

First Voice

Collaborative Heritage Preservation with Descendant Communities

North Carolina Preservation Consortium Annual Conference

Ida and William Friday Center for Continuing Education
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

November 1, 2013 ~ 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

There is a voice that is often silent in decisions to preserve tangible and intangible heritage. It has been called the “first voice”. Descendants of people who made, used, and cared for the material culture now in collections of libraries, museums, archives, and historic sites seldom have the opportunity to speak during deliberations regarding preservation initiatives and interventions. There is a global movement to bring this voice into the circle of preservation planning to enhance the experience of connecting to collections for all people. Each year, the North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPC) annual conference addresses a topic of concern for those working in preservation disciplines. This year we explore collaborative heritage preservation with descendant communities.

Our invited speakers will present case studies and recommendations for:

- Engaging descendant communities in heritage preservation
- Advocating for human rights with inclusive stewardship
- Mediating heritage values and professional ethics
- Building consensus for preservation priorities

We invite you to join us to learn from national experts and to share your experience and insights on this important subject. Cultural diplomacy is an essential skill for local, national, and international heritage preservation projects. Together we can improve relationships between collection institutions and descendant communities.

Other highlights of this conference include information about NCPC [preservation grants](#), the campaign to conserve [North Carolina's Most Endangered Artifacts](#), and the announcement of the winner of our annual [Award for Collection Preservation Excellence](#).

Register now for a day of valuable professional development and networking.

In the Spirit of Things: Cross Cultural Perspectives on Objects and Curatorial Practices

Christina Kreps is Associate Professor of Anthropology, Director of Museum Studies, and Director of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of Denver. She is the author of [*Liberating Culture: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Museums, Curation, and Heritage Preservation*](#). Her research, teaching, and applied work crosses a number of disciplines and concerns, including anthropology, museology, art, international cultural policy, and development. In 2005, she was awarded a Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship through the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage to explore how indigenous curation and concepts of heritage preservation are examples of intangible cultural heritage according to the UNESCO *Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage*. Since 2009 she has been an instructor for the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museums Field School organized by the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre in Bangkok. Currently, she is working on a book on museum and cultural work as a form of public anthropology, emphasizing the growing importance of engagement in both anthropology and the museum community. The book presents case studies of projects she has worked on in Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Europe and her home institution as examples of “engaged museum anthropology.” In this NCPC conference Dr. Kreps will address the benefits of engaging descendant communities in the preservation of their material culture.

Community-Based Conservation in Hawai'i: the King Kamehameha I Statue

[Glenn Wharton](#) is a Clinical Associate Professor in Museum Studies at New York University. With over thirty years of practice in art conservation, he will address the value of cultural collaboration in conserving objects from our past. His presentation will feature community engagement in the conservation process, as reported in his recent book [*The Painted King: Art, Activism, and Authenticity in Hawaii*](#). In this case study, Native Hawaiians and others in a multicultural community joined in public discussion about how to represent their statue of King Kamehameha I. A veteran of public art conservation, Dr. Wharton had never encountered a community with such deep, personal relationships with a civic monument. Deciding against the advice of some of his peers and ignoring warnings about “going native,” he decided to involve the people of Kapa‘au in the conservation of their statue and soon found himself immersed in complex political, social, and cultural considerations, including questions about how to represent the Native Hawaiian past. Who should decide what is represented and how? Once a painting or sculpture exists, how should it be conserved? During his presentation he will cover professional authority, conservation ethics, and community involvement while providing a highly engaging and accessible view of activist conservation.

Civil War Re-enactors Adopt Artifacts

John Campbell is Chief of Collections Management at the North Carolina Museum of History. In his presentation he will address a partnership program between the museum and descendants of Civil War soldiers that pays for the conservation of Confederate flags. In 2007 the museum began an *Adopt an Artifact* program. Individuals and groups are encouraged to raise funds for artifacts in need of conservation. The most successful partnership has been donations from Civil War re-enactors and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Representatives from these history heritage organizations work with museum staff to select a flag in need of conservation. They then raise funds within their communities. After conservation treatment is completed on a flag the museum hosts a rededication ceremony for those who have provided the conservation funds. This partnership with Civil War North Carolina soldier descendants provides the museum a much-needed conservation budget and opens new opportunities for them to help save these artifacts for future generations.

The Gathering Place

Michelle Lanier is Senior Program Director of African American Heritage Development and Cultural Tourism at the North Carolina Arts Council. She will present an overview of *The Gathering Place*, a project funded by an Institute of Museum and Library Services African American History and Culture program grant. The project will provide training and facilitate networks between North Carolina cultural heritage institutions with African American subject strengths and students in the state's 11 Historically Black Colleges and Universities interested in museum collections and interpretation. *The Gathering Place* addresses three challenges facing North Carolina's African American cultural heritage institutions:

- Preservation - collection management, object care, sustainable building stewardship, and disaster planning.
- Sharing - interpretation, social media, and exhibits.
- Research - best practices in research and writing, oral history collection and presentation.

Cultural Considerations: The Conservation of Tuscarora Material Culture

[Susanne Grieve](#) is Director of Conservation at East Carolina University with joint appointments in the departments of Anthropology and History. In commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the Tuscarora War she supervised conservation work on artifacts for exhibition at the Greene County Museum. These artifacts were excavated from the battleground site of Fort Nooherooka near present day Snow Hill where Tuscarora Native Americans made their last stand against colonial forces. This presentation details the conservation work on the archaeological artifacts and evaluates the various perspectives of the stakeholders involved in the project including archaeologists, conservators, and descendants of the Tuscarora.

Preserving Refugee Cultural Heritage

[Nora J. Bird](#), [Clara M. Chu](#), and [Fatih Oguz](#), faculty in the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, will provide an overview of *Preserving Montagnard Refugee Cultural Heritage: Understanding Priorities Through Intergenerational Dialogue*. This project is a facet of Project [APRCH](#) (Agency in the Preservation of Refugee Cultural Heritage), which asks refugees to speak in their own voice (agency) about how they wish to document (record for posterity), perpetuate (ongoing practice/survival), and disseminate (make accessible) their cultural heritage. In this Montagnard culture project, young bilingual Montagnards interview a selected elder in a Montagnard language or English to learn about what and how they wish to document, perpetuate, and disseminate their culture. The participants culminate their participation by sharing what they've learned in a Montagnard culture event. The lessons learned in this smaller project inform decisions to proceed with Project APRCH in a culturally appropriate and authentic manner.

Heritage Values Consensus Building

[Stacie Nicole Smith](#) is Senior Mediator and Director of Workable Peace at the Consensus Building Institute. She will facilitate an interactive session on heritage management consensus building with descendant communities. Decisions for conservation, preservation, and cultural resource management are a challenging endeavor due to the broad range of stakeholders that are often involved: governmental authorities, public and private sector activists, scientists and historians, ethnic and cultural groups, citizen neighbors, visitors, and many others. Stakeholders from descendant communities often have different interests, values, and priorities than those working in collection institutions. This session will apply proven consensus building skills and frameworks from successful heritage projects that help collections professionals:

- Recognize the importance of stakeholder values for effective preservation.
- Gain the skills necessary to identify and involve key stakeholders.
- Elicit stakeholder values and interests.
- Integrate stakeholder feedback into planning, management, and decision making.

Networking

The NCPC annual conference is an excellent opportunity to meet collections professionals from a wide range of disciplines and organizations. Take advantage of morning and afternoon refreshment breaks and our group lunch, all included in your conference registration fee, to meet new colleagues and visit with old friends. Share your valuable experience and learn from others.

Conference Audience

This conference is designed for professionals, staff, and volunteers working in museums, libraries, historic sites, archives, conservation centers, and other preservation institutions; advocates for preservation on friends boards, advancement councils, and advisory committees; those working in organizations with a preservation mission; members of the preservation industry; and, faculty and students in preservation disciplines. Others interested in NCPC's mission are also welcome to attend.

Registration

The NCPC board is committed to keeping registration fees extraordinarily affordable to encourage attendance. *Early Bird* fees for registrations received before October 1st is \$50 for NCPC members and \$75 for non-members. After October 1st registration is \$60 for NCPC members and \$85 for non-members. Registration at the door is \$70 for NCPC members and \$95 for nonmembers. Registrants at the door are not guaranteed lunch. The registration fee for graduate students in collections programs such as library and information science, archives, public history, museum studies, and conservation is \$40 for early bird, \$50 after October 1st and \$60 at the door. Registration includes lunch and refreshments. Please complete and print the [registration](#) form on the NCPC web site and mail with payment.

Scholarships

We value the involvement of students, working professionals, and volunteers whose institutional support is insufficient to attend this conference. NCPC offers a limited number of conference registration fee waiver scholarships. This scholarship does not cover travel, lodging, or other expenses. The application process is simple and consists primarily of telling us why attendance is important for you. The scholarship is intended to promote continuing preservation education and professional networking. Applicants must be employed by or volunteer at a North Carolina collections institution with little or no funding for professional development or a graduate student enrolled in a collections discipline at a college or university in North Carolina. To apply, please complete the [scholarship form](#) on the NCPC web site and submit it with a letter of interest to NCPC President KaeLi Schurr by October 1st. Early registration fees will be honored for any applicants who are not granted a scholarship.

Location

The conference will be held at the [Ida and William Friday Center for Continuing Education](#) at the [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#). Parking at the Friday Center is free. See [Map & Directions](#).

Air Travel

The Raleigh-Durham International Airport ([RDU](#)) combines southern hospitality with high-tech amenities, making it one of the friendliest airports in the country.

Hotels

Many hotels are located near the [Friday Center](#). NCPC does not designate a conference hotel.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Registration fees are nonrefundable, however substitutions are permitted. In the unlikely event that the conference is canceled for any reason (due to adverse weather or other causes beyond our control) registrants will be notified and fees promptly refunded. NCPC accepts no responsibility in such cases beyond the refund of conference fees.

About Us: The North Carolina Preservation Consortium

The North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPC) is a 501C3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of collections in our state's libraries, museums, archives, and historic sites. NCPC also supports the preservation of private collections and family treasures. Our preservation mission addresses the proper care and handling of materials; storage and environmental control; disaster preparedness and recovery; the repair, reformatting and conservation of collections; and collection security. We also support the preservation of information content, and the medium as artifact, in new and traditional formats for present and future generations. Connect with us on the [Web](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

NCPC Membership

The success of our statewide preservation program depends on the talents, diversity, and generosity of our colleagues. We are honored to welcome institution and individuals as members to the consortium. Our minimum annual institutional membership fee is only \$100. Higher levels of support are greatly appreciated. Individual memberships are \$25 for professionals in collections disciplines and graduate students may join for \$10. Benefits of NCPC membership include discounts on our continuing education workshops and the annual conference, eligibility for our annual grants, and opportunities to serve in leadership positions as officers and members of the board of directors and its committees. Member institutions are recognized for their contributions on our web site. Together we can make a difference in the survival of our heritage collections. Join our [members](#) by submitting your [application](#) today.

Preservation Philanthropy ~ *Friends of NCPC*

NCPC programs and initiatives are made possible through the generous financial support of our members, corporate sponsors, and the philanthropy of the *Friends of NCPC*. Donations may be given in honor or memory of someone special to you; an inspiring person, teacher, mentor, colleague, friend, or loved one. Your financial donation to NCPC will help us preserve cultural and historical collections in our state's libraries, museums, archives, and historic sites

for present and future generations. Join the [*Friends of NCPC*](#) today or contact the NCPC [Executive Director](#) to discuss giving and fundraising opportunities.

NCPC News

Would you like to receive the NCPC electronic newsletter and email announcements about NCPC programs and projects? NCPC membership is not required. [Subscribe](#) today.

For additional information about this conference or NCPC contact: