

RECOGNIZING THE BEST IN STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

AASLH AWARDS BANQUET

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2012



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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2012

AASLH AWARDS BANQUET

SALT PALACE CONVENTION CENTER

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

Will Bagley, Author, Salt Lake City, UT

8:00 PM

AWARD OF DISTINCTION PRESENTATION

D. Stephen Elliott, Director and CEO, Minnesota Historical Society and Chair, AASLH
Comments by Robert R. Archibald, Award of Distinction Winner

PRESENTATION OF AASLH AWARDS

Kenneth C. Turino, Chair, AASLH Awards Committee
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

Since 1945, AASLH has proudly sponsored a national awards program to recognize the best of 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 co-sponsored by our friends at HISTORY.

This year, AASLH is proud to confer fifty-eight 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. Robert R. Archibald 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 each region. 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, Charlie Maday. 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.

Thank you for joining us for this special evening.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Davis
President and CEO



FROM THE CHAIR

OF THE AASLH LEADERSHIP HISTORY AWARDS COMMITTEE 2012

For sixty-seven years, the American Association for State and Local History has sponsored the Leadership in History Awards program to publicly recognize achievements that have made a difference. AASLH bestows awards “to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Awards serves as an inspiration to others in the field.”

Often called the “hardest working committee of AASLH,” the AASLH Leadership in History Awards Committee represents a broad spectrum of state and local history. Committee members work in administration, exhibits, programming, preservation, publications, and collections, enabling the committee to better evaluate the nominations. We meet in Nashville every year in May to discuss, debate, and vote on the nominations. The process is rigorous. Before the nominations even reach 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 the nomination is judged favorably it is sent for consideration by the national review Committee. The Awards Program is truly a national grassroots effort!

The Committee works year-round encouraging museums to submit nominations; they are always looking for worthy projects, publications, programs, exhibitions, etc. There is remarkable and creative work occurring in the field and we want to recognize those efforts. 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 and encourage others to. We continue to streamline the nomination process to make it more “user friendly,” while still assuring the Committee has all of the information to make informed decisions.

This year fifty-eight recipients from twenty-eight states are being given awards, and these represent the best of the best. Several awards are given. 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. The HIP (History in Progress) Award is an award given at the discretion of the awards committee for a project that is highly inspirational, exhibits exceptional scholarship, and/or is exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships, or collaborations, creative problem solving, or unusual project design and inclusiveness. The Albert B. Corey Award, named for a former president of AASLH, is only awarded 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 Robert R. Archibald.

My thanks go to the many people who offer their time and expertise to make the Awards Program a success, particularly the state representatives, the awards committee, and the staff of AASLH who makes the entire process flow smoothly. I also want to thank the History Channel which by a generous contribution supports tonight’s banquet.

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 for the field but for our communities.



Kenneth C. Turino
Chair, AASLH Awards Committee
Manager of Community Engagement and Exhibitions
Historic New England

AASLH ANNUAL MEETING
Salt Lake City

CROSSROADS:

Exploring Vibrant Connections
Between People and Place



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 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.

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 HIP AWARD

The History in Progress (HIP) award is given to a project that is highly inspirational; exhibits exceptional scholarship; and/or is 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 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.



2012 AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Robert R. Archibald

Robert R. Archibald is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis, MO. Through his leadership, the Missouri History Center transformed into a national model for community involvement becoming the first historical organization to receive the National Award for Museum Service in 1994.

"Bob's vision, passion for the field, and leadership has inspired many professionals," wrote David Donath, President of The Woodstock Foundation, in one of the numerous letters submitted on behalf of his nomination. "His articulate scholarship and writings about the roles of historical institutions within their communities, and the deep civic relationships that they could nurture with their constituents and their places helped to shape my own thinking."



Missouri History Museum

His contributions to the scholarship of history and community are numerous and well-known to the field. In 1999 he wrote *A Place to Remember: Using History to Build Community* and in 2004 *New Town Square Museums and Communities in Transition* which helped move the field toward the idea of community engagement.

Through the 1980s and 1990s, Archibald served the field in leadership roles in the Midwest Museums Conference and on AASLH's membership, program, and audit committees and on Council, including terms as Vice President, and from 1994–1996, President. He then served two terms on the American Association of Museums Board and chaired the 2001 AAM Annual Meeting in St. Louis. His time as President of AASLH was crucial to the survival of the association.

"Bob was the indispensable leader of AASLH at a critical crossroads in its history," writes Donath. "In the worst of AASLH fiscal malaise, Bob told us, 'If AASLH did not exist, we would have to invent it!' We believed him and we acted on his vision—the vitality and effectiveness of the Association ever since is the result."

Robert Archibald's understanding of the meaning of history and the role of historical organizations has created a legacy that extends beyond any specific institution or organization.



2012
THE ALBERT B. COREY AWARD



Babcock-Smith House Museum

Babcock-Smith House Museum

ASHAWAY, RI

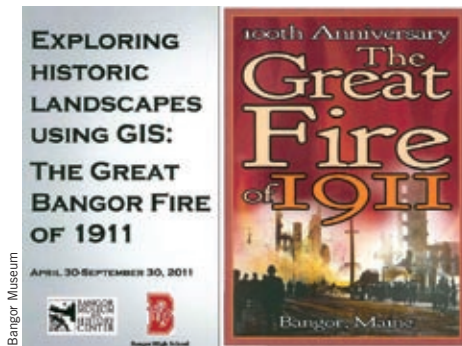
The Babcock-Smith House Museum promotes an understanding and appreciation of 18th- and 19th-century culture unique to Rhode Island, serves as an educational resource for students of all ages, and preserves local archives for the use of scholars. In support of the mission to promote an understanding of local history, the all volunteer organization created the *Westerly Granite Story Project*.

This multi-component project documents the local granite industry in easily accessible forms for both the local community and resources. The project included a series of fifty-two articles in the local newspaper; a beautiful, hard-cover book describing the history, the people, the process, and the products of the granite industry; several on-site programs including a stone cutting demonstration and vintage film; and a curriculum guide to encourage the incorporation of this local history into the local middle and high school curricula. They also created an initiative to continue to preserve the story of this important industry through research on local companies and their workers, developing a suitable storage area for granite artifacts, and upgrading their technology to protect their digital collection.



2012 AWARD WINNERS

HIP (HISTORY IN PROGRESS)



Bangor Museum and History Center and Bangor High School

BANGOR, ME

For *Exploring Historic Landscapes Using GIS:*
The Great Bangor Fire of 1911

Washington State Department of Transportation

SEATTLE, WA

For the exhibit *Milepost 31*



Washington State Department of Transportation



Pheasant Canteen Team

The World War II Pheasant Canteen Team

ABERDEEN, SD

For *The World War II Pheasant Canteen* project

AASLH ANNUAL MEETING
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2012 AWARD OF MERIT WINNERS

ALABAMA

Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Troup County Historical Society, and Anthony Gene Carey, Eufaula, for the publication *Sold Down the River: Slavery in the Lower Chattahoochee River Valley of Alabama and Georgia*. This book is the first focused investigation of the institution of slavery, as it existed in southeastern Alabama and southwestern Georgia to be published. A compelling and engaging survey that relies on a variety of primary sources *Sold Down the River* examines slavery through its effect on individual people.

ARIZONA

Arizona State Museum, Tucson, for the exhibit *Many Mexicos: Vistas de la Frontera*. This exhibit commemorates two key events in Mexican and borderlands history: the bicentennial of Mexico's independences from Spain in 1810 and the centennial of the Mexican Revolution of 1910, within the context of showing the diverse ways in which Mexico and Mexican culture—in its varied forms and manifestations—have shaped the history of Arizona and the greater Southwest. Visitors leave with a better understanding of the historical and cultural links between Arizona and Mexico.

CALIFORNIA

Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park, Lancaster, for the *Antelope Valley Indian Museum Structural and Environmental Controls Project*. The project combined a geothermal heat exchange system, creative insulation installation, and window restoration to facilitate collections preservation inside an 80-year-old building by controlling temperature and light in an area where desert temperatures can range from -4°F in the winter to 110°F in the summer. It is an excellent model of how to sustainably address system deficiencies in an unusual, artist-built structure in a harsh desert climate.

Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation and Heyday Books, Long Beach, CA, for the publication *Rancho Los Alamitos—Ever Changing, Always the Same*. In elegant personal detail, this book uncovers the changing landscape of Rancho Los Alamitos from its earliest incarnation as Povuu'ngna, the

traditional birthplace of the native Tongva people of the Los Angeles Basin, through the demise of one of the state's most notable working ranches in the mid-twentieth century. The book is a powerful case study of the site and region revealing the richness, drama, and complexity of California history.

CONNECTICUT

Gunn Memorial Museum, Washington, for the project *Letters from the Battlefield: Stories of Washington's Civil War Soldiers*. The Gunn Museum commemorated the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011 through an intense and dynamic series of fifteen programs that included an exhibition, scholar lecture series, and student educational programs. Overwhelming positive response from the community led to a significant number of return visitors to subsequent exhibits and programs, increased the number of active museum volunteers, increased monetary donations, expanded audience, and in general, amplified community recognition and support for the museum and its mission.

Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, for the program *Harriet Beecher Stowe: Inspiring Action for 200 Years*. In 2011, the 200th anniversary of Stowe's birth, the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center presented eleven days of programs with solid footing in the historic context that shapes the contemporary legacy of slavery. The Center's Bicentennial extended the margins of expectation for a historic house museum by presenting dynamic discussion-based programming that puts present day issues and concerns into historic content. The program was a success, not only in participation and interest, but in increasing the visibility of the Center and raising awareness and proactive involvement in social issues.

The Litchfield Historical Society, Litchfield, for the online database *The Ledger*. *The Ledger* is a comprehensive online searchable database that presents the stories of two nationally significant educational institutions, the Litchfield Law School and the Litchfield Female Academy. It links together materials held in both private collections and public institutions from around the country providing users with as much information as possible on each individual student. It brings archives and material culture together in a unique way and allows users to contribute information and become participants in the project.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Woodrow Wilson House, Washington, for the exhibit *Woodrow Wilson, President Electric: Harnessing the Power of Innovation in the Progressive Era*. Using multimedia content, mobile technology, hands-on interactive experiences, and authentic artifacts, this traveling exhibition explores scientific and technological advances during the Progressive Era through the eyes of the first family. This project engages younger non-traditional audiences in cross-disciplinary thinking, enabling participants to comprehend the connections between the past and the present, analyze the role President Wilson played in fostering scientific and technological change, and reflect upon the way science and technology are used today. The exhibit will travel around the country to further Wilson sites throughout the centennial of Wilson's presidency (2013–2021).

GEORGIA

Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, for the school program *The Price of Freedom: Causes and Consequences of the Civil War*. This interactive field trip was created to stimulate students beyond the textbook and exhibition displays. Immersive encounters are combined with museum theatre and investigative activities to engage students in a completely new way. By the end of this tour, students have done more than studied the history, they have participated in it.

Dr. John C. Inscoe, Athens, and **Georgia Humanities Council**, Atlanta, for the publication *The Civil War in Georgia: a New Georgia Encyclopedia Companion*. This volume provides a concise, yet authoritative and up-to-date reference source about the war and its effects on Georgians, as well as its legacies. Over fifty articles are grouped both chronologically and thematically covering important topics such as slavery and the sectional crisis, the major battles and home front, and the war's legacies including identity and memory. The book is a great model for reporting on events and histories that are an important part of local heritage while keeping the larger story in the forefront.

Georgia Southern University, **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**, and the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, Statesboro, for the *Camp Lawton Archaeological Project*. These partners started a project to find the exact location of Camp Lawton and provide an opportunity for public education and youth outreach in an economically depressed area. Shortly after work began, they realized a major discovery in Civil War archaeology had been made. The archaeological integrity of the site is the historical equivalent to finding a population of an animal species thought to be extinct. It is a chance to study the in situ material culture and archaeological features of a Confederate prison stockade that has not been disturbed by development or looting.

IDAHO

Lila Hill, Meridian, for her tireless dedication to documenting and preserving the history of Meridian, ID. Ms. Hill came to Meridian when she married in 1954 and quickly made it her home. Her passion for history helped establish the Meridian Historical Society where she has actively volunteered. She was named the first Meridian City Historian and is one of the best sources for information on the area authoring a book and regular newspaper column. Her main goal is to encourage long-time families in the area and new residents to embrace the history of their community.

Mary E. Reed, Moscow, for thirty years of preserving and interpreting Idaho history. Ms. Reed started her career in Idaho history as a volunteer with the Latah County Historical Society while studying for her Ph.D. in history. After years of volunteer service, she agreed to become the executive director in 1983 and served the society for 30 years. In addition to her exceptional work as director, Ms. Reed also was active in the Idaho Association of Museums and worked on contract for the Idaho Heritage Trust since her retirement visiting museums providing assistance and improving the preservation and interpretation of the history of Idaho throughout the state.

INDIANA

Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, Fishers, for the exhibit *1863 Civil War Journey: Raid on Indiana*. This innovative exhibit is an outdoor/indoor experience spanning 20-acres recreating the southern Indiana town of Dupont in July 1863. It uses skilled actors and theatrical and technological wizardry to immerse visitors in the most important Civil War event on Indiana soil, Morgan's Raid. Visitors learn how civilians responded to and were impacted by the raid and how the cultural and political complexities of the home front influenced the response.

IOWA

Salisbury House and Gardens, Des Moines, for the *Salisbury House Interior Restoration Project*. This ambitious project sought to restore and preserve stonework, plasterwork, and painted surfaces in Salisbury House to its appearance of 1926. The issues addressed included removal of salts and accumulated grime from interior limestone, plaster repair, and painting. The house remained open for tours throughout the restoration and used the opportunity to educate visitors about historic preservation on tours and through a printed booklet.

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2012 AWARD OF MERIT WINNERS

KANSAS

U.S. District Court, District of Kansas, Jean Svadlenak, and Svadlenak Museum Consulting, Kansas City, for the exhibit *Americans by Choice: The Story of Immigration and Citizenship in Kansas* with *The American Dream: In Their Own Words*. This permanent exhibit located in the Robert J. Dole Courthouse personalizes the story of immigration and paths to citizenship taken by Kansans from around the world over the past 150 years. This project breaks new ground and contributes to a deeper understanding of Kansas' and the U.S. District Court's history. It is remarkable for its scholarship, storytelling, presentation, and impact.

MAINE

Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor, for the exhibit *Indians and Rusticators: Wabanakis and Summer Visitors on Mount Desert Island 1840s–1920s*. This exhibit documents a period of time when the Wabanaki were “invisible” to the general population, having been removed from traditional territories along the coast to inland reservations. *Indians and Rusticators* highlights cultural transformations that took place for the Wabanaki people to thrive and asserts their continued presence in Maine. Visitors' assumptions about Indian-white relations and stereotypes are challenged by this exhibit, furthering the museum's mission to promote new learning about the Wabanaki Nations.

Bangor Museum and History Center and Bangor High School, Bangor, for *Exploring Historic Landscapes Using GIS: The Great Bangor Fire of 1911*. In 1911, a great fire burned 400 buildings in Bangor in a matter of hours. In the spring of 2011, to commemorate the centennial of this seminal event in the city's history, a group of mapping students from the local high school studied the fire from many aspects using the GIS and Geographic inquiry method. They mapped weather patterns, analyzed population density, poverty, and wealth in the burn area, and examined the changes in transportation infrastructure and reconstruction adding tremendous information to the scholarship known about this important event. The students created an exhibit of their work for display in the museum and it was the most attended exhibit in the history of the organization.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Public Library, Boston, for the project *150th Anniversary of the Civil War: A City-Wide Commemoration of History*. Unprecedented planning and coordination went into this eight-month commemoration. Organizers created over one hundred programs offered between May and December 2011, including exhibitions, lectures, films, tours, and live performances. All programs were open to the public, free of charge.

Historic New England, Waltham, for the preservation of the Beauport, Sleeper-McCann House. Over its 100 years, Beauport has suffered from a number of moisture-related problems due to being situated on a ledge, the harsh coastal New England climate, and the architectural maze of interesting planes and forms of its construction. The three year preservation project focused on window conservation, roof and chimneys, structural and exterior work, and landscape restoration. Historic New England also held various public programs including window restoration workshops and tours of work in progress and maintained a blog to document all the steps of the project for the general public.

Jean Foley Doyle, Newburyport, for a lifetime of preserving and promoting the history of 20th-century Newburyport. Ms. Foley Doyle taught at Newburyport High School and started integrating local history into her curriculum as early as 1969. After retirement, she began researching the history of her town in the twentieth century which had not been explored in the past. After publishing two small booklets on specific topics, like World War II, she published two books on the town from 1900–1950 and 1950–1985 creating a modern history for the New England coastal city.

Preservation Worcester, Worcester, for the project *By the Canal*. This project includes a self-guided walking tour with accompanying introductory brochure and educational signage. The project highlights remnants of Worcester's historic build environment, bringing alive the nearly forgotten story of the 1828 Blackstone Canal and its key role in the 19th-century development of Worcester as a major industrial city.

The Trustees of Reservations, Holyoke, for the project *Elizabeth Freeman: A Story of Courage*. At the oldest standing home in Berkshire County, a new exhibit tells the story of Elizabeth “Mumbett” Freeman, an enslaved woman who sued her master and won her freedom in 1781. The project

included renovating an underused garage into an interpretive center and developing the exhibit. This project provides a model for increasing the impact of permanent exhibits at historic sites by engaging stakeholders and visitors in exhibit development and installation.

MICHIGAN

Detroit Historical Society, Detroit, for the website *Building Detroit*. This website is a resource on Detroit history for elementary students and teachers. The project is the first step in an initiative to broaden the Historical Society's reach to the community through interactive online educational experiences. The website, developed with EduWeb and based on permanent exhibitions at the museum, meets state grade level content expectations for grades 2-5 and includes an online game, a historical timeline, and a 6 unit, 18 lesson plan curriculum.

Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, Saugatuck, for the publication *The Village Table: A Delicious History of Food in the Saugatuck-Douglas Area*. More than a simple cookbook, *The Village Table* delves into multiple layers of local history through the food they ate and how they acquired it. Topics include survival strategies of early settlers, changes in fishing and ecology of Lake Michigan, growth of farming, and the evolution of the area from a trading post to a resort community. It is a wonderful example of a historical society capturing the attention of the general public by wrapping their history in the familiar, non-threatening form of a cookbook.

MINNESOTA

Anton Treuer, Bemidji, for the publication *The Assassination of Hole in the Day*. This unusual biography reaches beyond standard stories told by most historians, who concentrate on Indian relationships with whites. Instead, it tells the story from the other side, providing a model for a truly indigenous local history. Treuer, an Ojibwe scholar, applied his powerful command of the Ojibwe language and culture in interviews with more than fifty tribal elders, conducting conversations in both Ojibwe and English as appropriate to collect memories of the leaders and the assassination. The resulting book reaches far beyond the standard story told by most historians to tell this important story in a new and powerful way.

Minnesota Landmarks, Inc. and Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, for the *Uncle Sam's New Deal* Traveling Exhibit. This exhibit, a specialized extension of the permanent exhibit, *Uncle Sam Worked Here* at Landmark Center,

was designed to travel across the state of Minnesota to local communities impacted by the New Deal programs. The exhibit along with special programming components connected the history of Landmark Center to actual projects that were organized and planned within the Federal Government's offices in the building and showing how the New Deal government programs affected Minnesotans throughout the state.

MISSOURI

Lindenwood University and Jeffrey Smith, St. Charles, for *The Confluence*. This journal blurs the lines between academic and public history by bringing new ideas and writing from scholars to a wider audience. Issues focus on topics that connect past to present and place local topics into broader contexts providing a critical bridge between the research in the academy and interests of the community at large.

Missouri History Museum, St. Louis, for the publication *Captain Joseph Boyce and the 1st Missouri Infantry, C.S.A.* Because there are so few accounts of Confederate regiments, especially in Missouri, this book stands to offer meaningful insight into the experience of the confederate soldier, giving a human voice to the young men who fought for the 1st Missouri Infantry. One of the goals of Captain Boyce was to publish his account in the hopes that it would encourage reconciliation between the two factions who fought against each other during the war. Editor William Winter significantly expanded Boyce's history, but maintained his original intent.

Missouri History Museum, St. Louis, for the multimedia exhibition *Kirkwood Roots*. Kirkwood, a St. Louis suburb, is known for its small-town charm, but the relationship between black and white residents remains tenuous, as it has since the town's 1853 founding. In 2008, a deadly shooting spurred by racial tensions further polarized the community. The Missouri Historical Society worked for two years to create a multimedia exhibition on the history of the African American Community of Kirkwood featuring a film, photographs, and contemporary video footage. The museum also led ten lectures, community forums, and talking circles facilitated by trained professionals for visitors to explore current issues in the town, including discrimination, racism, and land use. The museum became the neutral, safe place where visitors of all backgrounds could come together to discuss issues, heal wounds, and determine solutions.

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2012 AWARD OF MERIT WINNERS

Barbara Decker, **The Campbell House Museum**, **The Griot Museum of Black History**, **The Eugene Field House**, and the education group, **Jeff Kopolow**, **Carlene Fullerton**, **Jean Turney**, and **Sue Heggarty**, St. Louis, for the *Urban Museum Collaborative*. These institutions led by consultant Barbara Decker joined forces to form a new entity that would build upon their individual strengths, reach out to new audiences, and overcome many of the difficulties caused by isolation, skeletal staff, and limited funds. The team developed a set of common goals that focused on education outreach and devised individual museum projects to increase accessibility. They pooled resources and created multi-disciplinary programming that philosophically and concretely connected the three museums.

MONTANA

Montana Historical Society and **Montana Office of Public Instruction Indian Education for All Divisions**, Helena, for *Best Practices in Museum Education: Museums and Schools as Co-Educators*. This innovative project targeted six Montana communities with the goal to foster partnerships between local historical societies, schools, and content experts. The project engaged students in community study; encouraged student participation in presenting and preserving the past; created a new partnership model that offered genuine, intergenerational, heritage education opportunities; better incorporated Montana's Native American history and culture into both museum interpretation and school classrooms; and provided museums and school a platform for gaining access to tribal perspectives on local history and developing partnerships with local tribal representatives.

NEBRASKA

The Durham Museum, Omaha, for their *Distance Learning Initiative*. This project is an interactive video conferencing tool that allows the museum to conduct educational programs with participants throughout Nebraska and across the country. The museum uses the technology to allow schools outside of Omaha to take part in visiting scholar presentations at the museum, to present original museum-developed curriculum, and to conduct teacher training and demonstrations. To date, the museum has presented nearly 500 distance learning sessions to more than 16,000 participants across the nation.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Canterbury Historical Society, Canterbury, for the *Canterbury One-Room Schoolhouse Program*. This all-volunteer organization determined to authentically replicate, in every possible detail, the experience of attending a one-room schoolhouse in the early 20th century. Former teachers and students rewarded their tenacity by sharing their memories and experiences. The community learned more about just what happened at the one-room school, but also learned about life outside of school providing a great sense of reality to visiting school groups and a richness to the overall program.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92, Brooklyn, for the development of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92. BLDG 92 showcases the history and innovation of The Brooklyn Navy Yard—from the Revolutionary War to the revolution in jobs and industry happening in New York City right now. The mission of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92 is to celebrate the Navy Yard's past, present, and future, and to promote the role the Yard and its tenants play as an engine for job creation and sustainable urban industrial growth. By providing access to exhibits, public tours, educational programs, archival resources, and workforce development services, BLDG 92 reinforces the Yard's unique bonds with the community and inspires future generations to become industrial innovators and entrepreneurs.

New-York Historical Society Museum and Library, New York, for excellence in telling the story of the history of New York City. The first museum in the city of New York, the New-York Historical Society had a rich, but sometimes troubled history almost closing its doors in the 1980s. The institution did not die, however, and by the turn of the 21st century, with a renewed commitment to serve the public at large, the N-YHS was back on track. New leadership pledged to stimulate visitors, both on-site and online, with a mandate to provoke meaningful connections between the past and the present, to expand knowledge, and to move ideas into action. In November 2011, after a three year, \$70 million renovation, the Central Park West landmark headquarters reopened, revealing a dazzling manifestation of the institution's commitment to these ambitious goals through both programmatic and physical change.

The Olana Partnership, Hudson, for the *Olana Viewshed Symposium*. In 2011, an *Olana Viewshed Symposium* was created with the goal of educating and engaging the public about Hudson Valley views on a deeper level, through the lens of art history, environmental conservation, and landscape architecture. The presentations established the history of the region as shaped by the 19th-century tourism and art inspired by these views; how those art works have helped shape the 20th-century conservation history of the valley; and how contemporary projects integrate the concept of views and viewsheds.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, for the exhibit *The Story of North Carolina*. This exhibit, the largest the museum has ever produced, fulfills the institution's long-held goal of interpreting the state's entire history in one continuous visitor experience. The 20,000 square-foot-exhibit begins with North Carolina's earliest inhabitants and covers more than 14,000 years. Visitors of all ages can learn how the lives of North Carolinians in the past differed from their own, yet were also similar in many ways.

Betty Jamerson Reed, Hendersonville, for the publication *School Segregation in Western North Carolina, A History, 1860s–1970s*. This book is a detailed, thoroughly researched and well-documented history of the education of black children in Western North Carolina from the time of reconstruction through integration. Much of the content of this book was previously unavailable in published form. In conducting research for the book, Dr. Reed, conducted more than 100 personal interviews with principals, teachers, and students and read school board minutes of almost all western counties from the 1880s to the 1980s.

OHIO

Massillon Museum, Massillon, for the project *Faces of Rural America*. Initially, the project impetus was to exhibit and record the efforts of two American photographers, neither of which has a direct connection to Massillon. Yet, both Henry Clay Fleming and Belle Johnson have fascinated and delighted Museum staff and visitors for years. The museum is the proud caretaker of these photographs, which are inherently American in their subject matter. While most of the images require the viewer use his or her imagination to create a narrative for the subjects, one cannot help but identify with the faces in the photographs displayed in the exhibit and dual catalogs and featured in education programs and activities.

Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, for the exhibit *Controversy: Pieces You Don't Normally See*. This exhibit presented five objects related to Ohio history that are (or were) controversial and often not displayed in history museums: Ohio's electric chair, a Ku Klux Klan uniform, an 1860s sheepskin condom, a "cribbed" human cage used to restrain adult patients at a state mental institution, and a mitt once used to prevent children from sucking their thumb. The exhibit offered minimal interpretation and encouraged participatory dialog between the museum and the visitors to the museum. The Society chose to display these objects because history is complex, controversial, and messy, and wanted their museum to be a safe place to explore difficult issues.

Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, for the *Ohio as America Online 4th Grade Textbook*. The Ohio Historical Society interacts with teachers in a variety of ways. In response to concerns voiced by educators over revised standards, OHS created a product that would help teachers successfully transition to the revised standards while highlighting state and local history. The online textbook delivers Ohio history content in a dynamic way and is poised to spark interest in both students and teachers around the state in state and local history.

Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, and **Partners** for the *Ohio History Service Corps–AmeriCorps Program*. The Corps seeks to address "Ohio pride, to foster economic opportunities tied to museums and historic environments, to develop new or returning professionals into the field of public history, and to build capacity for Ohio's history community." The program administered through OHS and delivered through twenty-one partner institutions uses three distinct "corps" to address different aspects of history: The Civil War 150 Corps, The Historic Preservation Corps, and The Technology Corps. This program is a great model for using an existing national program to impact history institutions throughout a state.

OREGON

Cultural Resources Department, **Confederation Tribes of Grand Ronde**, and **Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill**, Portland, for the exhibit *Grand Ronde's Canoe Journey*. This exhibit explored the cultural importance, both historic and contemporary, of the canoe to the Native Peoples of the Willamette Valley. The exhibit addressed canoes themselves, role of the canoe in the historic life of the Native community, and the contemporary role of the "Canoe

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Journey.” The museum also incorporated an active workshop during the exhibit where members of the Grand Ronde tribe carved a canoe for the first time in living memory. The canoe was presented to the tribe after the exhibit as a symbol of a restored tribal tradition.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center, Deadwood, for the development of the *Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center*. The driving force behind this ambitious project was a donation to the Adams Museum and House, Inc., of over 10,000 cubic feet of archival material from the Homestake Mining Company, the deepest, longest operating, and most profitable gold mine in the Western Hemisphere. The Adams board of directors and staff worked six years to locate, acquire, and fund a building that would protect forever the world’s finest collection of Black Hills historical documents while making the records accessible to the public and the center a hub for fellowship, inspiration, and lifelong learning.

Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society, Pierre, for the exhibit *Our South Dakota: Big Land/Big Ideas/Big Heart*. This exhibit offers a whimsical look at the physical realities of the state and how those realities shape the attitudes of its inhabitants and the communities they form. Four themes run through the exhibit: comparisons, landscapes, big ideas, and community. The museum created an environment for experiential learning, a space where their target audience of kindergarten through 6th grade students could make discoveries about South Dakota’s natural environments, past and present, and the people who call the state home.

The World War II Pheasant Canteen Team, Aberdeen, for *The World War II Pheasant Canteen* project. On August 19, 1943, Aberdeen area volunteers opened the Red Cross/USO Canteen in the Chicago-Milwaukee Railroad Department to provide free lunches and assistance to troops traveling through the town headed toward deployment points on each coast. The sandwiches, made with cheap and plentiful pheasant, made the canteen famous. In 2005, another group of volunteers, women in their 80s whose mothers volunteered at the original canteen, decided to save the story. They researched the history, developed an exhibit, edited home movies and placed the finished product on YouTube, and shared the story in numerous classrooms saving this important and unique part of Aberdeen’s history.

TENNESSEE

Buck Kahler and **Chris Albrecht**, Knoxville, for the documentary *The Mysterious Lost State of Franklin*. This film provides an accurate and engaging portrayal of the historically important events that led to the creation of the State of Franklin in Upper East Tennessee, and brings to life the key individuals whose actions and conflicts gave rise to a new form of government within the borders of the United States.

TEXAS

Ruthe Winegarten Memorial Foundation for Texas Women’s History, Austin, for the *Texas Women’s History Moments: a One-Month Radio Series*. This project provided compelling, historically accurate information about thirty-one different women, groups, and events in an easily accessible format, at no cost to the organization, to a diverse public audience of various ages for an entire month. The series’ ability to entertain as well as educate the local public radio station’s varied audience proved an effective strategy for public awareness of women’s history and the foundation.

UTAH

Donald L. Enders, Salt Lake City, for fifty years of researching and restoring historic sites for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Enders was vital to the expanded breadth and maturity of the LDS historic sites program. As principal content expert for projects, he carried out such diverse responsibilities as archaeological excavation, historical research, material culture analysis, architectural study, landscape planning, and the acquisition of historic furnishings. His work vastly improved the professionalism, rigor, and attention to detail of Mormonism’s historic sites program. In addition to his work for the Church, he also consulted, mostly pro bono, on several community-based historic restoration projects in Utah.

Utah Humanities Council and **Utah Museums Association,** Salt Lake City, for the *Museum Interpretation Initiative: Telling Our Stories*. This program is a three-year project that provided nationally known speakers and sessions at the annual UMA conferences, and a series of free, intensive, hands-on workshops delivered to small museums throughout Utah. Through the initiative, museums in Utah

received professional development in historical research, object interpretation, exhibit design and implementation, and museum education best practices; hands-on experience implementing a project integrating these elements at their own museum; materials detailing best practices; and access to facilitators for problem solving and advice on aligning museum goals with newly-acquired skills and information.

VERMONT

Vermont Historical Society, Barre, for the project *Vermont History Explorer*. In 2011, the Historical Society launched the Vermont History Explorer website, a content-rich resource for students and teachers about Vermont history. To support the website, VHS developed promotional materials and conducted a series of professional development workshops for teachers throughout the state. The website helped fill a gap in the availability of materials for elementary school students studying state and local history.

Vermont Historical Society and **Donald H. Wickman**, Barre, for the publication *A Very Fine Appearance: The Vermont Civil War Photographs of George Houghton*. In this book the rich photographic images of a very skilled photographer are brought together in a single volume. Over 100 images are accompanied by descriptive statements from the period, including quotes from soldiers whose faces can be seen in Houghton's images. Wickman's narrative places George Houghton, and the men he photographed, into the larger context of Civil War documentation.

WASHINGTON

Bainbridge Island Historical Museum, Bainbridge Island, for excellence in preserving and sharing the history of Bainbridge Island. This museum is focused on a community that was once the industrial center of Puget Sound. Award winning publications, events, and exhibits keep the museum at the heart of its community. The exhibit *Ansel Adams: A Portrait of Manzanar* elevated a local history story placing it in a national context. The Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans were the first to be forcibly removed from their homes and sent to Manzanar during World War II. The museum told this story with Adams photos and more than tripled attendance since 2007.

Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, Seattle, for the publication *New Land, North of the Columbia*. This book is an anthology of primary documents from forty archives throughout Washington. *New Land* was designed to be as much like an exhibition between book covers as possible—the documents were chosen to speak for themselves with a minimum of interpretation. By showcasing the collections in Washington and acknowledging the essential collaboration between institutions, *New Land* raises awareness of the magnificent shared legacy of archival material and the professionals who care for it.

Washington State Department of Transportation, Seattle, for the exhibit *Milepost 31*. The Washington State Department of Transportation's Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program opened Milepost 31, an information and history center, in Seattle's Pioneer Square Historic District. As the first center of its kind for WSDOT, *Milepost 31* is a unique outlet that puts the viaduct replacement work, particularly the State Route 99 Tunnel Project, in context with the rich and robust past of the Pioneer Square neighborhood. It serves as a model of going above and beyond the basic requirements of project mitigation.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Historical Society Press, Madison, for the publication *People of the Big Voice: Photographs of Ho-Chunk Families by Charles Van Shaick, 1879–1942*. This book presents the history and images of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Black River Falls, WI. Nearly all the individuals featured in these photographs are identified, by both their English and Ho-Chunk names, through the hard work of the authors and members of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The photos chronicle more than fifty years in the community with many individuals photographed at different stages of their lives from childhood to parenthood.

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Raney Bench
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