

MAKEOVER IN PROGRESS: NEW NCPH WEBSITE COMING SOON



Working draft of NCPH's redesigned home page.

We are excited to announce the launch of a brand new NCPH website and *History@Work* blog later this fall! The new site will reflect who we are as an organization: a vibrant, active, and approachable community. Phase One of the project is a redesign of the NCPH website. The same valuable content

found on the current website will be easier to find, share, and interact with, and will be accessible across a variety of devices. The ncp.org site will now be a user-friendly gateway to valuable resources on public history practice, training, and scholarship.



History@Work home, redesign in progress, to be brought under the ncp.org umbrella.

Phase Two of the updated NCPH website will be the integration of the *History@Work* blog and Public History Commons with the main site. Launched in the spring of 2012, the Public History Commons has served as a kind of sandbox where we've experimented with new kinds of content and communications,

including the now-well-established blog. Now that we have a clearer sense of how this more dynamic site can fit within our overall cluster of publications and platforms, it seems like the time to bring it further under the NCPH umbrella. *History@Work* will have a stand-

alone presence within the NCPH site, while the Public History Commons will recede into the background but continue to be accessible as a space for new and occasional digital projects. Look for a new *History@Work* homepage that echoes the NCPH site but also maintains the blog's own identity.

Thank you to all of our members and supporters who have ensured this important update to our digital presence. Your contributions to the Digital Integration Fund (DIF) have made this redesign a reality. In addition, you've given us a lot of feedback about what works and what doesn't, and we are using this information to inform our decisions. A focus group of over 30 members and friends, representing the wide range of the NCPH community, is weighing in on the design and navigation of the site as we progress. Finally, we are grateful to Arizona State University, which has provided design and hosting support for the project.

The redesign of NCPH publications began last year with a refreshed membership brochure and annual meeting *Program* cover. Members will notice that the current issue of *Public History News* is another step in this process. This effort to present a unified design—matching who we are as an organization—is essential to aligning our identity across communication channels and is an ongoing process that will continue in the coming months. We hope the new visual continuity will strengthen our role as a central voice of the public history profession, and we look forward to hearing your feedback as the new designs go live.

Look for the launch of the new website soon!

AFTER THE MEETING: 7 WAYS GRAD STUDENTS AND NEW PROFESSIONALS CAN STAY INVOLVED WITH NCPH

MEGHAN HILLMAN / MEGHILLM@IUPUI.EDU

At this year's annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, 24% of attendees were students, and many more were new professionals (recent grads in their first three years as



New Professional and Graduate Student Social at Nashville Annual Meeting, arranged by the New Professional and Graduate Student Committee.

practicing public historians). We work hard to make our annual meeting a welcoming environment for grad students, providing programming (like the New Professional/Grad Student social, resume review service, poster session, and speed networking event) designed to get students involved and to provide valuable networking opportunities to new professionals. But once the excitement of the meeting wears off, what then?

1. Volunteer to Serve on a Committee

Every NCPH annual meeting is a culmination of years of planning and organizing. A lot of NCPH's work goes on behind the scenes, and

2016 ANNUAL MEETING COVERAGE BEGINS ON PAGE 6.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 ▶



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www.ncph.org/cms/patrons-sponsors

HISTORY supports the **NCPH** for promoting the value and significance of history every day.



NCPH inspires public engagement with the past and serves the needs of practitioners in putting history to work in the world by building community among historians, expanding professional skills and tools, fostering critical reflection on historical practice, and publicly advocating for history and historians. *Public History News* is published in March, June, September, and December. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Individual membership orders, changes of address, and business and editorial correspondence should be addressed to NCPH, 127 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: ncph@iupui.edu. Tel: 317-274-2716. Join online or renew at www.ncph.org. Headquartered on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, NCPH is grateful for the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts and the Department of History.

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GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Looking for ways to support a budding public historian? Want to reward a graduating or new student for his or her hard work? Consider giving the gift of an NCPH membership! Available in the Student, New Professional, and Individual categories, a gift membership in NCPH offers important professional benefits and connections for new practitioners.

<http://bit.ly/joinNCPH>

WELCOME NICHOLAS K. JOHNSON



Nicholas K. Johnson.

Nicholas K. Johnson will be serving as the new Graduate Assistant for the 2015-2016 academic year. Nick graduated from IUPUI in 2012 with a BA in History and German, and is current enrolled in IUPUI's Public History Graduate

Program. Nick's primary interests include modern German history (especially that of Berlin), urban history, and public history in an international context. He recently spent a year with the Free University of Berlin's Public History program, where he worked on the SA Prison Papestrasse Memorial's special exhibit "Traces of Violence." Before NCPH, Nick worked at the Museum of the American Cocktail, IUPUI's Institute for American Thought, and the National WWII Museum. Although an Air Force brat with a transient upbringing, he calls New Orleans home.

Welcome New Members!

Akua Anasesemfo
Towson, MD

Christine Arato
Boston, MA

Dale Batko
Southgate, MI

Martha Lindsey Bestebreurtje
Arlington, VA

Chiara Bonacchi
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Jennifer Erdman
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Maria Estorino Dooling
Coral Gables, FL

William Estrada
Los Angeles, CA

Ashley Freeman
Baton Rouge, LA

Brittany Fremion
Mt. Pleasant, MI

Tamara Gaskell
Media, PA

Jamie Goodall
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Michael Goodwin
Lake Worth, FL

James Griffin
Elgin, SC

Shawn Halifax
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Andrew Hauser
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Kathryn Lagrandeur
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Stephanie Lampkin
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Saint Petersburg, FL

Marie McDaniel
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Samantha Parish
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New Orleans, LA

Jeff Sellers
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Thomas Smith
Dallas, TX

Christy Smith
Saratoga, WY

Lisa Sullivan
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Sara Beth Urban
Nashville, TN

Jenice View
Arlington, VA

Marissa Walker
Baltimore, MD

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Pella, IA

David Woodward
Duluth, MN

NCPH would like to extend a special thanks to our new Patron member:

Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media
Vienna, VA

And to the following for upgrading from Partner to Patron member:

American Association for State and Local History
Nashville, TN

American University
Washington, DC

FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



STEPHANIE ROWE
ROWES@IUPUI.EDU

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Things in the NCPH offices are humming along this summer. We received another increase in session proposals for the 2016 NCPH/Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) joint meeting (25% over Nashville), which is great news for us; and because of the joint meeting, we're happy to be able to accept 20% more proposals than last year (great news for you!). The NCPH executive director search committee has been hard at work all summer interviewing candidates, and preparations are underway for the final on campus interviews. We're still on track to have the board of directors make their final decision on the candidates at their meeting in Louisville on September 18-19.

Membership in NCPH has increased by 15% in the last year; from 1,275 in July 2014 to 1,473 in July 2015. This is due in part to our new, full-time membership coordinator, Christine Crosby, as well as a strong annual meeting in Nashville, TN this spring. As of June 1 the organization's reserve fund, NCPH's unrestricted endowment, was \$707,596 in Vanguard accounts, along with \$22,426 cash in our endowment savings account, for a grand total of \$730,022. Thanks to small and large gifts from members, the NCPH endowment is growing. Our Digital Integration Fund (DIF) savings account, created in 2013 to augment and interconnect the digital infrastructure for *The Public Historian*, the Public History Commons, *History@Work*, and NCPH's Twitter feed and Facebook page, held \$21,975 in June 2015. DIF funds are being used this year to fund the redesign and integration of the NCPH website and the *History@Work* blog and to improve the NCPH Jobs page, Consultants Directory, and online Guide to Public History Programs (see more on the cover of this issue).

Rutgers University at Camden is pleased to announce they have hired Dr. Tamara Gaskell as the new Public Historian in Residence, and to serve as *TPH* Co-editor starting September 1, 2015. We're thrilled to welcome Tamara to the *TPH* editorial team. UC Press is working to migrate all of its journal content, including *TPH*, from JSTOR's Current Scholarship Program to the HighWire Open Platform from Stanford's University's HighWire Press—though *TPH* will remain part of the JSTOR Journal Archives. More information on this transfer, along with new access information, will be available for members soon.

Many of our committees met in Nashville, and some have been convening this summer by conference call. The executive office is working with the Consultants Committee to redesign the Consultants Directory on the website. The New Professional and Graduate Student Committee is also working with the executive office on promoting and distributing their new *Public History Navigator*. The Membership

Committee is working on two regional mini-cons to be held in October, and is considering proposals for three mini-cons to be held in 2016. These events are sponsored by NCPH and speak to the long range plan goal of "Extend(ing) NCPH's reach by endorsing local, state, regional, and international gatherings, projects, and workshops." A new Committee for Government Historians has also been created and is taking shape this fall after a successful working group in Nashville. NCPH's annual committee appointments are now complete, and rosters with contact information for the 2015-2016 committee members are on the NCPH website. Don't hesitate to share your ideas with committee chairs and members at <http://bit.ly/NCPHcomm>.



Participants at the 2015 annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

NCPH continues to partner with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) on our respective annual meetings. For the September 2015 AASLH conference in Louisville, Kentucky, NCPH is lending its Poster Session model to AASLH for the third year in a row. NCPH will also be hosting a booth in the exhibit hall, and the NCPH Board of Directors will conduct their fall meeting during the AASLH conference. The NCPH – AASLH – OAH – AHA Joint Task Force on Public History Education will also meet at the AASLH conference in Louisville. The 2016 NCPH Annual Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Society for History in the Federal Government, and the 2016 Program Committee is also working with the Western History Association to explore cross-sessions between the groups' meetings.

As one of the core supporting organizations within the National Coalition for History (NCH) — the Washington, D.C.-based non-profit educational organization providing leadership in history-related advocacy— NCPH holds a seat on the NCH Policy Board. One of the coalition's most immediate goals is to recruit representatives to join the newly established history caucus in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. (See the full NCH update on page 5.)

FALL BOARD MEETING

On September 18-19, the NCPH Board of Directors will be meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. The board welcomes comments, questions, and suggestions from NCPH members throughout the year, and especially

for the fall agenda. Please contact the interim executive director (rowes@iupui.edu) or individual board members listed at <http://bit.ly/NCPHcomm>.

NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY UPDATE

LEE WHITE / LWHITE@HISTORYCOALITION.ORG



Spring and summer have brought numerous public policy opportunities and challenges to the National Coalition for History (NCH). For more information on any of these items, please visit historycoalition.org.

MONITORING LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION

Recently a draft bill surfaced in the House that included a provision to eliminate the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). On July 21, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee was expected to consider legislation to address the massive employee records data breach at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The costs associated with implementing the bill require an offset elsewhere in the federal budget. Committee chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) proposed eliminating the NHPRC to pay for remediation of the OPM data breach. NHPRC's current annual budget is \$5 million, which would generate \$25 million over the next five fiscal years. At the last minute, the draft bill was removed from the committee's website and hearing agenda. Although it is unclear why the bill was pulled, it seems unlikely that the reason is related to the NHPRC.

It is expected that the Oversight Committee will consider the bill after Labor Day, when it returns from its August recess. NCH is closely monitoring the situation and will post developments via our social media, and website. NCH will mount a vigorous campaign to oppose the bill, and when and if appropriate, the NCPH will send out a legislative alert with instructions for contacting your members of Congress.

ADVOCATING FOR RESTORATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HISTORY AND CIVICS EDUCATION

On July 16, the US Senate approved S. 1177, the Every Child Achieves Act, with strong bipartisan support. The vote in favor of the bill was 81–17. The bill reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and would replace the much-maligned No Child Left Behind Act.

The legislation reduces the role of the federal government in K–12 education and gives states and local education agencies (LEAs) greater control over such things as funding, teacher evaluation, school choice, testing, standards, and accountability. Notably, the Department of Education would be prohibited from forcing states to adopt uniform standards, such as Common Core.

In contrast, the House passed its own version of the bill (H.R. 5) along strict party lines, by a vote of 218–213. Twenty-seven Republicans joined all 186 Democrats in opposing the legislation. The House bill goes further in reducing the federal footprint in K–12 education, returning even more control over education to the states and localities. The Obama administration issued a veto threat to the House bill but has refrained from taking a formal position on the Senate legislation.

S. 1177 includes promising news for history and civics education. It restores limited federal funding for both of those subjects, although the bill does not set forth a specific amount.

- Title II of the bill (professional development) includes a competitive grant program for LEAs to carry out teaching of traditional American history as an academic subject in elementary and secondary schools.
- It also includes funding for presidential and congressional academies in American history and civics; these are intensive summer institutes for teachers and students (sophomores and juniors in high school).
- Grants would be made available to nonprofits to support innovative approaches to teaching history, civics, and geography, particularly those focused on reaching underserved students. Funds may be used to support development of new or dissemination of existing approaches.

In fiscal year 2012, Congress terminated funding for the Teaching American History grants program at the Department of Education. Appropriations earmarked for civics education and federal funding for National History Day, a nationally recognized program that increases student participation in historical studies across the country, were also eliminated. As a result, since FY 2011 there has been no federal funding provided for history or civics education.

The House and Senate bills must be reconciled in a conference committee. Therefore, an ESEA rewrite still has a long way to go before passage. Most importantly, the House version does not include the history and civics language. We will be working with our allies at the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools on a “Dear Colleague” letter to House conferees on the bill, urging them to include the Senate language. Congress is in recess in August, so the bill will not be taken up until the fall. NCH plans a concerted advocacy effort to persuade the House conferees to include funding for history and civics in the conference report.

Lee White is executive director of the National Coalition for History.

CONGRESSIONAL HISTORY CAUCUS

Representatives John Larson (D-CT), Tom Cole (R-OK), Ander Crenshaw (R-FL), and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) once again agreed to serve as co-chairs of the Congressional History Caucus this session. The group provides a forum for members of Congress to share their interest in history and to promote an awareness of the subject on Capitol Hill. This effort also includes establishing relationships between members of Congress and historians in their districts.

NCH's website includes a section devoted to promoting the History Caucus and provides step-by-step directions to show historians and other stakeholders how they can easily contact their representatives to urge them to join the caucus. If you have not already done so, please go to NCH's History Caucus website (<http://bit.ly/historycaucus>) and follow the instructions on how to ask your member of Congress to join. One important way for the caucus to grow is for representatives to hear from their constituents, so please make the brief effort it takes to call or write.



Massachusetts History Day State Finals, courtesy flickr user Lee Wright.

AFTER THE MEETING: 7 WAYS GRAD STUDENTS AND NEW PROFESSIONALS CAN STAY INVOLVED WITH NCPH // CONT. FROM PAGE 1

much of this work is accomplished by our committees - volunteers who commit to serve two-year terms. Some of our committees are open to graduate student and new professional members, particularly our New Professional and Graduate Student Committee, which recently put together the *Public History Navigator*. Committee appointments are made in the spring/summer, so if you are interested in being considered for a committee next year, visit bit.ly/ncpchcommittees.

2. Attend or Help Plan a Mini-Con

We realize that it can be difficult for students and new professionals to make the trip to the annual meeting every year. Travel expenses are no joke! So NCPH has begun to develop mini-cons in an attempt to spread the love. These smaller regional conferences are planned by members for members, with NCPH support and promotion. Check for mini-cons in your region, or work with your university or local public history community to develop one! For guidelines and upcoming events, see bit.ly/ncpchminicons.

3. Write a Blog Post for *History@Work*

History@Work is NCPH's multi-interest blog, bringing exciting public history-related content to readers every week, and we're

always looking for new voices to provide guest posts. The editorial team welcomes proposals for full-length blog posts and shorter project showcase posts. Check out guidelines and get more info at bit.ly/histatworkguidelines.

4. Contribute to NCPH's weekly email blast

As you probably know, NCPH sends an email to its members every week. The *Public History News Update (PHNU)* collects interesting stories and blog posts from the field, along with our own organizational news items. The executive office enjoys putting together the *PHNU* each week, but we don't catch everything, and we'd like your help to tell us what we're missing! If you see a newsworthy post or story you'd like us to feature, drop us a line at ncpch@iupui.edu.

5. Connect with NCPH on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn

Meeting up with fellow public historians at the annual meeting is an awesome, energizing feeling. Sustain that feeling all year long by participating in social media discussions – or start a conversation of your own and tag @ncpch. Plus, keep an eye on our LinkedIn, which we're working on transforming into a space for more organized discussion.

6. Help us advocate for the importance of history

NCPH is involved with several advocacy efforts, including the National Coalition for History (<http://historycoalition.org/>) and the History Relevance Campaign (HRC) (<http://www.historyrelevance.com/>). Ask the organizations where you work or intern to endorse the HRC's value statement, or write an email to your congressperson asking them to join the Congressional History Caucus (bit.ly/historycaucus).

7. Contribute!

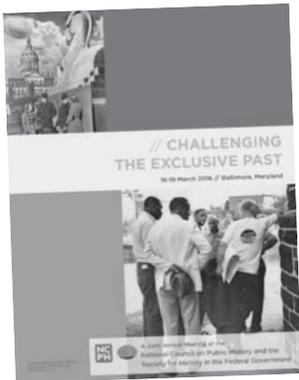
We know that grad students and new professionals don't have a lot of spare cash, but it's not about the dollar amount – it's about investment. Donating even a few dollars to NCPH's annual fund, Digital Integration Fund, or endowment is an expression of long-term investment in NCPH as your professional home. (bit.ly/givingtoncph)

Meghan Hillman is a graduate student in the public history program at IUPUI and NCPH's 2014-2015 graduate intern. She is currently serving as NCPH's Program Assistant.

BE SEEN IN BALTIMORE

Eight hundred public historians are expected to attend the 2016 NCPH and Society for History in the Federal Government Joint Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. NCPH invites you to raise your institution's profile by reserving exhibit space, advertising in the Conference Program, or sponsoring an event. Reach potential customers, partners, or students; promote the latest scholarship, forthcoming titles, and journals from your press; and celebrate the accomplishments of your organization.

For more information, visit the 2016 Conference page on the NCPH website: <http://bit.ly/NCPH2016>



THERE'S STILL ROOM FOR YOU ON THE PROGRAM

Now that the Program Committee has worked through the session, workshop, and working group proposals for the 2016 NCPH/SHFG Annual Meeting in Baltimore, we have opened the call for Posters and will open the call for Working Group discussants this month.

CALL FOR POSTERS

The Poster Session is a format for presenters eager to share their work through one-on-one discussion. It can be especially useful for work-in-progress, and may be particularly appropriate where visual or material evidence represents a central component of the project. The Call for Posters is available now at <http://bit.ly/NCPH2016>. Proposals are due **October 1**.

CALL FOR WORKING GROUP DISCUSSANTS

Each Working Group has facilitators who have already proposed the topic. They will be looking for 8-12 individuals to join them in pre-conference online discussion, to exchange brief case statements, and to meet in session during the conference. Look for the call in late September; it closes **October 15**.

Information about NCPH Working Groups can be found at <http://bit.ly/NCPH-WorkingGroups>



How do your donations to NCPH help public historians throughout their careers?

Grad School



Your gifts to the **Annual Fund** allowed us to more widely distribute our new **Public History Navigator**, providing practical guidelines, tips, and advice for students interested in careers in public history.

Early Career



Gifts to the **Digital Integration Fund** are being used to support an overhaul of our website, where new professionals will be able to take advantage of our new, dynamic **Jobs Page**.

When public historians produce groundbreaking, exceptional, and noteworthy work, we recognize their achievements with **annual NCPH awards**, funded by the **Endowment**.

Major Achievements



Support public historians by donating today at <http://bit.ly/NCPH-give!>

CONVENE WITH US IN CHARM CITY

The 2016 Annual Meeting may still seem far away, but March will be here before we know it, and we're already getting excited about our trip to Baltimore, Maryland. It's time to start making travel arrangements and compiling your "must-sees" while in Baltimore. You'll eat some great seafood, enjoy early spring on the Inner Harbor, and experience the eclectic history of the "city of neighborhoods."

GETTING TO BALTIMORE: Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) all provide service to the Baltimore area; we recommend BWI, the airport closest to the conference hotel (twenty minutes by taxi or Uber). At the airport you can rent a car, catch a cab, or make your way into the city by bus or rail. Baltimore has robust public transportation, including the Charm City Circulator, a free bus that currently operates along five routes in Baltimore. Baltimore's Penn Station is also a major AMTRAK destination, if you prefer trains to planes.

WHERE TO STAY IN BALTIMORE: Naturally, we recommend the conference hotel where most of the sessions will be taking place, the Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, where you can get our special room rate of \$184/night. Based on high demand from this year's meeting in Nashville, we've increased the size of NCPH's block of rooms, but we still recommend you book early! Located right on the Inner Harbor, one of Baltimore's major tourist districts, the hotel is within comfortable walking distance of dozens of restaurants and attractions. In March the water will be chilly, but the view over the harbor will be beautiful.

THINGS TO DO:

Baltimore's Inner Harbor, a historic seaport and major hub of cultural and historical activity in the city, is home to the Maryland Science Center, the Reginald F.



Courtesy Visit Baltimore.

Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, the Baltimore Maritime Museum, the National Aquarium, and more. You can also take a water taxi or the Charm City Circulator to the nearby neighborhoods of Old South Baltimore, including Federal Hill, Fells Point, and Locust Point, home to Fort McHenry Historic Site. We recommend you take some time to strike out on your own in search of the city's many charms. If you choose to extend your stay before or after the meeting, the museums and sights of Washington DC are less than an hour away.

NCPH EVENTS AND TOURS: And, of course, NCPH is putting together a great roster of tours if you'd like to get to know Baltimore with your fellow public historians by your side. Themed tours such as "The 1904 Fire and How it Shaped Downtown Baltimore," "Civil Rights Activism on Baltimore's Historic West Side," and "Baltimore's Literary History" will give you a new perspective on the city's past and its present. Look for more info on these tours in the coming months!

PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

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HELP RECOGNIZE THOSE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR FIELD

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 2016 awards breakfast in Baltimore, Maryland, during the annual meeting of NCPH.

Excellence in Consulting Award—Up to two \$500 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, poster session, or working group) at the 2016 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 2016 Annual Meeting recognizes the contributions of student work to the field of public history.

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 (2014 and 2015).

New Professional Award—Two \$500 travel grants to encourage new professionals, practicing public history for no more than three years, to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Robert Kelley Memorial Award— This \$500 award honors distinguished achievements by individuals, institutions, or nonprofit or corporate entities for making history relevant to individual lives of ordinary people outside of academia.

NCPH Book Award and Robert Kelley Memorial Award nominations must be received by November 1, 2015. All other nominations must be received by December 1, 2015. Submission guidelines are available at www.ncph.org/cms/awards

Questions? (317) 274-2716; ncph@iupui.edu

