



Using a Historic Place to Build Community

How-To Guide: Part 2 - Research

In addition to your state or local historical or preservation organizations, state or local college or university – such as their history department or programs related to historic preservation, public history, museum studies, architecture, art, or tourism, including graduate programs in Historic Preservation – look to these respected organizations to provide cutting-edge ideas, strategies, examples, and guidance:

American Alliance of Museums – Research and Reports: <https://www.aam-us.org/category/community-engagement> and <https://www.aam-us.org/category/research-and-reports/> - On museums and well-being: <https://www.aam-us.org/2022/01/10/why-well-being-is-at-the-heart-of-museum-experiences/>

American Association for State and Local History – The only comprehensive national organization dedicated to state and local history, the AASLH helps the history community thrive. Visit the AASLH Resource Center: <https://learn.aaslh.org/history-news> as you begin brainstorming your project. Their library of Technical Leaflets offers a wide range of topics, ideas, and proven, real-world techniques, such as *Demonstrating Relevance*, *Fundraising Basics*, *101 Ideas for New Revenue*, and much, much more.

American Folklore Association - Since 1888, the American Folklore Society has served the people and organizations engaged in understanding and advancing the field of folklore. Learn more about it: <https://americanfolkloresociety.org/>

American Historical Association – The largest membership association of professional historians in the world, the AHA represents every historical era and geographical area. For inspiration: “An Education to Last a Lifetime: Conversations with the Past, Stories for the Present” <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/why-study-history/careers-for-history-majors/an-education-to-last-a-lifetime>



American Institute for Conservation – supports and empowers professionals, institutions, and the public in preserving our irreplaceable cultural heritage. <https://www.culturalheritage.org/>

American Society for Public Administration – provides a basic though comprehensive PR Toolkit for its leadership that is available to all via their website – especially helpful for beginners as it provides brief overviews of outreach channels, tips for maximizing media coverage, and much more. <https://aspanet.org/ASPA/ASPA/Chapters-Sections/Resources-for-Chapter-Section-Leaders/PR-Toolkit.aspx>

Association for the Study of African American Life and History - The mission of the ASALH is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community. <https://asalh.org/>

Baylor University Institute for Oral History – multi-disciplinary outreach to both academic scholars and community historians by providing professional leadership, educational tools, and research opportunities. <https://www.baylor.edu/Library/index.php?id=974108> See also their excellent range of Oral History Resources for both beginner and advanced practitioners: <https://www.baylor.edu/Library/index.php?id=974438>

Duke University – Oral Histories Toolkit - Recommendations and templates provide helpful guidance for your own project. <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/uarchives/transfer/oral-histories>

Historic New England - The oldest and largest regional heritage organization in the nation and the national leader in collecting, preserving, and using significant buildings, landscapes, archives, stories, and objects from the past to today - explore a range of project ideas here: <https://www.historicnewengland.org/explore/everyones-history/>

H-Net – Humanities and Social Sciences Online is an independent, non-profit association; its international consortium of scholars in the humanities and social sciences creates and coordinates electronic networks, using a variety of media. For those interested in learning more about oral history: <https://networks.h-net.org/ZZ-about-oralhist-ZZ>



Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums - Founded in 1947 to educate individuals on an array of field-specific study and programs. Using objects to tell the story of your community:
<https://collections.mcnyc.org/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=Home>

National Council for History Education – The NCHE provides professional and intellectual leadership to foster an engaged community committed to the teaching, learning, and appreciation of diverse histories. Learn more about History’s “Habits of Mind” that explains why thinking historically introduces us to the wonders of the past and helps people make judgments about the future. A must-read as you begin your project. <https://ncheteach.org/Histories-Habits-of-Mind>

National Council for the Social Studies – Founded in 1921, the NCSS is the largest professional association in the country devoted solely to social studies education. Stay informed with up-to-date news on best practices, curriculum, and professional development.
<https://www.socialstudies.org/resources/ncss-smartbrief>

National Council on Public History – NCPH builds community among historians, expands professional skills and tools, fosters critical reflection on historical practice, and publicly advocates for history and historians. <https://ncph.org/> Also: Resources for students @ <https://ncph.org/publications-resources/students/>

National Park Service -The US government department responsible for the stewardship of the National Parks, including national historical parks and sites within the United States.
<https://www.nps.gov/getinvolved/communities.htm>

National Trust for Historic Preservation – Telling the Full American Story
https://savingplaces.org/telling-the-full-american-story#.YrpPT_3MLX4

Oral History Association - Best Practices
<https://www.oralhistory.org/archives-principles-and-best-practices-complete-manual/> and
<https://www.oralhistory.org/remote-interviewing-resources/>



Organization of American Historians - the largest professional society dedicated to the teaching and study of American history. <https://www.oah.org/tah/other-content/crowdsourcing-digital-public-history/>

Preservation Directory and Preservation Bookstore – This directory lists over 4,500 preservation organizations, historical societies and programs dedicated to historic preservation and cultural resource preservation in the United States and Canada.
<https://www.preservationdirectory.com/PreservationOrganizationsResources/OrganizationListings.aspx?catid=3>

South Carolina Archives & History - The Department of Archives and History preserves and promotes the documentary and cultural heritage of the state through archival care and preservation, records management, public access, historic preservation, and education. Is genealogy an important aspect of your research? A review of their resources and quick links may help to clarify next steps and provide samples of the types of documents that you may need:
<https://scdah.sc.gov/research-and-genealogy/resources/genealogy-resources>

South Carolina Historical Society – Collections are located in the SC Historical Society Reading Room on the third floor of the College of Charleston’s Addlestone Library. They contain manuscripts, letters, journals, maps, drawings, photographs, and artifacts.
<https://schistory.org/archives/>

Southeast Museum Conference – Provides educational and professional development opportunities, improves the interchange of ideas and information, and encourages respect and collegiality. Review their recent exhibition winners and be inspired by the wealth and range of creative thinking and execution. <https://semcdirect.net/SEMC-Competition-Winners-2021>

Teaching with Historic Places (National Park Services) - presents important historical questions that are not often fully explored in traditional textbooks, including “Why Focus on Place?”
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/teachingwithhistoricplaces/why-historic-places.htm>
While structured as lesson plans, they provide insights and guidance for readers interested in building their community, of whatever size.



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Writing Center - offers an excellent and detailed handout that will walk you through the process of editing the transcripts of your oral history interview/s for your essay, article, report, etc. <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/oral-history/>

Vernacular Architecture Forum – The VAF is the premier organization in North America studying ordinary buildings and landscapes. Will your project highlight a beloved vernacular structure in your community? The VAF is the place to begin discovering your project’s potential and generating ideas – don’t miss the superb VAF bibliography section that indexes new works and provides an online searchable database of materials. <https://vafweb.wildapricot.org/page-1821804>