ELEVATING HISTORY

A Future for New York’s Past

Devin R. Lander
New York State Historian
Why History?

• Why Is History Essential?
• Why Should Public Resources Be Dedicated To The Preservation, Protection, And Promotion Of The Past?
• Why Should Students Learn About Their Local And State History?
7 Ways History is Essential
http://www.historyrelevance.com
1. Identity—History enables people to discover their own place in the stories of their families, communities, and nation.
2. Critical Skills—History teaches critical 21st century skills and independent thinking.
4. Economic Development—History is a catalyst for economic growth.

The *Big Four* Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation

- Jobs and Household Income
- Property Values
- Heritage Tourism
- Main Street
5. Engaged Citizens—History helps people craft better solutions through better understanding the origins of issues.
6. Leadership—History inspires local and global leaders.
7. Legacy—History, saved and preserved, is crucial to preserving democracy for the future by explaining our shared past.
A Sense of Personal and Cultural (Community) History Is The Root Of Self-Awareness, Which Is One Of The Traits That Makes Us Human

- According to Psychologists Robyn Fivush, Jennifer G. Bohanek and Marshall Duke:
  - “...our sense of self is not tied solely to personally experienced events. Who we are and how we understand our personal experiences is also shaped by how we understand other’s experiences. This is true in at least two senses. First, incorporating others’ perspectives on those experiences enriches understanding of our own past experiences...Second, and perhaps more intriguing, hearing the experiences of others changes our perspective of our self. Stories of the past we did not experience still provide powerful models, frameworks, and perspectives for understanding our own experiences. We construct a sense of self through time that relies both on an evaluative perspective of our own personal history, as well as how our history fits into larger cultural and historical frameworks.”
We All Must Be History’s Advocates

• At Every Level Of Government And At Every Public History Event
• Through Collaboration And The Creation Of Accurate, Engaging And Relevant Historical Production
• Through Engaging With The Future And With All The Stories Of The Past
HISTORY MATTERS
First Steps

- The Creation Of The New York State History Advisory Group
- Will Meet Twice A Year
- Members Will Serve Two-Year Terms
- Will Outline Recommendations To The State Historian To Elevate The Field of History
- Focus: Better Collaboration, Better Promotion, Better Maximizing Of Resources
NYS History Advisory Group 2017-2019

- Chair—Devin Lander—New York State Historian
- Members
  - Ruth Pierpont, Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation—NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
  - Ross Levi, Vice-President, Marketing Initiatives (Representing Gavin Landry)—I Love NY
  - Dr. James Folts, Head, Researcher Services—New York State Archives/Fellow—New York Academy of History
  - Mark Castiglione, Acting Executive Director—Hudson River Valley Greenway/Path through History
  - Amy Bracwell, Superintendent—Saratoga National Historical Park
  - Dr. Kenneth T. Jackson, Jacques Barzun Professor of History & Social Science—Columbia University/Fellow—New York Academy of History
  - Dr. Lisa Keller, Professor of History—SUNY Purchase/Fellow—New York Academy of History
  - Dr. Paul D’Ambrosio, President and CEO—NYS Historical Association
  - Dr. Marci Reaven, Vice-President for History Exhibitions (Representing Dr. Louise Mirrer)—NY Historical Society/Fellow—New York Academy of History
  - Gerald Smith, Board President—Association of Public Historians of NYS
  - Jay Di Lorenzo, President—Preservation League of New York State
  - Amie Alden, Board President—Government Appointed Historians of Western NY
  - Alexandra Parsons Wolf, Executive Director—Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities
  - Dr. Sara Ogger, Executive Director—New York Council on the Humanities
  - Dr. Craig Steven Wilder, Professor of American History—Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Fellow—New York Academy of History
  - Dr. Bruce Dearstyne, Professor Emerita—University of Maryland
  - Stefan Belinksi, Founder and Director—Colonial Albany Project/Fellow—New York Academy of History
  - Carol Kammen—Tompkins County Historian/Fellow—New York Academy of History
  - Dr. Judith Wellman, Professor Emerita—SUNY Oswego/Fellow—New York Academy of History
  - Dr. Ivan Steen, Director—Center for Applied Historical Research
  - Melissa Brown, Executive Director—Buffalo History Museum
Office Of State History Website Redesign

• To Be Launched October, 2016
• Resources—Grant Opportunities, Links, Events Calendar, News Related To NYS And National History,
• Artifact|NY—Highlighting Interesting Objects And Their Stories From Historical Collections Across NYS In Collaboration With Don Wildman, Host of Mysteries At The Museum
• **Meet The Historian**—Highlights The Work Of A Different Historian On A Rotating Basis. Local Government Historians, Academic Historians, Independent Historians, Historical Filmmakers, Students.

• **The Office Of State History Forum**—Content Driven Online Forum Featuring Work Being Done In The Field

• **Send content to:** statehistory@nysed.gov
Facilitating Partnerships

• Collaborating with APHNYS, the Association of Counties, and the NYS Association of County Clerks on a day-long training program for county historians and county clerks held October 14th at the NYS Museum

• Pilot Program opportunity with the possibility of being expanded with support from the Association of Towns and the NYS Conference of Mayors
• Wrote an article on Local Government Historians for the NYS Conference of Mayors Newsletter

• Presenting at the February, 2017 Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns
• To submit your New York State History Month event for inclusion in the statewide calendar sponsored by I LOVE NY and Path Through History go to: www.iloveny.com/events/submit-your-event/. Please check the criteria for “Event Submission” first to make sure your event qualifies. When completing the online form, select “NYS History Month” in the Event Category dropdown menu. The submission will go through a quick approval process and you will be notified when the event has been processed.
Next Steps

• Evaluate the possibility of changing History Month from November to an earlier month more conducive to public programming

• Continue to build History Month into more of a state-wide initiative

• Continue to seek and facilitate partnerships among the galaxy of agencies and organizations in NYS
• Evaluate possible funding opportunities for the field
• Strengthen local history advocacy efforts
• Bring into deeper collaboration local government historians, academic historians, state and federal agencies, and other history organizations
• Creation of a “Diversity in History” taskforce
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