PROGRAM

9:00 AM   **BREAKFAST AND EXHIBIT HALL**

9:30 AM   **WELCOME**

Priscilla Brendler, Executive Director, Greater Hudson Heritage Network

INTRODUCTION OF PARTNERS & ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS
New York State Council on the Arts
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area/Hudson River Valley Greenway
Coby Foundation
Humanities NY
Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation

9:45 AM   **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

INNOVATION AS HABIT: PRACTICING LOOKING FORWARD IN A BACKWARD-LOOKING BUSINESS

Tom Scheinfeldt, Professor of Digital Humanities at the University of Connecticut
Being innovative isn't inherent to certain fields and alien to others. Innovation isn't something STEM fields have and the humanities lack. Nor is being innovative a personality trait that some people possess and others do not. Rather, being innovative is a byproduct of certain behaviors and habits of mind. Much as being healthy isn't a thing you have, but rather something you practice, being innovative is a function of specific repeated behaviors and commitments. The good news for us is that many of the practices that are upstream of innovation are natural to heritage organizations. This talk will explore the habits of innovation: The behaviors that allow institutions to adapt quickly and creatively to rapid technological change. In doing so, it will assess the challenges heritage organizations face, and how they can leverage existing strengths--to thrive in times of radical new technologies like AI.

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10:35 AM   SPEAKER BLOCK 1
8-minute speaker presentations

CREATING NEW VISIONS OF AN OLD WORLD: 3D MODELLING & AI IN 1660S NEW AMSTERDAM

Toya Dubin, Mapping Early New York for the New Amsterdam History Center
In 1660 Nicasius de Sille was famously making a list of every citizen living in New Amsterdam, and Jacques Cortelyou was creating the Castello Plan, a map that has fascinated scholars for 400 years, including the team at the Mapping Early New York Project. The Mapping Early New York Project is a detailed encyclopedia of Dutch Colonial History linked to the Castello Plan, the earliest map of New Amsterdam. Richly illustrated with 3D models, AI-generated characters, maps, and an encyclopedia, the Mapping Early New York project will take you on a walk through the streets of New Amsterdam through Jacob Leisler's eyes.

GET OUT THERE! USING AN APP TO ENGAGE FAMILIES IN LOCAL HISTORY

Barbara Davis, Westchester County Historical Society
For the celebration of its 150th Anniversary, the Westchester County Historical Society invited families and individuals on a "Family History Hunt" using technology to sample more than 300 years of Westchester by "capturing" their visits to up to 96 sites in 33 Westchester communities over the summer of 2024. The WCHS History Hunt, designed by Ossining-based Otocast, provided GPS-guided directions to the places as well as a description, images, and an audio recording with a brief background created by local historians or historical societies in the 33 municipalities. Explore with us how using new technologies can excite and engage families!

STORYTELLING ETHICS USING AI: A PROJECT IN PROCESS AT THE SING SING PRISON MUSEUM

Amy Hufnagel, The Sing Sing Prison Museum
Amy Hufnagel, the SSPM Assistant Director, will share an AI tools-use project in development that collaborates with the archive, a local artist, and staff to create alternative illustration opportunities for tours. The SSPM is a museum in development, slated to open in phases starting in the Spring 2025. Illustrating spaces that has been historically undocumented, is a central challenge. Let's discuss these new tools, not so much from a technical point of view, but to focus on the conversation on the process, ethics and issues museums face as the new tools gain prominence.

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USING AR TO EXPLORE FREEDOM AND SLAVERY DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Steve Long, East Hampton Historical Society

East Hampton Historical Society's 1776AR mobile phone app uses an "augmented reality" experience to teach visitors about Colonel David Mulford, an American revolutionary who led the cause for freedom while simultaneously being the largest slaveholder in East Hampton. Narrated by East Hampton's current Town Historian, the app presents the perspectives of David Mulford, his wife Phebe, and Jack, who was enslaved by the Mulfords. During this presentation, attendees will get a behind-the-scenes look at how the AR experience was crafted in collaboration between the Historical Society and the app developer and will learn how the project team interpreted historical documents to create the narrative, visuals, and the perspectives presented.

ILLUMINATED INNOVATION: INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING AT LEWIS LATIMER HOUSE MUSEUM

Adriana Burkins, Lewis Latimer House Museum

How can the mindset and legacy of Lewis Latimer, the Black inventor and draftsman involved in the evolution of electric lighting, be used as a beacon to encourage us to embrace innovation and experimentation? After closing to the public for eight months, the Lewis Latimer House Museum reopened in June of 2024. Complete with a new permanent exhibition, redesigning the museum's interior takes visitors on a journey, exploring the eras of enslavement and emancipation, the high-stakes development of electrical innovation, and the push for Black rights and community in New York City as experienced by the Latimer family. This presentation will highlight the museum's new look and interactives (developed by Kudos Design Collaboratory and Isometric Studio) as examples of the museum's renewed efforts to promote historically diverse perspectives and culturally-responsive STEAM experiences to inspire the problem-solvers of today and tomorrow.

11:20 AM   FOLLOW THE SPEAKER

Want to learn more about the topics and projects you just heard about? Pick a speaker to follow for in-depth conversations. Each speaker will host a space.

EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break generously sponsored by The Found Object Art Conservation

OFFICE HOURS (ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED)

10-minute appointment slots

12:00 PM   *AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE* PRESENTATION

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12:45 PM   **LUNCHEON**
Luncheon generously sponsored by Bloomberg Connects

1:25 PM   ***AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE* AWARDEE POSTER SESSION**

EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK

OFFICE HOURS (ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED)
10-minute appointment slots

1:45 PM   **SPEAKER BLOCK 2**
8-minute speaker presentations

COMMANDER IN CHEERS: COMBINING LOCAL HISTORY WITH SMARTPHONE APPS TO EXPAND VISITOR ENGAGEMENT

Melaine Rottkamp, Dutchess Tourism

Dutchess Tourism President & CEO Melaine Rottkamp will present on their Commander in Cheers promotion, which utilizes 3-D video and local history data to create an immersive Rev250 experience for visitors. After scanning a custom drink coaster, users are taken to a special interface via their smartphones where John Koopman, the best George Washington interpreter in America, relates documented historical facts about Dutchess County during the Revolutionary Era and invites the user to toast local history. Created in partnership with Fourth Idea, this visitor experience combines the best elements of cutting-edge technology with a carefully considered approach to bring local history to the masses.

UNLIKELY PARTNERS: HOW A MUSEUM AND A SHELTER ARE WORKING TO SERVE DISPLACED COMMUNITIES THROUGH SPACE AND TIME

Melissa Kiewiet, Dyckman Farmhouse Museum Alliance

Since 2015 the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum has been working to raise awareness of the enslaved burial site in the Inwood neighborhood of Manhattan. During the pandemic, an unlikely partner arose. The Bowery Residents' Committee, an organization that provides essential services to the city's unhoused community, purchased the land where the burial site used to be. Through careful collaboration, these two partners engaged the community to devise a plan to memorialize the site, reinter some of the misplaced remains, and create a space to care for descendants and present-day communities.

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HOW TO EVALUATE AI SOURCES AND AI IMAGES WHEN DOING HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Alicia Briley, Town of Carmel Historian

Town of Carmel Historian Alicia Briley will discuss how to evaluate and understand the meaning of artificial intelligence images and sources in your historical research. How do we decipher between AI images and realistic images? How do we decipher between AI sources and realistic primary sources? In this presentation, we will explore what artificial intelligence is and how we got here, giving examples of what it may look like when researching.

COST-EFFECTIVE HISTORICAL OUTREACH

Jacob Henry/Cameron Colby, United States Military Academy - Department of History

We are digital history storytellers with a unique set of constraints. Military members and federal employees cannot pursue funding avenues or grants available to independent and institutional historians. No matter how we craft, fund, or publish our work, it is, by definition, owned by the American public. Everything we do must be immediately available at no cost to a broad audience. These constraints and limitations mean our department has become adept at making low-cost, broadly accessible content. Through creative brainstorming, we are leveraging off-the-shelf and easily accessible methods to enhance engagement and presentation. Learn how we use low-cost tools to retell or reclaim a narrative and create an informed and engaged American public and how you can too.

THE POWER OF CONVERSATION: CHANGING THE PARADIGM THROUGH ORAL HISTORY

Julia Fell, The Museum at Bethel Woods

The Museum at Bethel Woods' oral history initiative has changed the narrative of Woodstock both figuratively and literally and has opened up new opportunities for collaboration, both internally at Bethel Woods, and with individuals and partner organizations around the country. This presentation will explore how our oral history initiative – including our remote oral history program, our travel pop-up programs, new and upcoming local programs, and our expanded internship program - has changed the nature of our work.

2:30 PM   **FOLLOW THE SPEAKER**

Want to learn more about the topics and projects you just heard about? Pick a speaker to follow for in-depth conversations. Each speaker will host a space.

EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK

OFFICE HOURS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)

10-minute appointment slots

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3:05 PM   **SPEAKER BLOCK 3**
8-minute speaker presentations

KOFI'S FIRE: USING A DIGITAL GRAPHIC NOVEL TO BRING HARD HISTORY TO LIFE

Betsy Bradley, Historic Hudson Valley
Betsy Bradley, VP of Programs and Engagement at Historic Hudson Valley, will share the development process that transformed a forgotten episode from colonial New York into a dynamic digital tool to engage middle and high school students with themes of belonging, resistance, culture, and memory. She'll talk about the evolution of the project, which was funded by NEH's Digital Projects for the Public, growing pains, evaluation process, and launch.

OPENING THE GATES: EXPANDING ACCESS AND INTERACTION AT PHILIPSE MANOR HALL

Michael Lord, Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site
In 2022, Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site reopened with a brand new exhibit that featured interactives, augmented reality, and QR codes. But the real source of interaction has been the "virtual wing," a standalone website dedicated to Philipse Manor Hall which has allowed site staff to expand visitors' understanding by sharing cutting edge research, giving access to the physical museum through a virtual reality tour, and serving as a platform for new visitors through search results and social media.

TECH, TEENS AND TACKLING THE VIRTUAL WORLD

Jennifer Elliott, Intrepid Museum
Teenagers today are more exposed to technology than any generation before them, and as such, are capable of tackling new and emerging technologies head-on! This presentation will discuss how two groups of teens were introduced to the uses and possibilities surrounding AR/VR at the Intrepid Museum and how they used it to showcase their own understanding of history and science. The process by which the project was developed will be shared, as well as challenges overcome and lessons learned.

EXPANDING GRAPHICS WITH DOCUMENTED DESCRIPTIONS

Lavada Nahon, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation – Bureau of Historic Sites
Creating appealing and inclusive exhibits and digital content is often challenging when so few historic images of enslaved and free Blacks are available. In a visual world of ready-to-use cameras, the public often doesn't understand the repeated use of the same images and are pushing back on only using silhouettes. Seeking a solution, NYS OPRHP-BHS has begun developing plans to work with artists to create images based on descriptions of people found in runaway ads. This

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presentation will look at what we are doing and how these resources can be mined to understand the multicultural landscape of historic New York.

3:50 PM   **FOLLOW THE SPEAKER**
Want to learn more about the topics and projects you just heard about? Pick a speaker to follow for in-depth conversations. Each speaker will host a space.

EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK

OFFICE HOURS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)
10-minute appointment slots

4:30 PM   **CLOSING ADDRESS**
Tom Scheinfeldt, Professor of Digital Humanities at the University of Connecticut

RAFFLE ANNOUNCEMENTS
THANK YOU & SEND-OFF
Priscilla Brendler, Executive Director, Greater Hudson Heritage Network

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