

The Urban History Association

Urban History News - January 2023 edition

Ring in the New Year with UHA President and President-Elect: UHA President, **Joe Trotter**, and President-Elect, **Andrew Sandoval-Strausz**, have written a letter to UHA members to announce developments for the new year and beyond! Read their letter [HERE](#) for updates on new directions and past accomplishments!

UHA 2023 Conference: The 2023 UHA Conference will be October 26th - 29th, 2023 in Pittsburgh, PA. **THE CFP DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 20.** Please circulate widely within your networks! We will continue adding to the new conference site so please [check here for the most up-to-date information!](#)

The UHA is seeking a secretary to serve approximately 1-2 hours per week between May and September and 2-3 hours between October and April for a term of 5 years. Among the secretary's responsibilities are circulating announcements and reminders for scheduled meetings and maintaining the UHA meeting calendar. The secretary also takes minutes and ensures all meeting minutes are formatted, stored, and distributed in compliance with best practices and legal requirements for non-profits. If you are interested, or would like to make a recommendation, contact Ally Moralez amoralez@urbanhistory.org.

Fall UHA bibliographies: Our fall 2022 bibliographies are available! [Click here](#) for a full list of U.S., German and French books and articles!

Our bibliographies depend on members like you! If you want to see your geographic area of interest listed and are interested in contributing a bi-annual bibliography, or if you want to let us know about an article or book we missed, please email us at info@urbanhistory.org.

Open calls

Call for Awards Submissions: The Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) offers a number of awards and fellowships to promote and support vernacular architectural fieldwork and scholarship, as well as the dissemination of research. Prizes are awarded to recognize the contributions to the study of vernacular architecture. The 2023 awards, prizes and fellowships will be presented at the 44th annual VAF conference in Plymouth, Massachusetts, May 17-20, 2023. Click [HERE](#) for more information about applying and to see past winners. **Deadline: February 1, 2023.**

The **AISU (Associazione Italiana di Storia Urbana)** would like to inform UHA members about the Congress in Ferrara, *Beyond the Gaze, Interpreting and understanding the city* (scheduled from September 13th to 16th, 2023). They also invite scholars under 40 to submit contributions that will be published in a monographic issue of the magazine "Urban History" dedicated to the history of Italian cities. See [HERE](#) for more info on both items. **Earliest deadline: February 15, 2023.**

The new **Environmental Design Archives (EDA)** offers short-term research fellowships, which are open to both junior and senior scholars, to support travel to conduct research on-site at the EDA, located within the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley. See [HERE](#) for more information. **Deadline: March 1, 2023.**

Apply to participate in **Reading, Writing, and Teaching the Rust Belt: Co-Creating Regional Humanities Ecosystems**, a two-week residential institute for higher education faculty members. This National Endowment for the Humanities-funded project focuses on the importance of regional storytelling in fostering a sense of place. June 4 through June 18, 2023 at Ursuline College in Cleveland, Ohio. Click [HERE](#) for more info. Deadline: March 3, 2023.

The European Association for Urban History (EAUH) will hold a one-day online symposium on 6 September 2023 focusing on cultural and material exchanges between urban Europe and the wider urban world, extending across all historical periods. Our aim is to contribute to the larger global urban history currently being written by helping to situate European cities, not solely as the locus of post/colonial power but also as sites of exchange. See [HERE](#) for more info. Deadline: April 1, 2023.

Riyadh Region Municipality is delighted to invite you to participate and attend the 19th International Association for the Study of Traditional Environment (IASTE) conference which will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on January 5-9, 2024 in collaboration with King Saud University and the Ministry of Culture. Scholars, professionals, and practitioners in the field of traditional environments are invited to showcase their latest research, projects, and innovations in the field. The conference theme of IASTE 2024 is titled "The Dynamism of Tradition", where we refer to the adaptability and continuity of tradition to evolve as a legitimate manifestation of the socio-cultural and socioeconomic spheres through space and time. See [HERE](#) for more info. Deadline: May 1, 2023

Featured Content from the Metropole

The official blog of the Urban History Association

The Metropole is excited to announce our new Co-Senior Editor, Angela Stiefbold! She has served as Assistant Editor and Copy and Formatting Editor for the last few years, and will be stepping into the management role in early February. Join us in congratulating Angela!

This means that current Co-Senior Editor, Avigail Oren, will be stepping down from her role at The Metropole to take the position of Director of Development at the Scholars Strategy Network. Thank you, Avigail, for your countless contributions to the UHA and best wishes moving forward!

On January 31, 2023 Island Press will publish *Justice and the Interstates: The Truth about the Racist History of Urban Highways*, an edited volume that began at the Metropole in April of 2021 with the theme month of the same name. Much like the series, the book explores the history of highway planning and construction and its impact on Black and Brown communities while offering solutions to address and rectify the inequality perpetuated by the Interstates. In addition to expanded chapters from the series' original contributors - Sarah Jo Peterson, Amanda Phillips de Lucas, Rebecca Retzlaff, Tierra Bills, Kyle Shelton, Joseph Rodriguez, Ruben L. Anthony Jr. Jocelyn Zanzot, *Justice and the Interstates* includes new chapters by Stephen Higashide, Amy Stelly, Ryan Reft, Gilbert Estrada, and Jerry Gonzalez. You can also see here for an Op-Ed by Reft in the "Made by History" section of the Washington Post for more.

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In anticipation of the [Urban History Association's 2023](#) conference, being held in Pittsburgh from October 26 – October 29, *The Metropole* made the Steel City its Metropolis of the Month for January 2023. The CFP remains open until February 20, 2023. See [here](#) for details.

[Andrew Simpson and Dan Holland](#) kicked off the month with an overview of the city's history and bibliography: "Today Pittsburgh continues to be a place that is studied by urban historians, pundits, and others, who look to its post-industrial transformation to draw lessons about the past and the future for communities within and outside of the Rust Belt."

[David Rotenstein's](#) exploration of race and baseball followed: "In the early twentieth century, Pittsburgh became a Mecca for Black baseball with two pathbreaking Negro Leagues teams, the [Pittsburgh Crawfords](#) and the [Homestead Grays](#). Pittsburgh also is a city plagued by erasures and racial bias with regard to its commemorative landscapes."

[Suzanne Staggenborg](#) discussed the impact of social movements, specifically the city's environmentalism activism, on its history and present. "Owing to movement efforts, in 2010 Pittsburgh became the first American city to ban fracking, and activists helped to raise consciousness about the dangers associated with fracking for human health and the environment."

[Jessica Klanderud](#) closed out the month focusing on the experience and agency of Black Pittsburgh, notably those living in its Hill District: "The Hill District reflected the constructed urban space of urban Appalachia—towns owned by U.S. Steel, International Harvester, and other extractive industries, where workers negotiated with industry to remake their own home place and define their work."



For a full list of *The Metropole's* editorial team members, [click here](#).

For blog submission guidelines, [click here](#).



Meet Nicole Navarro!

Current position:

Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Michigan and Graduate Student Research Assistant for the Carceral State Project working on the Policing and Social Justice HistoryLab, led by Matt Lassiter.

Dissertation title/description:

My dissertation “Beyond Racial Binaries: Latinos, African Americans, and Political Power in Washington, D.C., 1968–1995” analyzes the racial complexities of urban politics by interrogating the relationship between Latinx activism and the Black majority. I trace how an amalgamated Latino community negotiated desires for access and proportional representation abutted with Black political power after the passage of partial home rule. The dissertation joins Black and Latinx histories of the city to analyze processes of racial formation through grassroots organization, politics, and criminalization.

How has urban history/the UHA informed your career pursuits/interests?

My curiosity in urban history started in undergraduate school and has shaped my interest in public history and digital humanities. After graduating, I knew I wanted to explore the field deeper which led me to work for the National Museum of African American History and Culture as a curatorial research assistant for the *Power of Place* and *A Changing America* exhibitions. Both exhibitions I worked on allowed me to keep up with my research interest in urban history and led me back to graduate school. I incorporate my experience in the museum world into my own dissertation project and other public facing works I have done with the Carceral State Project. My focus on urban history has also led me to learn digital/interactive mapping skills and working with different digital platforms, which have opened a new avenue of storytelling. I feel fortunate that these intellectual interests have led me to find a community of colleagues who share a commitment to social justice informed research and public engagement.

Any future plans?

As part of my work with the Carceral State Project, I am currently working on a forthcoming digital project *Detroit Deadly Force*, which synthesizes historical research on police homicides in Detroit. The public-facing website details, displays, and analyzes research data on police killings by the Detroit Police Department or other law enforcement entities, highlighting the pervasive nature and patterns of racialized violence and its effects on marginalized communities. The standalone *Detroit Deadly Force* grid website will expand the chronology and methodology of the digital exhibit *Detroit Under Fire*, which investigates the history of policing, criminalization, and police brutality in Detroit during the civil rights era.

If you're interested in contacting Nicole, you can do so via email at nnavarro@umich.edu.

Are you a grad student or early career professional working on a new scholarly/public/digital project you'd like featured in our next newsletter? Have you recently started a new job? Completed a dissertation chapter? Published research? We want to share your work!

Please send your news here: dsheinin@urbanhistory.org



News from UHA Members

Cambridge Scholars Publishing is offering **UHA members a 25% discount** on their publications in the series, 'The Arts, Design and Culture in Cities," [Urban Histories in Practice: Morphologies and Memory](#) and [Critical Practices in Architecture: The Unexamined](#). **The code is available at the members-only login page on the UHA website.**

Current UHA Members: *Do you have professional news you'd like to share? Email it to info@urbanhistory.org for inclusion in the next e-newsletter. **Not a member or need to renew?** Visit our membership page here: urbanhistory.org/membership.*

Join the UHA today!

Not a member? We hope you'll join today. Membership dues support all regular UHA programs and projects and are critical to our continued operation. UHA members receive free online access to the *Journal of Urban History*, as well as substantially discounted rates for physical copies of the *Journal of Urban History* (\$40.50 a year) and *Urban History* (\$58.00 per year for U.S. or international subscribers), discounted registration rates for the UHA conference, and invitations to luncheons at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians. We also do sponsored memberships, so faculty can sponsor a graduate student and pay their membership fee!

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