



NCPH Virtual Awards Daily Spotlights

May 2 - 6, 2022

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2022 NCPH Awards

Robert Kelley Memorial Award

This award honors distinguished achievements by individuals, institutions, or nonprofit or corporate entities for making history relevant to the lives of ordinary people outside of academia. Award committee members: Caroline Klibanoff (chair), Timothy Kneeland, and Bill Peterson.

Award Winner

Constance Schulz, University of South Carolina

The Robert Kelley Memorial Award Committee is pleased to present this year's award to a nominee with a long career of dedication and achievement to the public history field, Dr. Constance Schulz. A professor of history and independent public history practitioner for nearly fifty years, Dr. Schulz joined the University of South Carolina Applied History faculty in 1985. As director or co-director of that program for twenty-three years, Dr. Schulz has shaped a program that has inspired and educated generations of students to be ethical archival scholars and managers, documentary editors, and field scholars in comparative public history. Her students and colleagues note her generous spirit, deep experience, and track record of building processes and programs that have become models to emulate worldwide.

Outstanding Public History Project Award

These awards are presented for work completed within the previous two calendar years that contribute to broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serve as a model of professional public history practice. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stevie and Ted Wolf that makes this award possible. Award committee members: Kathleen Franz (chair), Ashley Bouknight, Cathy Gudis, and Peter Wong.

Large Institution Award Winner

We Make History

Diana Sierra Becerra, University of Massachusetts Amherst; **Jennifer Guglielmo and Michelle Joffroy**, Smith College; and **Anna Duncan and Lisa Moore**, National Domestic Workers Alliance

Among a very strong group of submissions, [We Make History](#) impressed the committee as a “stellar digital public humanities and social justice project that serves multiple functions and audiences; engages the past to advocate for a better future for domestic workers; and educates leaders and students alike.” The project includes a set of online materials—curriculum, digital timeline, and series of short films—that empower domestic workers to advocate for themselves and educate audiences interested in labor history and women’s history. As the nominator wrote, the *We Make History* project helps “today’s domestic workers identify with the long arc of history, and inspires contemporary strategies based on past experience.” It is an inspiring example of activists and public historians coming together to create history that not only inspires but actively creates social change.

Honorable Mention

Campu Podcast

Hana Maruyama and Noah Maruyama, with [Densho](#)

Small Institution Award Winner

Evanston Policies and Practices Directly Affecting the African American Community

Morris "Dino" Robinson, Jr., Shorefront Legacy Center, and **Jenny Thompson**, Evanston History Center

In 2020, the city of Evanston, IL, commissioned historians Morris "Dino" Robinson, Jr., and Jenny Thompson to research and write a report detailing the long history of racial discrimination in the city from 1919 to 1969. The report supported a groundbreaking effort by city legislators and administrators to create the first local reparations program in the United States. The resulting report showcases the detailed, compelling, and deeply researched history of Robinson, Jr., and Thompson. The authors uncovered historical sources previously unknown and unused, mapped the contours of discrimination on the landscape and in the local laws, and provided clear portraits of resilience among Evanston's Black residents. As the nominator explained, the report plays multiple roles in supporting the reparations program as a tool to educate lawmakers and the public at large. The committee felt strongly that this collaboration among historians and local lawmakers provided an important template for the role of public history and public historians in supporting racial justice. It expands how we think about public history and makes the work of public historians critical and immediate.

Honorable Mention

The Forgotten Slavery of Our Ancestors

Howdice Brown III (Iñupiaq), **Alice Qannik Glenn (Iñupiaq)**, and **Marie Acemah (Founder/Director)**, See Stories

NCPH Book Award

The NCPH Book Award recognizes outstanding scholarship that addresses the theory and/or practice of public history or that includes the products of public history work. Award committee members: Martin Blatt (chair), Michelle Delaney, and Jill Titus.

Award Winner

The Brutish Museums: The Benin Bronzes, Colonial Violence and Cultural Restitution

(Pluto Press, 2021)

Dan Hicks, University of Oxford

Dan Hicks writes with power, intelligence, passion, and anger about the important topic of looting the colonial world and then continuing this violence by putting the stolen objects on display in museums. He declares that the brutish museums such as the Pitt Rivers where he works "...have compounded killings, cultural destructions, and thefts with the propaganda of race science, with the normalisation of the display of human cultures in material form. An act of dehumanisation in the face of dispossession lies at the heart of the operation of the brutish museums." Hicks, a professor of contemporary archaeology at the University of Oxford, examines the brutal, deadly British assault on Benin City, Nigeria, in 1897, and the theft of countless objects which comprise the Benin bronzes, including thousands of brass plaques and carved ivory tusks. Subsequently, he explores in careful detail the disposition of the stolen objects across Britain and the world, although he is cautious to note the challenges in fully documenting the whereabouts of these materials.

Hicks clearly articulates a call to action, arguing that "...Britain needs to come to terms with its Victorian colonial-militarist past in a totally new way – and that anthropology museums offer spaces for doing this

as sites of conscience, and of restitution, reparation and reconciliation.” And he declares in his afterword that “...the reader has to write the conclusion by taking action...” Hicks provides a clear and concrete place to begin in one of his appendices where he identifies all of the museums, galleries, and collections worldwide that may currently hold objects looted from Benin City in 1897. Some institutions, including German state museums, British universities, and the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African Art, have started to act but there is much more that should be done, which Hicks argues in his provocative and compelling book.

Honorable Mention

Curating America's Painful Past: Memory, Museums, and the National Imagination

(University Press of Kansas, 2021)

Tim Gruenewald, University of Hong Kong

Grassroots Public History Award

This award recognizes an individual or community organization doing important public history work in their community. Award committee members: Liz Ševcenko (co-chair), Romeo Guzmán (co-chair), Brittani Orona, and Mayela Caro.

Winner to be announced at a later date.

Excellence in Consulting Awards

These awards recognize outstanding contributions to the field of public history through consulting or contract work. Award committee members: Melody Hunter-Pillion (chair), Donna Graves, Jessica Knapp, and Lisa Zevorich Susner.

Group Award Winner

Black Lives and Whiteness Stories: From the Lowcountry to the Mountains (A Historic Resource Study of Black History at Rock Hill/Connemara, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, National Park Service)

Anne Mitchell Whisnant and David E. Whisnant, Primary Source History Services

In their Historic Resource Study for the National Park Service (NPS), Anne Mitchell Whisnant and David Whisnant broaden the meaning of the history of the Rock Hill/Connemara property (Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site) in Flat Rock, North Carolina, by delving deeply into the experiences of African Americans who lived and worked there. Not only do they uncover long-suppressed narratives about enslaved and freed African Americans, but their study also revises the commonly accepted narratives regarding the white owners of Rock Hill/Connemara before it was purchased by the Sandburgs. This extensively researched and intellectually rigorous project provides a wealth of information for new interpretation at the NPS site, as well as potentially expanding the scope of its National Register designation. The Whisnants’ contributions to scholarship about the history of Rock Hill/Connemara make the project worthy of recognition in and of itself, but they take their analysis a step further, identifying the conscious choices made by community members and the National Park Service over the years to prioritize certain narratives over others, thus silencing African American history at Rock Hill/Connemara and in the community of Flat Rock. Expanding interpretation at National Park sites can meet pushback by those who point to original enabling legislation and its goals. Projects like this show that attaining relevance, an important aim for NPS, must take into account the constraints that previous versions of history have handed down. Perhaps the next step at this site would be to investigate its associations with Indigenous history. *Black Lives and Whiteness Stories* thus serves to illuminate the potential tension between consultants and their audiences that may arise during a

consulting project, while also demonstrating how consultants can challenge their clients, encouraging the telling of alternative stories and the redressing of past injustices.

Individual Award Winner

Using Oral History to Affect Community Change: Action in Montgomery at its 20th Anniversary

Joan M. Zenzen, Independent Historian

Joan M. Zenzen’s public history project, *Using Oral History to Affect Community Change: Action in Montgomery at its 20th Anniversary*, exemplifies the ways public historians can serve community goals. This community-led work for Action in Montgomery (AIM), a community empowerment organization in Montgomery County, Maryland, captures voices from the past to train leaders for the future, giving history relevance and making community history instructive. In her role as public historian, Zenzen embedded herself in the community—including attending an intensive, three-day training session for emerging community leaders—to cogenenerate the project. Zenzen conducted 23 oral history interviews, wrote four case studies to highlight and teach social justice organizing principles and strategies applied in the past, and worked with volunteers to promote the project in both English and Spanish. The strength of Zenzen’s work lies in the ways she and AIM imagined uses for the oral histories she collected; her work centers the community and its distinctive voices, collective memories, and goals for the future. As Montgomery History archivist Sarah Hedlund put it, Zenzen provided “... an important continuation of the story of our historically Black communities and their resilience across the last 150 years.” Zenzen identified and secured a repository to preserve those oral testimonies with Montgomery History. Her work developed tools the community participated in crafting through multiracial and multilingual collaboration. This process of cogeneration is important and challenging work. There are many barriers to this type of undertaking, and the National Council on Public History wants to recognize scholars who make diligent efforts to accomplish this goal. We join AIM in applauding Joan M. Zenzen’s dedication to make clear connections between communities and public historians in reaching community goals and values.

Individual Award Honorable Mention

“An Island Apart”: The Job Corps at Acadia National Park, 1966-1969

Laura Miller, Independent Historical Consultant, with **Angela Sirna**, National Park Service

G. Wesley Johnson Award

Named in honor of the founding editor of The Public Historian, this award recognizes the most outstanding article appearing in the journal during the previous volume year. NCPH acknowledges the generous support of Stan Hordes of HMS Associates in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and many of his friends for underwriting this award. Award committee members: Jessica Jenkins (chair), Kaiti Hannah, and Judith Ridner.

Award Winner

“QuiltSpeak: Uncovering Women’s Voices in the North Carolina Museum of History’s Permanent Collection,”

The Public Historian Vol 43, No 4

Diana Bell-Kite, North Carolina Museum of History

Approached in a very compelling manner, Diana Bell-Kite’s article “*QuiltSpeak: Uncovering Women’s Voices in the North Carolina Museum of History’s Permanent Collection*” captured the highest attention of the committee. Across the board, committee members felt that the article not only displayed a high level of research methods but was particularly timely in its urging for the telling of more diverse histories inside the walls of our nation’s museums—spaces that for far too long have prioritized the

voices of only a small segment of society. Taking aim at permanent museum collections (often left waning in storage areas, while simultaneously being lauded by the field and public), Bell-Kite reminds us all that material culture should not be ignored as a powerful research tool or a means of communicating with the public. For under-documented communities and individuals, artifacts can be a lens into their life experiences. And as the author aptly reminds her readers, public historians cannot forget the importance of the power of the object and the power of the authentic in bringing history TO the public. Material culture is not just about the minutiae of stitches, dovetails, or glazes; as Bell-Kite has pointed out, material culture is also about humanizing makers, consumers, and anyone who comes into contact with material items. Through these objects public historians can breathe life back into histories once forgotten, as well as the stories of diverse populations that at one time were seen as less important than the print on a fabric. Every public historian will benefit from reading this outstanding article, and the award committee notes the high quality and importance of “*QuiltSpeak*” in conferring the G. Wesley Johnson Award to Diana Bell-Kite.

Honorable Mention

“Printing the Past: Building Accessibility and Engagement Through 3-D Technologies,”

The Public Historian Vol 43, No 2

Katie Stringer Clary and Carolyn Dillian, Coastal Carolina University

Student Project Award

This award is given to an outstanding public history student project initiated as academic coursework and implemented and recognized beyond the classroom for its contribution to the field of public history.

Award committee members: Shannon Haltiwanger (chair), Claire Du Laney, Marissa Petrou, Katherine Preissler, and Harvee White.

Award Winner

History for the Future: How Can Histories of Mutual Aid Help Us Build Radical Futures?

Acoma Gaither and Andrea Manolov, University of Minnesota

The Student Awards Committee presents the 2022 Student Project Award to Acoma Gaither and Andrea Manolov for their project *History for the Future: How Can Histories of Mutual Aid Help Us Build Radical Futures?* Gaither and Manolov’s nomination fulfilled all of the committee’s expectations of our Student Project Award recipient. *History for the Future* developed out of their collaborative capstone project to fulfill the requirement that earned them an MA in Heritage Studies & Public History (HSPH) from the University of Minnesota in May 2021. *History for the Future* moved the needle in public history by not only showcasing how public history can thrive with community collaboration but also how through public history communities can connect the past to current struggles. In addition, this project has set a new model of what capstone projects can look like. The work delivers brilliantly complex and multi-faceted public history projects with grounded community intentionality. This work was embedded within a neighborhood/community meeting people where they were at and sought to upend basic constructs of public history. Gaither and Manolov demonstrated the importance of working with and learning from the communities around them and created an equal voice for long-time activists, elders, and youth around a profound historical crisis that not only transformed the city of Minneapolis but the world. We look forward to their future work and to seeing how they both change public history for the better.

New Professional Travel Awards

New Professional Travel Awards are for individuals who are new to the field and practice of public history. These two grants assist new professionals in attending the NCPH conference, helping them connect with other members of the profession early in their careers. NCPH acknowledges the generous

support of Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) for underwriting one of these awards. Award committee members: Bob Carriker (chair), Patrick Moore, and Morgen Young. Note that awards typically given as travel grants for the annual meeting were maintained at their usual level of funding despite the meeting moving to a virtual platform.

HRA Travel Award Winner

Laurel Overstreet, Luci Creative

Laurel Overstreet earned an MA in Public History from Loyola University in 2020. In conjunction with her graduate studies, Overstreet gained experience as an exhibitions development intern at the Field Museum in Chicago and as a collections intern at the Frances Willard House Museum in Evanston, IL, before taking a position as Project Archivist at the Chicago History Museum. Currently, Overstreet is an Exhibition Developer with the award-winning exhibit design and development firm Luci Creative. In this position, she finds ample opportunity to act as a public historian to “make the study of the past accessible, inclusive, multi-faceted, and multi-modal” for a range of clients looking to create immersive history-based experiences and exhibits. Sometimes Overstreet finds herself helping those clients challenge their audiences’ views of the past, and sometimes must spur the clients themselves to think differently about history.

NCPH Travel Award Winner

Joel Zapata, Oregon State University

Joel Zapata is an assistant professor of History at Oregon State University (OSU), where he has worked since 2020 after earning a PhD in History from Southern Methodist University. As a new professor at OSU, Zapata is making an impact partnering with community organizations throughout rural and urban Oregon to develop the oral history project and collection, *Latina/o/x Social Justice en Oregon*. Working with graduate students in public history, Zapata’s team collects oral histories from Latina/o/x Oregonians. He is also on the Public History Committee for the Western History Association, works with the School Renaming Task Force of the Corvallis, Oregon, School District, is creating bilingual lesson plans for the state’s Latinx history curriculum, and leads the digital portion of the Letitia Carson Legacy Project to tell the story of a formerly enslaved Black Oregon pioneer.

Graduate Student Travel Awards

The Graduate Student Travel Awards provide assistance for conference travel costs for five graduate students who will present a session or poster or will participate in a working group at the NCPH annual meeting. Award committee members: Shannon Haltiwanger (chair), Claire Du Laney, Marissa Petrou, Katherine Preissler, and Harvee White. Note that awards typically given as travel grants for the annual meeting were maintained at their usual level of funding despite the meeting moving to a virtual platform.

Congratulations this year go to the following:

Monica El-Amin, University of West Georgia

John Flynn, University of Utah

Cheyenne Grimes, IUPUI

Madeline Hellmich, IUPUI

Saskia Lascarez Casanova, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Congratulations to the 2022 award recipients, and thank you award selection committees!

Submissions for the 2023 NCPH Book and Robert Kelley Memorial awards are due November 1, 2022, and all other award submissions are due December 1, 2022. Please see www.ncph.org for details.

NCPH relies on its endowment to support the awards program and a variety of other programs and projects that fulfill the organization's mission. A primary goal of our *2020 Vision Endowment Campaign* was to "expand travel grants and award offerings to increase diversity and inclusion in the organization and field." To help grow our future award and travel grant offerings, please consider giving or pledging to the campaign: <http://ncph.org/giving/endowment>.