

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT

LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

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TITLE OF PROJECT: “Material Culture of a Community Trauma: Building a Memorial Collection Out of the Isla Vista Tragedy”

Time Period of Grant: FY 2017/2018

Amount of Award Received: \$600

Original Abstract as Submitted:

I am requesting a presentation grant to present a paper as part of a panel at the National Council on Public History, 2018 Annual Meeting which will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 18-21, 2018.

I am the curator for the May 23, 2014 Isla Vista Memorial archive – a collection related to the tragedy in which 6 UCSB students were murdered in a violent rampage. Collecting materials for this collection, processing the materials, and preparing the finding aid has been a learning experience for me because I am not a trained archivist. This work is outside the scope of my normal work assignment, but I volunteered for it because I wanted to make a contribution to our community’s recovery. I was able to apply experience from my graduate certificate in museum studies and some training in archives to this project. Because we were not really prepared for this tragedy and the work that would be required to build a memorial collection, we have been trying to present on our project at appropriate professional conferences. By sharing our experiences, we hope to inspire other institutions to do some preliminary planning in the event that violence or a major tragedy strikes their community.

In addition to being a fulltime librarian at UCSB, I am also a research PhD student in history at the University of Leicester (Leicester, England, UK). Therefore, this presentation will not only allow me to share the experiences of our library, but will also permit me to attend a conference for professional historians. This experience will contribute to my overall professional development goals as I work to finish my doctorate degree.

URLs for more information:

- NCPH 2018 Meeting website: <http://ncph.org/conference/2018-annual-meeting-2/>
- Finding Aid for the May 23, 2014 Isla Vista Memorial archive: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8571hkp>

Research Paper Description

I will be presenting my research paper as part of a panel on condolence collections. Due to the recent mass shooting in Las Vegas, we have added an additional panelist from UNLV to discuss their project related to that tragedy.

Paper Title:

“Material Culture of a Community Trauma: Building a Memorial Collection Out of the Isla Vista Tragedy”

Abstract:

When tragedy strikes your community most people don’t immediately think about preserving the material objects associated with the social mourning process. Fortunately, we had a history PhD student who had that forethought and initiated a project to do just that. As we do not have a history museum on our campus, the Library’s Department of Special Research Collections was the best fit to serve as a repository for such a collection. This paper will discuss the process we have undertaken to collect, document, and preserve materials that document not only the university’s response to the tragic events in Isla Vista on May 23, 2014, but also the way in which the university and local community came together to grieve and to work to recover from this tragedy. It will address how the team has collected materials and how we have organized them so that historians and other scholars will be able to access them in the future.

Material culture is not just the realm of archaeologists; it is also the domain of historians, librarians, archivists, and curators. These professions are dedicated to the preservation and examination of documents, photographs, videos, and objects to enable the study of various cultures. Our project demonstrates how, in the aftermath of a community tragedy, it has been possible for us to work together to collect and preserve materials which will tell the story of this event and those who were affected by it.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

I attended the 2018 annual conference of the National Council on Public History. This conference was quite useful to me, both as a librarian and as a history PhD student. Public history is one of the areas in which I have concentrated my graduate coursework in history. I attended sessions related to open access publishing in history, digitization of primary source materials, historical consulting work, and other panels related to working as a historian. I also attended historical tours of the Nevada Nuclear Test Site and the Neon Museum Boneyard.

My panel was part of a two-panel session related to condolence collections and exhibitions. I presented on the May 23, 2014 Isla Vista Memorial archive collection in the UCSB Library’s Department of Special Research Collections as part of the panel on collections related to acts of violence and memorialization. The other speakers on my panel spoke about materials related to the mass-shootings at Virginia Tech and Las Vegas. Our second panel addressed exhibitions of materials related to tragic events. Speakers on that panel discussed exhibition of materials related

the 9-11 terrorist attacks, the Pulse Nightclub killings, the Isla Vista rampage, the AME Church shooting, and the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School. While these panels dealt with difficult subject matter, they were valuable opportunities both for people associated with memorial projects and for attendees at institutions that do not have such a collection. The presenters not only shared their experiences from working with a memorial collection, but also tried to stimulate the audience to consider how they might help their institutions prepare in the event that they might find themselves in a similar situation. The audience discussion at both panels were particularly interesting. See panel descriptions from the conference program at the end of this document.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes X No

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

I received a \$600 presentation grant from LAUC to attend this conference. As I had already used my professional development funding for another conference, I covered the rest of my expenses with personal funding.

My expenses for attending the National Council on Public History, 2018 Annual Meeting were:

- Early Conference Registration: \$105 (early bird price, paid on Oct. 24, 2017)
- Hotel (Tues. April 17 - Sun. April 22, 2018):
 - Total for 5 nights: \$1,070.31
- Transportation: \$389.48 (personal car, 728 miles round trip)
- Meals: \$0 (didn't track since I was not being reimbursed)
- Total: \$1,564.79 (without meals)
- NOTE: This total does not include the cost of 2 historical tours that I took as part of the conference activities

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

I am still exploring publication options for my formal paper. As part of this report I am submitting a copy of my PowerPoint presentation in two PDF files – one presenting the slide view as seen by the audience and one with my talking points for each slide. Once my paper has been formally published, I will upload a copy to eScholarship.

V. NOTE

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.

Submitted 24 April 2018



POWER LINES



April 18-21, 2018 | Las Vegas, Nevada

Annual Meeting of the National Council on Public History

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18 // THURSDAY, APRIL 19

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

National Park Service Historians Meeting

(Chairman)

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

First Time Attendee and Conference Connections Meet-Up

(Pool Deck)

See description in “Special Events” section, p.15.

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Opening Reception

(Renaissance Ballroom III)

See description in “Special Events” section, p.15.

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

New Professional and Graduate Student Social

(The Mob Museum, transportation provided. Meet at Registration).

Buses will leave between 7:40 pm and 7:55 pm.

See description and transportation details in “Special Events” section, p.15.

Tweet using #ncph2018 #npgsmob.

Sponsored by The Mob Museum and co-sponsored by the University of California, Riverside.

Thursday, April 19

7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Registration Open

(Renaissance Ballroom Foyer)

Those attending tours and field sessions will meet their leaders at the conference registration desk 15 minutes prior to departure unless otherwise noted.

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Open

(Renaissance Ballroom I)

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

(Summit)

8:30 am – 10:00 am

SESSIONS

S1. Public Histories of Poverty

(Copa A)

Capturing the experience of poverty has remained a challenge for public historians. How can we use the tools of public history to better understand poverty? How can we cross boundaries of class and time to tell these stories? How can we present poverty in a way that is compelling, but not overly sentimentalized? This roundtable brings together public historians who have studied poverty in several periods and used different methods to discuss these questions. *Tweet using #ncph2018 #s1.*

Facilitator: Kathryn Lloyd, Lower East Side Tenement Museum

Presenters: Dan Kerr, American University

Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan, Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Ethan Sribnick, Montgomery College

S2. Is Facebook Bad for History? The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Social Media and Public History

(Capital)

In 2010 Dan Cohen asked the question, “Is Google good for history?” In the years since, there has been an explosion of historical content being shared on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. But while Cohen was able to answer his own question with a confident “of course it is,” the answer to our question is much less clear. Have we spent too much time thinking about the promises of digital media and not enough considering the implications of digital culture? Historians who have attempted to engage social media to promote historical thinking will present in the PechaKucha format, with time reserved for audience interaction. #s2

Facilitator: Margo Shea, Salem State University

Presenters: Larry Cebula, Eastern Washington University and the Washington State Archives

Sarah Heffern, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Philip Levy, University of South Florida

Leslie Madsen-Brooks, Boise State University

Alena Pirok, Georgia Southern University: Armstrong

S3. Documenting Resilience: Condolence Collection Projects in the Wake of Violence

(Rainbow)

This session aims to provide insight and guidance to historians, archivists and librarians who must develop responses to unanticipated and unthinkable tragedies. Presenters will discuss research and experiences with the condolence archives created in the wake of violence at Virginia Tech, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and in Las Vegas. Through the presentation of these case studies, we will foster a discussion around essential questions and best practices for those working with condolence artifacts and collections. #s3

Facilitator: Melissa Barthelemy, University of California, Santa Barbara

Participants: Roger Christman, Library of Virginia

Anne Platoff, University of California, Santa Barbara

Tammi Kim, University of Nevada, Las Vegas Special Collections and Archives

S4. Preparing Our Students for “Other Duties as Assigned”

(Paramount)

This session explores the skills we cannot always teach in the classroom. It ponders the question of how we can prepare students for “other duties as assigned.” Those duties might take some interesting forms—assisting stressed-out brides, fixing overflowing toilets, helping individuals find the truth behind a lost loved one, or working with unanticipated partners. Presenters explore these duties and how we might integrate them into our programs through direct and indirect means. #s4

Facilitator: Anne Lindsay, California State University, Sacramento

Participants: Benjamin Hayes, National Park Service

A. Nicole Hill, Valencia College

Emily McEwen, Orange County Parks

Jill Mudgett, Morristown Historical Society/Noyes House Museum

Sue Hall Nguyen, Orange Coast College

Joy Novak, Washington University, St. Louis

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

SESSIONS

S7. Death and Display, Bodies and Boundaries

(Copa A)

This roundtable explores the ethics, public reactions, and responsibilities of public historians with regards to the display and exhibition of human remains. Human remains have been a part of exhibitions since the first museums opened in various forms; from the case of Sarah Baartman and 19th century freak shows to modern displays of mummies and medical specimens, the human body has often been a source of emotion, intrigue, and education. *Tweet using #ncph2018 #s7.*

Facilitator: Katie Stringer Clary, Coastal Carolina University
Participants: Laura Anderson Barbata, Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program (LACIS), University of Wisconsin – Madison
Trish Biers, University of Cambridge, Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies
Katie Stringer Clary
Shelby Judge, Funeral Director
Kristen Semento, The Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library

S8. The Hidden Costs of History: War Exhibitions and Ethical Sponsorships

(Copa C)

This panel will explore how mythological framing and corporate/professional sponsorships work to shape exhibitions and sites of memory related to war. By tracing these lines of power, we seek to expose and understand their influence on public memory. Through three presentations that encourage audience collaboration, participants will introduce case studies to help ground conversation and generate methodological approaches that expose the political inflections, stakes, and outcomes of display and commemoration practices. *#s8*

Chair: Michael Van Wagenen, Georgia Southern University
Presenters: *Curating the Lost Cause at Gettysburg National Military Park*, Samantha Hunter, American University
Exhibiting the Civilian-Drone Industry and Militarization, Maggie Unverzagt Goddard, Brown University
The Cost of The Price of Freedom, Julie Hawks, American University

S9. The Orange Story: Narrative Film and Digital Public History

(Capital)

What happens when public historians work with fiction filmmakers to create an educational resource about the past? Are the boundaries between fact and fiction blurred? Or can the emotional force of historically-based fiction imbue the past with greater power? This panel brings together historians and filmmakers to discuss *The Orange Story*, an innovative educational resource on Japanese American incarceration that combines original, scripted narrative film with historically-grounded, archival content to create a seamless online experience. *#s9*

Facilitator: Jasmine Alinder, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
Participants: Patrick Hall, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
Erika Street Hopman, ChavoBart Digital Media
Jason Matsumoto, Full Spectrum Features

S10. Exhibiting Sorrow: Memorial Tributes to Victims and Community Healing in the Wake of Violence

(Rainbow)

This session aims to provide insight and guidance to historians, archivists, and curators who are developing memorial exhibitions paying tribute to lives lost in massacres and terrorist attacks. Presenters will discuss research and experiences with curating exhibitions related to the 9/11 terrorist attack; the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida; the rampage in Isla Vista, California; the AME Church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina; and the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. *#s10*

Facilitator: Celeste Wiley, The South Carolina Historical Society
Presenters: Julia Diane Larson, University of California, Santa Barbara
Kirsten Madsen, The National September 11 Memorial & Museum
Ashley Maynor, New York University Libraries
Pam Schwartz, Orange County Regional History Center, Orlando

S11. Hold My Place: Documenting and Preserving Black Geographies

(Paramount)

Roundtable participants take different professional approaches to documenting, interpreting, and preserving places associated with black history and with African American contributions to the built environment. From leading historic preservation and community development initiatives to creating accessible archives and publications, the presenters seek to protect the legacy of places significant to the African American experience. Participants share how they approach their specialized work and provide insight into the field's power lines, future directions, challenges, and opportunities. *#s11*

Facilitator: Brent Leggs, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Participants: Brian Joyner, National Park Service
Turkiya Lowe, National Park Service
Monica Rhodes, HOPE Crew, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Michelle Joan Wilkinson, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

S12. Relitigating Civil Rights: Social Justice, Public History, and the Law

(Five Spot)

A celebratory history of the civil rights movement has been deployed in courts to rollback oversight of school desegregation, voter registration, and to legitimize police brutality and mass incarceration. While the public history of the movement is subject to appropriation by those in power, it can also be mobilized to empower movements for social change. This roundtable explores how public historians have been and can be engaged in this power struggle. *#s12*

Facilitators: Andrea Blackman, Nashville Public Library
Erin Devlin, University of Mary Washington