

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS // STEPHANIE ROWE APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ALEXANDRA LORD
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Over a year ago, on a hot sweltering Indiana day, the search committee for the next Executive Director for NCPH met in person for the first time. The task we faced, led by chair Bill Bryans, seemed monumental: to not only find a new Executive Director who respects and understands the complex history of NCPH, but one who also recognizes that the organization is undergoing tremendous change and growth, and who will become a collaborative colleague within the History Department at the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), NCPH's host university.

I want to take a moment to thank the entire search committee for their hard work, and to congratulate them on a job well done. The committee included: Bill Bryans, Chair, Oklahoma State University; Marianne Babal, Wells Fargo; Raymond Haberski, IUPUI History Department; Lisa Junkin Lopez, Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace; Kisha Tandy, Indiana State Museum; and myself. I also

need to thank the history department faculty and Indiana University School of Liberal Arts for their support of, and involvement in, the process, especially Thomas Davis, Dean, Indiana University School of Liberal Arts; Didier Gondola, History Department Chair; and Daniella Kostroun, Acting History Department Chair. The NCPH board and search committee would like to extend a huge thanks to the IU School of Liberal Arts and the History Department at IUPUI for their support of NCPH throughout the search and appointment processes.

Given the scope of this task, it shouldn't be surprising that it took us a year and a half to find a new Executive Director. The surprising thing is that we found a candidate who not only meets all of these expectations, but exceeds them: Stephanie Rowe.

As the Interim Executive Director for NCPH, Stephanie underwent what was, in many ways, a year-long interview process. Like all of the candidates, she gave a job talk, answered a detailed questionnaire about her vision for the organization, and interviewed with NCPH search committee members as well as faculty and administrators at IUPUI. But Stephanie also repeatedly demonstrated her outstanding managerial skills and abilities throughout



Stephanie Rowe

the past year, a period which saw the largest NCPH conference, as well as continued and fairly rapid growth in its membership, and a complete redesign of the organization's website, blog, and print materials.

When she agreed to accept the position this summer, the search committee, board of directors, and our colleagues at IUPUI were thrilled. We believe NCPH members will share our enthusiasm as they learn more about Stephanie and her vision for NCPH.

Stephanie brings multiple strengths to this position, including the fact that she spent several years as a practicing public historian before coming to NCPH. A graduate of one of the nation's premier and oldest history museum studies programs, she possesses strong academic credentials. And, of course, having worked for NCPH as its Program Manager and Associate Director for four years, she has an in-depth understanding of the organization, its mission, the challenges it faces, and, perhaps most importantly, its members.

In her previous position at Museumwise, now the Museum Association of New York (MANY), Stephanie worked primarily with small to mid-sized history museums offering

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MEMBER HIGHLIGHT // COLLABORATION ACROSS BORDERS



RYAN SHACKLETON /
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When I finished grad studies in 2003 I had already completed several contracts with museums and government

departments, and I had little desire to pursue a career in the academy. Over the next decade I gained experience working with other consultants and firms before founding Know History Inc. in 2011. By then, I had worked on Aboriginal litigation projects, museum exhibits, a truth commission, publications, heritage evaluations and oral and corporate

histories. My travels as a historian have taken me throughout Canada and exposed me to consultants working in all parts of the country. I am continually impressed by the breadth of work being done and the variety of ways that public historians are touching the lives of other Canadians.

That being said, there is still no national organization in Canada that gives public historians a forum in which to meet and share experiences and best practices. When I first found out about the National Council on Public History I was immediately intrigued by the organization, particularly the Consultant's

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2017 ANNUAL MEETING COVERAGE BEGINS ON PAGE 7.





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- Wilkes University, Department of History

THANK YOU!

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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WELCOME REBECCA DENNE



Rebecca Denne

Rebecca Denne is serving as the Graduate Assistant for the 2016-2017 academic year. She graduated from the University of Evansville (Indiana)

in 2015 with a BA in History, and is currently enrolled in IUPUI's Public History and Library Science Masters programs. Before NCPH, Rebecca interned with various institutions in Indianapolis including the Morris-Butler historic house museum, White River State Park, and most recently the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Rebecca's interests include archives, local history, and immigration.

Rebecca is excited to share her hometown with everybody at the national conference in April!

CONGRATS, MORGEN!



Morgen Young

Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) is pleased to announce that Morgen Young joined us on August 1, 2016, as a Project Historian in our Portland office. Morgen received her MA in Public History from the University of South Carolina and has run a successful history

consulting practice in Portland since 2009. She brings to HRA extensive experience in exhibit development, digital history, and oral history for clients such as the Port of Portland, the Oregon Historical Society, and Oregon Health & Sciences University. Morgen, a former NCPH board member, currently sits on the editorial board of *The Public Historian* and chairs the Consultants Committee. She received NCPH's Excellence in Consulting Award in 2012 for the exhibit "The History of Diversity in the Health Sciences" at Oregon Health & Science University, and again in 2016 for the exhibit "Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps During World War II," a traveling exhibit of the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission."

Welcome New Members!

Charlotte Adams West Columbia, SC	Becca Dierschow Denver, CO	John Isenhour Kennesaw, GA	Mark Pesl Sippensburg, PA	Meranda Roberts Grand Terrace, CA	Sady Sullivan New York, NY
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



STEPHANIE ROWE
ROWES@IUPUI.EDU

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

I am honored to have been appointed as the next Executive Director of NCPH after serving in an interim capacity since May 2015. It was a pleasure to work with the search committee and the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts during my candidacy this spring. I look forward to serving NCPH in this new role, and to moving the organization into the future. It's an exciting time especially as our board and Long Range Planning Committee are beginning work on our next long range plan for 2017-2022.

Many thanks to all of you for your warm messages of congratulations as my husband and I celebrated the birth of our son this spring. I want to say another big "thank you" to Susan Ferentinos for taking the helm as Acting Director during my maternity leave, and to Membership Coordinator Christine Crosby for taking on a heavier load of work this summer! We're also pleased to welcome back former intern and Program Assistant, Meghan Hillman. Meghan will continue to work part-time for us doing planning for the annual meeting while we coordinate with the university to develop a plan for hiring a new, full-time Program Manager.

Planning for the annual meeting in Indianapolis next April is moving along. We're excited to host the meeting in our home city and can't wait to show it off to you! Please turn to page 6 to read more about the exciting tours and special events that our Local

Arrangements Committee is working on. The Program Committee is hard at work reviewing a strong group of program proposals, as well as crafting a plenary that will draw upon the experiences of public institutions recognizing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history as American history, and how they can be used as a guide for public historians moving forward with additional collections, programs, and preservation projects.

Membership in NCPH has increased by almost 9% in the last year; from 1,473 in July 2015 to 1,601 in July 2016. This is a continuing trend for NCPH (membership grew 15% from 2014-2015) and is in part due to a successful joint conference with the Society for History in the Federal Government this past March. The organization's reserve fund, NCPH's unrestricted endowment, as of June 1 was \$710,669.13 in Vanguard accounts, along with \$14,030.81 cash in our endowment savings account, for a grand total of \$724,699.94. Thank you to everyone who has given to the NCPH endowment.



Our committees and task forces have also been hard at work this spring and summer. The executive office is working with the AASLH-AHA-NCPH-OAH Joint Task Force on Public History Education and Employment to conduct a survey of alumni

of North American Masters' programs in public history and related fields. If you teach a Masters' program related to public history, please share the survey with your alumni, and if you are an alum yourself, please take the survey at <http://svy.mk/1YtHbld>. The New Professional and Graduate Student Committee is working on their annual review and update of the *Public History Navigator*. The Membership Committee and NCPH office are working on two regional mini-cons to be held this fall. These events are sponsored by NCPH and speak to the long range plan goal "Extend(ing) NCPH's reach by endorsing local, state, regional, and international gatherings, projects, and workshops." A Long Range Planning Committee has just been formed to work in consultation with the organization's staff, Board of Directors, and membership to draft a long range plan for the NCPH, to guide institutional decision making during the period 2017-2022. NCPH's annual committee appointments are now complete, and rosters with contact information for the 2016-2017 committee members are on the NCPH website. Don't hesitate to share your ideas with committee chairs and members at <http://bit.ly/NCPHcomm>.

I was pleased to be asked to join the steering committee for the History Relevance Campaign this spring. The History Relevance Campaign is a diverse group of history professionals posing questions about what makes the past relevant today. The Campaign serves as a catalyst for discovering, demonstrating, and promulgating the value of history for individuals, communities, and the nation. Please visit www.historyrelevance.com to learn more about this group, to read our "Values of History" statement, and to encourage your institutions to endorse it if they haven't already.

FALL BOARD MEETING

On October 21-22, the NCPH Board of Directors will be meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. The board welcomes comments, questions, and suggestions from NCPH members throughout the year, and especially for the fall agenda. Please contact the executive director (rowes@iupui.edu) or individual board members listed at <http://bit.ly/NCPHcomm>.

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS // STEPHANIE ROWE APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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professional development, training, and other capacity-building opportunities. This experience has given her insight into the work many NCPH members do on a daily basis as well as the needs and challenges that face practitioners. While working at MANY, Stephanie had the opportunity to learn how a non-profit organization handles growth and change while working collaboratively with other similar organizations.

One of the most important relationships for NCPH is its connection to IUPUI. Having worked at NCPH for four years, Stephanie understands this relationship from not only an administrative angle but also from a personal perspective. When asked during her interview to discuss the direction NCPH needs, Stephanie articulated several critical ways in which NCPH and IUPUI can continue to build on their relationship, even as both institutions change and grow. The search committee was impressed not only by Stephanie's vision for this relationship but also by her deep knowledge of the IUPUI faculty,

administration, and programs (both old and new). This knowledge bodes well for the future longevity of this all-important relationship.

Knowing NCPH, its members, and its mission through her previous work with the organization also meant that Stephanie was able to point to the very real challenges which face the organization overall. During her job talk, she discussed at some length the ways in which NCPH can play a central role in bridging the divisions which exist between public history practitioners who work in the academy and those who work outside the academy, how NCPH can develop and maintain greater financial stability (especially as its explosive growth has strained existing resources), how the organization can take a leading role in creating a more diverse field of historians (and a more diverse NCPH), and finally, how she can guide the organization in addressing widespread perceptions (and misperceptions!) about the value and relevance of history and public history in particular.

There are no easy answers to the challenges NCPH faces in the upcoming years.

Acknowledging these issues, and beginning to foster a nuanced discussion in which all voices are heard, will require a steady and thoughtful leader, one who is willing to advocate for an innovative and new approach to these different challenges but one who also understands and can build on the organization's past successes.

After a lengthy and thorough search, we are confident that Stephanie Rowe will be able to take up these challenges and to lead NCPH, and the history profession overall, in addressing these issues. We are also confident that as she leads the organization, she will be able to maintain the welcoming culture that has made NCPH a much-loved institution among both its old and new members.

And we hope, reflecting that culture, that you will join us in welcoming Stephanie as the next NCPH Executive Director.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT // COLLABORATION ACROSS BORDERS

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Committee. I attended the organization's annual meeting for the first time in Ottawa in 2013, and was struck by how diversified the participants and sessions were. The first day was filled with workshops, while other highlights of the meeting included networking events, tours, and engaging panels. The speakers came from government, consulting firms, museums, and archives. Unlike some academic conferences that narrowly focus on specializations, the NCPH's annual meeting connects people who are working on a range of subject areas, but who are all passionate about how history is created and shared with the public.

For Know History, these kinds of opportunities are invaluable to our own development. As public history grows within the academy, we see universities and colleges reaching out to public institutions and firms to develop partnerships and offer internship opportunities. For that reason, it is important that practicing public historians continue to develop their skills, strive for the highest standards of professional excellence, and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to their craft. Know History maintains an active presence in the Canadian public history community, participating at conferences, hosting internships, and running workshops for new graduates on oral history

interviewing. But I would love to see public historians come together to form a professional organization that promotes standards and practices for our field, similar to Professional Historians Australia. The NCPH is well poised to lead the development of this initiative.

This is one of the many reasons Know History is excited to be one of the few private firms to become a NCPH Patron. Of course we value the recognition this designation provides. But we are also eager to share experiences and best practices with members of the NCPH community, including the many incredible consultants on the organization's directory. The NCPH is a window through which to exchange new ideas with colleagues across North America and grow as professionals. In turn, I hope we can help the NCPH establish standards and practices that propel the field of public history into the future.

Ryan Shackleton is the Director of Know History Inc., a historical services firm based in Ottawa, Canada. He has been a consultant since 2000 and has worked on a variety of projects throughout Canada. He sits on the NCPH Consultant's Committee, is the former Chair of the Canadian Historical Association's Public History Group, sits on Library and Archives Canada's Advisory Committee, and is an active presenter at conferences.

NCPH IS WIDE AWAKE IN "NAPTOWN"



Black Market Indy. Photo courtesy of Jason Lavengood Photography and VisitIndy.

On April 19-22, 2017 the NCPH Annual Meeting will be coming to Indianapolis, Indiana. NCPH is housed on the campus of Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), and we can't wait to welcome you to our home turf for the first time and show you what makes our city great. Because we know Indy well, we think this is an opportunity to recapture the flexible, intimate, adventurous vibe that NCPH conferences are known for.

We've heard Indianapolis called several less-than-flattering nicknames, among them "Naptown" (although who doesn't love naps?), but the city's cultural partnerships set it apart and make it anything but sleepy. Local Arrangements Committee co-chairs Phil

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BE SEEN IN INDIANAPOLIS

Eight hundred public historians are expected to attend the 2017 NCPH Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. 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 2017 Conference page on the NCPH website: <http://ncph.org/conference/2017-annual-meeting/>

THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU ON THE PROGRAM

Now that the Program Committee has worked through the session, workshop, and working



group proposals for the 2017 conference in Indianapolis, we have opened the call for Poster Sessions 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/IndyCallforPosters>. 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://ncph.org/conference/2017-annual-meeting/>

NCPH IS WIDE AWAKE IN 'NAPTOWN' // CONT. FROM PAGE 6

Scarpino (IUPUI) and Kyle McKoy (Indiana Historical Society) have assembled a committee representing Indy's best museums and cultural institutions. Combined with a flourishing foodie and craft beer scene and a walkable downtown replete with urban green spaces, it's a fantastic (and affordable!) place to spend a few days with friends and colleagues.



Mass Ave Street Scene. Photo courtesy of Kelley Jordan, VisitIndy.com.

The theme of the conference is "The Middle: Where did we come from? Where are we going?" and as we ask attendees to take stock of the field, we are doing the same for the NCPH conference experience. More than ever before, Program Committee co-chairs Peter Liebhold (Smithsonian Institution) and John Sprinkle (National Park Service) are building a Program that will help attendees stretch their legs and get to know the conference city, its history, and its present. We're also stretching our legs as an organization, to see what's possible as we grow.

- **Kick things off at the Indiana Historical Society.** Wednesday evening's

opening reception will be held offsite, a five minute walk from the hotel.

- **Redefine "Hoosier hospitality."** We're featuring two service opportunities, allowing attendees to leave Indy a little nicer than they found it: an outdoor tour and clean-up of the White River and a trip to give a local museum some much-needed help with their collection.
- **Old favorites, new formats.** We'll be offering a slate of great sessions, workshops, working groups, and tours—but they might look a little different! Several workshops will be offsite, some sessions will take new forms, and we've got a few tours in the works that break the mold – including a bike tour and a field trip to the Indiana Women's Prison that will meld public history, performance, and activism.
- **Hang with the locals.** This year you'll find a Program that truly functions as a locals' guide to the best of the city. We'll help you figure out where to eat, what to drink, and highlight special events and exhibits around town (such as the opening of the traveling "States of Incarceration" exhibit, which several of NCPH's patron and partner universities helped develop).

Our public plenary event will feature conversation on LGBTQ history as American



Monument Circle. Photo courtesy of Jason Lavengood, VisitIndy.com.

history. The 2015 Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), which sanctioned discrimination against Indiana's LGBTQ communities, sparked a firestorm of disapproval in Indianapolis. NCPH explored the possibility of moving the 2017 meeting until an additional amendment built in protections for sexual orientation and gender identity, and the Indianapolis community and all of our conference partners issued statements condemning RFRA and supporting the LGBTQ community. With this recent history, we hope the plenary event will provide a national model of successful efforts for a community eager to embrace LGBTQ history.

You'll find that the city of Indianapolis is wide awake and working hard to defy your expectations. We're excited to provide attendees with the welcoming atmosphere and thoughtful content you've come to expect from NCPH...with some surprises and experiments along the way.

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 2017 awards breakfast in Indianapolis, Indiana, 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 2017 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 2017 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 (2015 and 2016).

New Professional Award—Two \$500 travel grants to encourage new professionals, practicing public history for no more than three years, to attend the 2017 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.

Michael C. Robinson Prize for Historical Analysis—A \$500 award and a certificate to honor a historical study that directly contributes to the formation of public policy.

NCPH Book Award and Robert Kelley Memorial Award nominations must be received by November 1, 2016. All other nominations must be received by December 1, 2016. Submission guidelines are available at <http://ncph.org/about/awards/>

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



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