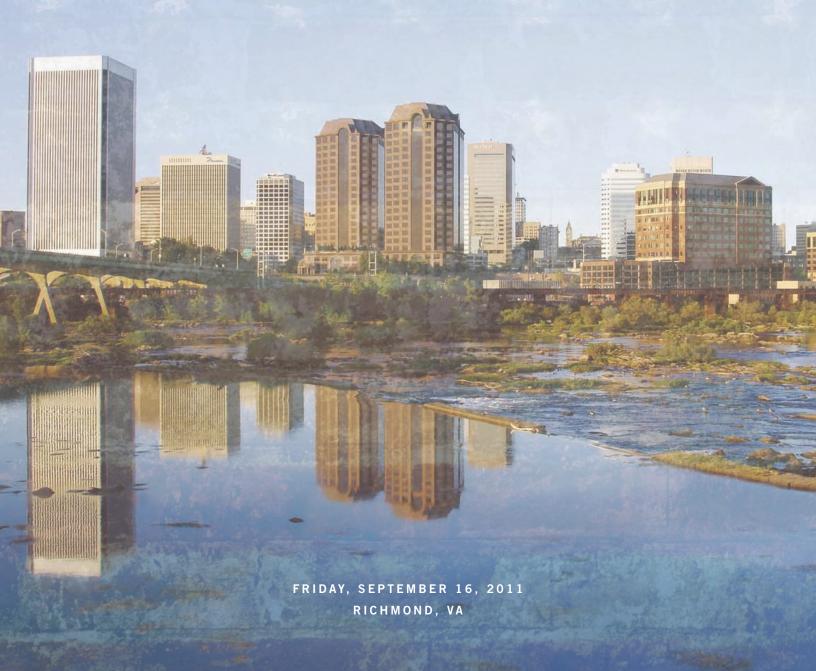
# 2011 AASLH AWARDS BANQUET

RECOGNIZING THE BEST
IN STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY





AASLH wishes to thank The History Channel for its generous support of tonight's banquet.

# AWARDS BANQUET

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2011
RICHMOND MARRIOT



6:30 PM

DINNER IS SERVED



7:00 PM

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Terry Davis, President and CEO, AASLH



#### INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Kenneth C. Turino, Chair, AASLH Awards Committee

Manager of Community Engagement and Exhibitions, Historic New England



#### **AWARDS ADDRESS**

Dr. Edward Ayers
President
University of Richmond, Richmond, VA



8:00 PM

### AWARD OF DISTINCTION PRESENTATION

D. Stephen Elliott, Director and CEO, Minnesota Historical Society and Chair, AASLH
Comments by Dennis O'Toole, Award of Distinction Winner



#### PRESENTATION OF AASLH AWARDS

D. Stephen Elliott, Director and CEO, Minnesota Historical Society and Chair, AASLH
Terry Davis, President and CEO, AASLH

# FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

ince 1945, AASLH has proudly sponsored a national awards program to recognize the best in state and local history. The Leadership in History Awards Banquet accurately represents the spirit of AASLH's awards program. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 66th annual awards banquet cosponsored by our friends at HISTORY.

This year, AASLH is proud to confer fifty-nine national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, books, and organizations. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history. Denny O'Toole will also receive AASLH's coveted Award of Distinction. Each winner deserves our thanks for the important role they play in keeping history alive in our communities and nation.

The Leadership in History Awards represents a year-long, national effort that requires many hours contributed by a large number of faithful volunteers. Bethany Hawkins is the AASLH staff liaison to the Awards Program. Ken Turino, Manager of Community Engagement and Exhibitions for Historic New England, chairs a national committee comprised of volunteer representatives from across the country. Each state has its own state leadership chair who volunteers to make sure the best projects in their state are brought to our attention. It is a massive effort, and I would like to take this time to give a big thanks to Bethany, Ken, and the volunteer regional and state representatives for their hard work and dedication.

The Leadership in History Awards has benefited from the long-time support of HISTORY and its representative, Dr. Libby Height O'Connell. HISTORY understands the importance of state and local history and the need to recognize exemplary efforts in the field. We are proud to count them among our many friends.

AASLH also welcomes a new sponsor this year, Richmond's Robins Foundation, who is proud to be a sponsor of the AASLH Annual Meeting in Richmond and applauds the work of the Host Committee and their institutions.

Thank you for joining us for this special evening.

Terry L. Davis

President and CEO

ften called the "hardest working committee of AASLH," the AASLH Leadership in History Awards Committee met in Nashville on May 11–13, 2011 to discuss, debate, and vote on the 2011 award nominations. Over the course of three days, the committee asks a number of important questions of each nomination, such as "Is it good history?" and "Does the individual or organization serve the needs of its community?" These are not necessarily easy questions to answer. The committee closely examines the nominations for required documentation—organizational histories, budgets, letters of critical review, exhibit floor plans, photographs, samples of exhibit labels, program evaluations from the public and professional educators, etc. The process is lengthy and rigorous. Before the nomination reaches the committee, each nomination is reviewed at the state level by a team of museum professionals and historians, and at the regional level by a regional chair. If they judge the nomination favorably, it is sent to Nashville for consideration by the national review committee. The Awards Program is truly a national grassroots effort!

We leave the Nashville meetings tired but also exhilarated, bringing ideas back to our own institutions. One of the goals of the program is just that—to inspire others in the field to experiment and be creative in ways that ultimately benefit the public. It is also the purpose of the Awards Program to encourage excellence and innovation in state and local history. For sixty-six years, AASLH has sponsored the program to publicly recognize achievements that have made a difference in people's lives.

The process of solicitation awards began many months ago, actually as soon as the last Nashville meeting in May 2010! The committee works year-round encouraging museums to submit nominations; they are always looking for worthy projects, publications, programs, exhibitions, etc. We promote the Awards Program at regional and local conferences, meetings, and by just keeping our eyes open for remarkable projects. And there is always outstanding and creative work being done. We ask that you, our members, do all in your power to promote the Awards Program. If you have or know of a worthy project, we hope you will apply or encourage others to. There is a lot of good history being done out there, and we want to recognize those efforts.

The committee represents a broad spectrum of the field of state and local history, including administration, exhibits, programming, preservation, publications, and collections. All helps the committee better evaluate the nominations. We have streamlined and tightened up the nomination process to make it more user friendly, while still assuring the Committee has all of the information to make informed decisions.

AASLH bestows several awards. This year, we will give fifty-nine awards. These represent the best of the best. The **Award of Merit** is presented to recognize excellence for projects, including special projects, educational programs, exhibits, publications, and restoration projects, individual achievement, and organizational general excellence. **WOW Awards** are given at the discretion of the committee for projects that are highly inspirational, exhibit exceptional scholarship, and/or are exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships, or collaborations, creative problem solving, or of unusual project design and inclusiveness. The **Albert B. Corey Award**, named for a former president of AASLH, is awarded only occasionally, and recognizes primarily volunteer-operated historical organizations that display exceptional qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination. Finally, the **Award of Distinction** is given to individuals who are recognized nationally as leaders in state and local history following long and very distinguished service to the field. This award is given only after an exhaustive critical review process and this year we are pleased to present it to Dennis O'Toole.

My thanks go to the many people who offer their time and expertise to make the Awards Program a success, particularly the staff of AASLH who make the entire process flow smoothly.

My heartiest congratulations go to you, the award winners, whose commitment to excellence in the field of state and local history reaffirms the importance and potential of our work, not just to the field, but to our communities.

Congratulations on a job well done,

Kenneth C. Turino

Chair, AASLH Awards Committee

Manager of Community Engagement and Exhibitions

Historic New England



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

AASLH CONFERS FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF AWARDS:

### THE AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Bestowed 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.

# THE ALBERT B. COREY AWARD

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.

# THE WOW AWARD

Given to 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. This award is given at the discretion of the awards committee to five percent or less of the total winners of the Award of Merit.

## THE AWARD OF MERIT

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



# AWARD OF DISTINCTION



#### **DENNIS A. O'TOOLE**

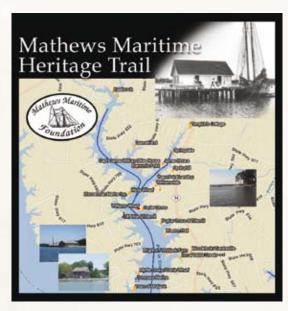
ennis (Denny) O'Toole has been an active teacher of, and tireless champion for, state and local history through his more than forty years in the field. He holds an M.A.T. in History from Harvard University and Ph.D. in History from Brown University and taught at the high school and college levels and through Earthwatch Institutes.

O'Toole began his formal museum career as Curator of Education at the National Portrait Gallery. He accepted increasing leadership responsibilities at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation including Vice President and Chief Education Officer. He also served as President and CEO of Strawbery Banke Museum and presently is the President of Cañada Alamosa Institute, an endeavor he founded with his wife Trudy in their retirement. One of his greatest contributions to the field of state and local history was his role as Coordinator of the Seminar for Historical Administration from 2001–2009.

O'Toole is a staunch supporter of AASLH serving in a number of leadership capacities and most recently is leading the charge to grow the AASLH endowment fund. He participated with and led teams for the AAM accreditation program and served on NEH and other grant review panels. He graciously mentored, and continues to mentor, many in the field. He sets a high standard for professional and personal commitment to the work of state and local cultural institutions and continues to invest his energy in education, history and historic preservation, the environment, lifelong learning, and his family.



# THE ALBERT B. COREY AWARD



# MATHEWS MARITIME FOUNDATION

MATHEWS, VA

he Mathews Maritime Foundation is dedicated to preserving and protecting Mathews County's rich maritime and cultural heritage through research, conservation, documentation, and education. The all-volunteer organization developed the Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail, a ninety-mile water trail highlighting the cultural, environmental, and maritime heritage of Mathews County. The group obtained grant funding and county government support, routed the trail, documented sites, developed a webpage with downloadable guide and educational CD, held a Kids Kayak Camp, and promoted the trail. The comprehensive and multifaceted project encourages water travel, promotes additional historical investigation about the county, and teaches wildlife ethics. It serves as a wonderful model for communities wanting to share the history of their important waterways.



# WOW AWARD WINNERS



# MARTHA'S VINEYARD MUSEUM

EDGARTOWN, MD

For the website *Laura Jernegan: Girl on a Whaleship* 

## NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

RALEIGH, NC

For the exhibit

Behind the Veneer:
Thomas Day, Master Cabinetmaker





HERITAGE COLLECTION FARGO, ND

For exceptional work in preserving and sharing the culture of Germans from Russia on the Northern Plains

GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

## ALABAMA

Moundville Archaeological Park, Tuscaloosa, for the exhibit Moundville: Lost Realm of the Black Warrior. This new permanent exhibition at the park's museum sets a new standard for interpreting Native American culture in a highly immersive environment that engages visitors and truly reflects the sophistication and sensibilities of the people who created the fantastic artifacts on display. The exhibit represents dramatically improved interpretation at Moundville and fosters a new appreciation of Native American culture and the significance of the site in their visitors.

## ALASKA

Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Juneau, for the Juneau: Alaska's Capital City Digital Stories Project. This multi-year project encourages student participation in civic government through primary source research. Ninety-two middle school students researched, wrote, interviewed, recorded, and assembled three- to five-minute digital stories covering four main topics in Juneau history. Encouraging primary source research and teaching interviewing and digital media editing techniques, the project engaged students in the museum's primary function of understanding, interpreting, and exhibiting local and state history and created a permanent resource about the history of this important Alaskan city.

# ARKANSAS

Old State House Museum, Little Rock, for the exhibit Badges, Bandits, and Bars: Arkansas Law and Justice. This exhibit conveyed the overall history of law and justice in the state of Arkansas from early wilderness days to present. It presented well-known stories in new ways with little-known photographs and first-person accounts. Through the exhibit, the Old State House Museum forged new partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, along with strengthening existing partnerships with various judicial and legal organizations that will continue to benefit the institution by expanding knowledge of the museum's mission to groups across Arkansas.

# COLORADO

La Plata County Historical Society, Durango, for the *Home for History Project*. The *Home for History Project* was a collections rehousing and move project. The main goal of the project was to move the collections from overcrowded storage areas to state-of-the-art climate controlled secure space. This project created community investment in the society and museum through funding opportunities, train-

ing, and hands-on experiences that allowed adults, youth, and museum studies students to be a part of the process of preserving history.

Zebulon Miracle, Colorado Canyons Association, and the Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, for the documentary Stories From the Land: McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. In celebration of the ten-year anniversary of the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, the Colorado Canyons Association along with the Museum of Western Colorado commissioned an oral history project to capture the stories of the land. The result was the documentary Stories From the Land designed to promote and preserve the history of the National Conservation Area.

# CONNECTICUT

Chester Historical Society, Chester, for the exhibit *Streams of Change: Life and Industry Along the Pattaconk*. This all-volunteer organization purchased a historic Griswold Mill in 2000 and spent ten years fundraising, renovating, and adapting the structure to serve as a museum for the community. This exhibit marked the opening of the building in May 2010. The exhibit presents the major themes of Chester history in an engaging manner that shares the manuscript and object collections donated to the society by the community in meaningful ways.

Cornwall Historical Society, Cornwall, for the exhibit *Visions and Contradictions: The Foreign Mission School 1817–1826. Visions and Contradictions* told the story of the Foreign Mission School, established by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to prepare "tawny and dusky youth" from around the world to serve as missionaries to their native cultures. Over 100 young men and boys, including students from Hawaii and China as well as Native Americans, attended the school. The exhibit highlighted the conflicts inherent in the differing perspectives of the founders and the students. In telling this story, the exhibit placed nineteenth-century Cornwell in the center of world events.

# DELAWARE

**Delaware Historical Society**, Wilmington, for the *Read House Exterior Preservation* project. Between July 2009 and June 2010, the Delaware Historical Society directed a \$1.1 million exterior preservation and restoration of its signature historic house museum, the Read House and Gardens. With the project, the society concentrated on creating a sound exterior envelope and protecting the Read House's hallmark exterior architectural features as well as interior structure and museum collections. They also promoted the project using a blog, held workshops on historic windows, and created an exhibit on researching and interpreting preservation projects.

# GEORGIA

Barry L. Brown and Gordon R. Elwell, Athens, for the publication *Crossroads of Conflict: A Guide to Civil War Sites in Georgia*. Based on a comprehensive survey of sites identified by the Georgia Civil War Commission, *Crossroads of Conflict* covers 350 historic sites in detail, bringing the experience of the war to life. For each site, the guide provides a detailed history, driving directions, online resources, and GPS coordinates. The guide's informative text addresses the war experiences of all Georgians, not just soldiers.

The Columbus Museum, Columbus, for the exhibit Let the Records Show: Discovering the Valley's Black Community in Slavery and Freedom. This exhibit shed light on the experiences of Columbus area slaves and freedmen through an examination of several types of documentary evidence providing clues about the daily life of bondsmen and the difficulties they encountered immediately after emancipation. The curator arranged items in support of four principle themes which, together, enabled a new understanding of slaves and freedmen as individuals searching for order during a tumultuous era in regional history.

Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, for the *Civil War 150 Historical Marker Project*. As part of the national sesquicentennial commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Georgia Historical Society and the Georgia Department of Economic Development collaborated on a project to use historical markers to promote tourism and create better access to the state's Civil War history. Following a comprehensive survey of existing markers, GHS recast and replaced seven markers and commissioned eight new markers statewide to interpret previously unrepresented historical elements of the war. They also developed a statewide storytelling campaign, heritage tourism workshops, and an online Historical Marker Tour, including a mobile phone app, allowing travelers to view markers online and create custom driving itineraries.

Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, Atlanta, for the all new Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. Since opening in 1986, the library and museum received no significant upgrades to its exhibits or interpretation. In the fall of 2009, the museum opened its redesigned galleries to great acclaim. The highlights of the renovation are an interactive map that details the post-presidential accomplishments of the Carters and a high-tech video exhibition called "A Day in the Life of a President." As a result, the exhibits present a much fuller understanding of President Carter's story, this era of the American presidency, and the role of a presidential library.

# IDAHO

**366th Civil Engineer Squadron Mountain Home Air Force Base**, MHAFB, for the publication *Mountain Home AFB Modern: The Capehart-Wherry Housing Project of MHAFB ID.* Based on extensive research, this booklet tells the story of MHAFB 1950s modern housing. The modern housing highlighted represent the only work by renowned architect Richard Neutra in Idaho. The story of Capehart-Wherry housing at MHAFB brings forth information on Idaho's build environment, speaks to the diversity of architectural styles in the state, and shows the influence of the military on Idaho's cultural landscape. Moreover, it provides a window into mid-twentieth-century military life, and attests to our nation's concern for defense and quality of life for troops.

Basque Museum and Cultural Center, Boise, for the exhibit Hidden in Plain Sight: The Basques. This exhibit, developed for display in Boise and at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York, was a true community effort and its creation involved many peoples of Basque decent throughout the Boise community as well as from the native Basque Country. The exhibit was previewed for one night in Boise, and then traveled to New York for four months. The exhibit returned to the Basque Museum and Cultural Center in May 2010 for a two-year display. This exhibit provides the museum a unique opportunity to honor Basque immigrant ancestors and the struggles, hardships, and uncertainties they endured in immigrating to the United States from the Basque Country.

Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, for the exhibit *Governing Idaho: How People and Politics Shape Our State*. Created as part of the restoration and expansion of the Idaho state capitol, the exhibit provides a history of the territorial/state government along with an explanation of how Idaho's state government works. The exhibit is in the new main level of the statehouse and is viewed by virtually all visitors to the capitol, including legislators. As such, it is one of the most visited exhibits in the state.

# ILLINOIS

Grayslake Historical Society, Grayslake, for the exhibit Embracing Change: The Growth of Grayslake. Like many communities, Grayslake witnessed explosive growth in the past twenty years, nearly tripling in size. Many newcomers were young families, with little understanding of the long and storied history of their community. Volunteers at the Historical Society resolved to create an exhibition that would be attractive to these newcomers and would share with them the rich and vibrant heritage of the community and coincide with the opening of the society's new heritage center. In its first few months, the exhibit hosted hundreds of students, community leaders, residents, and visitors.

## INDIANA

Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, for the *Indiana Experience*. The Indiana Historical Society is blazing a trail and setting an example of how to break the mold of what historical societies have traditionally offered the public. The *Indiana Experience* is designed to shatter the stereotype of historical societies as places solely for researchers and academicians. The *Indiana Experience* brings the society's vast collections literally to the fingertips of individuals and group audiences of all ages and backgrounds. It also employs a groundbreaking collection of immersive and interactive guest experiences that provide the opportunity to interact with the society's collections in new, exciting, and meaningful ways.

# IOWA

Dr. Jeff Stein, Waverly, for a career dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of Iowa broadcasting. Dr. Stein is the R.J. McElroy Chair and Executive-in-Residence in Communication Arts at Wartburg College where he teaches broadcasting and media law and ethics courses. He cofounded the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting in response to the fact that, as important as radio and television have become in our lives, no comprehensive effort had been made to collect and preserve their historical development in Iowa. He also helped lead the Iowa Broadcasting Oral History Project and published Making Waves: The People and Places of Iowa Broadcasting, the first comprehensive history of Iowa radio and television and its impact on Iowa. Dr. Stein's generosity with his time and expertise makes him an indispensible part of lowa's community of historical researchers.

# **KENTUCKY**

Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, for the publications Abraham Lincoln and Kentucky and Kentucky and the Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis. These publications foster a view of the two presidents, their war, and places in commemoration through multiple perspectives. Published in 2010, these two special issues of the organization's scholarly quarterly, The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, deserve recognition for their innovative approaches and sound contributions to a neglected part of the commonwealth's Civil War history, the broadly significant and intricate interrelationships of Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and their native state.

# LOUISIANA

Louisiana's Old State Capitol, Baton Rouge, for its new permanent exhibits. Louisiana's Old State Capitol opened a series of galleries and presentations bringing the vibrant political history of Louisiana to life through interactive experiences with music, audio, computer kiosks, and a magical theatrical presentations. Guests come away from these presentation with an "emotional souvenir"—that they are part of a unique, dynamic, colorful state with a great past and a vibrant future.

# MAINE

Museum L-A, Catherine Besteman, and Anne Kemper for the project *Rivers of Immigration: Peoples of the Androscoggin*. This exhibit and related programming is a fine example of a museum program that offers the general public a serious, accurate, and scholarly account of local history in a way that is sensitive to community values. Based out of an exhibit on Somali-Bantu immigration to Maine, a controversial topic in the community at the time, Museum L-A became a party in community reconciliation by expanding the exhibit to tie the topic of modern immigration to the story of the early immigrants who came to Maine to work in the mills and factories. The exhibit and its associated lecture series connected the community with its story of immigration by building bridges between the present and the past.

# **MASSACHUSETTS**

Martha's Vineyard Museum, Edgartown, for the website Laura Jernegan: Girl on a Whaleship. The rare journal of a young girl on a nineteenth-century whaling voyage acts as the centerpiece and entryway for this online exhibition of American whaling. Aimed at an audience of families and children, the website provides content in several ways, allowing the visitors to explore the topic through narrative stories and interactive features. The museum used the website to share their collections and to collaborate with neighboring whaling museums to tell the story of this important part of the local, state, and national history.

Sons and Daughters of Hawley, Hawley, for the exhibit Hawley's Old Town Common Historic Site. Hawley's town common served as the religious, civic, social, and economic center of the town from 1794 until its abandonment in 1848. This historic site invites visitors to rediscover this lost community. The all-volunteer group erected a kiosk and nine interpretive signs along a trail that leads visitors through what is now forest to the cellar holes, wells, and other evidence of the vanished settlement.

**USS Constitution Museum**, Boston, for *The Family Learning Project*. The museum received a 21st-Century Museum Professionals grant to develop and share theory, techniques, resources, and best practices that have proven to engage all ages. To date, *The Family Learning Project* has reached 16,000 museum professionals across the country through participation in a workshop, conference presentation, article, publication or on the website. By engaging families, the USS *Constitution* is effectively introducing a new constituency to history museum as a community resource where visitors have fun while learning.

## MICHIGAN

Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores, and Audissey Media, Boston, MA, for *The Edsel and Eleanor Ford House Landscape Tour*. This mobile application, designed for the iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad, takes visitors on a multimedia tour of the eighty-seven acre grounds designed by landscape architect Jens Jensen. The tour featured high-quality visual and audio experiences at twenty-one points of interest. Each point showcases the site's wealth of primary source materials and features an interactive map of the property, visitor survey, and helpful visitor information. Visitors can use devices loaned by the site or use their own personal device. In the first six months, users downloaded the application 1,300 times including at least one person on each continent (except Antarctica).

# MINNESOTA

Biloine W. Young and Eileen R. McCormack, St. Paul, for the publication The Dutiful Son: Louis W. Hill, Life in the Shadow of the Empire Builder, James J. Hill. This book is the first book-length biography of Louis W. Hill, second son of the man who was the driving force behind the construction of the nation's third transcontinental railroad, the Great Northern Railroad. Because he represented the next generation and the building of a transcontinental railroad is more interesting than the management of the finished railroad, Louis' story never attracted serious study. However, his charitable efforts made him a civic leader in St. Paul and beyond, helping develop and promote Glacier National Park, keeping the Great Northern headquarters in St. Paul, reviving the St. Paul Winter Carnival, and establishing the Northwest Area Foundation which still serves communities from Minnesota to Washington.

# **MISSOURI**

Missouri History Museum, St. Louis, for the project The Americans with Disabilities Act: 20 Years Later. This program marks an important milestone in the Missouri History Museum's and their region's understanding of the disability community and what it means to be disabled in our society. The exhibit and companion website resulted from more than three years of concerted outreach efforts and research to explore the history of the treatment of people with disabilities, the daily issues they face, and the landmark legislation of the Americans with Disabilities Act that resulted from the growing political power of the Disability Rights Movement. The processes of working with advisors and focus groups, creating the exhibit and website, and sharing them with visitors fundamentally changed the institution, their commitment to accessibility, and their relationship with the growing disability community of Missouri.

# MONTANA

Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Missoula, for the exhibit When the Mountains Roared: The Fire of 1910. The museum designed this exhibit to utilize advanced display technologies, educational interactives, well-researched scholarly text, original artifacts, cooperative partnerships, and a wide range of public programming to relate the history of the West's most devastating wildfire in a meaningful way to a constituency still profoundly impacted by the event a century later. The use of multi-optic light fixtures, a hypoallergenic smoke scent dispenser system, fire- and railroad-themed audio tracks, and original artwork created a display environment characterized by total sensory immersion on the part of visitors in the sights, sound, smells, and feel of a wildfire. The result is a greater understanding of past and present wild land firefighting policies, as well as promotion of public dialogue addressing the challenges and questions raised as a consequence of living in a fire-dependent ecosystem.

# NEW HAMPSHIRE

Paul Wainwright and Peter Benes, Atkinson, for the publication A Space for Faith: The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England. Many of our nation's ideals, such as participatory government and the separation of church and state, were formed and debated in New England's Puritan meeting houses. This book brings this story to life with a photographic journey through the few unchanged meetinghouses in the six New England states and a historical essay about the society that built and used them. The book illustrates the evolution of meeting house design and architecture and the ways in which various denominations and communities,

crafted their meeting spaces to reflect their polity, their sense of community, and their evolving defense, economic, political, and social needs over a wide span of time.

# **NEW MEXICO**

New Mexico History Museum, Santa Fe, El Paso Museum of History, El Paso, TX, and The Historic New Orleans Collection, New Orleans, LA, for the project *The Threads of Memory: Spain and the United States (El Hilo de la Memoria: España y los Estados Unidos).* This bilingual exhibition, catalog, lectures and performance series, and website with free curriculum guides and lesson plans was co-organized by the Archivo General de Indias and premiered in Santa Fe before traveling to its partner venues. Staff from the New Mexico History Museum and The Historic New Orleans Collection designed the exhibits with New Mexico staff providing Spanish translations. Impressive artifacts and complex themes told the story of a frequently unknown part of American history in a creative, inclusive way.

# **NEW YORK**

New-York Historical Society and El Museo del Barrio, New York, for the exhibit *Nueva York, 1613–1945*. This exhibit explored centuries of interaction between New York City and the Spanish-speaking world. Initiated by the New-York Historical Society in collaboration with El Museo del Barrio, *Nueva York* was on view at El Barrio Museum for four months. The exhibit spanned more than three centuries of history: from the founding of New Amsterdam in the 1600s as a foothold against the Spanish empire to the Second World War. A documentary film by Ric Burns brought the story to the present. *Nueva York* transformed how New Yorkers see their relations with the Hispanic world.

# NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc., Greensboro, for the exhibit *Voices of a City: Greensboro, North Carolina*. This exhibit shares the far-from-ordinary history of Greensboro, emphasizing what is distinctive while connecting the story to the larger American narrative. Critical to their efforts was extensive research and community feedback. Curators consulted nearly 300 primary and secondary sources, citizens completed 1,100 surveys, staff elicited feedback from 2,100 residents, and consulted more than twenty scholars. The exhibit offers a fresh answer to the fundamental question that every history museum must answer: Who makes history? The answer, in *Voices*, is that we all do and always have.

**North Carolina Museum of History**, Raleigh, for the exhibit *Behind the Veneer: Thomas Day, Master Cabinetmaker.* 

Thomas Day was a free man of color in the antebellum south. A talented master craftsman and entrepreneur, he owned and operated the largest cabinetmaking shop in North Carolina before the Civil War, employing whites, free and enslaved blacks, and mixed-race individuals. *Behind the Veneer* provides an intricate look into social history, decorative arts, craftsmanship, industrialization, and historical nuances of his story. It tells of a man who, in a time of social upheaval, led a life focused on his work and family and created an important legacy for the future.

University Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, and Outer Banks History Center, Manteo, for the website North Carolina Maps. This website is a comprehensive, online collection of historic maps of the Tar Heel State. The website features more than 3,300 maps from three of the state's largest cartographic research collections divided into thirteen subjects from coastal ecology to military campaigns to postal routes. The collaborating repositories are finding that the website has enabled them to share their materials far beyond their physical structures. As a free, and non-password-protected site, the online collection is open to those with an Internet connection anywhere in the world.

# NORTH DAKOTA

Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, Fargo, for exceptional work in preserving and sharing the culture of Germans from Russia on the northern plains. Whether for information on a family tree or the perfect kuchen recipe, the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, located in North Dakota State University's Main Library, is a valued resource. Since its inception in 1978, this privately funded archive has become one of the most comprehensive collections of German-Russian resources in the world. The organization expanded its activities and projects to include clothing and textile collections, the Dakota Memories Oral History Project, electronic discussion groups, heritage tours to Ukraine and Germany, online resources, outreach programs, photo archives, publications, and translations.

State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, for the project *Gardening in North Dakota*. Gardens have been grown in the area now known as North Dakota for centuries. From the Native peoples to post gardens raised by soldiers at frontier army forts to World War II victory gardens, gardening is a common theme in the state's history. This exhibit and public programs told not just about the crops grown, but the stories of the people who grew them. Following its time in Bismarck, the exhibit will travel to all corners of the state over the next ten years giving thousands of people the opportunity to appreciate the rich culture of gardening in North Dakota.

# OREGON

The Oregon Council of Teachers of English, Portland State University, and the Oregon Historical Society, Portland, for *The Oregon Encyclopedia*. This online encyclopedia grew out of the need for a comprehensive source of information about Oregon's history to identify its diverse peoples, places, groups, institutions, and provide an overview of formative events. *The Oregon Encyclopedia* currently has more than 770 published entries by more than 370 authors from Oregon and throughout the United States. The objective of the *Encyclopedia* is to document and preserve community knowledge and to make it accessible to the classrooms and citizens in the state.

# PENNSYLVANIA

City of Philadelphia Department of Records, Philadelphia, for the website *PhillyHistory.org*. The Philadelphia City Archives, administered by the Department of Records, serves as the official historical memory of the city, preserving vital records and a photograph collection estimated at two million images. In order to improve public access to the collection, the archives created a free online database that enables both the public and staff members to search for historic images and maps from their collections. Because the collection is primarily geographic in nature, *PhillyHistory.org* emphasizes geographic searches connecting the public to both their personal histories and to the larger history of the city.

Fairmount Park Art Association, Philadelphia, for Museum Without Walls™ AUDIO. This program is a multi-platform audio experience for Philadelphia's preeminent collection of outdoor sculpture that has been informed by experts in history, documentary studies, media, and folklore. Available for free by cell phone, audio download, iPhone and Android mobile app, QR code, or as streaming audio and video slideshows on the official program website, this innovative program invites passersby to stop, look, listen, and experience public art in a new light. The project uses state and local history to help present the wider ideas and values that art can express.

Jefferson County Historical Society, Brookville, for the exhibit *Living on the Land*. This exhibit leads residents and visitors on a self-guided journey through time that effectively and creatively shares the significance and connectedness of the county's natural, cultural, and industrial heritage. The exhibit informs visitors of the resourcefulness and resilience of people living on the land and helps instill a sense of community among a diverse local community and provides a universal theme to engage tourists as well.

Pennsbury Manor, Morrisville, and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, for the exhibit William Penn: The Seed of a Nation. Pennsbury Manor is the reconstructed home of William Penn. Visitors to the site often lack sufficient background in seventeenth-century history to appreciate and to approach William Penn and his vision. The exhibit goals were to provide a stronger orientation to the site's multiple stories and themes that could be approached by people of all ages, level of education, and all depths of background knowledge. The exhibit resulted in new relationships with diverse communities, audiences, funders, scholars, educators, and most importantly, guests to the site.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Richard C. Saylor, Michael J. O'Malley III, Kimberly L. Stone, Ted R. Walke, Christy Gauthier, and Don Giles, Harrisburg, for the publication *Soldiers to Governors: Pennsylvania's Civil War Veterans Who Became State Leaders.* This book brings to life the personal stories of six Pennsylvania governors who were Civil War veterans. It chronicles their early lives, military experiences, and political triumphs and defeats. Using quotations from original primary sources, the book succeeds in part by allowing the six main protagonists to tell their own rich and compelling stories. These accounts make fascinating reading and do much to humanize these men.

The Wharton Esherick Museum, Paoli, The University of Pennsylvania Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania's Architectural Archives, Philadelphia, and Hedgerow Theatre, Media, for the project Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern. This major exhibition and series of corollary events focused on Wharton Esherick (1887–1970), an artist whose distinctive synthesis or art, theater, dance, and design, forged an early example of American Modernism. This creative collaboration sparked a new appreciation for Esherick and used original archival material to position and contextualize the artist as a pivotal character in twentieth-century American culture.

# SOUTH CAROLINA

Historic Columbia Foundation, Columbia, for the project Connecting Communities through History. Designed as a multi-year investigation of six historic neighborhoods within downtown Columbia, this initiative resulted in an interactive website, wayside signage, historical walking/driving tour brochures, and public programs. The new research conducted for the project allowed the foundation to become more relevant and vital to a number of new communities in their own backyard.

# SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota State Historical Society, Pierre, for the journal South Dakota History. Started in 1970, this quarterly journal contains readable, factual, and accurate articles on nearly every aspect of the history of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains. While its editors aspire to the highest scholarly standards, they also seek to provide readable, well-illustrated articles of interest to general readers. Over four decades, the journal established itself as a highly-respected and high-quality publication, displaying verve and creativity.

# **TENNESSEE**

**Tennessee State Museum**, Nashville, for the exhibit We Shall Not Be Moved: 50th Anniversary of Tennessee's Civil Rights Sit-Ins. Fifty years ago, a handful of Nashville college students along with religious leaders Kelly Miller Smith and James Lawson, began a sit-in campaign targeting downtown Nashville lunch counters. These actions sparked the formation of a mass sit-in movement, which became the model used across Tennessee and the rest of the South. In addition to the exhibit, staff partnered with The Nashville Student Movement Legacy Foundation on public programs, held teacher's workshops, and created a first-person interpretation of a nonviolence training workshop from the era. The success of the exhibition led the museum to develop a traveling exhibit for the state and a Civil Rights Traveling Trunk for educators in the classroom.

# **TEXAS**

Donald S. Frazier, Abilene, TX, Dr. Andrew Hillhouse, Columbia, MO, and Anne Ball Ryals, Montgomery, AL, for the publication *Love and War: The Civil War Letters and Medicinal Book of Augustus V. Ball. Love and War* is not a typical Civil War letter collection. It is a fascinating set of letters between a husband and wife, but also details the experience of an increasingly disillusioned physician. The book also includes Ball's medicinal recipe book, the first of its kind to appear in print completely annotated. An abundance of illustrations, maps, photographs, and drawings, enhance the letters allowing the reader to visually step back into an important time in American history.

Jay Moore, Abilene, for the DVD History in Plain Sight. This collaborative documentary series strives to tell the stories behind the places where the residents of Abilene share their lives. The five-part series began with Bankhead Highway, followed by Who Is That Street, Fair Park, Wooten: An Abilene Life, and Abilene/130. The documen-

taries premiered in community venues and ran on the local public access channel and later the local ABC affiliate.

Star of the Republic Museum and Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, Washington, for the website *txindependence.org*. This website seeks to reintroduce Texans to the history of Washington-on-the-Brazos, the birthplace of the state. It brings the story of the Convention of 1836 to life and introduces the men who founded a new nation by making the history accessible free of charge to every classroom in Texas. Students play an interactive game where they step into the town of Washington in 1836 and interact with citizens during the convention. The partner institutions carefully researched the period to ensure historical accuracy in all aspects, from house styles, to clothing, to the placement of buildings in town. This project is a model for the ways in which complex stories can be explored and understood by a diverse public.

Texas Historical Commission, William McWhorter, Lara Newcomer, Bob Brinkman, Dr. Stephen Sloan, Lois Myers, and Elinor Maźe, Austin, for the *Texas in World War II Initiative*. The Texas Historical Commission launched this multifaceted, multiyear program to honor and preserve the history of Texans who served in the armed forces during World War II and the contributions made on the home front. The initiative is composed of four main projects designed to enrich lives through history: a special series of free oral history training workshops, twenty-one official Texas Historical Markers, a comprehensive military and home front sites survey, and a commemorative heritage tourism brochure and website.

# UTAH

Museum of Peoples and Cultures, Provo, for the exhibit Beneath Your Feet: Discovering the Archaeology of Utah Valley. Designed to make community members aware of the history of the Utah Valley before European Americans settled there in the mid-1800s, this exhibit encourages better preservation of what remains literally beneath the feet of the community of Provo. Students from Brigham Young University's field school, generally unaffiliated with the museum, helped curate the exhibit as part of their course work. They designed the displays and hands-on activities. The exhibit illustrated how and why archaeology is performed and encouraged community members to better care for objects that still exist.

# VIRGINIA

**Virginia Historical Society**, Richmond, for the exhibit *An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia*. This 3,000 square-foot gallery exhibition featuring more than

200 objects and 17 audiovisual programs encourages visitors to consider how the Civil War, separated from us by 150 years, influences American society and politics today. *An American Turning Point* differs from past treatments of the Civil War by giving equal time to the conflict as social upheaval, experienced by far more than just soldiers; by giving voice to marginalized participants; by ignoring the periodization of the war imposed afterwards and handed down in secondary schools for generations; and by organizing the project through questions that often challenge conventional wisdom.

# WASHINGTON

The Center for Wooden Boats, Seattle, for their dedication to making maritime history come alive since 1976. Since its founding, The Center for Wooden Boats served Seattle as a unique hands-on, home-grown combination of museum, park, and community center. The center engages visitors in whole-body learning by putting the historic boats, oars and paddles, sails, and tools in the hands of people who visit. This unique hands-on experience is why more than 2 million visitors have come to the Center for Wooden Boats for family festivals and to rent historic row and sailboats since it opened, why 2,000 people are currently members, and why nearly 1,000 volunteers come every year to offer their time and talents.

Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, for the multimedia project MOHAI Minutes. MOHAI Minutes, a series of two- to four-minute video segments broadcast on YouTube, highlight the vast collection of artifacts, documents, and photographs in the museum's collections, as well as explore Seattle's neighborhoods, landmarks, and historic hot spots. The segments, researched and written by MOHAI staff and filmed and edited by The Last Quest, inform Seattle residents and visitors about the rich (and sometimes secret) history of Seattle and the Puget Sound region through fun, quick, and informal learning experiences.

Washington Women's History Consortium and Washington State Historical Society, Olympia, for the Washington State Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemoration. Working with a fifteen member advisory board, the consortium planned a multi-pronged commemoration that would reach residents statewide through exhibits, projects, and events. The Women's History Consortium created may opportunities for local communities to be involved and to provide a lasting legacy by providing primary sources to the public through their website, a scholarly book, professionally developed curricula, and a conference.

# **WEST VIRGINIA**

The Royce J. and Caroline B. Watts Museum, Morgantown, for the exhibit Helmet Men: Mine Rescuers of Appalachia's Coalfields. Helmet Men explores the development of mine rescue teams in the United States, particularly in the Appalachian region, by focusing on the roles of rescue team members and the transformation of mine rescues from uncoordinated events into organized group operations. During the development of the exhibit, museum staff built a relationship with local mine rescue teams and the West Virginia University Mining and Industrial Extension office and included their expertise in the exhibit. Through this exhibition, the Watts Museum supplemented surrounding communities' understanding of mine rescue efforts, often criticized as too slow or unaggressive. They also encouraged dialogue about the history and organization of mine rescue teams, rarely considered outside of the industry.

# **WISCONSIN**

Wisconsin Historical Society Press, Madison, for the publication *Wisconsin's Own: Twenty Remarkable Homes*. This book tells the story of the considerable contribution Wisconsin's historic homes have made to American residential architecture. Included are beautiful photographs, line drawings, and watercolors of the elevations of each home, along with a floor plan, allowing the reader to gain a better understanding of the flow of each home, ranging in time from 1854 to 1939. By limiting the selection to twenty homes, the authors worked to provide an in-depth view of each home including the influences of the time, the impact of growing industries, and the aesthetic tastes that changed and evolved over more than a century.

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Libraries, Milwaukee, for the March on Milwaukee Civil Rights History Project Digital Collection. This digital collection provides a window onto the African-American civil rights movement in Milwaukee. During the 1960s, community members waged protests, boycotts, and legislative battles against segregation and discriminatory practices in schools and housing. The collection vividly documents the efforts of these activists and their opponents.



# 2011 AWARDS PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you to the AASLH 2010-11 regional and state leadership team leaders (as of May 1) who helped make the AASLH Leadership in History Awards possible.

#### NATIONAL AWARDS

Chair, Kenneth C. Turino Historic New England Boston, MA

#### REGION 1

Chair, Todd Burdick Hancock Shaker Village Pittsfield, MA

## **MAINE**

Vacant

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

Jennifer Pustz

Historic New England, Boston

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Funi Burdick

Canterbury Shaker Museum, Canterbury

#### VFRMONT

Jan Albers

Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, Middlebury

#### REGION 2

Chair, Scott L. Wands

Connecticut Humanities Council Middleton, CT

### CONNECTICUT

Deborah Rossi

Shelton Historical Society, Shelton

#### **NEW JERSEY**

Lisa Pfeiffer

**Burlington County Historical** Society, Burlington

**Peter Wisbey** 

Rochester, NY

### **RHODE ISLAND**

Kari Van Buren

Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport

Chair, Amy Kilpatrick Fox Pennsylvania Historical and

Museum Commission Harrisburg, PA

#### **DELAWARE**

Vacant

## WASHINGTON, DC

Rebecca Martin

The National Archives

#### **MARYLAND**

Lindsey Baker

Laurel Historical Society, Laurel

#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Edward Reidell** 

Fonthill Museum, Doylestown

#### REGION 4

Chair, Don Rooney

Atlanta History Center Atlanta, GA

#### **ALABAMA**

Jessamyn Boyd

Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery

#### Melissa Morgan

Centre for Living Arts/Space301, Mobile

#### **FLORIDA**

Sara Van Arsdel

Orange County Regional History Center, Orlando

Mike Bunn

The Columbus Museum, Columbus

#### REGION 5

Chair, Tracy Bryan

Virginia Historical Society Richmond, VA

#### KENTUCKY

Stuart Sanders

Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort

#### NORTH CAROLINA

Laura Ketcham

North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

Rikki Davenport

Drayton Hall, Charleston

Norman O. Burns, II

Maymont Foundation, Richmond

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Larry N. Sypot, Sr.

West Virginia University, Morgantown

#### REGION 6

Chair, Trina Nelson Thomas

Indiana Historical Society Indianapolis, IN

#### ILLINOIS

Martha Downey

Bishop Hill State Historic Site, Bishop Hill

#### INDIANA

Janna Bennett

Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis

#### MICHIGAN

Scott M. Peters

Michigan Historical Center, Lansing

**Andrew Verhoff** 

Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

Chair, Deborah Montanti

Heritage Alliance Jonesborough, TN

#### ARKANSAS

Vacant

#### LOUISIANA

Charlotte Wall

Louisiana's Old State Capitol, Baton Rouge

#### MISSISSIPPI

Jill Smith

Union County Heritage Museum, Albany

#### **TENNESSEE**

**Marian Carpenter** 

National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis

Adam H. Alfrey

East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville

#### REGION 8

Chair, Bratten Thomason

Texas Historical Commission Austin, TX

#### **NEW MEXICO**

Stephanie Long

City of Las Cruces Museum System, Las Cruces

#### **OKLAHOMA**

**Nathan Turner** 

Guthrie Museum Complex, Guthrie

# TEXAS

Lisa Kalmus

Sanders Corps of Cadets Center Texas A&M University, College Station

#### REGION 9

Chair, Matt Carpenter

The History Museum at the Castle Appleton, WI

### **IOWA**

Jodene Evans

State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines

## **MINNESOTA**

Melinda Hutchinson

Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

# **WISCONSIN**

Kelly Herold Buffalo County Historical Society,

REGION 10

Chair, Katherine Van Allen Missouri Historical Museum

# St. Louis, MO

Mary Madden Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka

# **MISSOURI**

Mary Beth Brown

Columbia

### **NEBRASKA**

Vacant

#### **REGION 11**

Chair, Jay D. Vogt

South Dakota State Historical Society Pierre, SD

#### COLORADO

Heather L. Bailey

History Colorado, Denver

#### MONTANA

**Bill Peterson** 

Montana Heritage Commission, Sheridan

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

Erik Holland

State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

Helen B Louise

Museum of the South Dakota Historical Society, Pierre

#### WYOMING

Erin Rose

Fort Caspar Museum, Casper

#### REGION 12

Chair, Keith Petersen

Idaho State Historical Society Moscow, ID

#### AI ASKA

**Bethany Buckingham** 

Dorothy G. Page Museum, Wasilla

### IDAHO

Shelby Day

Idaho State Historical Society, Boise

Suzi Pengilly

Idaho State Historical Society, Boise

# OREGON

Kvle Jansson

Oregon Heritage Commission, Salem

#### WASHINGTON

Dr. Lorraine C. McConaghy Museum of History and Industry,

REGION 13

Seattle

#### Chair, Lisa Eriksen Oakland, CA

**CALIFORNIA** 

Wendy Franklin California State Parks,

Sacramento

Stephanie George Center for Oral and Public History,

# California State University, Fullerton

**HAWAII** Vacant

### REGION 14

Chair, Lisa Anderson Mesa Historical Society

#### Mesa, AZ

**ARIZONA** 

Jody Crago Chandler Museum, Chandler

#### Janice Klein EightSixSix Consulting, Tempe

**NEVADA** 

Melanie Coffee Nevada Museums Association, Las Vegas

# LITAH

Robert S. Voyles

Fort Douglas Military Museum, Fort Douglas

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| our Host Committee               |
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# THANK YOU

#### FOR ATTENDING THE 2011 AASLH AWARDS BANQUET.

We hope you will join us for

the 2012 AASLH Awards Banquet in Salt Lake City, Utah.

If you know of an individual or project deserving of an award,

we encourage you to submit a nomination.

Please contact the AASLH office or visit our website at aaslh.org for information.



