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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bethany Hawkins
hawkins@aslh.org
615-320-3203

AASLH Announces 2017 Leadership in History Award Winners

Forty-eight recipients from twenty-four states honored by AASLH

NASHVILLE, TN—The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces the winners of the 72nd annual Leadership in History Awards, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. This year, AASLH is proud to confer forty-eight national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications.

“The Leadership in History Awards is AASLH’s highest distinction and the winners represent the best in the field,” said Trina Nelson Thomas, AASLH Awards Chair and Director, Stark Art & History Venue, Stark Foundation. “This year, we are pleased to distinguish each recipient’s commitment and innovation to the interpretation of history, as well as their leadership for the future of state and local history.”

The Leadership in History Awards Program was initiated in 1945 to build standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout America. Each nomination is peer-reviewed by AASLH’s state captains. Final awards are decided by the Awards Committee, comprised of AASLH’s fourteen regional representatives and the National Awards Chair.

The awards include:

- The **Award of Merit** which is presented for excellence in history programs, projects, and people when compared with similar activities nationwide;
- The **Albert B. Corey Award** is named in honor of a founder and former president of AASLH, and recognizes primarily volunteer-operated historical organizations that best display the qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination in their work. No Corey Award will be presented this year.
- The **HIP (History in Progress) Award** is given at the discretion of the awards committee to 5% or less of the total winners of the Award of Merit. It is for a project that is highly inspirational, exhibits exceptional scholarship, and/or is exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships, or collaborations, creative problem solving, or unusual project



design and inclusiveness. The 2017 recipients are the [Orange County Regional History Center](#) and the [Louisville Story Program](#).

- The **Michael Kammen Award**, named in honor of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Cornell University's Newton C. Farr Professor of American History and Culture Emeritus. It is presented to a history institution with an annual budget under \$250,000 that has shown outstanding effort. This year's winner is the [Middlesex County Historical Society](#) in Middletown, CT.

Presentation of the awards will be made at a special banquet during the 2017 AASLH Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, on Friday, September 8. The banquet is supported by a generous contribution from the HISTORY™.

A full listing of recipients can be found at: about.aaslh.org/awards. For more information, contact Bethany Hawkins at hawkins@aslh.org.

About the American Association for State and Local History:

Since 1940, AASLH has provided leadership and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history to make the past more meaningful. AASLH is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH works to advance knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of local history in America. AASLH publishes books, technical publications, a quarterly magazine, a monthly newsletter, and maintains numerous affinity groups and committees serving a broad range of constituents across the historical community. The association also sponsors online continuing education training, regional and national training workshops, and an annual meeting. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org.

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2017 Leadership in History Awards Winners Listed by State

The Michael Kammen Award

Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, CT

California

Name: The Italian American Museum of Los Angeles

Nomination: for The Italian American Museum of Los Angeles exhibits

Name: Auut Studio

Nomination: for the multimedia project *MonroeWorkToday.org*



Connecticut

Name: Fairfield Museum and History Center

Nomination: for the exhibit *Rising Tides: Fairfield's Coast, Past to Future*

Name: Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum

Nomination: for the exhibit *The Stairs Below: The Mansion's Domestic Servants, 1868-1938*

Name: Middlesex County Historical Society

Nomination: for the exhibit *A Vanished Port: Middletown & the Caribbean, 1750-1824*

Florida

Name: William E. O'Brien

Nomination: for the publication *Landscapes of Exclusion: State Parks and Jim Crow in the American South*

Name: Orange County Regional History Center

Nomination: for the *One Orlando Collection Initiative*

This nomination is also the recipient of a HIP (History in Progress) Award.

Georgia

Name: Museum of History and Holocaust Education at Kennesaw State University

Nomination: for the publication *Landscapes of Exclusion: State Parks and Jim Crow in the American South*

Name: Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, Girl Scouts of the USA

Nomination: for the project *Girls Writing the World: A Library, Reimagined*

Hawaii

Name: Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives; Awaiaulu Inc.

Nomination: for the project *Letters from the Ali`i*

Illinois

Name: Rachel Boyle, Chelsea Denault, Maggie McClain, and Kelly Schmidt

Nomination: for the *Chrysler Village History Project*

Name: Byron Forest Preserve District

Nomination: for the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum Renovation



Indiana

Name: Indiana Historical Society, WISH-TV, WANE-TV, WSJV-TV, WEVV-TV, Lee Nassau, and Dennis Neary

Nomination: for the multimedia project *Indiana Bicentennial Minute*

Name: Indiana Historical Society

Nomination: for the publication *Mapping Indiana: Five Centuries of Treasures from the Indiana Historical Society*

Name: Indiana Women's Prison History Project

Nomination: for the Women's Prison History Project

Iowa

Name: National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Nomination: for the project *Maňa: One Girl's Story*

Kansas

Name: Kansas State Historical Society

Nomination: for the exhibit *Captured: The Extraordinary Adventures of Colonel Hughes*

Kentucky

Name: Louisville Story Program

Nomination: for the project *I Said Bang!: A History of the Dirt Bowl, the Crown Jewel of the Most Basketball-Obsessed City in America*

This nomination is also the recipient of a HIP (History in Progress) Award.

Massachusetts

Name: Cambridge Historical Society

Nomination: for the *Housing for All Symposium*

Name: The Somerville Museum and Charan Devereaux

Nomination: for the project *Union Square at Work: Photographs, Stories, and Music from Somerville's Oldest Commercial District*

Name: Paul Revere Memorial Association/Paul Revere House

Nomination: for *Paul Revere House Education and Visitor Center: A Preservation and Interpretive Effort*



Michigan

Name: Michigan History Center

Nomination: for the public program *Rock Your Mocs*

Minnesota

Name: Minnesota Discovery Center

Nomination: for "*Enough!*" *The 1916 Mesabi Range Strike* temporary exhibit

Name: Virginia M. Wright-Peterson

Nomination: for the publication *Women of Mayo Clinic: The Founding Generation*

Missouri

Name: St. Louis County Library and St. Louis County Parks

Nomination: for the public program *We Are St. Louis*

Name: Missouri History Museum

Nomination: for the *Teens Make History* tenth anniversary

New Mexico

Name: Los Alamos Historical Society & Quatrefoil Associates

Nomination: for Los Alamos History Museum exhibits

Name: Siegfried S. Hecker and the Los Alamos Historical Society and Museum

Nomination: for the publication *Doomed to Cooperate: How American and Russian Scientists Joined Forces to Avert Some of the Greatest Post-Cold War Nuclear Dangers*

New York

Name: Averill Earls, Sarah Handley-Cousins, Marissa Rhodes, Elizabeth Garner Masarik, Katie Smyser, Tommy Buttaccio, and Dan Wallace

Nomination: for *The History Buffs* podcast

Name: The Historic Tavern Trail Series presented by Johanna Yaun, Orange County Historian

Nomination: for the 2016 Historic Tavern Trail Series

North Carolina

Name: North Carolina Museum of History

Nomination: for the exhibit *Made Especially for You* by Willie Kay

Name: UNC Greensboro Public History Program

Nomination: for the exhibit *The Fabric of Memory: The Cone Mill Villages*



Ohio

Name: Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums

Nomination: for Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums Centennial Anniversary

Oregon

Name: Helen B. Louise, Kristen Pilgrim, and Tara Cole

Nomination: for the exhibit *History Hub*

Pennsylvania

Name: The State Museum of Pennsylvania

Nomination: for the exhibit *The Pennsylvania Turnpike: America's First Superhighway*

Name: Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site

Nomination: for the exhibit *Prisons Today: Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration*

Name: Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County, Inc.

Nomination: for the publication *Shade Furnace: An Early 19th Century Ironmaking Community in Somerset County, Pennsylvania*

Name: Jefferson County Historical Society

Nomination: for the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park

Rhode Island

Name: Little Compton Historical Society

Nomination: for the project *If Jane Should Want to Be Sold: Stories of Enslavement, Indenture and Freedom in Little Compton, Rhode Island*

South Carolina

Name: South Carolina ETV, Betsy Newman and Patrick Hayes, Producers

Nomination: for the multimedia project *Between the Waters*

Texas

Name: Bullock Texas State History Museum

Nomination: for *The Butterfly Project*

Name: Bullock Texas State History Museum

Nomination: for the exhibit *On the Texas Homefront*



Name: Donald Paul Zuris

Nomination: for a lifetime of serving the field and mentoring practitioners and organizations through his professional and volunteer efforts

Name: Stark Museum of Art and Brigham Young University Museum of Art

Nomination: for the publication *Branding the American West: Paintings and Films, 1900-1950*

Name: Ellen Walker Rienstra, Jo Ann Stiles, and Judith Walker Linsley

Nomination: for the publication *The Long Shadow: The Lutcher-Stark Lumber Dynasty*

Virginia

Name: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

Nomination: for the exhibit *Lives Bound Together: Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon*

Washington

Name: Cowlitz County Historical Museum

Nomination: for the exhibit *Cowlitz Encounters*

Wisconsin

Name: History Museum at the Castle

Nomination: for the exhibit *Asylum: Out of the Shadows*

2017 StEPs Graduate

Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, Tacoma, WA