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The Brandywine’s Most Beautiful Mile
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
JOIN US IN PHILADELPHIA!

This August 28-31, the joint American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and International Coalition of Sites of Conscience Annual Meeting will convene in Philadelphia to learn, engage in fellowship, tour, and address this year’s theme, What Are We Waiting For? Depending on the work at hand, this theme serves different purposes. It is a call to action, a challenge to embrace difficult work now. It is also a cautious whisper, a reminder to slow down and get it right. Although different issues warrant different responses, consideration of the question is essential in light of the challenges our field, communities, nation, and planet are facing.

Philadelphia is the perfect location to examine a theme that contains contradiction for it holds a central place in American history and reveals many of its own oppositions. The city hosted the creation of our nation’s founding documents: The Declaration of Independence and Constitution, both produced by enslavers on what was formerly Leni-Lenape Indian land. A city famous for celebrating the history of liberty and for being a “free city” during antebellum years, Philadelphia is also the city that bombed black activists in a residential neighborhood less than forty years ago. It is home to extreme wealth but also rife with poverty.

Those joining us will have many opportunities to see colleagues who both accelerate needed change as well as slow down to achieve greater impact. Philadelphia has long served as host to pathbreaking work in public history. Its buildings were the first documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey, and it is the nation’s first city to be designated as a member of the Organization of World Heritage Cities. It has pushed beyond its famous colonial stories to address change and welcome diverse histories embedded in its neighborhoods and region-wide. Yet, as we write this invitation letter, the city’s history museum is slated to close and deliberate community-wide discussions are underway about the future of its collection. This city is used to slow planning to get things right but also trying new approaches when the situation demands change.

Come to Philadelphia for the 2019 Annual Meeting and join us to examine how getting the timing right can make the difference between success and failure, between building relationships or breaking them down. Should we dive in, get better organized before starting, or take time to consider an entirely new direction? What Are We Waiting For?

Don’t miss being a part of the experience. Join us in Philadelphia and leave with a deeper sense of purpose and timing!

Jackie Barton
Program Committee Chair
Birch Wood Planning

David Young
Host Committee Co-Chair
Delaware Historical Society

Bill Adair
Host Committee Co-Chair
Pew Charitable Trust
8000 BCE — Humans began to settle in the area. By 1000 CE the Lenape Indians lived along much of the Mid-Atlantic coast in small villages.

1650s — Swedes and Finns established small settlements along the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. *Old Swedes’ Church, 916 S. Swanson St.

1681 — William Penn received his charter in 1681 and established the city of Philadelphia. Penn, who was a Quaker and discriminated against in his native Britain, built his new city/colony on the principles of peace and relative religious liberty.

1684 — The ship Isabella docked in Philadelphia and sold 150 Africans to eager settlers. *Middle Passage Historical Marker at Penn’s Landing

1688 — The Germantown Society of Friends (Quakers) petitioned against slavery.

1701 — A series of bogus treaties between William Penn’s heirs and the Lenape tricked the native group out of most of their land in the region.

1720 — Nearly twenty percent of the city’s population was enslaved Africans. *African American Museum in Philadelphia, 701 Arch St.

1774 & 1775 — The First and Second Continental Congresses were held in *Independence Hall, 6th and Chestnut St.

June 1776 — Thomas Jefferson began drafting a document declaring that the American colonies were legally separating from Great Britain. *Graff House, 143 S. 3rd St.

July 4, 1776 — The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress and on July 8 it was read aloud from the steps of Independence Hall.

October 1777 — The British captured Philadelphia at the Battle of Germantown. *Site of the Battle of Germantown, Cliveden of the National Trust, 6401 Germantown Ave.

1780 — Pennsylvania abolition law is passed providing manumission to all born in 1780 or after. Those already enslaved remain enslaved.

1782 — The first Jewish synagogue in Philadelphia is established. *Mikveh Israel, 44 N. 4th St.

1787 — Richard Allen and Absalom Jones found the Free African Society.

Summer 1787 — The Constitutional Convention meets in Independence Hall and drafts the new constitution for the United States of America.


Summer 1793 — The Great Yellow Fever Epidemic kills almost ten percent of the city’s population. The U.S. government and most wealthy whites flee to Germantown. *Germantown White House, 5442 Germantown Ave.

1794 — Charles Wilson Peale opens the first museum in the United States. See the descendent of this museum at the American Philosophical Society at 104 S. 5th St.

1794 — The first African American church, Mother Bethel African American Episcopal Church (AME), was founded at 419 S. 6th St.

1796 — Ona Judge, enslaved by President Washington and his wife Martha, escapes to freedom through the underground railroad and settles in New Hampshire. The Washingtons launch an intense search to find her.

1800 — Philly is the largest city in North America.
1822 — The Philadelphia Waterworks is completed, the most sophisticated achievement of municipal engineering in the country to date. *Fairmount Waterworks, 640 Waterworks Dr.

1824 — The *Historical Marker at St. Augustine’s Catholic Church at 4th and New St.

1829 — *Eastern State Penitentiary is completed. 2027 Fairmount Ave.

1838 — The city’s newly constructed Pennsylvania Hall, a site of abolitionist meetings, is burned to the ground by an angry mob three days after it is dedicated.

1840 — The first lager beer produced in the United States was made in Philadelphia by Engel & Wolf Brewery.

1843-1844 — Nativist riots attack homes and churches of Irish Catholics in Kensington and Southwark, new immigrant neighborhoods. *Historic Marker at St. Augustine’s Catholic Church at 4th and New St.

1854 — National Women’s Rights Conference is held in Philly. Susan B. Anthony calls for the delegates to work on state legislation since the federal government has been so slow to act on women’s issues.

1858 — The region’s first horse-drawn street cars and steam powered commuter rail lines are introduced, spurring the creation of the area’s first suburbs.

1861-1865 — Factories in Philadelphia supply munitions, uniforms, etc. for the Union war effort. African American soldiers are trained just outside the city at Camp William Penn, the first training grounds for black soldiers. *Union League, 140 S. Broad St.

1867 — Philadelphia street cars are legally desegregated.

1867 — Fairmount Park is formed, becoming the largest urban park in the U.S. and deliberately left wild to support local natural habitats. *Boathouse Row

1870 — Federal troops sent to Philadelphia for the first time to protect African American voters in the first major election after the passage of the 15th Amendment. A year later, civil rights activist Octavius Catto is killed in election day violence. *Visit his memorial at the southwest corner of Philadelphia City Hall.

1870s — Philadelphia’s Chinatown is settled as more Chinese immigrants come to the region seeking jobs.

1872 — Philadelphian William Still publishes *The Underground Railroad, the most comprehensive narrative of lives of formerly enslaved African Americans.

1876 — More than ten million people attend the Centennial Exhibition, the first World’s Fair in the U.S.

July 4, 1876 — Susan B. Anthony reads aloud the *Declaration of Rights of Women outside Independence Hall.

1880s-1930s — Philadelphia’s Jewish population doubles as tens of thousands of eastern and southern European immigrants settle in south and west Philadelphia.

1884 — *The Philadelphia Tribune, the country’s oldest continuously running African American newspaper, begins publishing. *The Philadelphia Tribune building, 520 S. 16th St.


1900-1920s — The Great Migration of African Americans from the south to the northern U.S. results in the doubling of Philly’s black population.

1915 — Italian American businessmen found the open air 9th Street Market, becoming the largest open air market in the region. *9th St. between Christian St. and Washington Ave.
A History of Philadelphia

... continued

1918 — The Spanish Flu epidemic hits Philadelphia worse than any other large city in the U.S. killing more than 16,000 people.

1920s-1950s — Large numbers of immigrants from Puerto Rico begin to settle in north and south Philadelphia. *Taller Puertorriqueño, 2600 N. 5th St.

1928 — Philadelphia Museum of Art opens. *26th and Benjamin Franklin Pkwy

1930 — Pat’s Steaks, the first cheesesteak shop in Philly, opens and serves their first cheesesteak in 1933. *1237 E. Passyunk Ave.

1932 — Broad Street Subway opens.

1932 — The PSFS building opens and is the first International Style skyscraper in the U.S. *Loews Hotel, 12th and Market St.

1945 — The first electronic computer in the world is created at the University of Pennsylvania.


1956-1964 — American Bandstand with Dick Clark is broadcast from West Philadelphia.

1960s — After many neighborhoods in Philadelphia experience white flight during the 1960s, neighbors in the Mt. Airy section of the city commit to fostering an intentionally integrated community.

1965-1969 — LGBT rights demonstrations occur in front of Independence Hall. *Historical Marker, 5th and Chestnut St.

1967 — Public school students walk out to protest racial discrimination in hiring and in the curriculum.

1968 — After a protracted Civil Rights fight, the U.S. Supreme Court forces the desegregation of Girard College. *21st St. and Girard Ave.


1976 — Rocky opens in theaters.

1985 — Police bomb a West Philadelphia neighborhood to forcibly remove MOVE, a black liberation group, killing eleven people.

1980s-90s — Philadelphia is one of the hardest hit U.S. urban areas by the AIDS epidemic. The city becomes a center of AIDS activism and major supporter of the national ACT-Up actions.

2008 — The city begins to gain population for the first time since the 1950s.

2010 — *The President’s House Memorial, located at 6th 1860 and Market St., is dedicated to honor the enslaved who worked there while President Washington was in residence.

2018 — The Philadelphia Eagles win the Super Bowl!

2019 — There are approximately 400 organizations in the Philadelphia region dedicated to the preservation and presentation of history.

*Be Sure to Visit These Places While You Are in Philadelphia
Experience the Revolution!

WELCOME AASLH 2019 ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDEES!

AASLH members receive free admission.

YOU DON’T KNOW THE HALF OF IT

PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY!

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Why Attend?

• Choose from more than 80 sessions that will show you the latest in developing, delivering, and connecting to history and challenge you to think about history in different ways.
• Find colleagues who share your specific challenges by participating in an AASLH Affinity Community event.
• Celebrate our achievements as a field and gain the courage to be creative and experimental in your work.
• Explore the Exhibit Hall to find the newest resources to directly improve the way you work.
• Have fun and explore the rich history of Philadelphia through evening events and engaging tours.

Who Attends?
The AASLH Annual Meeting provides new and experienced history professionals with the networking and resources they need to grow and become leaders in the field:

• Archivists
• Board Members
• CEOs
• Consultants
• Curators
• Directors
• Educators
• Exhibit Designers
• Historians
• Interpreters
• Librarians
• Museum Administrators
• Preservationists
• Registrars
• Students
• and More

Can’t Make It to Philadelphia? Join the Conference Online.

Can’t come to Philadelphia, but still want to attend? Do you want a low cost alternative to training for your staff? Register for the 2019 AASLH Online Conference! Hear six of the top sessions from the AASLH/Sites of Conscience Annual Meeting from your office, home, or local coffee shop. AASLH will broadcast the six sessions in webinar format so you can participate, ask questions, and make comments. With the Online Conference, you can provide training for all your employees and volunteers, hear what experts from the field are talking about, all for one low price. Visit aaslh.org/2019annualmeeting/online-conference to view a free sample session from the 2018 online conference.

AASLH will air three sessions per day during the conference on Thursday and Friday, August 29-30. Participants will also have access to session handouts. The recordings will be available to the online participants for reviewing for six months after the broadcast.

Register for the online conference at aaslh.org. After registering, you will receive instructions via email about how to log on to the site and information about technical issues and requirements. If you have questions, please email Kleinpeter@aaslh.org. Sessions will include:

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<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Building STEM Identity in Girls Outside of Science Centers</td>
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<td>Erasing Silences: Sally Hemings at Monticello</td>
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<td>Intercultural Collaboration: Museums as Agents and Conveners</td>
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<td>Making the Most of Your Collections Assessment: How to Prioritize and Fund Collections Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>We Are No Longer Waiting: Teaching a More Inclusive American History</td>
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<tr>
<td>What Lurks in the Basement: Finding the Silver Lining in HVAC Projects</td>
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The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience welcomes our colleagues from across the continent and globe.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary this year, we look forward to expanding the Sites of Conscience movement with you all by connecting the past to the present, interpreting history through place, facilitating dialogue on pressing social issues, sharing opportunities for public engagement, and promoting universal cultures of human rights.

Wednesday, August 28

1:30–5 pm Dialogue Training Workshop
5:30–6:30 pm Sites of Conscience Reception

Thursday, August 29

10:30 am–5 pm Why Are We Waiting to Talk About ...
Looking to engage in more meaningful conversations with colleagues on issues facing our communities and ourselves as community-based institutions? Please join Sites of Conscience-trained facilitators from across the country as we discuss:

10:45 am Public History Professionals and Mental Health
1:45 pm Hate Speech in Public History Spaces
4 pm When Our Heroes Do Bad Things
Meeting Highlights

SHARING YOUR IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Annual Meeting includes activities and networking especially for the field of state and local history! In addition to sponsored sessions throughout the meeting, you’re invited to attend the following AASLH Affinity Community events to discuss the latest issues, share ideas, and to be inspired:

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<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Field Services Alliance Meeting</td>
<td>Law and Civics Naturalization Ceremony</td>
<td>StEPS Morning Meet Up</td>
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<td>History Leadership Forum</td>
<td>Business History Lunch</td>
<td>Historic House Museums Lunch</td>
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<td>Educators and Interpreters Lunch</td>
<td>Military History Lunch</td>
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<td>Religious History Lunch</td>
<td>Diversity and Inclusion Mixer</td>
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<td>Small Museums Lunch</td>
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<td>History Leadership Institute Reception</td>
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<td>Emerging History Professionals Networking Meet Up</td>
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History Happy Hour!

On Wednesday and Thursday between sessions and the evening event, take a few moments for some informal networking with colleagues. Many of our Affinity Communities will be hosting informal meet-ups in the hotel or at local bars where you can come together and meet people with similar professional interests. A full schedule will be distributed onsite in Philadelphia and posted on the AASLH website and conference app.

Explore New Products and Services in the Exhibit Hall

On Thursday, August 29, and Friday, August 30, don’t miss your chance to visit the Exhibit Hall and meet more than fifty vendors and suppliers at this year’s Annual Meeting. The Exhibit Hall is your place to network and check out the latest technology and services being offered!

NCPH Poster Session

The National Council on Public History will sponsor a poster session in the Exhibit Hall during the morning coffee break on Friday, August 30.

Sites of Conscience staff also present these sessions this week:

- Wanting to Know? American Perspectives on Bias, Trust and Inclusive History:
  Dina Bailey with Donna Sack, Susie Wilkening
- Museum as Site of Social Change:
  Dina Bailey with Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Chris Taylor
- Thought Leader Session:
  Collecting the Now – Linda Norris
- Afrocentric History Museums – Shall We Start an Afrocentric Museum Resistance Movement?
  Gegê Leme Joseph
- Making Anniversaries Matter:
  Braden Paynter with Rainey Tisdale
- Create Your Own Media – Forming the Narrative:
  Ashley Nelson, Ally Tucker with Hannah Hethmon

International Coalition of SITES of CONSCIENCE
Sean Kelley has run all programs and exhibits at Eastern State Penitentiary since 1995, when he was hired as the site’s first full-time employee. He produced the site’s signature audio tour, and has curated more than 100 artist installations at the site. He oversaw development of Prisons Today: Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration, the winner AAM’s 2017 Overall Award for Excellence. He visits active prisons and writes critically about museums and social justice.

Friday, August 30

2–3:15 pm

Dr. Erica Armstrong Dunbar is the Charles and Mary Beard Professor of History at Rutgers University. Dr. Dunbar also serves as Director of the Program in African American History at the Library Company of Philadelphia. She has been the recipient of Ford, Mellon, and SSRC fellowships and is an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer. Her first book, A Fragile Freedom: African American Women and Emancipation in the Antebellum City was published by Yale University Press in 2008. She is also the author of Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave Ona Judge, the powerful narrative of Ona Judge’s experiences as a runaway slave who risked it all to escape the nation’s capital in Philadelphia and reach freedom. It was honored as a 2017 National Book Award finalist, and also won the 2018 Frederick Douglass Book Prize from the Gilder Lehrman Center. Dr. Armstrong’s writing, teaching, and lecturing focus on the uncomfortable concepts of slavery, racial injustice, and gender inequality. While there is deep pain associated with these topics, she marvels at the incredible triumph of survival and the beautiful history of resistance.

Featured Speakers

Thursday, August 29

8:30–9:45 am

Thursday morning’s session is a plenary focusing on the topics of history organizations and social justice issues through the lens of incarceration. Sean Kelley, Senior Vice President and Director of Interpretation at Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, will moderate a discussion on this important topic with historian Talitha LeFlouria, PhD, and Susan Burton of A New Way of Life Reentry Project.

Susan Burton is an activist based in Los Angeles who works with ex-convicts. In her memoir Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women, she traces the trajectory of her personal trials with poverty, abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, and loss that led to nearly twenty years of cycling in and out of prison. With grit, resilience, and perseverance, she overcame those challenges and dedicated her life to helping others break the cycle of incarceration through her nonprofit, A New Way of Life Reentry Project. A leader in criminal justice reform, she shares her courageous odyssey in overcoming tragedy, addiction, and incarceration to help others like her find a new way of life. She was named a CNN Hero in 2010 and a Purpose Prize winner in 2012.

Dr. Talitha LeFlouria is the Lisa Smith Discovery Associate Professor in African and African-American Studies at the University of Virginia. She is a scholar of African American history, specializing in mass incarceration, modern slavery, race and medicine, and black women in America. She is the author of Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South (UNC Press, 2015). This book received several national awards including the Darlene Clark Hine Award from the Organization of American Historians (2016) and the Ida B. Wells Tribute Award from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (2015). She is the author of a forthcoming book from Beacon Press on black women and mass incarceration.

Dr. Talitha LeFlouria
Welcome to the AASLH Annual Meeting!

We hope you enjoy your visit to Philadelphia.

Eastern State Penitentiary | 2027 Fairmount Ave. | Philadelphia, PA
Open every day 10 am to 5 pm | www.EasternState.org
Schedule at a Glance

Tuesday, August 27

3–5 pm REGISTRATION

Wednesday, August 28

7 am–6 pm REGISTRATION

TOURS
8 am–5:30 pm
• Innovative Delaware: Hagley Museum and Library and the Nemours Estate, Past and Present, Cost: $175
• Philadelphia Main Line Estates: From Grand Mansions to Gardens and How They’ve Evolved, Cost: $175

MORNING WORKSHOPS
8:30 am–12 pm
• A Different Type of Field-Trip: A Visit and Conversation with Philadelphia Students and Educators, Cost: $45
• Collaborative Visitor Experience Design, Cost: $45
• Field Services Alliance Meeting, Cost: Free
• Women Leading with Power and Authenticity, Cost: $45

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS
1:30–5 pm
• Easy Disaster Planning with the New dPlan!, Cost: $45
• History Leadership Forum, Cost: $60
• Introduction to Sites of Conscience Dialogue, Cost: $45
• Telling Inclusive Stories Through Public History
• What’s the Story?: How to Use Storytelling as a Dynamic Alternative to Traditional Forms of Interpretation, Cost: $45

FULL DAY WORKSHOP
8:30 am–5 pm
• Digital Preservation on a Shoestring Budget, Cost: $75
• Podcast Productions for Museums and Historic Sites, Cost: $75
• Presenting, Interpreting, and Discussing Difficult Issues in African American History, Cost: $75

RECEPTIONS
5:30–6:30 pm
• International Coalition of Sites of Conscience Reception, Cost: Free

EVENING EVENT
6:30–9:30 pm
• Evening Event: Out in the Gayborhood: LGBTQ History in Philly, Cost: $49

Thursday, August 29

7 am–6 pm REGISTRATION

BREAKFAST
7–8:15 am
• History Relevance Breakfast, Cost: $35

TOURS
1:30–5:30 pm
• Seeking Out Stories at the Museum of the American Revolution and Independence National Historical Park, Cost: $45

OPENING PLENARY
8:30–9:45 am
• Opening Plenary: Incarceration and Public History with Susan Burton, Dr. Talitha LeFlouria, and Sean Kelley

10:45–12 pm
• Break in Exhibit Hall
• New Member/First Time Attendee Reception, Cost: Free

10–12 pm
• Naturalization Ceremony, Cost: Free

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
10:45 am–12 pm
• Corporate History in Non-Profit Places
• A Discussion of Tribally Driven Research and Programs
• Drawing the Line: Gender Equity and Facing Sexual Harassment and Mistreatment in the Cultural Field
• Exploring Historic Themes and Contemporary Issues Through Modern Art
• Inconvenient Misconceptions: When Fundraising is Hard(er)
• Lightning Sessions—What Was I Waiting For?
• Making the Most of Your Collections Assessment: How to Prioritize and Fund Collections Care
• Museum as Site for Social Action
• Telling a Fuller Story at Historic Sites
• Time to Think Big: IMLS Opportunities for Small Museums

AFFINITY GROUP LUNCHEONS
12:15–1:30 pm
• Business History, Cost: $47
• Educators and Interpreters, Cost: $47
• Religious History, Cost: $47
• Small Museums, Cost: $47

1:30–5:30 pm
• 250th Anniversary Meeting, By Invitation Only

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1:45–3 pm
• Archives in Action: Catalyzing Ecological Awareness
• Building Bridges by Facing Difficult Institutional History
• Changing Lenses on the Civil War
• Create Your Own Media—Forming the Narrative
• Designing for Impact
• Different Approaches to Interpreting LGBTQ, Race, and Women’s Issues at Historic Houses
• FSA Tips: Fundraising 101
• Rescued or Stolen? Perspectives on Collections
• Wanting to Know? American Perspectives on Bias, Trust, and Inclusive History
• Working Collaboratively: Digitizing the Records of Philadelphia’s Historic Congregations

3–4 pm Break in Exhibit Hall

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
4–5:15 pm
• Access History: Creating Inclusive Education Programs at Cultural Institutions
• Can Audiences Design Their Own Programs?
• Food and History Relevance: A Book Discussion
• The Future is Female: Championing Women in Museum Leadership
• History Leadership Talks: See page 26 for Topics.
• Interpreting History When Your Hands are Tied: Adapting to Political Change and Cultivating Conversation
• More Sustainable Historic Sites through Heritage Tourism: Case Study Camden County, NJ
• Not for Sale: Preserving and Sharing a Community Collection
• Preserving Religious History in Changing Communities
• The Time is Now—A Multi-Perspective Conversation About Slavery Education
• Spit Spreads Death: Finding Stories in Death Data
• What Lurks in the Basement: Finding Stories in Death Data
• The Whole Really Is Greater than the Sum of Our Parts: How History Organizations Collaborate to Expand Impact

RECEPTIONS
5:30–6:30 pm
• History Leadership Institute, Cost: Free
• History Happy Hour, Cost: Free

EVENING EVENT
6:30–9:30 pm
• An Evening at Eastern State Penitentiary, Cost: $25

Why Are We Waiting to Talk About … Led by International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
10:45 am
• Public History Professionals and Mental Health
1:45 pm
• Hate Speech in Public History Spaces
4 pm
• When Our Heroes Do Bad Things
Friday, August 30

7 am–6 pm REGISTRATION

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
8–9:15 am
• StePs Friday Morning MeetUP, Cost: $15

TOURS
8:30 am–12 pm
• Making the Private Public: Telling Women’s History through Collections at The Philadelphia Museum of Art and Cedar Grove, Cost: $45
• A Walk to the African American Museum in Philadelphia, Cost: $45

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
8–9:15 am
• Afrocentric History Museums—Shall We Start an Afrocentric Museum Resistance Movement?
• Erasing Silences: Sally Hemings Monticello
• From Polling Places to Naturalization Ceremonies: A Practical Guide to Civic Engagement
• Helping Your Community Decide Which Historic Places to Protect From the Impact of Climate Change
• History Leadership Talks: See page 28 for Topics.
• Making a Statement: Bringing Transparency to Our Heritage
• Advocating for Equity: How to Talk about Salaries in Your Museum
• All the Cool Kids are Doing It: Local History as an Engaging Community Engagement Tool
• Connecting Art, Activism, and Archives: A Case Study and Book-Making Activity
• Decoding Financial Statements: How to Spot Trouble and Plan for the Future
• History In Our Parks Roundtable
• Imagining a Reparations Movement for Racial Justice in Museums and Historic Sites
• Make Your Museum a Gateway to Citizenship
• Objects Are Complicated Too
• On the Front Lines of Costumed Interpretation: The Challenges of Bringing Women’s Stories to Life at Historic Sites
• RACE-ing Toward Change: Exhibitions and Challenging Conversations
• Red Tape, Green Tape: Making Changes in a Bureaucracy
• Shank Tank: Pitching New Ideas for Sites and Museums
• Break in Exhibit Hall
• Break in Foyer

10:15–11:15 am
• AASLH Meeting of the Membership

LUNCHEONS
11:15 am–12:30 pm
• Historic House Museums, Cost: $47
• Military History, Cost: $47

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
12:30–1:45 pm
• Changing the Narrative: Interpreting Difficult Topics Using Dialogic Principles
• Exploring Digital Solutions to Preserve and Share Our Heritage
• The Future of Living History
• History Leadership Talks: See page 30 for Topics.
• Intercultural Collaboration: Museums as Agents and Convener
• It’s Time to Ditch Your Historic House Tour
• Lost & Founders: Augmented Reality Mobile Game to Engage Visitors Onsite
• Making Anniversaries Matter
• Memorialization: Past, Present, and Future
• Secrets and Silences: When and How to Reveal Challenging Histories
• Seizing the Power of the Pen
• What Are YOU Waiting For? A Lightning Session of Ideas and Inspiration
• Why Preserving Material Culture of the Space Age Matters Now More Than Ever

KEYNOTE
2–3:15 pm
• Keynote Speaker: Dr. Erica Armstrong Dunbar

3:15–4 pm Break in Exhibit Hall

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
4–5:15 pm
• Advocating for Equity: How to Talk about Salaries in Your Museum
• All the Cool Kids are Doing It: Local History as Community Engagement Tool
• Connecting Art, Activism, and Archives: A Case Study and Book-Making Activity
• Decoding Financial Statements: How to Spot Trouble and Plan for the Future
• History In Our Parks Roundtable
• Imagining a Reparations Movement for Racial Justice in Museums and Historic Sites
• Make Your Museum a Gateway to Citizenship
• Objects Are Complicated Too
• On the Front Lines of Costumed Interpretation: The Challenges of Bringing Women’s Stories to Life at Historic Sites
• RACE-ing Toward Change: Exhibitions and Challenging Conversations
• Red Tape, Green Tape: Making Changes in a Bureaucracy
• Shank Tank: Pitching New Ideas for Sites and Museums

RECEPTION
5:30–7:30 pm
• Diversity and Inclusion Mixer, Cost: $10

EVENING EVENT
6:30–9 pm
• Leadership in History Awards Banquet, Cost: $79

Saturday, August 31

8 am–12 pm REGISTRATION

BREAKFAST
7:30–8:45 am
• CEO/Director Breakfast, Cost: $40

TOURS
8:30 am–5:30 pm
• On the Road to Freedom: Enslavement and the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia, Cost: $75
• Walking with Washington, Cost: $75

1–5:30 pm
• Changing Narratives at Historic Sites: Stenton, Cliveden and Wyck in Historic Germantown, Cost: $45

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
9–10:15 am
• #KnowBetterDoBetter: Measuring DEIA Impact at Your Organization
• Building STEM Identity in Girls Outside of Science Centers
• Deferred Maintenance: Investing in the Upkeep and Care of Our Frontline Staff
• Identifying and Prioritizing Magnetic Media for Preservation
• Overcoming Barriers to Improved Collections Care
• Pause for Perspective: Shattering the Glass Narrative
• Problems in Partnerships: Addressing Institutional Difference in a Collaborative World
• Waiting for People and Money: Strategies for Building Support for House Museums
• We are No Longer Waiting: Teaching a More Inclusive American History

10:15–10:30 am Break in Foyer

10:30 am–12 pm
• 2020 Annual Meeting Roundtable
• Back To School: Revitalizing School Programs and Curricula
• Bringing the Past into the Present: Immigrant Storytelling through Museum Tours
• Collections Management Software Conundrum: Answer—Collaboration
• Countering the Optics of Distortion and Doing Public History “In Real Time”
• History Relevance for All: New Jersey Historical Commission’s Understanding Communities Project
• No Time like the Present: Engaging Descendant Communities in the Interpretation of Slavery
• Using the Museum Assessment Program As Your Museum’s GPS on the Road to Excellence
• We Can Do It—Collaboratively!
• We Cannot Afford to Wait: Saving Public School History, Material Culture, and Stories
• Why Wait for Feedback? Approaches to Testing Ideas and Getting Immediate Audience Input

WORKSHOPS
1–5:30 pm
• Becoming U.S.—Creative Ways to Inspire Conversation about Contemporary Issues, Cost: $45
• Beyond the Text: Enlivening Documents through Storytelling, Cost: $45
Tours

These events are not included in the Annual Meeting registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form on page 43 for details.

Wednesday, August 28

Innovative Delaware: Hagley Museum and Library and the Nemours Estate, Past and Present
8 am–5:30 pm, Cost: $75
Experience how two Delaware institutions are interpreting the impact of technological and social innovations of everyday life. At Hagley Museum, birthplace of the DuPont Company, see the original gunpowder mills, an operating machine shop, and E.I. du Pont’s home. At Nemours Estate, the estate of Alfred Du Pont, the tour will begin at the renowned du Pont Hospital for children, and conclude next door at the picturesque Nemours Estate and Gardens.

Philadelphia Main Line Estates: From Grand Mansions to Gardens and How They’ve Evolved
8 am–5:30 pm, Cost: $75
Enjoy exclusive access to three spectacular former country estates on the Philadelphia Main Line. The day begins at Stoneleigh: a natural garden with its towering trees, lauded landscape architecture and Tudor revival mansion. The tour will continue to Chanticleer, which has been called the most romantic, imaginative, and exciting public garden in America. Lunch will be served at Chanticleer. The final tour will be Ardrossan, widely regarded as the last great estate on the Main Line.

History of Public Health in Philadelphia
1:30–5:30 pm, Cost: $45
One of the oldest medical societies in the United States, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia was founded in 1787 to “advance the science of medicine and thereby lessen human misery.” Staff from the college will lead a tour highlighting places related to significant historical public health events in Philadelphia. The tour will end at the Mütter Museum at the College of Physicians where an exhibit, “Spit Spreads Death,” capturing the historical perspective of the 1918 influenza pandemic will be on view. The tour will capture the importance of looking back at past health issues to create effective and necessary programs and interventions for contemporary public health issues.

To Bigotry No Sanction: Walking Tour of Historic Philadelphia’s Religious History
1:30–5:30 pm, Cost: $45
George Washington’s famous 1790 promise to the Jewish community of Newport, RI, that the government of the United States “gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance,” forms the basis for both this walking tour of historic Philadelphia and the core exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish History on Independence Mall. Visitors will take a curator’s tour of the core exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish History, a 25,000 square-foot exhibition chronicling the 360+ year experience of Jews in America. Shorter stops will take place at the Statue of Religious Liberty immediately outside the museum, as well as Mikveh Israel cemetery, a few blocks away. A number of other sites relating to other religious minorities in Philadelphia during the Revolutionary period will be stops along the way.
Thursday, August 29

Seeking Out Stories at the Museum of the American Revolution and Independence National Historical Park
1:30–5:30 pm, Cost: $45
See how audience-centered experiences are challenging some of the most traditional historic narratives. To start, MoAR educators will model the museum’s flagship field trip program Through Their Eyes, bringing to light diverse historical perspectives on the Revolution that complicate ideas of freedom, liberty, patriotism, and revolution. Participants then will undertake INHP’s “Seeker” challenge, exploring the park to “seek out” its hidden stories and relate them to today.

Friday, August 30

Making the Private Public: Telling Women’s History through Collections
8:30 am–12 pm, Cost: $45
Where are the women and their stories? This tour will visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Cedar Grove, one of its historic houses, to explore how the collections of each reveal the history of American women. At the PMA, an interactive tour will focus on uncovering stories of women as artists, subjects, and collectors. At Cedar Grove, historic artifacts will uncover themes of women including healing, social reform, faith, and education.

A Walk to the African American Museum in Philadelphia
8:30 am–12 pm, Cost: $45
Get oriented to the City Center neighborhood on a ten-block walking tour to the African American Museum in Philadelphia. Tour the museum’s core exhibition Audacious Freedom: African Americans in Philadelphia 1776–1876, which recounts contributions made by people of African descent in Philadelphia throughout the century following the Revolutionary War. After the tour, meet Revolutionary War hero “Ned” Hector in an interactive living history presentation. Participants will also see demonstrations of AAMP’s “Traveling Trunk”, and have a chance to view the temporary art exhibition Sonya Clark: Self-Evident.
On the Road to Freedom: Enslavement and the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia
8:30 am–5:30 pm, Cost: $75
Visit sites where enslaved Africans who were determined to be free received assistance from groups like the Free African Society (1787); the Pennsylvania Abolition Society (1775); and abolitionists like William Still, William Whipper, Frances E.W. Harper, Robert Purvis, and more. Stops on the tour include Mother Bethel AME Church (1791), resting on the oldest parcel of land in the United States continuously owned by African Americans; Fair Hill Burial Ground (1703), a Quaker burial ground and resting place for many prominent activists and abolitionists; Lest We Forget Museum (of Slavery); and the Johnson House Historic Site (1768), a home vital to the Underground Railroad. Sponsored by the African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Walking with Washington
8:30 am–5:30 pm, Cost: $75
Get out of the city and visit some of the most iconic battlefields from the Revolutionary War. This tour will visit Valley Forge National Historical Park, Paoli Battlefield Historical Park, and the Battlefield of the Brandywine. Explore this significant era of our nation’s history in the place where it happened. Lunch is included.

Changing Narratives at Historic Sites: Stenton, Cliveden, and Wyck in Historic Germantown
1–5:30 pm, Cost: $45
Come to Historic Germantown and visit 3 of the 18 exceptional historic sites: Wyck—the ancestral home to one of Philadelphia’s families for nine generations, Stenton—the country seat of James Logan, Secretary to William Penn, and Cliveden—the summer home of the Chew Family and site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Germantown. Experience exceptional collections, gardens, and kitchens, and converse with museum staff about approaches to interpretation, education, and preservation that shed light on how these sites remain relevant in their communities and to a range of audiences.

WE LISTENED. WE LEARNED. WE INNOVATED.
Our new CSI Transporter* line will change the way you move your collections... location to location, room to room, gallery to gallery.

Engineered for instant use, the Transporter 101 and 201 arrive fully assembled and ready to go to work. The lightweight, non-outgassing aluminum systems offer superior maneuverability in the close confines of museums, private collections, conservation labs and historic houses, making them ideal for moving and storing collections for future generations.

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Special Events

These events are not included in the Annual Meeting registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form on page 43 for details.

Wednesday, August 28

Out in the Gayborhood: LGBTQ History in Philly
6:30–9:30 pm, Cost: $49
Before Stonewall, there was Philadelphia: The City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection. Activism for the LGBTQ community has a rich history in Philly. The nexus of all this amazing history is the Gayborhood. This vibrant downtown neighborhood is home to a rich gay bar culture dating back to the 1930s. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania sits in the midst of this neighborhood and will be the hub of a three-institution buffet of exhibitions, walking tours, and more for this evening event that explores LGBTQ history, deep archival collections, and the ways in which art and history intersect. Attendees will also visit the Library Company of Philadelphia and the William Way LGBT Community Center to enjoy special pop-up exhibits and a Taste of Philly buffet. Sponsored by 1220 Exhibits.

Thursday, August 29

An Evening at Eastern State Penitentiary
6:30–9:30 pm, Cost: $25
Eastern State Penitentiary addresses some of the most complex and controversial topics facing our nation with innovative and non-traditional programming and a “stabilized ruin” approach to preservation. Begin your visit outside the prison with drinks and snacks while viewing short animated films commissioned from currently-incarcerated artists and projected onto the prison’s thirty-foot high walls. Experience the penitentiary’s eerie, spectacular architecture, including a visit to award-winning exhibits and drop-in tour of the hospital, synagogue, and “the Hole.” As a site of memory and conscience, the penitentiary will stay true to its mission during the event by involving formerly incarcerated men and women as tour guides and musicians during the evening. Sponsored by the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Friday, August 30

Leadership in History Awards Banquet
6:30–9:30 pm, Cost: $79
Join AASLH in honoring the best in state and local history at the 2019 Leadership in History Awards. The evening will include dinner, a performance from a National History Day winner, and a lively awards presentation. Sponsored by History™.
MORNING WORKSHOPS
8:30 am–12 pm

A Different Type of Field-Trip: A Visit and Conversation with Philadelphia Students and Educators

Cost: $45
Participants in this workshop will visit a Philadelphia public high school and meet students and the teacher in an honors African American history class. The group will together discuss an essential question: what are we waiting for to teach a thorough and nuanced history of slavery in the United States?

Collaborative Visitor Experience Design

Cost: $45
In this workshop, participants will take a collaborative approach to creating engaging visitor experiences by using design thinking. We will explore how exhibit and program development can be integrated across institutional boundaries and traditional job functions. Through learning collaborative tools and methods, participants will enrich their professional practice.
Chair: John Summers, Regional Municipality of Halton, Burlington, Ontario, Canada; Meredith Leonard, Regional Municipality of Halton, St. Catherine’s, Ontario, Canada

Field Services Alliance Meeting

Cost: Free
The Field Services Alliance (AASLH Affinity Community) consists of those who provide training and capacity-building services for history organizations and museums. Join FSA members to hear about current trends in the work of field services offices, upcoming programs and services, and how FSA is working towards articulating its impact and outcomes. Visit aaslh.org/resources/affinity-communities/fieldservicesalliance for more information.

Women Leading with Power and Authenticity

Cost: $45
This workshop will build women’s ability to recognize their inherent leadership strengths and how they are an asset for success. It will begin to create an advocacy platform designed to inform the history field of the gender inequalities in leadership and what needs to be done to address this problem.
Chair: Melanie Adams, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; Anne Ackerson, Consultant, Troy, NY; Joan Baldwin, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT

FULL-DAY WORKSHOPS
8:30 am–5 pm

Digital Preservation on a Shoestring Budget

Cost: $75
This workshop will help participants cultivate knowledge to make informed digital preservation decisions on a small budget. Participants will gain hands-on experience with digital...
preservation tools and walk away with an action plan to put digital preservation theory into practice. Participants should bring a laptop with them to the workshop.

Chair: Anne Marie Willer, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA

Podcast Productions for Museums and Historic Sites  
Cost: $75

Podcasting presents an opportunity for history organizations to meaningfully engage audiences with intimate, accessible, long-form audio content. This workshop will introduce participants to every aspect of in-house podcast production. Attendees will get hands-on experience producing a podcast and have the opportunity to develop and workshop podcast concepts for their institutions.

Chair: Hannah Hethmon, H. Hethmon Consulting, Upper Marlboro, MD

Presenting, Interpreting, and Discussing Difficult Issues in African American History: How to Build Organizations’ Capacities to Respond to Opportunities and Challenges  
Cost: $75

Drawing on the experiences of a collaboration among several institutions delivering six workshops over a period of less than three years, this session will describe how this effort has contributed to building the capacity of organizations in the Mid-Atlantic region to tackle these critical topics. Attendees will explore how to build collaborative partnerships across diverse institutions, develop workshop agendas that address the needs of specific target audiences, provide opportunities for exchange of ideas and experiences among peers, and inspire discussion and stimulate lively exchange in a supportive environment.


AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS  
1:30–5 pm

Easy Disaster Planning with the New dPlan!  
Cost: $45

This workshop will cover the basic concepts of disaster planning using the dPlan online disaster planning tool. Participants will use the tool to jump start their planning process with instructor facilitation. Participants should bring their own laptops.

Chair: Sean Ferguson, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA

Introduction to Sites of Conscience Dialogue  
Cost: $45

Dialogue is a foundational skill for museums in authentically supporting communities, building audience-centered programming, and facing the past and engaging with the most pressing issues of the present. This session will introduce participants to the basic theory and skills of facilitated dialogue through presentation and group work.

Chair: Braden Paynter, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, Washington, DC

History Leadership Forum  
Cost: $60

The History Leadership Forum invites emerging and established leaders at history organizations to gather for an opportunity to think critically about and discuss major challenges at our institutions. This year’s Forum will ask attendees to consider critical questions about management, leadership, and followership, and explore how new understandings of these concepts can aid in meeting challenges of everyday work life and issues facing the history field. The forum will challenge you to think about leadership in new ways to help your organization solve problems and carry out your mission.

Speaker: Julie I. Johnson, PhD, J2R2 Leadership & Change Associates and National Science Foundation, Washington, DC

Telling Inclusive Stories Through Public History Festivals  
Cost: $45

Don’t wait for traditional public programs to tell inclusive stories. Participants will learn about inclusive interpretation through interactive activities and small group discussions. Festivals are an excellent interdisciplinary tool for public history.

Chair: Dennis Doster, PhD, Maryland-National Capital Parks & Planning Commission, Beltsville, MD; Karen Marshall, Maryland-National Capital Parks & Planning Commission, Upper Marlboro, MD; Devin Mills, Maryland-National Capital Parks & Planning Commission, Upper Marlboro, MD; Gina Vaughan, Maryland-National Capital Parks & Planning Commission, Upper Marlboro, MD

What’s the Story?: How to Use Storytelling as a Dynamic Alternative to Traditional Forms of Interpretation  
Cost: $45

Using a case study model, participants will gain background and then, through hands-on experience, learn how to build compelling, historically accurate, and interactive stories using methods that they can adapt and employ at their sites. This workshop will be held at the Arch Street Meeting House.


RECEPTION  
5:30–6:30 pm

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience  
Cost: Free; Preregistration Recommended

Celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience! Join our staff as well as colleagues from many of our 250+ members around the world for drinks and hors d’oeuvres. The reception is open to all members as well as others interested in learning more about Sites of Conscience and our mission.

EVENING EVENT  
6:30–9:30 pm

Out in the Gayborhood: LGBTQ History in Philly  
Cost: $49

See description on page 19.
Thursday, August 29

7–8:15 am

**History Relevance Breakfast**

**Cost: $35**

Are you interested in making the past more relevant to the public? Is your organization making history relevant in ways you want to share with your colleagues from around the country? Join us for coffee, breakfast, and inspiring conversations about the relevance of history! The event will feature a thought-provoking discussion between Bill Adair (Pew Center for Arts and Heritage) and Dennis Pickeral (Stenton) about the project *Inequality in Bronze*, which explores slavery and public history in Philadelphia’s Germantown neighborhood. Come meet like-minded history professionals at other institutions and take home some inspiration for how you can make history more relevant at your institution.

8:30–9:45 am

**Opening Plenary:**

Incarceration and Public History with
Susan Burton, Dr. Talitha LeFlouria, and Sean Kelley

9:45–10:45 am

Break in Exhibit Hall

New Member/First Time Attendee Reception

**Cost: Free; Preregistration Recommended**

Are you or your institution a new member of AASLH? Is this your first AASLH Annual Meeting? Come learn about what AASLH and the Annual Meeting have to offer and how you can reap the benefits from your membership and your time at the conference. Also, meet fellow AASLH members, along with members of the AASLH Council and staff.

10 am–12 pm

**Naturalization Ceremony**

**Cost: Free; Preregistration Required**

AASLH’s Law and Civics Affinity Committee has arranged for Annual Meeting attendees to observe a naturalization ceremony at 10:30 am in the Ceremonial Courtroom at the James A. Byrne United States Courthouse, located one block from Independence Hall. Approximately 100 applicants for citizenship from 40 different countries will be naturalized. The presiding judge and special guests, including one of the new citizens, will make remarks. New citizens will be greeted with American flags and voter registration forms. Please note

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**Why Are We Waiting to Talk About …**

Looking to engage in more meaningful conversations with colleagues on issues facing our communities and ourselves as community-based institutions? Please join Sites of Conscience-trained facilitators from across the country as we discuss:

- 10:45 am **Public History Professionals and Mental Health**
- 1:45 pm **Hate Speech in Public History Spaces**
- 4 pm **When Our Heroes Do Bad Things**

International Coalition of
SITES of CONSCIENCE
that to enter the courthouse you must pass through security screening. Be sure to bring a valid, government-issued photo ID. Weapons may not be brought into the courthouse. Photography of the ceremony is permitted. Naturalization ceremonies are very moving occasions and mark one of the most important days in a new citizen’s life. AASLH appreciates the willingness of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in making space available for AASLH attendees.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:45 am–12 pm

**Corporate History in Non-Profit Places**

Many non-profit historical museums own and interpret corporate history collections. This session will compare interpretations of industrial artifacts in corporate and non-profit places and present successes and challenges in interpreting corporate history at the Senator John Heinz History Center and the National Museum of American History.

Chair: Melissa Bingmann, West Virginia University; Morgantown, WV; Kathy Franz, National Museum of American History, Washington, DC; Anne Madarasz, Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA; Emily Ruby, Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA

**A Discussion of Tribally Driven Research and Programs**

This session asks attendees to consider the need for and benefits of truly community-engaged scholarship and programming with American Indian tribes. What does it look like when research and programming is driven by and for American Indian tribes? How can we shift away from call-and-respond engagement wherein museums or universities drive the need and ask for tribal response or blessing? How are sustainability, collaboration, audience impact, and learning changed when tribal communities see a community benefit every time they work with our museums and historic sites? Come and hear from representatives who have engaged in projects that have benefitted and seated power with tribal communities.

Chair: Natalie Wadle, Shawnee Tribe Cultural Center, Miami, OK; Ben Barnes, Shawnee Tribe, Miami, OK; George Ironstrack, Miami University, Oxford, OH; Shannon Martin, Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways, Mt. Pleasant, MI

**Drawing the Line: Gender Equity and Facing Sexual Harassment and Mistreatment in the Cultural Field**

Let’s talk about Gender Equity. The #MeToo movement has prompted much-needed conversations in our society about how women are treated in the workplace. This session will provide a brave space to discuss some recent initiatives that illustrate the intersection of feminization of labor and sexual harassment within the cultural workforce. Sponsored by AASLH’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Chair: Veronica Gallardo, Casemate Museum, Fort Monroe Authority, Fort Monroe, VA; Ensimni Ekong, National Park Service, Topeka, KS; Diana Gallardo, Kiwi Partners, New York, NY; Sylvea Hollis, PhD, NPS Mellon Humanities Post-Doctoral Fellow, Gender and Sexual Equality, Arlington, VA; Melissa Prycer, Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas, TX; Kate Quinn, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA

**Exploring Historic Themes and Contemporary Issues Through Modern Art**

This session explores how organizations can address contemporary issues and historical themes through modern art installations. Glen Foerd on the Delaware has engaged artists to utilize the site’s natural, historical, and physical assets to create installations addressing climate change, poverty, and the diversification of historical narratives.


**Inconvenient Misconceptions: When Fundraising is Hard(er)**

We’re all waiting for fundraising to get easier. But what happens when misperceptions make it even more difficult? This session features a panel of leaders from several organizations discussing how they address fundraising misconceptions created by state and federal affiliations, assumptions about benefactors, earned income challenges and more.

Chair: Jamie Simek, Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, Indianapolis, IN; Jennifer Hiatt, Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, Indianapolis, IN; David Jansen, Brucemore National Trust Historic Site and Cultural Center, Cedar Rapids, IA; Jeff Matsuoka, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN

**Lightning Sessions—What Was I Waiting For?**

Join the Educators and Interpreters Affinity Community for a series of quick talks on the topic of breaking through, taking risks, being creative despite barriers, and creating a workplace culture that embraces change and managed risk. Engage in conversation about how to break through a seemingly impossible issue, task, or topic.

Chair: Megan Wood, Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH; Mark Howell, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA; Jacqueline Langholtz, Thomas Jefferson Foundation/Monticello, Charlottesville, VA
Making the Most of Your Collections Assessment: How to Prioritize and Fund Collections Care

Presenters will discuss different types of assessments institutions can use to evaluate their collections care needs and how to leverage them for funding preservation projects. Presenters will walk the audience through a preservation needs assessment and describe how they can be used to help fund preservation initiatives at a museum.

Chair: Samantha Forsko, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, PA; Sara Hesdon Buehler, Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford, PA; Trent Rhodes, Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford, PA

Museum as Site for Social Action

The MASS Action project involves museum practitioners, artists, community organizers, and scholars who worked collaboratively to build a resource dedicated to creating museum-based practices that are more equitable and socially just. In this interactive session led by project contributors, participants will gain key insights from the project.

Chair: Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor, ME; Dina Bailey, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, New York, NY; Chris Taylor, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN

Telling a Fuller Story at Historic Sites

Hear about three projects funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and join a discussion about how historic sites, regardless of the time periods or topics they primarily interpret, can diversify their storytelling, programming, and collections to tell a fuller American story.

Chair: Carrie Villar, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC; Asantewa Boakyewa, President Woodrow Wilson House, Washington, DC; Amanda Phillips, Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria, VA

Time to Think Big: IMLS Opportunities for Small Museums

Have you heard the big news for small museums? Small museums can engage with IMLS through funding opportunities and programs including the Inspire! Grants for Small Museums, Collections Assessment for Preservation, and Museum Assessment Program (MAP). In this interactive session, attendees will hear about funding opportunities, discuss proposal writing tips, and discover common pitfalls to avoid.

Chair: Steve Schwartzman, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington, DC; Ashley Jones, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington, DC

AFFINITY COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS

12:15–1:30 pm

These events are not included in the Annual Meeting registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form for more details.

Business History

Cost: $47

Join the Business History Affinity Community for a lunch and learn and hear about how corporations leverage their history for marketing, community outreach, and corporate giving.

Educators and Interpreters

Cost: $47

Join the Educators and Interpreters Community for lunch, networking, and discussion. Get a chance to meet other professionals, contribute to a lively lunch discussion, and learn more about the work of the Educators and Interpreters Affinity Community.

Religious History

Cost: $47

William Penn’s experiment in religious tolerance attracted people of diverse beliefs to Pennsylvania. Join the Religious History Community for a presentation by Professor Rebecca T. Alpert of Temple University on Religious Tolerance in Early Philadelphia. Dr. Alpert is Senior Associate Dean, an ordained rabbi, and serves on the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations.

Small Museums

Cost: $47

“In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity” has never found a greater home than in a small museum. While you cannot control the wind, at some point you will want to, or may have to, adjust your sails. Join your colleagues for How to Spot Opportunity When It Is Disguised as Chaos (at a Small Museum) by Brooke Salvanto, Museum Director of Tuckerton Seaport in Tuckerton, NJ.

1:30–5:30 pm

250th Anniversary Meeting

By Invitation Only

AASLH’s U.S. 250th Anniversary task force will be convening a meeting of its sub-committees for a half-day retreat at the Friends Center. Over the past several months, five committees have focused, respectively, on how the field can use the 250th anniversary in 2026 as an opportunity to advance the relevance of history, diversity and inclusion, collections, funding, and education at history organizations. This convening will offer committees an opportunity to share their preliminary findings and begin charting next steps. For more information, contact John Marks, Senior Manager, Strategic Initiatives, AASLH, marks@aaslh.org.
Archives in Action: Catalyzing Ecological Awareness
Orange County, California has over 55,000 acres of open space. Using the fight to preserve open space in the region as a starting point, participants will discuss the question, “How can history practitioners illuminate and activate archives documenting confrontation, collaboration, and compromise among various stakeholders to address environmental concerns?”
Chair: Krystl Tribbett, University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA

Building Bridges by Facing Difficult Institutional History
In a landmark northern Civil Rights case, Girard College, a Philadelphia boarding school established for “poor white male orphans,” was desegregated by court order in 1968. Stakeholders from the 50th anniversary commemoration will discuss lessons learned and practical guidance for facing difficult history, discussing race, (re)building trust, and reaching out.
Chair: Kathy Haas, Girard College, Philadelphia, PA; Karen Asper-Jordan, Cecil B. Moore Philadelphia Freedom Fighters, Philadelphia, PA; Rafhia Foster, Girard College, Philadelphia, PA; Bernard Oliver Jr., Washington, DC

Changing Lenses on the Civil War
For generations, power and privilege colored the lenses through which the public encountered history, such as the Civil War and its legacies. Explore the motivations, lessons learned, and strategies that foster a more accurate and relevant understanding of history from staff whose sites intentionally embraced changing traditional narratives.
Chair: Stephanie Arduini, American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA; Jennifer Edginton, Kenosha Public Museums, Kenosha, WI; Peter Miele, Seminary Ridge Museum, Gettysburg, PA; Alexandria Wood, Ford’s Theatre Society, Washington, DC

Create Your Own Media—Forming the Narrative
Many historical institutions have fantastic programming, but their visitors do not necessarily know about these programs. This session aims to solve media relations problems by providing concrete strategies to engage the press, grow social media audiences, and streamline externally-facing digital and print publications to connect the past to the present informatively and aesthetically.

Designing for Impact
To deepen Idahoans’ connection to their state, build a statewide sense of community, and create an essential resource for education, the new Idaho State Museum was designed for purposeful impact. This session explores engagement practices used to achieve statewide resonance, understand effective outcomes of the museum experience, and respond to community needs.
Chair: Janet L. Gallimore, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, ID; Sandra Clark, Michigan History Center, Lansing, MI; Randy L. Teton, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, Fort Hall, ID; Dr. Gloria Totoricaguena, Idaho Policy and Consulting, Boise, ID

Different Approaches to Interpreting LGBTQ, Race, and Women’s Issues at Historic Houses
We who work in historic houses need to tell more diverse and inclusive stories. This session examines how to successfully interpret women’s lives, LGBTQ people’s history, as well as race and ethnicity. We use multiple examples to get at underlying strategies participants can use to make interpretation inclusive and welcoming.
Chair: Susan Ferentinos, PhD, Bloomington, IN; Claudia B. Ocello, Museum Partners Consulting, LLC, Maplewood, NJ; Kenneth C. Turino, Historic New England, Boston, MA; Mary van Balgooy, Society of Woman Geographers, Washington, DC

FSA Tips: Fundraising 101
This hands-on, 101 session is geared towards breaking down the barriers to understanding fundraising for a small history organization. Come join fellow attendees and try your hand at crafting your organization’s message and needs statement.
Chair: Jennifer Ortiz, Utah Division of Arts & Museums, Salt Lake City, UT; Amanda Higgins, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY; Bryce Gorman, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN; Lee Price, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, PA

Rescued or Stolen? Perspectives on Collections
From farmers’ fields to battlefields, well-meaning people “discover” objects that often end up in historical collections. In debate-style, panelists will consider brief case studies and present arguments for declining, preserving, returning, deaccessioning, and/or destroying artifacts in collections. Participants will be invited to submit their dilemmas (anonymously) for discussion and debate.
Chair: Sally Yerkovich, The American-Scandinavian Foundation, New York, NY; Ben Garcia, San Diego Museum of Man, San Diego, CA; Shane Keil, First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, Wheaton, IL; Erin Richardson, Erin Richardson Consulting, Cooperstown, NY

Wanting to Know? American Perspectives on Bias, Trust, and Inclusive History
Many history organizations are working hard to more effectively share a complete, inclusive history. How willing are our audiences to listen to those stories of the past and present? This panel will share important research and lessons being learned through the IMLS Leadership Grant-funded project, “Unvarnished.”
Chair: Donna Sack, Naper Settlement, Naperville, IL; Dina Bailey, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, New York, NY; Sabrina Robins, PhD, African Heritage, Inc, Appleton, WI; Susie Wilkening, Wilkening Consulting, Seattle, WA

Working Collaboratively: Digitizing the Records of Philadelphia’s Historic Congregations
Six congregations and three archival repositories have banded together to digitize the records of eleven of Philadelphia’s historic congregations and make their records available online through a unified portal. Working collaboratively they secured funding, found individuals and institutions to provide technical expertise, and recruited volunteers to make it all possible. This session will explore how working collaboratively and sharing resources makes great initiatives possible.
Chair: Carol W. Smith, Christ Church, Philadelphia, PA; Walter Rice, R & R Computer Solutions, Philadelphia, PA; Nancy Taylor, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA
Access History: Creating Inclusive Education Programs at Cultural Institutions

Perhaps more than other professionals within the field, public-facing staff push forward social change as it directly and positively affects visitors. Attendees will be immersed in a variety of inclusive experiences useful to any museum professional working with a public of varying socioeconomic statuses, cultural backgrounds, gender identities, and abilities.

Chair: Abigail Diaz, Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Manitowoc, WI; Megan Becker, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA; Jennifer Edginton, Kenosha Public Museums, Kenosha, WI

Can Audiences Design Their Own Programs?

How do we design programs for audiences that are new to us? The Historical Society of Pennsylvania partnered with Taller Puertorriqueño to create a model that required letting go of institutional authority. Hear about the successes and challenges from those who worked to diversify HSP’s (and Taller’s) audiences.

Chair: Seth Bruggeman, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA; Carmen Febo San Miguel, Taller Puertorriqueño, Philadelphia, PA; Henrietta Hickman, Cherry Hill, NJ; Ain Gordon, Brooklyn, NY

Food and History Relevance: A Book Discussion

Today’s public is interested in making food systems fairer, healthier, and more sustainable. Cathy Stanton and Michelle Moon will introduce the audience to the ideas in their co-authored 2018 book Public History and the Food Movement: Adding the Missing Ingredient and Michelle’s 2015 book Interpreting Food at Museums and Historic Sites. The authors will explore how museums and historic sites can demonstrate relevance by exploring interconnected questions about human sustenance and environmental resilience. Session sponsored by the National Council on Public History.

Chair: Rebecca Shrum, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN; Michelle Moon, Tenement Museum, New York, NY; Cathy Stanton, Tufts University, Medford, MA

The Future is Female: Championing Women in Museum Leadership

What accounts for the persistent gender gap in history organization leadership? Join four leaders to surface barriers holding women and gender minorities back from senior positions, including the “confidence gap,” recruiting conventions, and implicit bias. Work together to create action strategies—personal and collective—and champion real change.

Chair: Kim Fortney, National History Day, College Park, MD; Melanie Adams, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; Donna Sack, Naper Settlement, Naperville, IL; Jessica Stavros, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, New Albany, IN

History Leadership Talks

This session will feature three 15-minute presentations on different topics in the history field followed by time for informal discussion with the individual presenters.

Collecting the Now: As political and social changes happen rapidly around the world, the pressure rises to document and collect current events. How can we think more deeply about contemporary collecting? Using examples from the International Sites of Conscience, come consider provocative questions about the process. There’s no waiting when current events happen!

Presenter: Linda Norris, Around the Globe, Sites of Conscience, New York, NY

How Cultural Heritage Is Jazzing Up the We Are Still In Movement: History organizations make up half of the cultural institutions supporting the global Paris Agreement through We Are Still In. They’re looking for ways to document their sustainability and climate successes, find advice, and create partnerships across sectors to support change in their communities. Signing on: Free, saying #ClimateMatters: Priceless.

Presenter: Joel M. Hoffman, PhD, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, Miami, FL

Temple or Forum? Engaging Salient Topics in Museum Education: A member of the Education Department staff from the National September 11 Memorial & Museum offers best practices for professionals whose work intersects with polarizing topics in societal discourse. Strategies for passive and active engagement with difficult content will be discussed, as well as audience and mission-appropriate considerations across a variety of institutional programming.


Interpreting History When Your Hands are Tied: Adapting to Political Change and Cultivating Conversation

This session, led by public historians and members of North Carolina’s Division of State Historic Sites, will address ways our institutions can step towards a proactive response to current political and social issues. Let’s discuss how we...
can interpret and support our spaces when the preferred, “non-partisan,” institutional approach is one of inaction.

**Chair:** Kara Deadmon, North Carolina State Capitol, Raleigh, NC; Vera Cecelski, Historic Stagville, Durham, NC; Kimberly Floyd, Vance Birthplace State Historic Site, Weaverville, NC

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**More Sustainable Historic Sites through Heritage Tourism: Case Study Camden County, NJ**

Learn about a new effort in Camden County, NJ, to organize forty-eight historic sites and history organizations for a regional heritage tourism effort. Help us problem solve about motivating historic sites to promote and thus sustain sites for visitation and inspiring volunteer-led sites to open for regular public hours.

**Chair:** Donna Ann Harris, Heritage Consulting Inc., Philadelphia, PA; Bonny Beth Elwell, Camden County History Alliance, Camden, NJ; Dorothy P. Guzzo, New Jersey Historic Trust, Trenton, NJ; Dr. Jack O’Byrne, Camden County Historical Society, Camden, NJ; Linda Shockley, Lawnside Historical Society, Lawnside, NJ

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**Not for Sale: Preserving and Sharing a Community Collection**

This session explores a contested collection of Japanese American artifacts from incarceration collected by curator Allen Hendershot Eaton in 1945. In 2015, a public auction of these artifacts was halted by a grassroots protest that led to their acquisition by a community-based institution raising questions about authority, community, and provenance.

**Chair:** Clement Hanami, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Shirley Ann Higuchi, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, Powell, WY; Nancy Uika, 3Dobjects.org, Berkeley, CA

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**Preserving Religious History in Changing Communities**

Many historical organizations and their communities struggle with how to preserve historic places of worship and cemeteries that no longer have active congregations. Three projects, focusing on African American religious sites, offer innovative approaches for preserving religious history sites in an environment of demographic change, gentrification, and population shifts.

**Chair:** Eric Lewis Williams, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC; A. Robert Jaeger, Partners for Sacred Places, Philadelphia, PA; Shelley Splain, State Historic Preservation Office, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA; Lindsay Varner, Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, PA

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**The Time is Now—A Multi-Perspective Conversation About Slavery Education**

What are we waiting for to teach a thorough and nuanced history of slavery in the United States? Participants in this session will connect with classroom teachers and curriculum specialists to consider that question. Join this shared conversation and learn strategies and resources that will strengthen your organization’s education and interpretation.


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**Spit Spreads Death: Finding Stories in Death Data**

In this hands-on session, play with data from over 20,000 death certificates from the 1918–1919 influenza pandemic, recently transcribed by the Mütter Museum of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Learn about compiling and analyzing such data to discover stories of illness, death, and life in Philadelphia a century ago.

**Chair:** Jane E. Boyd, Independent Professional, Philadelphia, PA; Nicholas E. Bonneau, University of Notre Dame, Philadelphia, PA; Nancy Hill, The Mütter Museum of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

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**What Lurks in the Basement: Finding the Silver Lining in HVAC Projects**

Who knew that HVAC could be ... fun? This panel of survivors from three National Historic Landmarks in the tri-state area will share how they’ve found silver lining in mechanical systems failures, offering advice for integrating facilities planning (which often gets put off until doom is impending) with interpretation and use planning.

**Chair:** Brenton Grom, Delaware Historical Society, New Castle, DE; Justina Barrett, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; Brian Mackiw, Morven Museum & Garden, Princeton, NJ

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**The Whole Really Is Greater than the Sum of Our Parts: How History Organizations Collaborate to Expand Impact**

While we may value the concept of collaboration, many of us continue to operate our organizations in silos—viewing colleagues as competitors and considering neighbors’ requests a distraction from “our” mission. Join our panelists to explore how to increase your organization’s impact, community engagement, visibility, diversity, and sustainability through strategic collaboration.

**Chair:** Karen L. Daly, Dumbarton House, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, Washington, DC; Gretchen M. Bulova, Historic House Museum Consortium of Washington, DC, Alexandria, VA; Tuomi Forrest, Historic Germantown, Philadelphia, PA; Catherine Nuzum, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, Washington, DC

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**RECEPTIONS**

**5:30–6:30 pm**

**History Leadership Institute**

**Cost:** Free; Preregistration Recommended

Please join us for our annual History Leadership Institute reception! Since 1959, the History Leadership Institute has served as the premier professional development opportunity for the field’s emerging leaders. Program alumni, facilitators, and history professionals interested in learning more are invited to this lively gathering to toast last year’s cohort of associates and hear about our plans for the future of the program.

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**History Happy Hour**

**Cost:** Free (food and drinks not included)

Looking for a way to network with new colleagues? Many of our affinity communities will be hosting informal meet-ups in the hotel or at nearby restaurants and bars where you can come together and meet people with similar professional interests. Find a list of offerings on the AASLH website, the conference app, or at the conference registration desk.

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**EVENING EVENT**

**6:30–9:30 pm**

**An Evening at Eastern State Penitentiary**

**Cost:** $25

See description on page 19.
StEPs Friday Morning MeetUP

Cost: $15; Preregistration Required

This year’s MeetUP focuses on best practices for using StEPs (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) as a tool for assessment and meaningful change. Through a combination of brief presentations and small group discussions we’ll explore a variety of creative ways in which historical societies, museums, and related organizations are using the StEPs program. Bring your questions and your own success stories to add to the discussions. Get inspired to return home and put the best practices to work within your organization. Whether your organization is already using StEPs or it might be interested in enrolling in the program, you are invited to join us. Continental breakfast included.

Afrocentric History Museums—Shall We Start an Afrocentric Museum Resistance Movement?

History museums in the US and beyond still interpret predominantly white histories. This session presents museums in the United States, Canada, and Brazil working from an Afrocentric lens, and the many challenges faced, from denialism to political pressure, barriers to community engagement to lack of funding. Could an Afrocentric museum resistance movement help?

Chair: Gegê Leme, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, Long Island City, NY; Caitlin Blue, Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, Niagara Falls, NY; Ally Spongri, Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, Niagara Falls, NY

Erasing Silences: Sally Hemings Monticello

Discover the process, stakeholders, values, and design of an exhibition with a powerful message packed into a small space. The panelists contributed to the creation of The Life of Sally Hemings, an emotionally powerful presentation of her life and the dynamics of race, power, sex, and slavery at Monticello.

Chair: Gary Sandling, Monticello/Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Charlottesville, VA; Geneviève Angio-Morneau, GSM Project, Montréal, Québec, Canada; Niya Bates, Monticello/Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Charlottesville, VA; Emilie Johnson, Monticello/Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Charlottesville, VA

From Polling Places to Naturalization Ceremonies: A Practical Guide to Civic Engagement

Looking for ways to engage your community and attract new audiences? Consider hosting major civic events, such as naturalization ceremonies, or serving as a polling site! Panelists will discuss how-to questions while exploring the benefits that civic partnerships have brought their organizations.

Helping Your Community Decide Which Historic Places to Protect From the Impact of Climate Change

Share your ideas about how historical organizations can help their communities come to grips with the prospect of losing valuable historical resources to the impact of climate change, and ensure that decisions about what to protect and what to let go are made in a fair and equitable manner.

Chair: David Glassberg, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

History Leadership Talks

This session will feature two 15-minute presentations on different topics in the history field followed by time for informal discussion with the individual presenters.

Inside Out: The Learning Process in the Minds of History Museum Visitors: What exactly is going on inside the heads of your visitors? Are they actually learning anything? Come hear about research findings that reveal how curiosity, recollection, puzzling, and meaning making can trigger new learning or expand previous knowledge during guided tours.

Presenter: Lisa Marcinkowski June, University of Connecticut, Niantic, CT

Set Your Mind on Fire: How to Stop Worrying and Love Creating: Do you find yourself staring at a blank screen (or object list) wondering what to do next? Are you stuck in a creative rut? Come explore techniques that writers use to combat creative block and see how museum professionals can apply them to find inspiration in our everyday work.

Presenter: Gwen Whiting, Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, WA
Making a Statement: Bringing Transparency to Institutional Point of View

If “museums are not neutral,” then what IS their point of view? How can museums and historic sites become more transparent about their fundamental understandings? Three prominent museums explain how they developed straightforward language around difficult history, helping audiences and staff orient themselves to the starting points for interpretive experiences.


Managing a Public History Career with Chronic and Invisible Illness

Managing a career in public history while dealing with chronic and invisible illness is challenging. Panelists will discuss the impact of their health journeys on their professional lives, and in partnership with the audience, discuss field-wide solutions to include and support our health-impacted colleagues.

Chair: Susan Fletcher, The Navigators, Colorado Springs, CO; Andrew Albertson, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, NM; Courtney McNamara, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC; Sandra Smith, Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Marketing Makeovers: Small Changes, Big Results

We get frustrated when we know we’ve created an excellent program, but attendance doesn’t meet expectations. How can we best promote our programs with current and potential audiences? How should we modify our communication strategies? And whose responsibility is it to be involved in the process? Come join the discussion.

Chair: Alexandra Rasic, Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum, City of Industry, CA; Tobi Voigt, Michigan History Center, Lansing, MI

Military History Museums: More Relevant Than Ever!

For a generation, military history has supposedly been on the decline in academic circles, but military museums are still very popular. Explore what three institutions are doing to make military history relevant to modern audiences. Sponsored by the AASLH Military History Affinity Community.

Chair: Marc Blackburn, Mount Rainer National Park, Eatonville, WA; Françoise B. Bonnell, PhD, U.S. Army Women’s Museum, Fort Lee, VA; Matt Cassady, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; Mark Sundlov, Soldiers Memorial Museum, St. Louis, MO

Small Museums, Big Aspirations: Engaging Community, Co-Creating, and Collaborating

Directors of several small museums, including an Underground Railroad site and a traditional historic house museum, will share how their organizations revitalized their sites and increased their public reach. From curating an ambitious exhibit to changing to a women’s history center, each used collaboration to achieve their goals. Sponsored by the AASLH Small Museums Affinity Community.

Chair: Brian J. Failling, Aurora Regional Fire Museum, Aurora, IL; Jillian Allison, Center for Colorado Women’s History at the Byers-Evans House Museum, Denver, CO; Alison Costanzo, St. Charles History Museum, St. Charles, IL; Sarah Richardt, Lombard Historical Society, Lombard, IL

The Warm-Minded Museum

Join three museum professionals who had the unique opportunity to meet the Dalai Lama. We’ll explore his call for museums to embrace a purposeful focus on connecting knowledge and compassion—a concept he called “warmth of mind.” Come and experience this fastening of the heart and mind for yourself.

Chair: Andrea Jones, Peak Experience Lab, Brentwood, MD; Callie Hawkins, President Lincoln’s Cottage, Washington, DC; Susie Wilkening, Wilkening Consulting, Seattle, WA

Break in Exhibit Hall

NCPH Poster Session

The National Council on Public History has partnered with AASLH to sponsor this poster session. Built on NCPH’s model for public history presentations that use visual evidence, presenters will share their work, including works-in-progress, through one-on-one discussion.

Thank You Reception

Cost: Free; Invitation Only

Have you taken an extra step to support AASLH with time or money? Then please join us for a special thank you reception where we will celebrate our volunteers, donors, and sponsors. Amid all the business of the Annual Meeting, AASLH staff and Council members want to slow down and get to know you over coffee and pastries.

AASLH Meeting of the Membership

Join us for an open and engaging conversation with Council and AASLH leadership, and learn more about what’s on the horizon for AASLH. Bring your questions!

Chair: John Fleming, National Museum of African American Music, Nashville, TN
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

12:30–1:45 pm

**Changing the Narrative: Interpreting Difficult Topics Using Dialogic Principles**

Do you find that you are unable to interpret difficult topics at your site due to fear of push-back from your board, volunteers, or the public? In this session, you will meet panelists from three institutions who have taken this step. Hear about strategies, tips, and lessons learned.

**Chair:** Geralyn Ducady, Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, RI; Sheryl Hack, Connecticut Landmarks, Hartford, CT; Lisa Junkin Lopez, Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, Girl Scouts of the USA, Savannah, GA

**Exploring Digital Solutions to Preserve and Share Our Heritage**

Discover how the Center for Knit and Crochet is building an online space to preserve and share our community’s craft history by merging institutional collections, crowdsourced objects, and the deep knowledge of makers. Learn how this approach can be adapted to your organization’s specialized collections.

**Chair:** Jennifer Lindsay, Center for Knit and Crochet, Chevy Chase, MD; Cheryl Klimaszewski, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Philadelphia, PA; Nicole H. Scalese, Center for Knit and Crochet, Philadelphia, PA; Rebecca Keyel, Center for Knit and Crochet, Madison, WI

**The Future of Living History**

Living History is facing both internal and external pressure to appeal both to emerging museum professionals as well as an increasingly discerning public. This facilitated discussion will address how the field needs to evolve in order to remain a viable method of historical presentation for the next generation(s).

**Chair:** Mark Howell, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA; Richard Josey, Collective Journeys, LLC, Newport News, VA

**History Leadership Talks**

This session will feature two 15-minute presentations on different topics in the history field followed by time for informal discussion with the individual presenters.

**Achieving Neurodiversity: Creating Accessibility for Children with Autism in your Community**

Join autism mom and museum professional Jackie Spainhour as she provides insight into how museums of all sizes and scopes can adapt their facilities and programming to suit the needs of children on the autism spectrum. Let’s make breaking down barriers a priority. After all, what are we waiting for?

**Presenter:** Jaclyn Spainhour, Hunter House Victorian Museum, Norfolk, VA

**Queer Possibility**

Queer history is often hidden or erased. So, what do we do when we don’t have definitive proof of a historical figure’s sexuality or gender identity? Consider Queer Possibility. Hear the case for this startlingly simple strategy and see examples of it in action. Those interested in a deeper dive can stay later for a group discussion about applying Queer Possibility to their own practice.

**Presenter:** Margaret Middleton, Margaret Middleton Exhibit Design and Museum Consulting, Providence, RI

**Intercultural Collaboration: Museums as Agents and Conveners**

Museums have the agency to act as community conveners. Through the lens of an inaugural project, Inherit Chicago, learn about intercultural collaboration that builds trust, engages diverse perspectives, and crosses neighborhood boundaries. Come away with tools ready to launch a celebration and include new voices at your museum.

**Chair:** Emily Reusswig, Chicago Cultural Alliance, Chicago, IL; Mabel Menard, Chinese American Museum of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Billy Ocasio, The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, Chicago, IL; Peter Vega, Chicago Cultural Alliance, Chicago, IL

**It’s Time to Ditch Your Historic House Tour**

As historic house museums fight for relevancy, the Pearl S. Buck House transformed their visitor experience, integrating new technology as a tool to discuss race, gender, human rights, and the needs of differently-abled children. Find out how this shift has made them essential to the health of their community.

**Chair:** Marie Toner, Pearl S. Buck International, Perkasie, PA; Pradyuman Kodavatiganti, Night Kitchen Interactive, Philadelphia, PA; Sarah Pharaon, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, New York, NY

**Lost & Founders: Augmented Reality Mobile Game to Engage Visitors Onsite**

This session invites attendees to play Lost & Founders, a mobile game that engages visitors at historic sites by bringing lost histories and stories to life using Augmented Reality. Attendees will experience a uniquely different sort of engagement. Those interested in a deeper dive can stay later for a group discussion with the individual presenters.

**Chair:** Matthew Fisher, Night Kitchen Interactive, Philadelphia, PA; Valentina Feldman, Westphal College of Media Arts and Design, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA; Ethan Miller, The Free Library of Philadelphia, a five minute walk from the conference hotel.

**Making Anniversaries Matter**

How do we make anniversaries matter? How do they serve as opportunities for new growth rather than roadblocks? This session will draw on neuroscience, community health data, psychology, and public history to offer new frameworks for approach.

**Chair:** Braden Paynter, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, Washington, DC; Rainey Tisdale, Independent Consultant, Boston, MA
Memorialization: Past, Present, and Future

How can we deepen the conversation around past monuments and new memorials? What shall we remember? Should anything be forgotten? Global Sites of Conscience members share their perspectives on processes of memorialization, including not just bricks and mortar, but also memory-based art projects, re-namings, and commemorative ceremonies.

Chair: Silvia Fernandez, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, Barcelona, Spain

Secrets and Silences: When and How to Reveal Challenging Histories

Historians disclose uncomfortable truths. We walk genealogists through shame as we divulge “family secrets.” Sometimes we refute the stories people tell about themselves, or the accounts that historic sites share with the world. This panel will explore the awkward, messy, and occasionally revelatory task of sharing upsetting and silenced narratives.

Chair: Annie Anderson, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Philadelphia, PA; Sharece Blackney, Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities, Camden, NJ; Dennis Pickeral, Stenton Museum, Philadelphia, PA; Adrienne Whaley, Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, PA

Seizing the Power of the Pen

Calling all writers! Whether you are thinking about writing or doing it, this session focuses on the power of the pen to expand the reach of history. Don’t put history books in a box, there are many ways to make history appealing through writing. What are you waiting for?

Chair: Tim Grove, Grove History Consulting, Falls Church, VA; Trevor Jones, History Nebraska, Lincoln, NE; Josh Leventhal, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN; Rebecca Shrum, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

What Are YOU Waiting For? A Lightning Session of Ideas and Inspiration

This lightning session highlights inspirational work by organizations of all kinds and sizes. Eighteen recipients of the 2019 Leadership in History Awards will each share in four minutes why their project mattered, how it was innovative, and what challenges they overcame, providing a potpourri of ideas to spark any organization.

Chair: Nicholas J. Hoffman, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO; Christy Crisp, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, GA

Why Preserving Material Culture of the Space Age Matters Now More Than Ever

While spaceflight technology is represented in major museums, cultural relics from this history are disappearing quickly and should not be overlooked by institutions that could contribute to preservation and public engagement related to this phenomenon. Panelists will provide examples of relevant artifacts to recognize in local communities as well as demonstrate ways to interpret and present them in a larger historical context. In addition, they will share resources for complementary content that can supplement local collections.

Chair: Peter Kleeman, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Litchfield, CT; Margaret A. Weltekamp, PhD, Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC; Thomas Hine, Philadelphia Inquirer and Freelance Writer, Philadelphia, PA

Advocating for Equity: How to Talk about Salaries in Your Museum

From unpaid internships, to salaries that don’t pay a living wage to gender disparity, poor pay creates an unhappy workforce. It also influences workforce demographics since those who can afford to accept low salaries tend to be more affluent and less diverse. We’ll discuss the issues—and potential solutions.

Chair: Scott Wands, Connecticut Humanities, Middletown, CT; Joan Baldwin, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT; Kelsey Brow, King Manor Museum, Jamaica, NY; Ilene Frank, Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT; Diane Jellerette, Norwalk Historical Society, Norwalk, CT

All the Cool Kids are Doing It: Local History as Community Engagement

How can using Smithsonian resources bolster community engagement? The panel will discuss how hosting a Museum on Main Street exhibition spurred youth and community engagement with local history through digital storytelling. This experience bridged age gaps and led to surprising outcomes by presenting history in a more relevant way.

Chair: Robbie Davis, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, Washington, DC; Robin Goetz, Brunswick Public Library, Brunswick, MD; Shannon Sullivan, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

Connecting Art, Activism, and Archives: A Case Study and Book-Making Activity

Friends, Peace, and Sanctuary—a project that connects historic and contemporary stories of refuge through the book arts—will discuss the project and then lead attendees in a book-making activity. Participants will make an “easy book” that creatively combines archival material, personal reflections, and shared experiences around the topic of refuge.

Co-Chairs: Katie Price and Peggy Seiden, Swarthmore College, Swathmore, PA; Yaroub Al-Obaidi, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA
**Decoding Financial Statements: How to Spot Trouble and Plan for the Future**

Financial reports are awesome tools to support organizational sustainability and growth, if you know how to read them. This session provides participants a crash course in understanding common financial reporting formats. Participants will learn to identify red flags, and how to avoid common mistakes that can lead to big problems.

*Chair:* Jennifer Kilmer, Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, WA; Norman Burns, Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN

**History In Our Parks Roundtable**

Many parks and recreation agencies manage museums and historic sites, and still others hold rich cultural and historic resources within nature centers or other facilities. How do park staff meet the challenges of caring for these resources while operating within a system that is not geared towards heritage preservation? This roundtable will discuss AASLH’s formation of a History In Our Parks Task Force to address those unique needs. AASLH members who are interested in serving on the task force are especially encouraged to attend.

*Chair:* Shawn Halifax, Cultural History Interpretation Coordinator, Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission, Charleston, SC

**Imagining a Reparations Movement for Racial Justice in Museums and Historic Sites**

This panel creates an inclusive space to unleash radical imaginations about a reparations movement in historic sites, as part of a process of truth and reconciliation and best practices in our field. Learn about past movements, hear new ideas, and collectively brainstorm innovative solutions to redress histories of racial inequity.

*Chair:* Lisa Yun Lee, National Public Housing Museum, Chicago, IL; Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor, ME; LaTanya Autry, Tougaloo College & the Mississippi Museum of Art, Tougaloo, MS; Lisa Junkin Lopez, Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace—Girl Scouts of the USA, Savannah, GA; Omar Eaton-Martinez, Historical Resources for Prince George’s County Parks & Recreation at M-NCPPC, Riverdale, MD

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**Collector Systems**

Collector Systems is the premiere cloud-based collections management software (CMS) solution for museums, historic homes, foundations, and private collectors – manage your collection securely from any web-enabled device.

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**Stuck in the past? What are you waiting for?**

Benjamin Franklin, University of Pennsylvania

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**Friday, August 30**

- Benjamin Franklin, University of Pennsylvania
Make Your Museum a Gateway to Citizenship

The New-York Historical Society has successfully launched The Citizenship Project, preparing over 1,000 legal permanent residents annually for naturalization. Museums across the nation are perfectly positioned to engage with their local immigrant community and become a gateway to citizenship. This session offers guidance in launching citizenship education utilizing museum collections.

Chair: Samantha Rijkers, New-York Historical Society, New York, NY

Objects Are Complicated Too

Does a waning of the Colonial Revival explain the widening disconnect between museum objects and contemporary values? This session explores ways we have traditionally valued objects for the privileged stories they tell and how we can mobilize those same objects to convey a complete, inclusive past.

Chair: Laura C. Keim, Senton Museum, Philadelphia; Jessie MacLeod, George Washington’s Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, VA; David B. Voelkel, Maymont, Richmond, VA

On the Front Lines of Costumed Interpretation: The Challenges of Bringing Women’s Stories to Life at Historic Sites

What are some challenges in telling women’s stories using costumed interpretation at your historical site? Gain practical strategies from experienced educators about uncovering and interpreting diverse women’s histories via first and third person storytelling. Then, brainstorm ways to make costumed interpretation more inclusive, and safer for staff. Sponsored by the AASLH Women’s History Affinity Community.


RACE-ing Toward Change: Exhibitions and Challenging Conversations

This session explores the impact of RACE: Are We So Different? on museums and their audiences. It includes the perspectives of museum visitors and museum professionals in order to address the broader issues of museums as sites for engagement with difficult issues and as instruments of social change.

Chair: Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Loyola University, Chicago, IL; Tamara Biggs, Chicago History Museum, Chicago, IL; Elizabeth Fraterrigo, Loyola University, Chicago, IL; Sydney Garcia, San Diego Museum of Man, San Diego, CA

Red Tape, Green Tape: Making Changes in a Bureaucracy

Bureaucracy. Internal politics. Red tape. These exist in large organizations and small alike, and they make change next to impossible. Participants will hear two success stories of turning red tape into green and will engage in collaborative problem-solving with audience-provided examples of bureaucratic challenges.

Chair: Rebecca Katz, District of Columbia Office of Public Records, Washington, DC; Jackie Esposito, Penn State University, University Park, PA

Shark Tank: Pitching New Ideas for Sites and Museums

Inventive colleagues from across the country will pitch experimental and audacious ideas to our team of “sharks,” who are rich in experience and opinions, albeit lacking in investment dollars. The resulting dialogue will strengthen the ideas, the audience will be invited to participate, and something great will be born.

Chair: Jackie Barton, Birch Wood Planning, Westerville, OH

RECEPTION

5:30–7:30 pm

Diversity and Inclusion Mixer

Cost: $10; Preregistration Required

The AASLH Diversity and Inclusion Committee hosts the third annual DBI mixer in the Philly community. Come join the AASLH Diversity and Inclusion Committee at the Asian Arts Initiative to celebrate the diversity of the field. All are welcome to enjoy an evening of gathering and meeting members of the committee, other conference attendees, and local Philly professionals to learn about the Philly community as well as the continuous work of diversity and inclusion within AASLH and the public history field. Transportation provided.

EVENING EVENT

6:30–9 pm

Leadership in History Awards Banquet

Cost: $79

Description on page 19.
Saturday, August 31

7:30–8:45 am

CEO/Director Breakfast
Cost: $40; Preregistration Required
As we begin the last day of the conference, join fellow administrators to talk about what inspired you. What will you NOT be waiting for when you return to your institution? What do you need to wait for? Share your thoughts and next steps while getting in some last minute networking.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9–10:15 am

#KnowBetterDoBetter: Measuring DEIA Impact at Your Organization [DI]
Do inclusion efforts really require assessment? Assessment provides a more accurate understanding of your organization’s level of inclusion and provides a way to measure progress. Discover four assessment tools and ask your questions to learn more about the advantages and disadvantages of each to decide what’s right for your organization.
Chair: Stacy Klingler, Butterworth Center & Deere-Wiman House, Moline, IL; Janeen Bryant, Facilitate Movement, Charlotte, NC; Omar Eaton-Martinez, Maryland-National Capital Parks & Planning Commission, Upper Marlboro, MD; Chris Taylor, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN

Building STEM Identity in Girls Outside of Science Centers [CE]
In this panel, hear from non-science center museums who promote girls’ interest and identity in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), through exhibitions, girl-friendly activities, partnerships with girl-serving organizations, and community events, thus creating new narratives around women’s roles in science and engineering.
Chair: Isabel Ziegler, Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park, Richmond, CA; Amber Kraft, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC; Sheri Levinsky-Raskin, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, New York, NY

Deferred Maintenance: Investing in the Upkeep and Care of Our Frontline Staff [ST]
As historic sites tackle issues of social relevance, the work of frontline staff has evolved. Recruitment, training, and compensation models have not. Session participants will identify the skills staff need to engage visitors in relevant learning experiences and the training and support required to make this work personally and institutionally sustainable.
Chair: Elisabeth Nevin, Seed Education Consulting, Jamaica Plain, MA; Shannon Burke, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, CT; Dr. Porchia Moore, Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC; Lauren Zalut, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Philadelphia, PA

Identifying and Prioritizing Magnetic Media for Preservation [HR]
Audio cassettes, reel to reel audio tapes, and VHS tapes in our collections are decaying. We must ACT NOW to preserve the content on this magnetic media. Participants will handle media examples, connect with format identification tools, and become familiar with prioritization schemes for triaging media for digitization and reformattting.
Chair: Ann Marie Willer, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA

Overcoming Barriers to Improved Collections Care [ST]
Every institution, especially smaller ones, faces barriers to collections care and collections management. Lack of funding, small staffs, and institutional buy-in contribute to these problems. With the help of attendees, participants will identify common barriers to improving collections care and management and offer help to overcome these barriers.
Chair: M. Susan Barger, Connecting to Collections Care, Foundation for the American Institute for Conservation, Santa Fe, NM; Samantha Forsko, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, PA; Laura Heemer, Wharton Esherick Museum, Paoli, PA

Pause for Perspective: Shattering the Glass Narrative [CE]
Wanting to inspire dialogue in our community around current events, Minnetrista prepared to relaunch a ten year old interpretation of a 1920s Ball jar embossed with imagery of...
the Ku Klux Klan—we then paused to gain perspective. Join us for a performance of the resulting theater piece and to explore the process.
Chair: Jessica Jenkins, Minnetrista, Muncie, IN; Mason Absher, Minnetrista, Muncie, IN; Aaron Bonds, Playwright, Muncie, IN; George Buss, Minnetrista, Muncie, IN; Keith Overall, Minnetrista, Muncie, IN

Problems in Partnerships: Addressing Institutional Difference in a Collaborative World

Why and how should institutions forge, sustain, or cut off partnerships? How do we measure a partnership’s success? And how can we decline partnerships while retaining relationships? This session tackles these problems as we collectively develop criteria for organizations to use to assess when new partnerships are beneficial to growth.
Chair: Sarah Litvin, Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History, Brooklyn, NY; Johnathan Thayer, Queens College, CUNY, Queens, NY

Waiting for People and Money: Strategies for Building Support for House Museums

When house museums want to leap forward, wishful thinking isn’t enough. They need sufficient capacity and support to achieve their vision. We’ll explore three different but common approaches—the governing board, volunteers, and a major fundraising campaign—with an experienced director, mid-level program manager, and a national non-profit consultant.
Chair: Max van Balgooy, Engaging Places, LLC, Rockville, MD; Donna Ann Harris, Heritage Consulting, Inc. Philadelphia, PA; Alexandra Rasic, Homestead Museum, City of Industry, CA; Nina Zannieri, Paul Revere Memorial Association/Paul Revere House, Boston, MA

We are No Longer Waiting: Teaching a More Inclusive American History

Learn about new rich and nuanced materials for teaching American history based on recent scholarship and targeted to diverse classroom populations. Learn about two museums’ approaches and the research behind creating these new frameworks. Participants are encouraged to create new teacher resources.

BREAK IN FOYER

10:15–10:30 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:30 am–12 pm

2020 Annual Meeting Roundtable

The program committee for the 2020 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas wants to hear your ideas for making the next meeting better. What did you like about the Philadelphia meeting? What should we have done differently? Members of the 2020 Annual Meeting program and host committees should attend. All meeting participants are welcome.
Chair: Omar Eaton-Martinez, Maryland-National Capital Parks & Planning Commission, Upper Marlboro, MD

Back To School: Revitalizing School Programs and Curricula

The Historical Society of Princeton’s thirty-year-old school curriculum was due for an upgrade. We wanted to incorporate diverse experiences. We wanted to incorporate twenty-first century teaching methods in STEAM and active learning. What were we waiting for? Come experience one classroom project that resulted from this collaborative redesign.

Bringing the Past into the Present: Immigrant Storytelling through Museum Tours

The Global Guides program hires immigrants and refugees to interpret artifacts while sharing stories about life in their home countries. Staff will discuss program implementation, while guides will demonstrate stories and describe tours. Attendees will gain insights on supporting guides with lived experience to share cultural stories that help to decolonize the museum.
Chair: Ellen Owens, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA; Yaroub Al-Obaidi, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA; Moumena Saradar, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA; Kevin Schott, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA

Collections Management Software Conundrum: Answer—Collaboration

Museums would not exist without their collections. History consortiums in Connecticut, Minnesota, and Nova Scotia, Canada, have developed open-source, customized collection management software that allows their members to catalog and share their collections. We will discuss the benefits and challenges of collaborating on open-source, collectively hosted and managed software.
Chair: Ann Grandy, Pope County Historical Society, Glenwood, MN; Dustin Heckman, Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, Red Wing, MN; Diane Lee, Fairfield Museum and History Center, Fairfield, CT

Countering the Optics of Distortion and Doing Public History “In Real Time”

How can we expand our repertoire of public engagement by fostering real or virtual spaces for responding to historical controversies in the current political climate? The session’s goal is to provide inspiration for new forms of rapid-response public history, informed by concrete ideas of how to make that possible.
Chair: Nan Kim, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of History, Milwaukee, WI

History Relevance for All: New Jersey Historical Commission’s Understanding Communities Project

Working towards audience inclusion can feel overwhelming. In this session, we will share how the New Jersey Historical Commission took a first step to make New Jersey history and history organizations more inclusive for all through an Understanding Communities study focused on the Hispanic and Latino communities in New Jersey.
Chair: Amanda Krantz, Randi Korn & Associates, Stroudsburg, PA; Timothy G. Hart, Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Toms River, NJ; Niquole Primiani, Department of State, New Jersey Historical Commission, Trenton, NJ; Matthew E. Pisarski, County of Cumberland, Bridgeton, NJ; Nicholas Rodriguez, Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council, Paterson, NJ; Isha Vyas, Middlesex County Office of Arts and History, New Brunswick, NJ
No Time Like the Present: Engaging Descendant Communities in the Interpretation of Slavery

Does your museum confidently discuss slavery? Does your site have meaningful relationships with descendants of enslaved people associated with it? The National Summit on Teaching Slavery presents a rubric of best practices for addressing slavery and engaging descendants that’s grounded in three principles—multi-disciplinary research, positive relationships, and integrated interpretation.

Chair: Shawn Halifax, Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, Charleston, SC; Christian Cotz, James Madison’s Montpelier, Orange, VA; Brent Leggs, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC; Ahmad Ward, Mitchellville Preservation Project, Hilton Head Island, SC

Using the Museum Assessment Program As Your Museum’s GPS on the Road to Excellence

Does your museum need budget-friendly directions to improve its community engagement, address challenges with collections, strengthen its educational activities, align operations overall, or hone its governance for greater leadership potential? Hear about the new and revised Museum Assessment Program including the benefits, experiences, and its impact from recent MAP participants.

Chair: Danyelle Rickard, American Alliance of Museums, Arlington, VA; Amanda Shores Davis, Star Spangled Banner Flag House and 1812 Museum, Baltimore, MD; Kisha Wilson-Sogunro, Manassas Museum System, Manassas, VA

We Can Do It—Collaboratively!

Collaboration is key, but not always easy. How can large urban museums and small local presenters work together to grow collaborative networks that transcend differences of scale, budget, and territory to broaden opportunities for regional audiences? Learn strategies to overcome roadblocks and capitalize on new opportunities to build effective partnerships.

Chair: Leslie A. Przybyilek, Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA; Jared Frederick, Blair County Historical Society, Altoona, PA; Erin Rothenbueler, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, WV; Robert Stakeley, Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA

We Cannot Afford to Wait!: Saving Public School History, Material Culture, and Stories

Join museum practitioners, preservationists, scholars, and a conceptual artist for a conversation about rapid response versus strategic collecting from multiple closed public schools across different cities. Gain unique insight around swift preservation methods, memory, and developing creative models to advance narratives around preserving and interpreting potential lost histories.

Chair: Kimberly E. Springle, Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, Washington, DC; Dr. Marion Bolden, Newark Public Schools Historical Preservation Committee, Newark, NJ; Claudia B. Ocello, Museum Partners Consulting, LLC, Maplewood, NJ; Pepón Osborne, Temple University, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA; Dr. Charles Tocci, Loyola University, Chicago, IL

Why Wait for Feedback? Approaches to Testing Ideas and Getting Immediate Audience Input

What if we didn’t wait to bring in real visitors to test ideas for exhibitions and programming? Three history institutions ran different types of prototyping processes to get visitor feedback during project planning. They’ll share promises and pitfalls of their varying approaches, and ask for your stories and suggestions.

Chair: David McKenzie, Ford’s Theatre Society, Washington, DC; Christopher Graham, American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA; Kate Haley Goldman, Haley Goldman Consulting, Silver Spring, MD; Sean Kelley, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Philadelphia, PA

WORKSHOPS

1–5:30 pm

Cost: $45; Preregistration Required

Becoming U.S.—Creative Ways to Inspire Conversation about Contemporary Issues

Talk, eat, and be inspired! Participate in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania’s community conversation program “Becoming U.S.—Food and Culture” to think about how finding unusual collaborators and reaching out to diverse communities allows history to become relevant. Held in the Culinary Literacy Center of the Free Library.

Chair: Beth Twiss Houting, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Dr. Faye Allard-Clark, Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; Sholeh Arezoumand, Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; Ange Brana, Sate Kampar, Philadelphia, PA; Chris Paul, Everything We Eat LLC, Philadelphia, PA

Beyond the Text: Enlivening Documents through Storytelling

How do we interpret complex historical texts? Visit the National Constitution Center and learn engaging storytelling techniques that make documents accessible and relevant to visitors. While focusing on the Civil War and Reconstruction, tour a new exhibit, see a live performance, and create your own document-based theatrical experience.

Chair: Sarah Winski, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA; Elena Popchock, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA; Nora Quinn, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA
Special Thanks

AASLH recognizes the many volunteers who contributed their valuable time, energy, and expertise to the success of this year’s conference.

Thank you!

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Come Early & Stay the Weekend

Since this year’s conference ends on Labor Day weekend, consider bringing family and friends and enjoying the long weekend or coming a couple of days early. There is plenty to see in Philadelphia and some great day trips to explore this historic region. Here are some ideas to get you started.

In Philadelphia

The official visitor site of Philadelphia is full of things to see, do, and eat. Check out visit philly.com to build your itinerary. Here’s some suggestions to get you started.

- Visit some of the 400 museums in Philadelphia!
- Take a food tour of Philly. Be sure to include Reading Terminal Market, the Italian Market, and cheesesteak.
- Check out the 20+ Free Things to Do in Philly

Events

Some exciting events are happening during the week of the conference (can you say Hamilton?):

August 25-29

- Citadel Country Spirit USA. The Brandywine Valley’s three-day country music festival takes place at Ludwig’s Corner
- House Show Grounds in Glenmoore and features country music stars and includes attractions, food, and drinks. countryspiritusa.com

August 27-November 17

Hamilton. Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Broadway smash comes to the Forrest Theatre and the city of its namesake’s greatest achievement (founding of the national bank) and his romantic downfall (the Reynolds affair). kimmelcenter.org

August 31-September 1

Made in America. Multi-headliner, two-day, pre-Labor Day outdoor concert, founded and organized by Jay-Z/Roc Nation, returns to Philadelphia for its eighth year. madeinamericafest.com

Day Trips

Brandywine Valley Wine Tour – Enjoy touring wineries and a pack a picnic to enjoy in a picturesque part of Pennsylvania and Delaware. Stop by Winterthur, the Hagley, and other museums along the way. bvvb.com/index.html

Amish Country, Lancaster County – The Pennsylvania Amish of Lancaster County are America’s oldest Amish settlement, where thousands still live a centuries-old “Plain” lifestyle. Arriving in Amish Country allows you to step back in time to enjoy a slower, more peaceful pace—one where the horse and buggy remains a primary form of transportation, and where windmills dot the landscape, providing power harnessed from nature. discoverlancaster.com/activities/amish-activities.asp

Jersey Shore – Head to the shore and experience historic lighthouses, forts, villages, and more along with beaches and boardwalks. Note: Make any hotel reservations early as Labor Day weekend is popular. visitnj.org/regions/shore

Doylestown, PA – Visit the county seat of Bucks County, a spectacular place that’s home to magnificent castles, unique specialty shops, exceptional dining options, and one-of-a-kind pieces of American history. The Doylestown Cultural District, featuring the Mercer Museum and James. A. Michener Art Museum, is just a short walk away from Main Street. visitbuckscounty.com/towns-main-streets/doylestown-chalfont-warrington

Trenton, NJ – Head over the river and visit the capital of the Garden State. In the area immediately surrounding the golden dome of the New Jersey State House is the New Jersey State Museum, an exciting museum featuring four museums in one, with a planetarium, a fine art collection of more than 12,000 works, a natural history collection and an impressive assemblage of cultural history, archaeology, and ethnography artifacts. After extensive renovations, the museum’s main building re-opened with exhilarating new exhibits that celebrate the state’s artistic and cultural life. visitnj.org/city/trenton

Industrial History – Spend Labor Day weekend digging into labor history through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Industrial Heritage Trail which highlights sites in Cornwall, Lebanon, and Scranton. phmc.pa.gov/Museums/Industrial-Heritage/Pages/default.aspx
Hotel & Travel

Meeting Locations
All meeting sessions and the Exhibit Hall will be held at the Philadelphia 201 Hotel.

Headquarter Hotel
The Philadelphia 201 Hotel is the host hotel for the conference. Visit aaslh.org/2019annualmeeting for more information.

Philadelphia 201 Hotel
201 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Rate: $169 per night plus tax.
Cut-off date for reservations is August 5 or when block is full, whichever comes first.

Airport Transportation
The Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is located about eight miles from downtown. Cab fare is approximately $25 to the downtown area. Regional rail, ride share services, and Super Shuttle also provide transportation from the airport to downtown. Transportation options from the Philadelphia airport to downtown are available at phl.org/Pages/passengerinfo/transportationservices/cct_connect.aspx.

Downtown Transportation
Philadelphia offers SEPTA and PHLASH as inexpensive options for exploring the downtown area. Visit Discover Philadelphia for more information. discoverphl.com/visit/basics.

Registration Information
All attendees, speakers, and exhibitors must register for the Annual Meeting. Registration and meeting functions for the AASLH/Sites of Conscience Annual Meeting will take place at the Philadelphia 201 Hotel. When you receive your registration materials, please consult the program update for the location of each activity you plan to attend.

Membership and Nonmember
You may become a member or renew your membership with AASLH when you register for the Annual Meeting by checking the appropriate box on the registration form. Institutional members of AASLH may send two attendees with waiver of individual membership, and Partners (institutions that join AASLH at $1,100 or more) may send an unlimited number of attendees with waivers of individual memberships. Nonmembers may attend the Annual Meeting. Please see the appropriate fee on the registration form. Sites of Conscience Members may register at the AASLH member rate.

Scholarship Opportunities
There are two opportunities for scholarships to attend the AASLH Annual Meeting.

AASLH Small Museum Scholarship—AASLH’s Small Museums Community is offering scholarships to any AASLH members who are full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small museums. The $700 scholarship will cover the cost of registration and the Small Museums Luncheon. Any remaining funds can be used to offset travel and/or lodging expenses. To qualify, the applicant must work for a museum with a budget of $250,000 or less and either be an individual member of AASLH or work for an institutional member. Deadline for applications is June 5, 2019. Learn more and apply at aaslh.org/2019annualmeeting.

Douglas Evelyn Scholarship for Diversity—The Evelyn Scholarship is named in honor of Douglas Evelyn, AASLH president from 1992-1994, and recognizes Evelyn’s strong support of AASLH’s professional development mission. A primary objective of the Douglas Evelyn Scholarship is to increase culturally diverse participation at the AASLH annual meeting and in all of the association’s programs. The scholarship includes Annual Meeting registration fee, a one-year individual membership in AASLH, and $700 toward travel and hotel expenses. Thanks to the Local Host Committee, two additional $400 scholarships are available to minority professionals from the Philadelphia region. Applications are due June 14, 2019. Learn more and apply at aaslh.org/2019annualmeeting.

Registration Deadlines
Early Bird Registration—July 9, 2019
Preregistration Deadline—July 26, 2019
If you are unable to register by mail before the preregistration deadline (July 26) plan to register on-site at the Philadelphia 201 Hotel. Registrations received by the AASLH office after July 26 will be taken to the meeting and treated as on-site registrations.

One-Day Tickets and On-Site Registrations
One-day registrations received by the AASLH office after July 26 will be taken to the meeting and treated as on-site registrations. One-day tickets are valid only for the day of issue for program sessions, general sessions, coffee breaks, and admission to the Exhibit Hall. On-site registrations will be available.

Student Volunteers
Any full-time student who is a member of AASLH may volunteer to work eight hours during the Annual Meeting in exchange for a complimentary full meeting registration. Each volunteer will be assigned to work two, four-hour shifts during the meeting. For more information on student volunteer opportunities, please contact Natalie Flammia at flammia@aaslh.org or 615-320-3203.
Special Events and Workshops
Tickets are available in advance and require preregistration. AASLH reserves the right to cancel workshops and special events if minimum numbers are not met. Refunds will be made after the meeting for any canceled event.

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

Accessibility
AASLH is committed to providing access to all individuals attending the Annual Meeting. Please mark the appropriate box on the registration form if you have special needs that require our consideration. Send your request to AASLH no later than July 26 so that we have adequate time to prepare for your accommodations.

Cancellations/Refunds
All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations postmarked on or before July 26 will be subject to a $55 processing charge on the cancelled registration fee and a 50% cancellation fee on all special events, including workshops. No refunds for registration, workshops, and special events will be made after July 26. AASLH is not responsible for cancellations that were mailed or emailed but never received. If you do not receive confirmation from AASLH within three weeks, please contact the AASLH office at 615-320-3203 or membership@aaslh.org.

Policies, Photo Release, and Waiver
By submitting a registration for the AASLH Annual Meeting, you agree to the following:
• AASLH is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants and AASLH staff. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, AASLH staff, service providers, and others are expected to abide by the Meeting Safety & Responsibility Policy. Read the full policy at aaslh.org/2019annualmeeting.
• You authorize AASLH to use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to you—including your image, likeness, and/or voice without compensation. AASLH may use this material in various publications, recruitment materials, or for other related endeavors in print and online, including the AASLH website and email correspondence.
• You agree that you are not aware of health or medical conditions preventing your safe participation in the activities for which you register, and release and discharge AASLH, their respective affiliates and subsidiaries, as well as any event sponsor, jointly and severally, from any and all liability, damages, costs (including attorney fees), actions or causes of action related to or arising from or out of your participation in or preparation of any of the events for which you register.
Registration Form

We will produce the meeting participant list and your name badge directly from this form. Please type or print legibly. All correspondence and written confirmations will be sent to the address below. Page 1 of 2

Nickname/Badge Name ____________________________________________

Name ___________________________________________________________

Position/Title ___________________________________________________

Institution ______________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________

City _______________________________ State ______________ Zip __________

Phone ______________________________ Fax __________________________

Email __________________________________________________________________________

Twitter Handle _____________________________________________________________

Guest Name (if attending any Events/Tours) _______________________________________

First-Time Attendee □ Yes □ No AASLH Membership Number _______________________

Emergency Contact/Phone _________________________________________________

Would you like to appear in the Attendee Roster? (No contact information provided. Name, Company Name, and State only.) □ Yes □ No

For this event, how would you like to hear from our sponsors and/or exhibitors?
□ Email □ Mail □ Please remove me from sponsor and/or exhibitor contact lists for this event.

□ I agree to the terms and conditions outlined in AASLH’s Policies. Photo Release, and Waiver at aasl.org/2019annualmeeting.

More Savings!
Become an AASLH Member and Save up to $75!

AASLH New Members or Renewals (Check One) □ Join □ Renew

AASLH Individual Memberships
□ Patron Member $250 □ Sustaining Member $150
□ Supporting Member $100 □ Individual Member $72
□ New Professional Member $45 □ Retired Member $42
□ Student Member $30

AASLH Institutional Membership
(Choose Budget Level)
□ <$50k $98 □ $50k-$100k $118
□ $100k-$500k $155 □ $500k-$1M $210
□ $1M-$2.5M $285 □ $2.5M-$5M $345
□ $5M-$10M $465 □ > $10M $630
□ Academic Program Member $310

AASLH Institutional Partner Levels
□ Partner $1,100 □ Premier Partner $3,500
□ Platinum Partner $10,000

2019 Registration Rates

Full Meeting Rate Early Bird Rate by July 9 Preregistration Rate by July 26 Onsite Rate
□ Member $267 $332 $367
□ Non-Member $342 $407 $450
□ Staff of Partner Level Members $267 $267 $292
□ Full-time Student Member $195 $195 $195
□ Student Volunteer Free Free Free

Daily Rate
□ One Day: Member $159 $179 $199
□ One Day: Non-Member $234 $259 $303

Circle the day: Wed, Aug 28 Thur, Aug 29 Fri, Aug 30 Sat, Aug 31

Send Both Pages of the Form!
These events are not included in the Annual Meeting registration fee and require preregistration.

### Wednesday, August 28

- Tour: Innovative Delaware: Hagley Museum and Library and the Nemours Estate, Past and Present  
  - $75
- Tour: Philadelphia Main Line Estates: From Grand Mansions to Gardens and How They’ve Evolved  
  - $75
- Tour: History of Public Health in Philadelphia  
  - $45
- Tour: To Bigotry No Sanction: Walking Tour of Historic Philadelphia’s Religious History  
  - $45
- Workshop: A Different Type of Field-Trip: A Visit and Conversation with Philadelphia Students and Educators  
  - $45
- Workshop: Collaborative Visitor Experience Design  
  - $45
- Workshop: Field Services Alliance Meeting  
  - FREE
- Workshop: Women Leading with Power and Authenticity  
  - $45
- Workshop: Digital Preservation on a Shoestring Budget  
  - $75
- Workshop: Podcast Productions for Museums and Historic Sites  
  - $75
- Workshop: Presenting, Interpreting, and Discussing Difficult Issues in African American History  
  - $75
- Workshop: Easy Disaster Planning with the New dPlan!  
  - $45
- Workshop: Introduction to Sites of Conscience Dialogue  
  - $45
- Workshop: History Leadership Forum  
  - $60
- Workshop: Telling Inclusive Stories Through Public History Festivals  
  - $45
- Workshop: What’s the Story?: How to Use Storytelling as a Dynamic Alternative to Traditional Forms of Interpretation  
  - $45
- Reception: International Coalition of Sites of Conscience Reception  
  - FREE
- Evening Event: Out in the Gayborhood: LGBTQ History in Philly  
  - $49

### Thursday, August 29

- Tour: Seeking Out Stories at the Museum of the American Revolution and Independence National Historical Park  
  - $45
- History Relevance Breakfast  
  - $35
- New Member/First Time Attendee Reception  
  - FREE
- Naturalization Ceremony  
  - FREE
- Luncheon: Business History  
  - $47
- Luncheon: Educators and Interpreters  
  - $47
- Luncheon: Religious History  
  - $47
- Luncheon: Small Museums  
  - $47
- Reception: History Leadership Institute  
  - FREE
- Evening Event: An Evening at Eastern State Penitentiary  
  - $25

### Friday, August 30

- Tour: Making the Private Public: Telling Women’s History through Collections  
  - $45
- Tour: A Walk to the African American Museum in Philadelphia  
  - $45
- StEPs Friday Morning MeetUP  
  - $15
- Luncheon: Historic House Museums  
  - $47
- Luncheon: Military History  
  - $47
- Reception: Diversity and Inclusion Mixer  
  - $10
- Evening Event: Leadership in History Awards Banquet  
  - $79

### Saturday, August 31

- Tour: On the Road to Freedom: Enslavement and the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia  
  - $75
- Tour: Walking with Washington  
  - $75
- Tour: Changing Narratives at Historic Sites: Stenton, Cliveden and Wyck in Historic Germantown  
  - $45
- CEO/Director Breakfast  
  - $40
- Workshop: Becoming U.S.—Creative Ways to Inspire Conversation about Contemporary Issues  
  - $45
- Workshop: Beyond the Text: Enlivening Documents through Storytelling  
  - $45

### Payment Information

- All registrations must be prepaid by check or credit card. Send completed Registration Form (both page 1 and page 2) with payment by:
  - Online – Registrations can be submitted through the AASLH website at aaslh.org/2019annualmeeting.
  - Fax – You may fax your registration form with credit card information to 615-327-9013, 24 hours a day.
  - Mail – AASLH  
    Attention: Annual Meeting Registration  
    2021 21st Avenue S., Suite 320, Nashville, TN 37212

### Confirmation

- You will receive a registration confirmation from AASLH. If you do not receive confirmation from the AASLH office within one week of sending your registration, please contact our office. AASLH is not responsible for registrations faxed or mailed and never received.

### Special Request

- Accessibility (please explain)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Dietary Restrictions
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
### Payment Enclosed

- Registration Rates (from page 1) $ ________
- Membership Fees (from page 1) $ ________
- Special Event Fees $ ________
- Donation to Annual Fund $ ________
- Total Due $ ________

Be sure to fax/mail BOTH pages of the registration form. Do not mail registration forms or payment after July 26. If payment has not been received by July 26 you will be responsible for payment at the registration desk. Check your registration forms carefully. An incomplete form could delay your registration.
CHANGE YOUR WORLD

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THIS GRAD PROGRAM PREPARES YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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Our interdisciplinary program offers two tracks aimed at giving students real-world experience that makes a difference and changes communities and lives through publicly-engaged scholarship. Our students have gone on to receive prestigious research fellowships from USAID and the Smithsonian Institution and jobs at museums, archives, nonprofit organizations, and colleges and universities.

“The American Studies program helped me gain skills and new ways of thinking. As a social entrepreneur, I chose to pursue my graduate degree in American Studies as opposed to a traditional MBA because the Rutgers-Newark American Studies program is grounded in inclusion and social justice. The program has allowed me to study a broad range of topics including race, ethnicity, sexuality, and various other cultural identities. As a result, I feel empowered to better impact youth and young adults in Newark, regardless of their cultural or ethnic backgrounds.”

- Mike Steadman, Founder & CEO of IRONBOUND Boxing

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