

BUFFALO, NY

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

RECOGNIZING THE
BEST IN STATE AND
LOCAL HISTORY



LEADERSHIP IN HISTORY AWARDS

 **AASLH** AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
for STATE *and* LOCAL HISTORY

> FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO <

I hope you will join me in giving hearty Buffalo congratulations to all the AASLH award winners and in thanking their colleagues and institutions who have supported their remarkable work. This year we honor fifty-three recipients from across the country. Each of them is a lesson in structure, focus, and impact. In sum, they're doing good history, and we all have something to learn from their examples. We applaud them today and should go forth from this conference inspired by their ideas and successes.

Since 1944, AASLH has been recognizing excellence in preserving, presenting, and finding meaning in history. This year's Leadership in History Award winners, like the hundreds of exemplary organizations and practitioners we have identified over the past several decades, have enriched the field with their models of practice. In return, we hope, this award from AASLH offers encouragement and a feeling of connection.

While we are acknowledging work done well, please help me extend our gratitude to the AASLH National Awards Committee, led by Christy Crisp of the Georgia Historical Society, and the committee's regional and state representatives, for the long hours of review and discussion in the awards selection process. This awards program, like this conference and all the other programs and projects of AASLH, results from dedicated groups of our colleagues volunteering their time and expertise.

Congratulations, again, to this year's award winners!

Sincerely,



John R. Dichtl
President & CEO, AASLH



> FROM THE CHAIR <

for nearly eighty years, AASLH has recognized the most innovative and inspiring work in the field of state and local history with the Leadership in History Awards program. The fifty-three award winners this year reflect a return to pre-pandemic levels of nominations, but also reflect a field moving beyond COVID crisis mode, and taking lessons learned during the pandemic into a new landscape where the public is hungry for authentic and engaging historical content, but also open to new and exciting platforms.

The challenges we have all faced over the past two years make the incredible work displayed through this year's award-winning projects all the more extraordinary. From programs that help us better understand our shared past and our shared humanity, to groundbreaking historical scholarship, to courageous efforts to acknowledge our imperfect past, the projects represented in this year's Leadership in History Awards truly illustrate the creative, dedicated, and tenacious spirit of the many organizations—large and small—that make the awards program so important.

While we are gathered together in Buffalo this evening to celebrate our award winners, I must also recognize the inspiring work of the dedicated volunteer professionals who solicit, cultivate, and champion nominations from across the wide spectrum of our field. State-level representatives and team members work with nominees to ensure the best chance of success for all nominations. Our regional representatives work with nominees and state coordinators to finalize nominations and then gather together to review and discuss every nomination submitted to the program. It's never an easy job, but your review committee always rises to the challenge! Three days of often intense discussion result not only in the recognitions we see here, but in new ideas for ensuring the continued accessibility, relevance, and vibrance of the AASLH Leadership in History Awards.

Of course, it is the guidance, support, and wisdom of AASLH Chief of Operations Bethany Hawkins and AASLH Program and Publications Manager Aja Bain that keeps the awards program train on the rails and continues to challenge all of us to think deeply and creatively about the work that we do and that we recognize through this program.

On behalf of the awards committee, welcome to this special event and congratulations to all of our winners!

Gratefully,



Christy Crisp

Chair, AASLH Awards Committee

Marilyn Memory McMullan Director of Programs

Georgia Historical Society

■ LEADERSHIP IN HISTORY AWARDS ■

The American Association for State and Local History offers its Leadership in History Awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in the United States. By publicly recognizing excellent achievements, the association strives to inspire others to give care, thought, and effort to their own projects.

THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF AWARDS:

THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented for excellence in history programs, projects, and people when compared with similar activities nationwide.

THE HIP AWARD

The History in Progress (HIP) award is given to projects that are highly inspirational; exhibit exceptional scholarship; or are exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships and/or collaborations, creative problem solving, or unusual project design and inclusiveness. This award is given at the discretion of the awards committee to five percent or less of the total number of winners of the Award of Excellence.

THE ALBERT B. COREY AWARD

Named in honor of a founder and former president of AASLH, it recognizes primarily volunteer-operated history organizations that best display the qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination in their work.

THE AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This award is bestowed infrequently and only in recognition of long and very distinguished service. Recipients are noted for their contributions to the field of state and local history and are recognized nationally as leaders in the profession. The individual must have demonstrated the highest standards of performance and professional ethics.

2022 ALBERT B. COREY AWARD

Cedar Lake Historical Association

CEDAR LAKE, IN
for Steam through History



This all-volunteer organization created an incredible immersive experience for visitors to learn about their lake, its history as a local resort, and the science of steam-powered transportation through boat tours aboard a restored 1915 steamboat. Partnering with the Hesston Steam Museum, CLHA and the *Steamer Dewey* brought new and returning visitors to the site for a unique educational experience on the water. CLHA operated a second popular season of boat rides in 2022 and celebrated their newest acquisition, the *Baby Dewey*.

■ HISTORY IN PROGRESS AWARDS (HIP) ■

Friends of Wood Memorial Library & Museum SOUTH WINDSOR, CT for *Nowashe Village*

This permanent outdoor exhibit interprets the lifeways of Northeast Woodland Native Americans in the central Connecticut River Valley in an immersive, multisensory environment of history, culture, nature, and the arts. Through collaboration with Native American educators, docents, speakers, and vendors, as well as both in-person and virtual educational offerings, Nowashe Village is a model for the field on bringing history to life in accessible and creative ways in authentic tribal/museum partnerships.



History Colorado

DENVER, CO
for *KKK Ledgers Rollout Project*

This radical project digitized and published searchable versions of 1920s Denver Klan membership ledgers along with a suite of resources and programs to explore this controversial history and its continuing relevance. By investigating historical systems of repression and discrimination, this project helps Coloradans better understand how cycles of ethnic, racial, and religious persecution continue in society today, and can provide a toolkit for confronting discrimination in the future.

Minnesota Humanities Center in partnership with the **Collaborative Legal Community Coalition** DULUTH, MN

for *Understanding Our Duluth Lynchings:
Racial Violence in America and the Road to Justice
and Reconciliation*

This seminar brought together historians, members of the legal community, educators, and social justice leaders to examine the legacy of racial violence in Minnesota and beyond. While a significant portion of the audience was comprised of Minnesota lawyers seeking to better understand the legacy of violence and systemic racism against BIPOC in the state, moving to an online format allowed over 562 people in twenty-two states to take part in this dialogue.



President Lincoln's Cottage

WASHINGTON, D.C.
for *Reflections on Grief and Child Loss*

This exhibit builds an understanding of Abraham and Mary Lincoln as bereaved parents and interweaves their story with reflections of modern families who have lost children. The exhibit builds connections between grieving parents today and the Lincolns to find commonalities and meaningful differences across time and experience, and situates child loss as a timeless struggle, no matter the era or individual. This type of connection between place, personal experience, and people across time epitomizes the relevance foundational to doing good history.

■ AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS ■

ALABAMA

Alabama Department of Archives and History for *Justice Not Favor: Alabama Women and the Vote*. Featuring more than a hundred artifacts and images, the exhibit takes a long view of the fight for women's equal rights, from the early stirrings of activism at the turn of the twentieth century through the campaigns for the Equal Rights Amendment and fair pay. Public programs, a catalog, website, virtual gallery talks, monthly panels on notable Alabama women, and the dedication of two new bronze sculptures in the statuary hall amplified this exhibit's reach and expanded the centennial's commemoration.

Florence Arts and Museums for *Slavery in the Shoals*. This exhibit, the first permanent one to explore the institution of slavery in north Alabama, examines slavery through cotton production in the Shoals area of northwest Alabama by tying the stories of enslaved people to primary documents, census information, images, and artifacts. Built around the themes of removal, production, resistance, and culture, the space is a learning center for fourth graders learning about early Alabama history and a place of community exploration about an overlooked period in the area's past.

ARIZONA

Pioneers' Cemetery Association for *Women and Children of Pioneer & Military Memorial Park*. This project expanded awareness and research on the women and children who lived, worked, and died in territorial Phoenix. Using newspapers, legal documents, archives, and family histories, the association created biographies they shared through brochures, social media, and videos. They also mobilized volunteers to repair grave markers and partnered with women's studies classes at Arizona State University to incorporate their research into curriculum, helping to rectify a lack of scholarship on women's lives in early Phoenix.

ARKANSAS

Shiloh Museum of Ozark History Education and Arkansas Archeological Survey for *Native American Days Program and Resources*. This virtual program has reached thousands of Arkansas fifth graders with interactive educational sessions delivered by presenters from universities, state parks, historical sites, and tribal nations. With topics based on curriculum guidelines and teacher requests, Native American Days educates children on their state's Native history and present through accessible and engaging discussions with experts and practitioners.

CALIFORNIA

Barona Cultural Center & Museum for *Peyii 'Enyeway 'Esekaayches! We Are Still Here!* This exhibit, curated by eighth graders at the Barona Indian Charter School, is a valuable resource to both the Native and non-Native communities. This comprehensive timeline of Kumeyaay history is the first of its kind in the territory and has proven to be beneficial to the People, elevating their lesser-known history which is not taught in California public schools. It also serves to educate non-Native visitors who are persuaded to remove their Western lenses and learn about Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing.

Trudi Sandmeier, Willa Seidenberg, and Cindy Olrick for *Save As: NextGen Heritage Conservation Podcast*. Why do we save historic places, and for whom? What does cultural heritage have to do with social justice? The podcast *Save As: NextGen Heritage Conservation* explores these and other questions through interviews with graduate students at the University of Southern California. With Los Angeles as a laboratory, and research driven by their passions and identities, students create groundbreaking scholarship on lesser-known aspects of state and local history, as well as its integral ties to social issues. *Save As* takes this work off the shelf, sharing it with new audiences in a personal, engaging format.

COLORADO

Matt Mayberry for being a transformative leader throughout his career in the field of state and local history in the state of Colorado. For over thirty years, Mayberry has provided innovative and dedicated leadership in preserving local history through his work with museums, city government, and historic sites in the Pikes Peak region. An advocate for Indigenous history and the cultural resources that make the region unique, Mayberry exemplifies the role of a remarkable local leader, scholar, and preservationist dedicated to the principles of good history work that builds and sustains communities.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Historical Society for *Common Struggle, Individual Experience: An Exhibition About Mental Health*. This sensitive exhibit presents stories and perspectives on mental health from the 1700s to today, discussing the experiences of historic and contemporary Connecticut residents with mental illness, war trauma, institutionalization, treatment, health-care, and more. By educating visitors on the history of mental healthcare and normalizing conversations about mental illness, this exhibit provides valuable context for contemporary issues and reaches new communities with its message of compassion and historic relevance.

DELAWARE

John Dickinson Plantation, Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs for *Search, Discovery, and Interpretation of the African Burial Ground at the John Dickinson Plantation*. The newly discovered African Burial Ground and associated programming restore essential context to this founder's plantation home. This sacred space, which had been erased from the landscape, was restored both in the contemporary record and to Delaware's topography. The burial ground and programming create a framework for increasingly nuanced interpretation of Black life at the site.

IDAHO

Idaho State Museum for *Trailblazing Women of Idaho*. This exhibit explores the stories and characteristics of women who made an impact on Idaho's history. Developed with input from a statewide advisory committee that included historians, professors, community members, and tribal representatives, it featured more than 100 women who personified the characteristics Barrier Breaker, Made of Steel, Revolutionaries, Voice of Change, Unstoppable, Inspired, and the Future.

■ AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS ■

ILLINOIS

Elgin History Museum for *Museum Moments Video Project*. This project created more than twenty short videos featuring seldom-seen items from the museum's collection that ran on local cable access television, social media, and in the museum. These mini-presentations reached new audiences, highlighted lesser-known artifacts, and forged new partnerships and community pride through this creative outreach technique.

Glencoe Historical Society for *Saving Booth Cottage*. The small, all-volunteer Glencoe Historical Society rescued a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed cottage from demolition, moved it to a public park, and restored the exterior to its original design. Through negotiations, coalition-building, logistical issues, enormous fundraising, and a pandemic, GHS carried off this incredible feat of historic preservation and community organization to save a vital structure and story for their town.

INDIANA

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis for *Stories from Our Community: The Art of Protest*. This exhibit, housed in a museum space dedicated to storytelling and oral history, tells the story of the Black Lives Matter movement in the city through public art and dialogue about social justice in a way that engages young learners. By presenting the personal views and stories of real people involved in the events, the museum utilized first-person narratives to create empathy, counteract false narratives, and discuss the role of art in public protest.

Minnetrista Museum & Gardens for *Bob Ross Experience*. Bob Ross inspired generations of individuals from a small, unassuming public television studio in Muncie, Indiana. This project created an exhibit, art gallery, and art programming with the goal of reframing how visitors think about their mistakes, abilities, and self-expression through the story of Bob Ross in the house and community he painted in, leading to a better quality of life.

IOWA

State Historical Society of Iowa for the *175th Anniversary Edition of the Annals of Iowa*. This project celebrated the 175th anniversary of Iowa's statehood by asking historians to think critically about the past, present, and future of Iowa history and for the first time, inviting visual artists to reflect on major themes in Iowa history. Through social media engagement, a dynamic video interview series, multiple webinars, coverage in state newspapers, public radio, and television, this project celebrated a milestone with new partners and new voices.

State Historical Museum of Iowa for *Iowa's People & Places: Iowa 175 Statehood Anniversary*. Through a museum exhibit; a series of web-based, scholarly presentations; and a pop-up display; this project allowed Iowans in all 99 counties access to Iowa 175 programs and have opportunities for deeper engagement with historians, Iowa history, and educational programs. Sharing the diverse stories of famous and ordinary Iowans in such an accessible way is truly a model for other state anniversary commemorations.

KENTUCKY

Frazier Kentucky History Museum for *West of Ninth: Race, Reckoning, and Reconciliation*. This exhibit interpreted the experiences of West Louisville's Black community through oral history, images, archaeology, interviews, and contextualization with historic and contemporary civil rights issues. Through innovative programming, a blog, free community days, and a community conversation series, *West of Ninth* fostered a critical discussion about racial divisions throughout the city in a challenging and thought-provoking way.

LOUISIANA

Hermann-Grima + Gallier Historic Houses for *Artistry in Iron: Blacksmiths of New Orleans*. Focusing on talented yet understudied blacksmiths and the rich multicultural history of their designs, this exhibit used oral histories, indenture records, and local archival collections to find out more about the enslaved and free people of African descent who worked with iron and contributed to the city's iconic appearance. It expanded the museum's reach by traveling to local libraries and connected craft history with contemporary artists.

MAINE

Maine Historical Society for *Begin Again: Reckoning with Intolerance in Maine*. Addressing the roots of injustice and discrimination in Maine, this exhibit stimulated and supported dialogue around race and inequality. Working with community curators and advisors, *Begin Again* explored MHS as a colonialist institution through contemporary art and provocative artifact pairings, helping visitors understand the state's contentious past and place in American history.

Mount Desert Island Historical Society for *Landscape of Change*. This partnership uses information from historic records to document and share the scope, speed, and scale of climate change on Mount Desert Island, connecting decisions made locally about conservation and development in the past to the landscape and culture of the island today. Audiences are reached through a project website that maps scientific data from the 1880s to present; two exhibits; a scholarly journal; a series of online and public programs; and as citizen scientists observing and recording observations of birds, pollinators, and weather in Acadia National Park.

MASSACHUSETTS

Somerville Museum, Dan Breen, Erline Tanice, and participating panelists and advisors for *Voices from Somerville: Culture, Community and History*. This series of Zoom panels brought discussions of the city's numerous immigrant groups and their cultures together for educational and informative presentations that increased cultural awareness and appreciation. Sharing the city's Haitian, Salvadoran, Greek, Brazilian, and Nepali stories helped the museum become a resource and partner for these groups and fostered intergenerational engagement.

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MINNESOTA

Hennepin County Public Works and 106 Group for *Flying Cloud Drive (CSAH 61) Interpretive Plaza*. The Flying Cloud Drive interpretive plaza was created as part of cultural resources compliance for a roadway reconstruction project, which found significant evidence supporting more than 1,000 years of continuous occupation of the site. Partnering with tribal groups, the project used archaeology, oral history, and storytelling to bring the story of the Dakota in the Minnesota River Valley to travelers, outside the walls of a museum.

Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County and Native American Advisory Group for *Ihdago Manipi: Clay County at 150*. This exhibit interprets exhibit the drastic period of transformation of the land and its peoples 1850 to 1880, from a tallgrass prairie with tree-lined rivers inhabited by the Dakota, Ojibwe, and Métis people to a place called Clay County, Minnesota, with regimented, plowed farmland and newly established towns inhabited by European immigrant families and New England Yankees. This project enabled the site to address the difficult history of land dispossession and westward expansion in a way that integrated Indigenous history into the county's founding.

MISSOURI

Kansas City Public Library, Local Investment Commission, and Black Archives of Mid-America for *Kansas City Black History: The African American Story of History and Culture in Our Community*. This special project includes a book, website, and programming spanning nearly two centuries of Black Kansas Citians who made their marks in education, activism, the arts, medicine, journalism, and other fields. The project's reach has been amplified by school classrooms, widespread media coverage, the health department, and local leaders.

Missouri Historical Society for *Mighty Mississippi*. St. Louis's relationship with the Mississippi River is a complex story of the interaction of man and nature, a saga that the Missouri Historical Society had not fully explored or told until this exhibit. By examining the many ways in which the river has influenced the history of the city and vice versa, the exhibit emphasizes how the communities built in the middle of this river system are defined by it and dependent on it, and challenges visitors to consider that community survival in this region depends on sustainably managing the river's resources and biodiversity.

MONTANA

Leif Fredrickson, Erika Fredrickson, Zach Dundas, and Chad Dundas for *Death in the West: The Murder of Frank Little* podcast. This ten-episode independent history podcast tells the story of a radical union organizer who was lynched in Butte, Montana, in 1917, showing how broader structural forces shaped class conflict in the American West and how Frank Little's murder shaped labor history. Through examination of Western politics, the powerful mining industry, immigration, and corporate control and monopolies, this innovative podcast sheds new light on an unsolved crime with far-reaching impacts at a volatile moment in American history.

NORTH DAKOTA

Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation for the *MHA Interpretive Center*. Located on the Fort Berthold Reservation, the center was designed with exhibits teaching tribal youth and future generations about who they are as a people and helping combat addiction and loss of cultural identity. Written by community members, the exhibits share histories of resilience and adaptation from the Indigenous perspective and emphasize the living dynamic culture of the MHA Nation today.

OKLAHOMA

Greenwood Rising Black Wall Street History Center for *Greenwood Rising Black Wall Street History Center*. This new museum interprets the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and the history of Tulsa's influential Greenwood District and its storied "Black Wall Street." Through an immersive experience and thoughtful programming, this project re-establishes hidden history in the city's landscape and encourages dialogue on race relations past, present, and future to inspire visitors to pursue social justice and reconciliation in Tulsa and beyond.

OREGON

Chelsea Rose, Lisa Rice, and Don Hann for *Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project*. OCDP partners leveraged their resources and local relationships into an extraordinary program to promote appreciation of Oregon's diverse and multifaceted cultural heritage during a time of rising violence and rhetoric against Asian communities. OCDP's public interpretation efforts focus on the ethnic diversity of the state during its formative period to offset the erasure of Chinese Oregonians in the common historical narrative and share this group's essential contributions to state history.

PENNSYLVANIA

Lackawanna Historical Society for *Beyond Our Doorstep: Bringing Local History into Your Home*. This multifaceted project encompassed a monthly virtual local history series delivered to members and the general public while the historical society was closed during the pandemic. This small organization partnered with other organizations, secured funding for special projects, and conducted outreach via social media to share their collections, document the pandemic locally, and cultivate community spirit in a trying time.

Museum of the American Revolution for *When Women Lost the Vote: A Revolutionary Story, 1776-1807*. Coinciding with the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment, this groundbreaking exhibition explored the untold stories of the generation of women and people of color who legally voted in New Jersey during the Revolutionary era and inspired later generations of suffragists. The exhibition also presented a timely cautionary tale about one of America's first voting rights crises and served an important reminder that protecting our rights and freedoms and those of others requires constant vigilance.

Ned and Linda Heindel for forty-five years of service to the Williams Township Historical Society. This remarkable couple has been a driving force in local history for decades, providing leadership, research, and service to preserve the history of

■ AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS ■

their town. From serving on the board to organizing programs and publications to donating 80 acres of land for a nature preserve, the Heindels epitomize the spirit of dedicated volunteerism that powers so many organizations.

Science History Institute for *Downstream*. This exhibit explores more than two hundred years of water analysis and water protection in the Delaware River basin, tracing the history of water pollution and mitigation efforts for public health and safety. This pairing of science and history tells an important local story with national implications and educates visitors about historic precedents and future challenges for ensuring a safe and sustainable water supply.

Senator John Heinz History Center for *American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith*. By augmenting a pre-2016 traveling Smithsonian exhibit with their own collections and interpretation, the center situated their region in the national founding story and incorporated the many new discussions around democracy and civil rights prompted by the events of 2016-2020. These additions strengthened and diversified the traveling components and allowed the museum to represent multiple political ideologies and cultural identities, helping fulfill their DEAI mission in a way that directly impacted visitors.

Stenton Museum and National Society of The Colonial Dames of America-Pennsylvania for *Virtual History Hunters*. Adapted from an in-person field trip program during the pandemic, this program provided social studies resources for classrooms including virtual interactive tours of historic sites, artifact videos, lessons with museum educators, a dedicated teacher website with curriculum components, and more. The virtual format enabled Stenton and its partners to continue offering educational programming to underserved communities and to offer an engaging learning opportunity to students whose school routines were upended by the pandemic.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Waccamaw Indian People and Coastal Carolina University for *Waccamaw Indian People: Past, Present, Future*. This project, carried out by undergraduate students, exemplifies best practices for community-centered work, tribal partnerships, and sharing authority. Telling the story of the Waccamaw Indian People through their words, voices, images, and belongings, and educating the community about their history, heritage, and culture created a fantastic exhibit that served the needs and goals of the tribe, the wider community, and the student participants.

TENNESSEE

Grassmere Historic Farm, Nashville Zoo at Grassmere for *Morton Family Exhibit and Opening Ceremony*. The Nashville Zoo grew out of a family farm deeded to the city by its last owners, the Croft sisters, lending an important historic element to this popular educational site. This project expanded interpretation beyond the Croft family to include the others who worked on the farm and made it a success. Focusing on Black tenant farmer Frank Morton and family from 1919-1973, this exhibit united descendants and uncovered forgotten history as it restored an essential piece of the Grassmere Farm story.

TEXAS

Irving Archives & Museum for *The Irving Story: Irving Archives & Museum's Core Exhibition*. This dynamic and immersive 4,000-square-foot exhibit tells Irving's story from its frontier days and 1903 founding, through its development into a growing Dallas suburb, to the modern and diverse city that it is today. By exploring the history of the Irving community and honestly confronting difficult topics, this exhibit challenge visitors to think about how history shapes the present and can inform future decisions.

John Patrick Blair, PhD, for contributions to the history scholarship for Brazos County and the state of Texas. Dr. Blair's service and contributions to the local history community are many, from serving on boards to chairing the county's WWI Centennial Committee to obtaining historical and veterans' grave markers and beyond. Truly dedicated to the research and interpretation of all aspects of the county's history, including groundbreaking research on Reconstruction era African American militia organizations, Dr. Blair is a tireless advocate for the importance of local stories and the effort needed to preserve them for the future.

UTAH

Bear River Heritage Area and Hyrum City Museum for *H2O Today in the Bear River Heritage Area*. Encompassing seven rural counties in northern Utah and southeastern Idaho, *H2O Today* brought together thirty-three partners to host thirteen exhibits in twenty-three locations, twenty public programs and partner trainings, and a comprehensive educational passport program to localize a traveling Smithsonian exhibit on water and conservation. Inviting communities to create exhibits on water use and cultural meanings, offering multiple perspectives on contemporary water debates, and demonstrating the relevance of history to contemporary concerns made this exhibit a model for inclusion and localizing national issues.

Church History Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for *Historic Nauvoo (IL) Temple District*. This ambitious project involved restoration of several historic properties in Nauvoo (an important settlement for LDS members 1838-1846), as well as interpretation of these buildings and the Temple District overall for in-person and virtual audiences. Bringing new historic and scholarly perspectives to this National Historic Landmark and expanding its interpretive potential worldwide has charted a new path for the preservation of LDS and other religious sites.

VERMONT

Brooks Memorial Library for *Brattleboro Words Trail*. This outdoor interpretive experience, pairing community-created place-based audio stories on a mobile app and exhibits with the town's physical landscape, brings together diverse sites and stories about the town's history with literature and words. The app, physical signage, and website expand the scope and availability of the stories that make Brattleboro a nationally significant literary hub, and increase visibility of these cultural assets for tourists and residents alike.

■ AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS ■

VIRGINIA

The JXN Project and the Moon Sisters for *The JXN Project*. This organization is a reparative historic preservation nonprofit dedicated to driving restorative truth-telling and redemptive storytelling by capturing the pivotal role of Richmond, Virginia, in particular Jackson Ward (the first historically registered Black urban neighborhood in the nation), in the evolution of the Black American experience. Through programs, public art, lectures, installations, and more, the JXN Project has had a profound impact on the community by uncovering origin stories through a more diverse, equitable, inclusive, accessible, and just lens anchored in a holistic and honest history.

Literacy InterActives, Inc. for *This is Us: Preserving Our Church Histories*. This virtual program series celebrated the essential histories of rural African American churches, as well as provided in-depth preservation information and methodologies for researching, documenting, and archiving for congregations to capture their own stories and pass them on to future generations. Prioritizing access through technology training and uplift of small institutions, *This is Us* is a model for community institutions gathering and preserving their own histories for their benefit and for that of the larger community.

Watermen's Museum for *Bay to Belly Traveling Exhibit*. Through the lens of foodways of the Chesapeake, this exhibit is a bridge between consumers and producers of seafood, exemplifying how the contributions of watermen not only impact their immediate communities, but the entire region. A compelling interdisciplinary approach weaving together folk traditions, history, culture, environmental studies, and fisheries management narratives *Bay to Belly* interprets the past, present, and future of regional foodways in a way that is accessible and compelling for multiple audiences.

WASHINGTON

Fort Nisqually Living History Museum for *Puget Sound Treaty War Panel*. This free virtual program brought together a panel of historians to discuss the experiences and effects of the 1855-56 war between the U.S. military and local tribes. With representatives from Nisqually, Puyallup, Squaxin Island, Steilacoom, and Muckleshoot Tribes, as well as Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, the panel offered a new dialogue among diverse communities impacted by the War and its aftermath. This program promoted a greater understanding of Tacoma history through engagement with the Indigenous, people of the region, supporting museum goals of enhancing equity and acknowledging the lingering effects of unjust historical practices.

Washington State Historical Society for *Crossing Boundaries: Portraits of a Transgender West, 1860-1940*. For much of U.S. history, the lives of transgender people have been obscured in our understanding of the West; relegated to footnotes at best, sensationalized or forgotten at worst. This exhibit brought these stories to the forefront, both to increase the public's knowledge of transgender history and to affirm the lives and identities of local transgender communities. It also created opportunities for open dialogue about queer history, the positive impacts of telling these stories, and the negative impacts of long-term historical erasure.

CANADA

Toronto History Museums for *Awakenings*. This program is a series of creative projects by Black, Indigenous and other artists of color, featuring work that explores untold stories, awakens a new perspective, and invites the public to join the conversation. Through films, art installations, interviews, and more, *Awakenings* raised awareness of the city's BIPOC history, disrupted colonial narratives and spaces, developed and diversified audiences, and built allyship and community.

PUBLICATIONS, LARGE PRESS

Daybreak Woman: An Anglo-Dakota Life by Jane Lamm Carroll (Minnesota Historical Society Press). This groundbreaking work chronicles the remarkable life of a nineteenth-century woman at the crossroads of cultures and history. The daughter of an Anglo-Canadian trader and a Scots-Dakota woman, Daybreak Woman/Jane Anderson Robertson (1810-1904) witnessed seismic changes as her world evolved from a multiethnic frontier society through the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 to a violent assimilationist landscape where she and her children endured to navigate these conflicting cultures and rebuild their lives as Anglo-Dakota people in an anti-Indian world.

PUBLICATIONS, LARGE PRESS (HONORABLE MENTION)

We Will Always Be Here: A Guide to Exploring and Understanding the History of LGBTQ+ Activism in Wisconsin by Jenny Kalvaitis and Kristen Whitson (Wisconsin Historical Society Press). This work shines a light on powerful and often untold stories from Wisconsin's history, featuring individuals across a wide spectrum of identities and from all corners of the state. The LGBTQ+ people, allies, and activists in this guide changed the world by taking steps that young people can take today—by educating themselves, telling their own stories, being true to themselves, building communities, and getting active. The aim of this celebratory book is not only to engage young people in Wisconsin's LGBTQ+ history, but also to empower them to make positive change in the world.

PUBLICATIONS, SMALL PRESS

Monumental: Oscar Dunn and His Radical Fight in Reconstruction Louisiana by Brian K. Mitchell, Barrington S. Edwards, and Nick Weldon (The Historic New Orleans Collection). In an innovative graphic novel format, *Monumental* tells the incredible story of Oscar James Dunn, a New Orleanian born into slavery who became America's first Black lieutenant governor and acting governor. A champion of universal suffrage, civil rights, and integrated public schools, Dunn fought for radical change during the early years of Reconstruction in Louisiana. After his mysterious death, Dunn's accomplishments, and those of many other Black politicians who emerged during Reconstruction, faded from memory. *Monumental* resurrects, in vivid detail, Louisiana and New Orleans after the Civil War—and presents an iconic American life that should never have been forgotten.

2022 AWARDS PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you to the AASLH 2021-2022 regional and state awards team leaders (as of March 1) who helped make the AASLH Leadership in History Awards possible.

NATIONAL AWARDS CHAIR: Christy Crisp, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, GA

REGION 1

REGIONAL CHAIR: Gavin Kleespies, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA

MAINE: Cynthia Walker, Brick Store Museum, Kennebunk, ME

MASSACHUSETTS: Pilar Garro, The House of the Seven Gables, Salem, MA

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Bekki Coppola, Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth, NH

VERMONT: Amanda Kay Gustin, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, VT

REGION 2

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CONNECTICUT: Nick Foster, Wilton Historical Society, Wilton, CT

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