynn C. Kronzek is principal of Lynn C. Kronzek & Associates, a historical consulting firm in Burbank, CA. She may be reached at [lkronzek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lkronzek@sbcglobal.net).*

## Janelle Warren-Findley

Things I learned about consulting: it’s a business that happens to be about historical research. How do I make contacts? I go to meetings. All

my retirement savings went to travel when I ran my consulting business because I went, not just to historical meetings but to archaeology conferences, AASLH, etc. anywhere that I thought I could make contacts who might give me work. It was an investment in my being able to do what I wanted to do. It paid off big time, too, and was tax-deductible.

Because it is a business, you have to decide what you are going to specialize in. There are things to know about the various kinds of work. The Department of Defense, NASA, and some of the science agencies of government pay pretty well, but you need to develop some expertise in the area you will be writing about. Cultural resource management (CRM) and historic preservation doesn’t pay well to anybody but the top experts in the field nationally. Policy studies pay pretty well but may compromise your principles, and that’s not a good thing. Legal work is lucrative but not necessarily fulfilling. But anything is probably better from a financial perspective than CRM and historic preservation where the main roles are already played by architects, planners, and archaeologists.

Be realistic about the infrastructure of working as an independent historian. Many agencies will not consider contracting with you if you do not have established financial ties with them. This is the reason that universities, as well as private businesses that are big enough to do accounting on a professional, auditable level, are so attractive to government agencies. Little contracts can be accounted for on your kitchen table, but the contacts where the money is will likely go to somebody with the financial structure in place. So think about how you can adapt your practice to that reality—are there institutional ties you can forge? Local historical societies, museums, universities, think tanks? Do they have “visiting” slots where you could work on your contracts? Can you get contracts through the Organization of American Historians? Does NCPH have the capacity to run contacts through Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis accounting?

There is nothing that you can do about archaeologists taking historical work. The public history community has worked hard on that from the political level (trying to raise the degree levels for historians to match the graduate training demanded of archaeologists, for example) for three decades. The archaeologists started doing salvage archaeology a long time ago and haven’t backed off. But that’s why going to archaeology meetings, being on panels at those meetings, being open to pointing out

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Marty Blatt  
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## Planning for the Future

At our fall meeting the NCPH Board will begin to tackle the challenge of defining a new Long Range Plan, which will chart our course for a five year period. Our current plan was meant to take the organization through 2011. Before looking ahead, it is useful to look back at our present plan and examine some ways in which we achieved what we outlined. One of our principal objectives in Long Range 2007 is to promote professionalism. Perhaps our greatest success in this regard is the release of the groundbreaking report, "Tenure, Promotion, and the Publicly Engaged Academic Historian." However, all of us, whether we are inside the academy or not, must continuously work to implement this report on the ground. There will of course be serious obstacles, rooted in the allegiance of many to familiar ways of doing things.

Another key objective in the 2007 plan is that NCPH will effectively convey its identity and purpose through conferences and useful services and products to members, patrons, and sponsors. The growth in size of our annual meetings is certainly a proud accomplishment but progress in numbers does not adequately measure what has been happening. There have been several wonderful innovations, including the working groups, speed networking, closing plenaries that evaluate the effectiveness of the conference, engaging presentations open to a wider audience by public humanists, and much more. In terms of new products/services, if you visit our website, you will find two excellent additions, a new *Guide to Public History Programs* and "Off the Wall: Critical Reviews of History Exhibit Practice in an Age of Ubiquitous Display."

One goal in the 2007 plan that will be recurring in every plan that we produce is maintaining the financial security of the organization. If we value the work that NCPH does, then we must back that up with financial support. In the midst of a long-term recession, I know that many people need to be more mindful of where they are contributing funds. However, it is precisely the commitment and generosity of our members, patrons, and sponsors that allow non-profit organizations such as NCPH to not only survive but thrive. To advance this goal, the Development Committee, ably chaired by Shelley Bookspan, introduced the Legacy Circle, which is geared towards public historians entering the mature years of their professional lives. I urge those of you for whom this is a relevant option to explore this possibility. I cannot stress enough, however, that every contribution, every new membership, every new patron and sponsor, is critically important to the well-being of NCPH.

Marianne Babal, my immediate predecessor as NCPH President who did such a great job in that capacity, will be chairing the Long Range Plan Committee. Vice President Bob Weyeneth is inviting both senior

and more junior members of the organization to serve. By the time this newsletter article is published, several members will have joined this effort. We want to be sure that some committee members have significant institutional memory and a long view and that others have a briefer association with NCPH and hence their primary orientation is looking forward. I think that both perspectives are critical for the organization to produce the best possible long range plan. Besides the formal committee, I ask every member who might be interested to get involved. Please share with the board and the executive office your ideas, questions, and concerns about the public history profession and the best direction for NCPH.

As I look ahead, I will flag some issues that are important to me. Now that we have renewed and reinvigorated our agreement with IUPUI to host the executive office, we will be renewing and enhancing support structures for the *The Public Historian*. Our annual meetings have developed into such wonderful forums for public historians, and NCPH will do all it can to make them even more compelling. Public humanities is such a central part of what we do at our annual meetings that I want to be sure that we are proactive in enlisting the active collaboration of local humanities councils. Promoting greater understanding and appreciation of "gray literature" is an undertaking that NCPH may be uniquely situated to tackle. We need to diversify the ranks of NCPH and the broader profession of public history.

### Tenth Anniversary of 9/11

2011 marks the tenth anniversary of 9/11. Planning for Ground Zero is almost entirely focused on commemoration with little interpretation of any kind. Hence, the perspective is rooted in the horrible attack, defensive, and focused on security. This should be of great concern to the public history community. Marita Sturken, in her book *Tourists of History*, observes that the process of memorialization has been rushed and without vision. In many ways, she writes, "the rebuilding of Ground Zero has produced a set of patriotic, and, ultimately, provincial discourses, that will define lower Manhattan as a place that looks backward, toward its moment of trauma." This insistence on the primacy of security leaves any nuanced discussion of 9/11 out of the question. Sturken quotes Paul Goldberger: "It is a remarkable message to send to the world – yes, we rebuild, but we do it by barricading ourselves behind bollards and solid concrete walls and if that is not enough, then we make sure that any culture we show the public here is fully prechecked for controversy. It's a dismal vision of what freedom means...."



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Historians employed as consultants played a central role in founding NCPH and sustaining the organization and shaping the profession over the years. From an associational perspective, however, they are a tough group to define or serve.

Is a public history consultant someone employed full-time in that role or does the term cover a museum administrator or university professor who finds occasional contract work? According to the 2008-2009 Survey of Public History Professionals (SPHP), 30 percent of all public historians and 66 percent of NCPH members receive income from public history consulting or contract work. For 8.3 percent of all public historians and 16.2 percent of NCPH members, consulting or contract work is the primary source of income.

## A Decade of Dialogue at Sites of Conscience

(from page 1)

of prisoners' struggles for justice in the past, visitors are invited to debate the issues before the Court today in "legkotla", traditional Sesotho village discussions. Others subverted entrenched undemocratic modes of exchange: in Bangladesh, the Liberation War Museum's mobile museum travels to rural schools and invites students to come out of their classrooms, where open debate is not encouraged, and into the schoolyards to view portable exhibits about the history of the Bangladeshi Constitution and discuss current challenges to its principles of tolerance.

The *Times* left the founding members "planning for a future that will likely include... the coalition hopes, growing membership." Today, the initial group of 9 have grown to nearly 250 from across the United States and 45 different countries, all developing different ways to use the perspective of the past to open new conversations on the present. Taking on explosive issues is never easy, but these sites believe the alternative is even more dangerous. Making this work requires constant innovation and exchange; dynamic debates on practice thrive through the Coalition's grants, trainings, and on-line resource center at [www.sitesofconscience.org](http://www.sitesofconscience.org).

The forum which opens this issue of *Public History News* takes up a conversation about consulting that has murmured quietly for several years. It is a conversation about the shared and conflicting interests of consultants employed as sole proprietors, or in small- to medium-sized companies, in large consulting firms, or as academics within a university. It is a conversation about similarities and differences among consultants engaged in cultural resource management, museum work, litigation, historical research, or some combination of these. It is a conversation about what a professional association, such as NCPH, should be doing for consultants—or what consultants through NCPH should be doing for themselves.

In the forum and in responses to the SPHP, many independent consultants indicate disengagement from professional associations. Reasons include a lack of time, meager finances, or a sense that organizations serve others more than sole proprietor, full-time consultants. Indeed, NCPH's "Consultants List," an online directory of individuals

Museums with related histories are harnessing their collective perspective to address common issues today. The Immigration Sites of Conscience network, launched by American museums from Ellis Island to the Arab American National Museum concerned with the vitriol surrounding immigration reform, is now joined by museums across Europe alarmed by their nations' rising xenophobia. In 2011, *Navigating Differences* will link these sites' immigrant and native communities for a transatlantic dialogue on migration experiences past and present.

The Coalition's newest initiative builds on all the coalition members' experience. The Guantánamo Public Memory Project traces the long history of the U.S. naval base's openings, closings, and reopenings to contain a series of different perceived threats to the United States, from Cuban workers suspected of espionage to Haitian refugees feared to infect Americans with HIV. Focusing on the period before 2001, the project will raise public awareness of Guantánamo's past to inform debate on its future.

Leaning over my pregnant belly to reach the keyboard, I feel thrilled about what's next. The energetic, innovative membership will now have a powerhouse of an organization-

and firms, is symptomatic of what may be a growing withdrawal on the part of indie consultants. The list has withered over the years. The current iteration is a simple directory of names and addresses for a mere 47 individuals and firms. When it first appeared in print form, in 1988, the *Directory of Historical Consultants* listed names, addresses, qualifications, and types of experience describing 113 individuals and firms. NCPH surveys suggests there are hundreds of independent public history consultants, but only a fraction of these are NCPH, OAH, AASLH, or AHA members.

I will be striving in the next few years to engage more consultants in the activities of NCPH and to do more to serve their needs. Contributors to this newsletter's forum have offered some places to start. The Board of Directors and the Long Range Planning, Membership, and Consultants committees all will be discussing ways to reinvigorate NCPH and the field by re-involving a greater number of consultants.

builder to advocate for the Sites of Conscience movement as executive director: Elizabeth Silkes. Elizabeth's accomplishments include launching FilmAid, an organization working with African refugee communities to create films about issues that had been silenced, from HIV to sexual abuse. Through this and her leadership at Amnesty International USA, she understands the power of individual stories to inspire civic engagement. I'll remain involved as a consultant, mainly working with members to write and teach about sites of conscience theory and practice. I look forward to staying in touch with all my colleagues, and meeting many more with new ideas for activating historic sites.



Liz Ševčenko, Founding Director, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. Courtesy of International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

Liz Ševčenko is the founding director of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, a worldwide network of historic sites specifically dedicated to remembering past struggles for justice and addressing their contemporary legacies. The coalition is headquartered in New York.

# Can ARTstor's Shared Shelf Benefit NCPH?

## ACLS Delegate's Report

Kathleen Franz | franz@american.edu

As readers of this newsletter may know the NCPH is a constituent member of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). I have served as the delegate to the annual meeting of the ACLS for two years and have been charged with reporting to the body of NCPH members on items of interest that surface at this gathering.

Founded in 1919, the ACLS is an umbrella organization that represents the interests of organizational members, like the NCPH. Their mission is to promote "the advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning in the humanities and the social sciences and the maintenance and strengthening of relations among the national societies devoted to such studies." For instance, they help the NCPH staff in planning our annual conventions by providing information about host cities; they fund a number of vibrant fellowship programs; and they commission and publish reports on various trends in the humanities and social sciences.

digital platform for sharing images among their members using ARTstor's Shared Shelf. The project is known as SAHARA (SAH Architectural Resources Archive) and is a place where members can mount, catalog, and make available their slide collections for their colleagues in architectural history. SAHARA benefited from collaboration with several universities and received funding from the Mellon foundation. But Shared Shelf presents an opportunity for organizations like the NCPH to provide a space where members can organize and share their image collections in a common digital space. For example, if you have spent a career documenting the built environment or you have a large cache of slides that capture exhibition practices, then you could find a permanent, digital home for these images and make them available to other members of the NCPH. Many of us working in museums often lament the ephemeral nature of exhibits. Shared Shelf might be a way for us to compile a shared library of exhibition images. ARTstor's Shared Shelf provides the cataloging tools, a vocabulary "warehouse" to control metadata, and offers various levels of access. In addition, the NCPH could decide who would have access to the collection on the web, whether it would be members-only access or if it wanted to make the images available to other

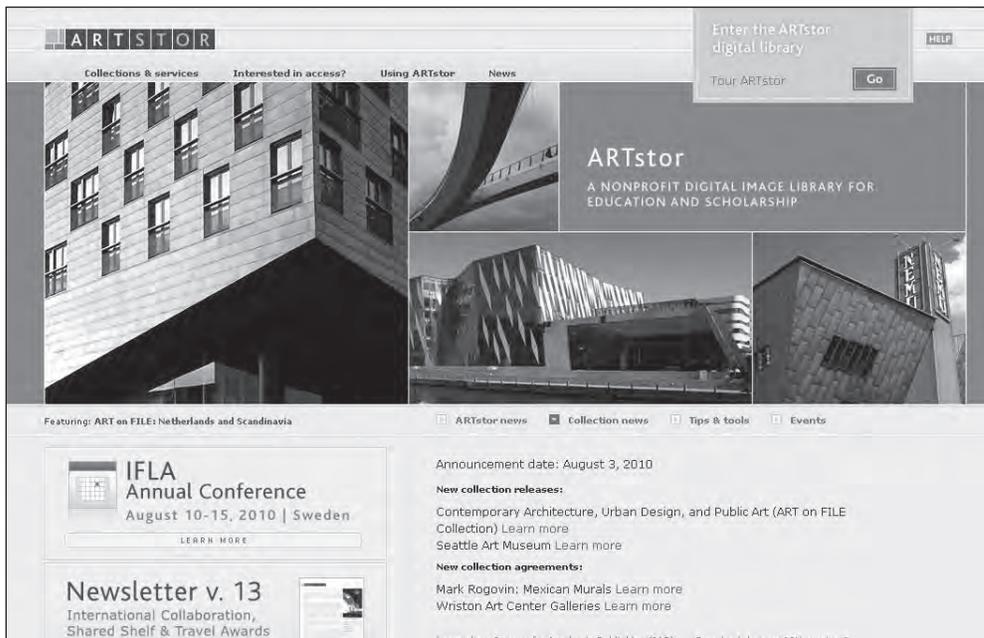
subscribers to ARTstor. What ARTstor doesn't do is assume responsibility for copyright issues, and the NCPH would need to insure that those posting images held the rights to them.

My question, then, is should NCPH explore ARTstor's Shared Shelf as a possible member benefit? Would it be useful to have a digital space in which members could mount and share images in a uniform way? We could of course build our own site using software like OMEKA, but that would take time and money, and it may unnecessarily reinvent the wheel when ARTstor provides a useable platform, universal metadata, and a potential links to larger collections of images.

I hope that interested members of NCPH can respond to these questions either online or as part of the annual meeting. The answer may be no, that we don't have a significant

number of members for whom this would be useful, or the financial cost of participation may be too high, but it would be interesting to explore the possibilities. For more information on Shared Shelf and the SAHARA project, see a press release from 2009 at <http://www.artstor.org/news/n-html/an-090714-shelf.shtml>. This is mostly about academic networks but it can certainly be adapted to meet the needs of the NCPH community.

*Kathleen Franz is the Director of the Public History Program at American University and is the NCPH Delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies.*



This spring the annual meeting hosted several panels on digital products and spaces. Of particular interest to public historians was a presentation on ARTstor. Because it's not a household name, like Google, here's a quick description from their website: ARTstor is a "nonprofit digital library of more than one million images in the arts, architecture, humanities, and social sciences with a suite of software tools to view, present, and manage images for research and pedagogical purposes. Its community-built collections comprise contributions from outstanding museums, photographers, libraries, scholars, photo archives, and artists..." If you work for a large museum, historical society, or university, you probably have access to ARTstor's vast collection of images through an institutional subscription.

However, many NCPH members may not have access to what could be useful images related to the work of public historians. This was a problem raised by the Society of Architectural Historians, and they have created a

# Forum on Consulting (from page 6)

to archaeologists what you can bring to their efforts is key. Will you replace archaeologists? No, but you'll get more work and, occasionally, it will be clear to you that your being there and arguing for your discipline has made a difference because their practice has been changed.

I do think there are things that NCPH could do to help.

- The old consultants' directory (done by the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History in 1981, and by NCPH in 1988), with all its issues of vetting, nonetheless got work for me and introduced me to people all over the country to whom I could pass work or from whom I could get work. A web presence with information and searchable categories of expertise would be worth exploring. One problem is just getting your name out, and this is a way to do that.
- NCPH might designate one member of the committee to represent NCPH at various meetings and then report back to the group immediately. NCPH could give a partial subsidy for the trip. A lot of meetings at regional headquarters of federal agencies or in Washington are open attendance as well, and you learn a lot and get known through those opportunities. But NCPH itself would have to make the decision that this is important enough to put some money into it.
- The committee might designate someone to put NCPH's name on the lists of contractors that all SHPO's offices and other grant-giving agencies keep. Somebody would then have to be right on top of the information so that it did not get out too late to be useful because agencies circulate RFPs, announcements of meetings, etc. to the names on the lists. NCPH could house the list on its website, but I think that paying for someone to update it daily or every other day may stretch the organization. On the other hand, it would keep everybody on top of projects, information, etc.
- NCPH might consider organizing and giving workshops that add to the skills that professional historians possess. Archaeology skills for the western US—even if you never plan to dig a shovelful, you need to know how archaeologists think and how to do what they do. A planning session also would be useful, so that historians can understand how planners think and thus, plan. How about architecture workshops that address issues that you may be writing around—adobe in the southwest, for example? Independent work is easier for those who are willingly multidisciplinary.

- NCPH has a generation of entrepreneurs like Alan Newell, Shelley Bookspan, Phil Cantelon, who all started small. Maybe have them talk about how they did it.

These are not new issues and it would behoove those who want to litigate them yet again to go back and see how the consulting business has handled them in the past. It is really important to know that this is a business: consulting is not a research position that is somehow paid wherever you are in whatever conditions you choose to work in. It is not something that you can usually do successfully while you stay home with the kids (I've written about that elsewhere). It's damn hard, sometimes lonely and often frustrating work as most independent work is. You've got to be smart about working the bureaucracy and competing with people who have advantages you don't have. But if you find the work interesting and you like being your own boss, I think it's worth trying to figure out how to make it work for you.

*Jannelle Warren-Findley is the director of the Public History and Scholarly Publishing Program at Arizona State University. She also is a past president of NCPH and has been a consultant for three decades.*

## **Darlene Roth**

Becoming a history entrepreneur means at the outset that you create your own job. Ideally, you create a market niche for your skills, and you end up succeeding by doing what you love. As an entrepreneur you create a business that reflects you, your uniqueness, your levels of competence and integrity, and brings your value to the marketplace through your service. You make money and you have a fun doing it. I know because I have done exactly this for decades.

Entrepreneurship challenges everyone, but the rewards are worth the costs. You learn new skills; you have to. You have to learn how to run a business, how to deal with "LIFT": laws, insurance, finances, and taxes. You have to find a way to sell that suits you. You have to promote your strengths to relate with clients effectively, and you have to have your weaknesses covered. You have to know where you find meaning and passion in your work, what you really want to contribute to the world, and how you want to present yourself. The right partners become essential: they may be staff, joint venture collaborators, sponsoring agencies, mentors and coaches, other entrepreneurs, even virtual assistants whom you have never met.

Entrepreneurship requires a different mental set from the usual academic mode. History becomes a set of opportunities, not information. If you think that historical information is your

only product, then you will be limited to those clients who already know that what they need is history—that is, documentation. Most history businesses start in this realm, but the successful ones push its limits. Instead, let your products also include the applications and processes of history and your business prospects multiply. If history, for example, means historical thinking—conceptualizing the past in ways that are new, that help clients reframe the stories they get stuck in—then you get to do history in service to something greater than information. If you can think of history as a platform from which people take passage to other human events, such as celebration, healing, survival (of legacies), and connecting (relationships across time), then your potential clients are legion. If you are comfortable and confident doing history from conceptualization to application, then you have much to offer. Finding appropriate, supportive, positive, useful, healing, and beautiful senses of the past for use right now in the present adds great *meaning* to any activity in the world. Finding appropriate, supportive, positive, useful, healing, and beautiful senses of the past for future retention adds great *value* to any activity in the world.

Entrepreneurism may mean unlearning some things you want to hold on to, such as beliefs that block productivity. I wish I had a dollar for every history practitioner I've heard say no one cares about history or who agrees with the person who just said that. Hmmm. So why did Disney want to get into the world of history, if no one cares? Why does the Internet have billions of sites that reference history? Why are people still opening history museums when everyone knows "history is dead"? Why indeed.

Here, in a nutshell is how to succeed as a history entrepreneur.

- Use history process, applications, and content.
- Focus on service and value added.
- Collaborate and leverage.
- Add future thinking to the task at hand.
- Sell the transformation, not the information.
- Work with and through other people.
- Know yourself.

Each of these can take an instant to identify and a lifetime to master. But that is part of the fun of it.

*Darlene Roth has been practicing public history since 1974 when she and three other historians established The History Group, a professional consulting business, in Atlanta, Georgia. She is one of the founders of NCPH.*

# Postcards from the Parks

Vincent Murray | [vince@azhistory.net](mailto:vince@azhistory.net)

Obscured by the recent immigration law passed by the Arizona Legislature is a very pressing issue. The Grand Canyon State is suffering serious economic hardships and its elected officials are taking their frustration out on its cultural and natural resources. While Arizona's looming budget deficit pales in comparison to California's, its legislature's misguided attempts at fiscal solvency are leading towards the demise of its entire state park system. Placing blame mostly on the current nationwide recession, the legislature has cut funding to Arizona State Parks almost 80 percent in the last two years, causing the closure of thirteen of its thirty-one parks and potentially shutting the entire system down.

Even prior to the recession, Arizona State Parks was consistently underfunded, a victim of cutbacks over a period of two decades. State Parks was removed from the General Fund as a source of revenue, then had park entrance and visitor fees reallocated to other departments. State Parks was forced to use its capital improvement fund for operations, allowing historic buildings to collapse, archaeological sites to be vandalized, and forcing closure of failing park facilities.

A voter-approved Heritage Fund from State Lottery money might have helped, but the legislature had been eyeing it for years and used the recent budget crisis to wipe it out—not just redirecting the annual allocation, but by changing state law to completely remove it as a source of funding *permanently*. The result of this action forced State Parks to freeze community grants for playgrounds, nature conservation, historic preservation, and other important projects, violating state contracts and leaving communities and private citizens stuck with unpaid bills. The Legislature even transferred private donations from State Parks to the General Fund.

Four friends developed a video highlighting the importance of the Arizona state park system to Arizona and its current problems. Their story begins with conservation advocate Susan Culp, who was appointed to the Governor's Sustainable State Parks Task Force. The Task Force was created to develop a secure revenue source for State Parks. Wanting more information about the park system she was evaluating, Culp, husband Peter, and two friends, Jocelyn Gibbon and Sam Jansen, traveled the state, visiting all of the parks in the system. Eventually, the Task Force made a recommendation on secure funding from automobile license fees. This recommendation became a House bill and quickly died in committee, without a hearing. In the meantime, the four friends worked on the *Postcards from the Parks* film to inform the citizens of Arizona about the plight of Arizona State Parks and to encourage public involvement in taking action to solve the crisis.



Led by Sam Jansen, a seasonal river guide and budding filmmaker, the four friends filmed and photographed the natural, historical, and cultural wonders of the state parks system, and interviewed leading Arizona citizens, parks employees, visitors, and volunteers to learn

more about the how the system works and its importance to the State of Arizona. They also collected and compiled financial reports, visitor studies, and other information about the economic and social benefits of the state parks system to local communities and the state as a whole. With funding from the Arizona Heritage Alliance, a nonprofit organization created to watch over the Heritage Fund, and other local civic groups and sponsors, the *Postcards from the Parks* project is working towards increasing the visibility necessary to save the parks system.

Five hundred DVDs of the film were made and twenty thousand postcards. The film was then previewed at three theaters in different parts of the state. Hundreds came to the presentations, and now the DVDs are being sent out to various groups to host their own showings. What began as a group of four individuals wanting to get the word out has expanded to a major effort to communicate the plight of Arizona State Parks.

For more information about the *Postcards from the Parks*, project visit: [www.postcardsfromtheparks.org/](http://www.postcardsfromtheparks.org/)

*Vincent Murray is a historian with Arizona Historical Research, a consulting company he founded in 2004. He is also the chairman of the advisory committee for McFarland State Park, one of the Arizona's state parks that has been closed due to insufficient funding. At the request of the Arizona Heritage Alliance, Mr. Murray served as moderator at the public presentations in Flagstaff and Tempe.*

## Be Seen in Pensacola

Six hundred public historians are expected to attend the 2011 NCPH Annual Meeting in Pensacola, Florida. NCPH invites you to raise your institution's profile by reserving exhibit space, advertising in the *Conference Program*, or sponsoring an event. Each is an effective way to reach potential customers, partners, or students; promote the latest scholarship, forthcoming titles, and/or journals from your press; or otherwise celebrate the accomplishments of your organization. For more information, visit the 2011 Conference page on the NCPH website: <http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/2011-annual-meeting/>.

Courtesy of Flickr user Bonnie Woodson.

# → National Coalition for History Update



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## Historians Join Effort to Preserve Federal K-12 History Education Funding

On July 29, the National Coalition for History, NCPH, and 19 other major history and education organizations, representing a wide array of subject areas, released consensus recommendations for how the federal government can better support core subjects beyond reading and math. This includes continued support of funding for the Teaching American History Grants program at the Department of Education.

The policy recommendations are a response to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act's singular focus on student performance in reading and math. On March 15, the White House released "A Blueprint for Reform," which details the Administration's plans for reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). However, like NCLB, the reform proposal continues to prioritize reading and math over other subjects.

President Obama's fiscal year 2011 budget request to Congress for the Department of Education proposed consolidating 38 existing K-12 education programs into 11 new programs. Under the Administration's budget request, grants for history education would now be part of a new program called "Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education." Teaching American History Grants would be consolidated into this new program and would no longer exist as a free-standing budget line item. Although the FY11 budget request includes a \$38.9 million increase in funding to support teaching and learning in arts, history, civics, foreign languages, geography, and economics, the administration proposes to combine the eight subject-specific grant programs into a single competitive grant program.

In the competitive program, the various subjects would be pitted against each other for scarce resources. Such an approach could

threaten schools' and districts' ability to provide each student with a well-rounded education, a result that seems to be the exact opposite intention of the administration. Of particular concern to historians is the future of K-12 history education. In the case of the Teaching American History grants program, the Obama administration's proposed fiscal year FY 11 budget justification to Congress calls into question the degree to which the program has reached districts and teachers most in need of federally-funded professional development and also stresses the need for better evaluation of the program's grants.

In years past, the late-Senator Robert C. Byrd, the "father" of the TAH grants, always ensured that the program received a stable level of funding, usually around \$119 million per fiscal year. In the fiscal year 2011 budget just passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the last one in which Senator Byrd was able to exert his influence, the TAH received level funding. The Administration had requested zero funding for the program under its current structure. Recently, Office of Management and Budget Director Peter Orszag issued a directive to all non-defense related federal agencies to "identify the programs and subprograms that have the lowest impact on your agency's mission and constitute at least 5 percent of your agency's budget."

Given Senator Byrd's passing, the OMB's budget cutting directive, and the Administration's questioning of the effectiveness of TAH grants as they currently exist, maintaining the status quo and keeping the program as a separate line item could potentially subject it to severe cuts when the proposed FY 12 budget is released early next year.

In June, a meeting was convened by the ASCD (formerly Association for the Study of Curriculum and Development), an education membership organization focused largely on K-12 issues. The meeting included representatives from several organizations whose communities would be impacted by the Obama administration's Blueprint for Reform for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The groups agreed discrete funding streams should be created for each of the subject areas to ensure that each retains federal support individually and that all receive a minimum level of resources reflecting



collective support for a well-rounded education. Equally important, grant competitions should occur within disciplines, not among them.

## 2010 Teaching American History Grants Announced

On August 6, the U.S. Department of Education announced the award of \$115.3 million to 124 school districts to improve the quality of teaching American history. The grants are funded for a three-year period. (For a list of grantees, see the NCH website.) The Teaching American History grant program, now in its tenth year, aims to enhance teachers' understanding of American history through intensive professional development, including study trips to historic sites and mentoring with professional historians and other experts.

## 75th Anniversary Marked By New Federal Register 2.0 Website

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Federal Register Act on July 26, 2010, the National Archives Office of the Federal Register (OFR) and the Government Printing Office (GPO) launched FR 2.0, a new user-friendly version of the daily online *Federal Register* on [FederalRegister.gov](http://FederalRegister.gov). It is important to note FR 2.0 is posted as an unofficial prototype to gather public feedback. It has not yet been approved as the "official" version of the *Federal Register*. That is not expected to occur until 2011.

## National Declassification Center Issues Initial Status Report

The National Archives National Declassification Center (NDC) recently issued its first status report, covering the reporting period of January 1- June 30, 2010. Nearly eight million pages of material were processed and made available to the public. The creation of the NDC is specified in the Executive Order 13526 on Classified National Security Information signed by President Obama on December 29, 2009. The NDC is charged with streamlining declassification processes, facilitating quality assurance measures, and implementing standard training for declassification reviewers. The major benchmark by which the NDC will

# → National Coalition for History Update

be measure is the progress it makes in reducing the 400 million of materials still awaiting declassification. Executive Order 13526 requires the NDC eliminate the backlog by December 31, 2013. The NDC website provides timely information and a blog to encourage public comment: <http://www.archives.gov/> declassification.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## NPS Awards Battlefield Protection Grants

The National Park Service recently awarded \$1.2 million for 25 grants that will be used to

help preserve and protect America's significant battlefield lands. The funding from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) will support projects at more than 100 battlefields nationwide. A list of the projects is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp>. The grants fund projects at endangered battlefields from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, World War II, and Indian Wars. Grants were made to projects in 17 states and territories to support archeology, mapping, cultural resource survey work, documentation, planning, education, and interpretation.

## NARA Launches "Our Archives" Wiki

The National Archives has announced the launch of its first public wiki called "Our Archives" on Wikispaces located at: <http://www.ourarchives.wikispaces.net>.

"Our Archives" provides a collaborative space for members of the public, researchers, and staff to share knowledge about National Archives records, resources and research.

*The National Coalition for History (NCH) is a Washington, DC-based non-profit educational organization providing leadership in history-related advocacy. NCPH is a member of the coalition, which includes more than 60 organizations. NCH serves as the historical profession's national voice in the United States and acts as a clearinghouse of news and information. Anyone may subscribe to the weekly NCH newsletter, The Washington Update, by visiting <http://historycoalition.org/subscribe/> or subscribe to the RSS feed by going to <http://feeds.feedburner.com/historycoalition>*



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Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
State University of New York  
University of California at Riverside  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
University of Nevada Las Vegas  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
University of Northern Iowa  
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire  
Ursuline College  
West Virginia University  
Western Michigan University

# Public History Field School

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The time is now for public history programs across the nation to begin incorporating the public history field school as an integral and required curricular component for undergraduate and graduate training. Immersing students into a historic setting, complete with staff professionals working to restore, curate, and interpret an existing historic facility, offers students instruction and experience that enriches their public history training and enhances their employment opportunities inside and outside the academy.



Contemporary photo of Virginia City, Montana. Courtesy of the WSU Field School.

To advance its relevance, public history needs to develop its own versions of archaeology's "paleo motel" field schools such as those at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Pennsylvania or the Ozette Indian Village site on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. It is our conviction that the field school is a vital component for training public historians for the competitive world they are about to enter. Public history



Ariwite, Peterson, and Svingen on Granite Creek just north of Virginia City, Montana. Courtesy of the WSU Field School.

professors must expose "historians in training" to primary sources that exist outside of the closed, confined, organized, processed, and exclusive traditional domains. The internship serves a valuable function, but too often it is narrow, targeted, and limited in scope. The antidote to the overly relied upon white gloved, library/archives approach is the field school which can place the shy, nervous, library/archive-dependent historian into an animated world where practitioners are writing interpretive plans, designing exhibits using on-site collections, or recreating various forms of historic technology. The field school places students into a dynamic setting where they are surrounded daily by specialists trained in a variety of fields—material culture, archaeology, historic preservation, living history, and interpretation, just to name a few.

In conjunction with the Montana Heritage Commission at Virginia City, Montana, the public history program at Washington State University offered its third field school in May

2010. It focused primarily on researching and writing draft interpretive plans for the future reenactment of the unratified Treaty with the Shoshone, Bannacks, and Sheepeaters of September 24, 1868. Known also as the Virginia City Treaty, it was negotiated and signed at Laurin, Montana Territory, fifteen miles north of Virginia City with Chief Tendoy and eleven subchiefs. Now referred to as the Lemhi Shoshones who are affiliated with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Idaho, these people are the descendants of Sacajawea, the Agai Dika woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark.



Anna Harris and Rachael Johnson searching for the Lemhi Shoshone 1868 treaty negotiations camp site, history-style. Courtesy of the WSU Field School.

Professor Orlan J. Svingen (WSU), Dr. William Peterson (MHC), and Mr. Leo T. Ariwite (Lemhi Shoshone) planned, organized, and oversaw instructional activities for the three-week field school that attracted thirteen undergraduate and graduate students. During the first week, students visited key locations inside the Three



Pennsylvania teachers at a Marcellus Shale natural gas well site in Redstone Township, Fayette County, PA, with representatives of the Atlas Drill Company, the Penn State Westmoreland County Extension, and field trip coordinator Charles Hardy III (back row, far right).

## Links to Liberty Field Trip

This summer, the NCPH sponsored the third and final "Links to Liberty" Teaching American History Grant summer field trip, which took fourteen elementary through high school social studies teachers on a five-day field trip through western Pennsylvania. Focusing on the history of the steel and oil industries, both born in Pennsylvania, and designed to improve teacher understanding of American economic, labor, and environmental history, the field trip included visits to the Johnstown Heritage and Johnstown Flood museums, the Braddock Carnegie Library, the site of the 1909 Pressed Steel Car Company strike at McKee's Rock, Old Economy Village, Saint Nicholas Croatian Church in Millvale, the Drake Well and Pithole City historical sites, the Ida Tarbell House, and the first natural gas lateral drill wells and pump sites in Fayette County. Charles Hardy III, a professor of history at West Chester University and the Supervising Historian of ExplorePAhistory.com organized and led the tour. Its instructors included Charles McCollester, Professor Emeritus of Industrial and Labor Relations, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Brian Black, a professor of history and environmental studies at Penn State University's Altoona College; and Richard Burkert, president of the Johnstown Area Heritage Association.

# Public History Field School



Leo Ariwite explaining an Indian bowl at the Jim Anderson Ranch. Courtesy of the WSU Field School.

Forks drainage of southwestern Montana to set the stage for understanding the Lemhi Shoshones' historical and cultural ties to the region that prompted the federal government's interest in treaty negotiations. The second week was devoted to researching and understanding the September 1868 treaty negotiations conducted at Laurin, Montana Territory. Three hundred Lemhi Shoshones attended the signing, as well as a large turnout from Virginia City, then the territorial capital. The final week focused on researching, writing, and planning an interpretive event that will recreate that treaty signing.

The value of the field school is incalculable, for it provided students the opportunity to work within a collaborative laboratory environment involving academic instruction, a working

historic site setting, and non-Indian and Indian specialists. Student work days began at 8:30 a.m. and ended with a 6:00 p.m. debriefing before dinner. Many continued their research, writing, and website construction afterwards. (See [osvingen.org](http://osvingen.org) for syllabi, draft assignments, You Tube interviews, and field school photographs.)

The Montana Heritage Commission benefits as well, with it being the beneficiary of theses and dissertation potential, conference presentations by students, MHC staff, and WSU faculty, newspaper and internet coverage, interpretive material development, and the expansion of the history of Virginia City beyond its traditional focus on western mining history. WSU benefits because the field school provides students with real world, collaborative, team oriented training that is essential to success in the field of public history. Historic sites visits, collaborative research and writing projects with fellow students, interaction with MHC site professionals and Lemhi Shoshones equip students with skills, training, and experience they would never receive in the classroom or even in an internship posting. Students attending the field school, especially graduate students, are positioned to talk about

designing a field school of their own at future job interviews.

In May, Professor John Mann, public history director at University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, attended the field school, intent on experiencing it for himself as he contemplates developing his own field school. We invite others to do the same.

*Orlan J. Svingen teaches public history at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. William Peterson is curator of interpretation at the Montana Heritage Commission in Virginia City, Montana.*



Searching for the Lemhi Shoshone 1868 treaty negotiations camp site, archaeology-style. Courtesy of the WSU Field School.



## What's happening "Off the Wall"

"Off the Wall," NCPH's new exhibit review blog, has explored a variety of dimensions of contemporary history exhibit display in its first couple of months. Not surprisingly, digital display has been featured in more than one review: Margo Shea pondered the social and historiographical dynamics of Flickr's "Looking into the Past" photostream, while Will Walker examined the community-oriented web presence of the Dulwich Picture Gallery in England. Various other media came into play in the first reviews: Margaret Middleton wrote about a California pirate festival, Melissa Boyajian reflected on ways that visual artists are mining historical archives for materials, and Larry Cebula assessed the radio presence of the academic historians who anchor BackStory Radio. Most recently, Vanessa Macias looked at a conventional history exhibit in a somewhat unconventional setting—a small mall run as a "social purpose business" in El Paso.

New reviews are posted every week or so. Join us at [www.ncphoffthewall.blogspot.com](http://www.ncphoffthewall.blogspot.com), see what's new, and share your thoughts about what this all means for the present and future of historical exhibitry!



## GUIDE TO PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAMS

NCPH presents the *Guide to Public History Programs*, available at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org). This free, international resource is for prospective students, public history faculty, and anyone interested in the shape of public history education today. It offers basic information, in a standardized, comparable format, about the growing number of public history programs for graduate and undergraduate students.

NCPH intends this resource to be useful as well for museums and other public history institutions, government agencies, pre-collegiate schools, businesses, and community groups wanting to identify potential partners in their geographical area. Information collected for the guide also will enable NCPH to provide more regular statistics about the profession. Programs are indexed by geographic location, concentrations offered, and degrees offered.

To have your university or college program included, or to update an existing entry, please email us at [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu).

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## 2011 Awards - Call for Nominations

The NCPH awards recognize excellence in the diverse ways public historians apply their skills to the world around us. We invite you to nominate a colleague or submit your own work and join us at the 2011 award luncheon in Pensacola, Florida, at the NCPH's annual meeting.

Excellence in Consulting Award--Up to three \$300 awards recognize outstanding work and contributions by consultants or contractors.

Graduate Student Travel Award--Five travel grants of up to \$300 each for graduate students presenting (session or poster session) at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Michael C. Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis—This \$500 prize rewards historical studies that contribute directly to the formation of public policy.

NCPH Book Award--A \$1,000 award for the best book about or "growing out of" public history published within the previous two calendar years (2009 and 2010).

New Professional Award--Two \$500 travel grants to encourage new professionals, practicing public history for no more than three years, to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Outstanding Public History Project Award--\$1,000 recognizing a project that contributes to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serves as a model of professional public history practice.

Student Project Award—A \$500 travel grant to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting recognizes the contributions of student work to the field of public history.

*The nomination deadline for the NCPH Book Award is November 1, 2010. All other nominations are due by December 1, 2010.*

Questions? (317) 274-2716; <http://www.ncph.org>; [dowdyc@iupui.edu](mailto:dowdyc@iupui.edu)



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