



National Collaborative for Women's History Sites
P.O. Box 1376, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Annual Report, October 2023

Our Mission

The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites advocates for historic sites that center the preservation and interpretation of the important role of women and gender non-conforming individuals as core to the American story.

Our Vision

We envision a world in which historic sites are equitable, just, and inclusive of women and gender non-conforming people; that these sites are valued, visited and well-resourced.

Our Values

We know that place makes us who we are and is essential to our understanding of the past and our personal and community identities.

We value intellectual integrity, embracing expansive narratives arrived at through diverse sources (i.e., oral history, material, culture, primary documents).

We value equity and justice for all.

We value learning and continual discovery and conversation.

We value an intersectional approach to honoring the contributions of all women and gender non-conforming people who have contributed to the history of our communities.

We recognize that heterosexism, patriarchy and white supremacy shapes the world. NCWHS is actively anti-heterosexism, anti-patriarchy and anti-racist in our work.

We value the power of collaboration with other organizations to achieve shared goals.

Co-President's Report

Lucienne Beard & Ida Jones

The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites finished our 21st year with a strong sense of purpose through projects that further our mission and vision, demonstrate our values, and align with the goals of our current strategic plan.

Our Annual Meeting in October 2022 featured Heather Huyck, Ph.D. author of [Doing Women's History in Public: A Handbook for Interpretation at Museums and Historic Sites](#) (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020). In March we hosted another public program, "Bella da Costa Greene, a Librarian's Legacy," a talk by Erica Buell Ciallela from the JP Morgan Library on the real woman featured in the popular historical novel [The Personal Librarian](#). Both of these online programs were well received by audiences of over 100 participants.

We continue work on the National Votes for Women Trail (see Paula Casey's report below) with more entries in the online database, more roadside markers installed, curriculum units developed and available on our website, and a new podcast series about the Trail.

NCWHS is an active participant in a coalition of like-minded organizations working with the National Park Service in a Section 106 review of plans for rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, Maryland. In the spring we organized a panel presentation at the national conference of the Organization of American Historians to share the story of Clara Barton and the Glen Echo, Maryland historic site. Over summer 2023, supported by donor funds matching a small grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, we hosted a series of online workshops to discuss and envision the interpretive possibilities for a renovated Clara Barton NHS. We will share a summary report of recommendations with the National Park Service in late fall 2023.

Through the effort of a corps of dedicated volunteers and a small grant to pay for design, we launched the online publication [Telling Women's Stories: An Online Toolkit for Historic Sites & Museums](#). The Toolkit helps historic site directors and volunteers find, develop and incorporate women's history in their interpretation and programming. NCWHS board member Andrea Malcomb (Executive Director of the Molly Brown House Museum in Denver) and NCWHS member Brandi Burns (Executive Director of the Museum of the Yellowstone) debuted the Toolkit in a workshop session at the American Association for State and Local History's national conference in Boise, Idaho.

We will continue with these and other projects in the coming year, all of which will promote the Collaborative and its role in the preservation and historic fields.

Management Report

Lindsay Hinkle, Administrative Assistant

NCWHS membership stands at 86 active members. We received \$1,898.50 in donations. Thank you to everyone who donated, and thank you to those who joined for the first time or renewed your membership in NCWHS. Your support is critical to the organization's success.

NCWHS has 1,845 Facebook followers, 3,654 page reaches, and is most popular with the 65+ age range. Our Twitter account has 1,747 followers. Our Instagram profile has 255 followers and is most popular with the 35-44 age range. Our YouTube channel has 36 subscribers and our presentation of "Belle da Costa Greene: a Librarian's Legacy" by Erica Ciallela, NCWHS Board of Directors and former Belle da Costa Greene Fellow at the Morgan Library & Museum, on March 29, 2023, has 1,547 views, our most viewed video. We hope you have found NCWHS online if you use these social media outlets—and please share our posts with your friends and colleagues. In addition, we love posting news from members: let us know via membership@ncwhs.org if you have brief news you'd like us to post. Our website, www.ncwhs.org, had over 11,527 views in the past year.

Treasurer's Report

Andrea Malcomb, Treasurer

NCWHS income is derived from membership dues, donations to the general fund and project-related grants. Our expenses include routine but crucial items such as insurance, licenses, IT support and website and database management, plus part-time administrative support of 20-25 hours/month.

The business of the Collaborative was made possible with the gratis time and effort of NCWHS board members. Lindsay Hinkle, who is based in Johnstown, NY, serves as the part time, paid administrative assistant, responsible for membership and outreach.

While our assets are modest and the operational budget is less than \$10,000/year, the NCWHS maintains rigorous financial standards and has successfully managed large projects with budgets exceeding \$350,000.

Nominations Committee

Barbara Lau, Chair

Joanne Goodwin, Sehila Mota Casper, Antonia Castaneda, Barbara Lau, chair July to September; L. Heidenreich, chair October - June

The Nominating Committee began the 2022-2023 year with an orientation of two new board members.

- Liz Almlie, State Historic Preservation Office, South Dakota State Historical Society, Pierre, SD
- Joan DiMartino, Prudence Crandall Museum, Canterbury, CT

Fall recruitment added two new board members who started in the Spring,

- Erica Ciallela Buell, Morgan Library & Museum, New York, NY
- Paula Casey, Memphis TN

Spring recruitment added two new board members who start in October 2023

- Theresa McCarthy, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
- Jolene Rickard, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

The candidates bring varied experiences in public programming, art, and Indigenous Studies.

Officers of the NCWHS were elected in October for 2023-2024.

Office	Member	1 st Year of 3 Year Term	2 nd Year of a 3 Year Term	3 rd Year of a 3 Year Term
Co-President	Ida Jones	2022-23	2023-24	
Co-President	Andrea Malcomb	2023-24		
Vice President	Judy Wellman	2023-2024		
Secretary	Robyn Young	2022-2023	2023-2024	
Treasurer	Lucienne Beard	2023-2024		

The committee prepared new nomination forms and structures which we hope improved and streamlined the nomination process.

The committee acknowledges the important contributions of Sehila Mota and L. Heidenreich who cycled off the board in 2023 and to Antonia Castaneda, who remains a part of the Nominations Committee but completed board service in 2022.

Considering the new NCWHS mission and values statement, the committee continues to spend thought and time on how the organization will meet its stated goals of diversity and bring the organization in line with contemporary work in preservation organizations. This is relevant to the committee as it recommends new members for the board. We hosted a workshop in January with facilitator Evangeline Weiss which prompted some important conversations. All these actions are dedicated to a deeper understanding of the structures that persist in society and that maintain discriminatory systems of power.

The Research and Interpretation Committee

Heather Huyck & Lesley Barker, Co-chairs

The Research & Interpretation committee meets at 3:00pm (ET) on the third Monday of the month via Zoom. Some 17 women regularly participate on this committee, representing a combination of practicing and retired academics, graduate students, and public historians who manage historic sites.

Telling Women's Stories: A Toolkit for Historic Sites and Museums has been completed and is fully accessible on the NCWHS website. Thank you to the committee members who worked so hard to see this four-year creative process through to fruition! Two committee members debuted the Toolkit in a presentation at the fall conference of the American Association for State and Local History.

Conferences: The committee has also collaborated on panel presentations at significant conferences over the years including: the Berkshire Conference, Organization of American Historians, National Trust for Historic Preservation, American Historical Association, National Association for Interpretation and the American Association for State and Local History. Committee members made a panel presentation at the spring conference of the Organization of American Historians in California.

In-house Presentations: Committee members offer presentations in the monthly meetings that highlight some aspect of their own research in women's history. Sharing each other's expertise triggers important conversations about the historical record as well as what the Collaborative can do to elevate the story.

Brainstorming: The committee has spent considerable time in conjunction with the NCWHS Board of Directors in considering the National Park Service's proposed changes to the Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, Maryland.

The National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT)

Paula Casey, Chair

We have seen more additions to the Trail database, now numbering 2,423 entries, and hosted dozens of public ceremonies to dedicate NVWT roadside markers (funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation). To date, there are 206 roadside markers on the NVWT. and have had opportunities to promote it.

Currently, we are producing a podcast series about the NVWT, called "Her March to Democracy: Stories Along the National Votes for Women Trail." Here's the introduction we plan to use:

Welcome to Her March to Democracy, where we're telling Stories Along the National Votes for Women Trail. The Trail tells the stories of the fight for voting rights for women. These are stories of suffragists, who as the revolutionaries of their day, battled the powers that be. These foot soldiers cut across the lines of geography, race, ethnicity, class, and gender and numbered in the thousands over 70-plus years. Each episode is a tour on the Trail to the places of struggle – the cities, the towns – where wins and defeats happened over and over again. Our theme music is "Standing On the Shoulders" written by Joyce Johnson Rouse and recorded by Earth Mama. Join us on our travels to hear the "Stories Along the National Votes for Women Trail."

CM Marihugh has done a superb job of planning and organizing the interviews with various state coordinators. She is a great interviewer. We aim to include up to 20 states and hope to launch it in late fall. It will be available on all streaming platforms and we can add to the NCWHS YouTube channel. Each episode will be archived and transcribed. Our goal is to place the transcriptions in the Library of Congress so this information will be available before America250.

We want women's contributions to be readily available to reporters, researchers, history buffs, students and anyone who cares about suffrage history. We are encouraging listeners to support the NCWHS.

NVWT Marketing Committee

Nancy Brown, Chair

The newly formed NVWT Marketing Committee was created to increase awareness of the NVWT, in turn increasing usage and participation in its continued and long-term growth. A SWOT analysis targeted potential markets as researchers, heritage tourists, educators, and potential sponsors. Efforts to host a double-header NVWT marker dedication in NYC to gain broader media attention failed when The Redbury Hotel, which was hosting the event, closed. New events are being explored. Initial online lesson plans were created, but not broadly used. Updated technology may be necessary before creating subsequent plans. Technology grants are being explored, in addition to potential sponsors for the NVWT.

Respectfully submitted by the NCWHS Officers and Board:

Lucienne Beard, Co-President, New Jersey

Ida Jones, Co-President, Maryland

Judy Wellman, Vice President, New York

Robyn Young, Secretary, Pennsylvania

Andrea Malcomb, Treasurer, Colorado

Elizabeth Almlie, South Dakota

Lesley Barker, Kentucky (resigned, 5/30/23)

Nancy Brown, New York

Erica Buell Ciallella, New Jersey

Paula Casey, Tennessee

Sehila Mota Casper, Texas (board term ended, 9/30/23)

Joan DiMartino, Connecticut

Joanne Goodwin, Nevada

Cheryl Harned, Maryland

L Heidenreich, Washington (board term ended, 6/30/23)

Ida Jones, Maryland

Barbara Lau, North Carolina

Theresa McCarthy, New York

Jolene Rickard, New York

Lillian Williams, New York

Robyn Young, Pennsylvania



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Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Fundamentals of Organizational Success

- Clarity of Vision, Mission, and Organizational Values
- Financial Stability and Growth
- Public Awareness and Support

What do we aspire to do?

- Influence and advocate for equity and justice in preservation and women's history - and in the training of future preservationists and historians
- Catalog sites – use technology to support women's historic sites and expand recognition
- Act as a convener of related groups to continue this conversation
- Cultivate a diverse leadership and grow a diverse and larger audience
- Build on success of the National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT)
- Demonstrate leadership and expand sphere of influence – partners, customers, funders, public - in order to become a national thought leader in the field

In creating this strategic plan, NCWHS will

1. Revise the mission/vision/values. Evaluate structure of board committees, volunteers and staff.
2. Establish connections with potential partners to expand NVWT and create future projects.
3. Develop a new scope of work and identify future projects.
4. Create and implement a development plan to support projects and establish financial security for the organization.

GOAL #1

Clarity of Vision, Mission and Organizational Values

Goal Statement: NCWHS has clear statements of the vision, mission, purpose and underlying values that are aligned with our projects and priorities.

Objective A: Revise the mission and vision.	Objective B: Adapt the board and committee structure.	Objective C: Ad hoc committee creates value statements.
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GOAL #2

Public Awareness and Support

Goal Statement: NCWHS is regarded as an authoritative voice on women’s history sites, inclusive historic preservation practices, and a source of information promoting women’s history in public.

Objective A: Demonstrate leadership and expand sphere of influence by increasing partnerships.	Objective B: Advocate for inclusive representation in all historic preservation programs and sites.	Objective C: Become a known and reliable source of information in the field.
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GOAL #3

Develop a new scope of work and identify future projects

Goal Statement: NCWHS will engage academic, public and community historians to explore different aspects of women’s history in projects that can be shared with a wider public audience.

Objective A: Capitalize on the existing National Votes for Women Trail project.	Objective B: Explore options for other sites, trails or mapping that we want to do.	Objective C: Develop our own themes for promoting women’s history sites.
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GOAL #4

Financial Stability

Goal Statement: NCWHS has created and implemented a development plan that includes diverse revenue sources including but not limited to grants, individual support, corporate support and program revenue. Revenue generated is sufficient to fully fund highly qualified staff and high-quality programs.

Objective A: Create a development committee of board and non-board members	Objective B: Evaluate membership structure, benefits, and fees	Objective C: Create and implement development plan with specific targets by type of income, sufficient to support staff adequate to meet infrastructure needs and goals
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