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@aaslh.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: Aput 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*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nomination</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library &amp; Museums</td>
<td>for Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library &amp; Museums Centennial Anniversary</td>
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<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Helen B. Louise, Kristen Pilgrim, and Tara Cole</td>
<td>for the exhibit History Hub</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>The State Museum of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>for the exhibit The Pennsylvania Turnpike: America's First Superhighway</td>
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<td>Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site</td>
<td>for the exhibit Prisons Today: Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration</td>
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<td>Historical and Genealogical Society of Somerset County, Inc.</td>
<td>for the publication Shade Furnace: An Early 19th Century Ironmaking Community in Somerset County, Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Jefferson County Historical Society</td>
<td>for the Scripture Rocks Heritage Park</td>
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<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Little Compton Historical Society</td>
<td>for the project If Jane Should Want to Be Sold: Stories of Enslavement, Indenture and Freedom in Little Compton, Rhode Island</td>
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<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>South Carolina ETV, Betsy Newman and Patrick Hayes, Producers</td>
<td>for the multimedia project Between the Waters</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>Bullock Texas State History Museum</td>
<td>for The Butterfly Project</td>
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<td>Bullock Texas State History Museum</td>
<td>for the exhibit On the Texas Homefront</td>
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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