

## PANELISTS



**Regina Akers** is a historian at the Histories Branch of the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, DC. In this capacity, she has conducted more than 100 career, special topic, and end-of-tour interviews with significant senior leaders such as Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens to build institutional knowledge in the Navy and create oral history sources for historians. Previously, she served as an archivist at the Operational Archives Branch of the Naval Historical Center, also in DC.

In 2006, Dr. Akers served as a member of the Oral History Team that interviewed fifteen women to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women integrating the U.S. Naval Academy. From 2008-2011, Dr. Akers researched, wrote and produced brochures on women, Native Americans and religious diversity for the Navy Diversity and Inclusion Office. In 2010 she was part of the inter-military service historical team assigned to the Don't Ask Don't Tell Task Force.

Dr. Akers' profile of Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Michelle J. Howard, USN is forthcoming in *African American National Biography*, 2nd Edition, edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham (Oxford University Press); and her entry on the WAVES appeared in *The Oxford Companion to American Military History* (1999). She has also published a number of articles on racism in African American and military history. Dr. Akers earned her BA at The Catholic University of America and her MA and PhD in US history and public history at Howard University.



Author and journalist **A'Leia Bundles** is at work on her fourth book, *The Joy Goddess of Harlem: A'Leia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance*, a biography of her great-grandmother, whose parties and arts patronage helped define that era. *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker* [Scribner]—A'Leia's biography of her great-great-grandmother—was named a *New York Times* Notable Book and received the Letitia Woods Brown Book Prize from the Association of Black Women Historians.

A'Leia was a network television news executive and producer for thirty years at NBC News and then at ABC News, where she was Washington, DC deputy bureau chief and director of talent development. She currently is board chairman of the National Archives Foundation, a vice chairman of Columbia University's board of trustees, a vice chair of the Columbia Alumni Association and president of the Madam Walker/A'Leia Walker Family Archives. She is a member of the advisory boards at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study's Schlesinger Library at Harvard and with the March on Washington Film Festival.

Her articles and essays have been published in the *New York Times Book Review*, *Parade*, *Ms.*, *O Magazine*, *Essence*, several encyclopedias and on her websites at [www.aleliabundles.com](http://www.aleliabundles.com) and [www.madamcjwalker.com](http://www.madamcjwalker.com). As a speaker and MC, she has appeared at universities, corporations, conferences and book festivals as well as on major media outlets including ABC, CBS, NBC, NPR, PBS and BBC.

Among her broadcast journalism awards are an Emmy and a du Pont Gold Baton.

She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and received a masters degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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**Tiffany M. Gill** is an associate professor of Black Studies and history at the University of Delaware. Her research and teaching interests include African American history, women's history, the history of black entrepreneurship, fashion and beauty studies, and travel and migration throughout the African Diaspora. She is the author of *Beauty Shop Politics: African American Women's Activism in the Beauty Industry* (University of Illinois Press, 2010), which was awarded the 2010 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize by the Association of Black Women Historians for best book in black women's history.

Dr. Gill has served as a subject editor for *African American National Biography* and has had her work published and reprinted in several journals and edited volumes, including *Enterprise and Society*, *Journal of African American History*, and *NKA: A Journal of African Art*. In 2015 she was named a Distinguished

Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians.

Before joining the faculty of the University of Delaware, Dr. Gill taught at the University of Texas at Austin, where she received the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award for excellence in undergraduate education. She earned a BA at Georgetown University and a PhD in American history at Rutgers University. Currently, Dr. Gill is working on a book manuscript tentatively titled, "Civil Rights on Vacation: International Leisure Travel and the Making of Black Global Citizens."



In 2008 **Page Harrington** brought her passion for women's history, gender equality, and museum leadership to the position of executive director of the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum, home of the historic National Woman's Party. Previously she served as the vice president of operations of the United States Navy Memorial, as executive director of the Coronado Historical Association's Museum of History and Art, and as an architectural historian at the preservation firm of architect Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA.

Ms. Harrington currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites. She was the founding co-chair of the Women's History Affinity Group Advisory Committee for the American Association for State and Local History, and serves as a peer reviewer in the Museum Assessment Program of the American Alliance of Museums.

Ms. Harrington speaks and writes widely on creative and practical methods to integrate women's history into existing museum interpretation. She advises museums, archives, and libraries on building strategic national partnerships to maximize resources and working effectively with governing boards and donors to achieve those goals and serves as a mentor to young women professionals in the public history field.

At present, Ms. Harrington is writing several articles on the upcoming centennial of suffrage and serving as the senior editor of a series of elementary education books on women's history entitled "Finding a Voice: Women's Fight for Equality in the United States." She received her BA in Art History at San Diego State University and holds MAs from the University of San Diego in Public History, Historic Preservation, and Teaching and in Non-Profit Management and Leadership.

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**Heather Huyck** is a historian, past president of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, and now chair of its Research and Interpretation Committee. She has visited 321 (of 405) National Park Service parks and numerous museums and historic sites throughout the US and Canada.

Over the course of her career, Dr. Huyck has been concerned with how best to interpret women's history at historic places and bridge between academic and public history. She worked for the National Park Service as an interpreter, historian, ranger, resource manager, and strategic planner, and as a staffer for the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Parks.

Dr. Huyck has also taught at the College of William & Mary, where, in 2009, her students found over 15,000 historic documents from the banker, organizer and "womanist" Mrs. Maggie L. Walker, whose African American women's organization provided financial and community services during American Apartheid. The Maggie Walker Community has since been processing and building a database for the Collection

Dr. Huyck has co-edited NCWHS' *Women's History: Sites and Resources* (2009) and *Revealing Women's History: Best Practices for Interpreting Women's History* (2011) and given numerous presentations nationwide. She team-taught the NCWHS webinar "Doing Women's History at Your Site" (2014) and has a forthcoming book, *Interpreting Women's History at Museums and Historic Sites*.

Dr. Huyck holds a BA from Carleton College, and an MA in cultural anthropology and PhD in American history from the University of Minnesota.



**Nicole Ivy** is a museum futurist at the American Alliance of Museums' Center for the Future of Museums. She is also an American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellow (2015-2017). Dr. Ivy comes to foresight studies through her work in public history, through curatorial practice, and through archival research. She has served as a visiting assistant professor of history at Indiana University, Bloomington, where she was an inaugural postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society. She has also worked in the museum and visual studies fields, having been an Institute of Museum and Library Services graduate fellow at the African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Dr. Ivy's research and teaching itinerary coheres around the topics of slavery and medicine, visual culture, race and the biomedical shaping of identity, and public history. Her book manuscript, "Materia Medica: Black Women, White Doctors and Spectacular Gynecology," interrogates the practices of surrogacy and display that produced enslaved women as gynecological test subjects in the antebellum South. She earned her BA in English from the University of Florida and her PhD in African American Studies and American Studies from Yale University.

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**Talitha LeFlouria** is currently a fellow at the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies at the University of Virginia, on leave from her position as associate professor of history at Florida Atlantic University. She is the author of *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015), winner of the 2015 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize, awarded by the Association of Black Women Historians for best book in black women's history. She is also winner of the first Ida B. Wells Tribute Award, presented by the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit.

In 2009, while working as a researcher for the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Washington, DC, Dr. LeFlouria authored the museum's official publication, *Frederick Douglass: A Watchtower of Human Freedom*, which she subsequently discussed in an appearance on C-SPAN. In 2012, her research and commentary on black women and convict labor was featured in the Sundance award-nominated documentary, *Slavery by Another Name*.

Currently, Dr. LeFlouria serves on the boards of the Labor and Working-Class History Association, Historians Against Slavery, and Association of Black Women Historians. She is also working on several new projects, including a digital humanities publication entitled "Convict Labor and the Building of Modern America," which is slated for publication by Bedford St. Martin's Press as a part of its Digital Collections initiative.

Dr. LeFlouria has taught courses on the history of black women, carceral studies, women and slavery, African American history, and the history of race, medicine, and incarceration in America. She holds a PhD from Howard University.



As a curator at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC, **Sarah Leavitt's** exhibitions have included "Cool & Collected: Recent Acquisitions" (2015), "House & Home" (2012), and "House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage" (2009). From 2002-2006, she was a curator at the Office of NIH History at the National Institutes of Health, where her research led to an exhibit on the history of the pregnancy test kit and an article in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*.

Dr. Leavitt's first women's history exhibition, mounted at the Middlesex County Historical Society in Connecticut, looked at crafts and handiwork. Later, at the Slater Mill Historic Site in Pawtucket, RI, she explored the experience of working women at the mill as well as the tensions between the "textile men" and the Junior Women's Club in the founding of the museum. In the late 1990s, Dr. Leavitt served as one of the original staff members at the Women of the West Museum in Boulder, Colorado. The team developed programming, women's history walking tours, and online exhibitions, including one based on the letters of sod house settler Mattie Oblinger.

Dr. Leavitt's publications include *From Catharine Beecher to Martha Stewart: A Cultural History of Domestic Advice* (2002), an article exploring dissent in online motherhood communities, and another delving into the father-daughter relationship on the television show *Veronica Mars*. She is most recently the editor, annotator, and essay-writer for *Taliesin Diary: A Year with Frank Lloyd Wright* (2013), based on the diary of Priscilla Henken, a member of Wright's Taliesin Fellowship in the 1940s. This book won the 2013 Book of Merit award from the Wisconsin Historical Society. Dr. Leavitt earned her BA at Wesleyan University and her MA in Museum Studies and PhD in American Civilization at Brown University.



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**Debra Michals** is program coordinator/acting director of Women's and Gender Studies at Merrimack College in Andover, MA. She is also a consultant to the online National Women's History Museum, and in 2013 she co-authored a permanent exhibit for their website entitled "From Ideas to Independence: A Century of Entrepreneurial Women" (<http://entrepreneurs.nwhm.org/>).

Dr. Michals has long been interested in and consulted on public history endeavors focusing on women. From 1998 to 2000, she served as the content director for The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future in Dallas prior to its launch. She has also been a consultant to the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust and sits on the advisory board for the International Museum of Women, an online museum headquartered in San Francisco.

Dr. Michals is currently completing a social history of women's business ownership in the decades after World War II. Her essays have appeared in magazines and several anthologies, including *Sisterhood Is Forever* (2003), *Image Nation: American Countercultures in the 1960s and '70s* (2002); and *Reading Women's Lives* (2003), as well as the encyclopedia *Notable American Women* (2004). She is a co-author of the brief edition of the US history textbook *A People and a Nation*, and she frequently serves as an editor and advisor for scholarly books and pedagogical materials in US history. Dr. Michals earned her PhD in history at New York University.



As director of the Public History Program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, **Marla Miller** teaches courses in public history, American material culture, and museum and historic site interpretation, and consults with a wide variety of museums and historic sites. In 2012, she and three co-authors released *Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service*, a multi-year study funded by the National Park Service Chief Historian's office and hosted by the Organization of American Historians. In 2013, the book won the National Council on Public History prize for Excellence in Consulting.

Dr. Miller's primary research interest is US women's work before industrialization. Her book *The Needle's Eye: Women and Work in the Age of Revolution* (2006) won the Costume Society of America's Millia Davenport Publication Award for the best book in the field that year. Her 2010 book *Betsy Ross and the Making of America*, a scholarly biography of that much-misunderstood early American craftswoman, was a finalist for the Cundill Prize in History at McGill University (the world's largest non-fiction historical literature prize) and was named to the *Washington Post's* "Best of 2010" list. Her most recent publication, a short biography of Massachusetts gownmaker Rebecca Dickinson, appeared in the Westview Press series *Lives of American Women* in 2013. She is presently completing a microhistory of women, work and landscape in Federal-era Massachusetts.

Dr. Miller has served on the editorial board of *The Public Historian*, and is currently on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the Early Republic* and the *New England Quarterly*. She is the founding editor of the prizewinning UMass Press series *Public History in Historical Perspective*. She holds a PhD from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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**Patricia Mooney-Melvin's** research focuses on memorialization and the built environment and on urban community organizations. Her current research, which looks at memorialization on the urban landscape, involves an analysis of the ways in which women's past has been inscribed on the landscape.

The author or coeditor of books on urban history and community organization, Dr. Mooney-Melvin has published numerous scholarly articles and given presentations on urban definition/organization and various aspects of public history, including heritage tourism, interpretation, and public history pedagogy. With Elizabeth Fraterrigo, she

has just completed a study of visitor engagement relating to the exhibit *Race: Are We so Different?* for the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

Dr. Mooney-Melvin currently serves as interim dean of the Graduate School at Loyola University Chicago, where she is also an associate professor of history. In 1981, after receiving her doctorate from the University of Cincinnati, she joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1981 as director of its public history program. In 1986, she was a faculty member of the Summer Humanities Institute on Teaching Public History funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities.

In 1989 she relocated to Loyola University Chicago to direct its public history program and serve as director of graduate studies in history. She is a past president of the National Council on Public History, a founding member of the Women's History Affinity Group of the American Association for State and Local History, and a member of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites.



**Fath Davis Ruffins** is the curator of African American History and Culture in the Division of Home and Community Life in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, where she has served as a historian and curator since 1981. Between 1988 and 2005, she headed the Collection of Advertising History at the NMAH Archives Center. She is a specialist in ethnic imagery and immigration, the history of advertising and the social and cultural history of African Americans since 1900.

Ms. Ruffins has curated or consulted on several major African American exhibitions and on many community history projects around the country. Between 2011 and 2014, she served as original project director of "Many Voices, One Nation," an exhibition that will open at NMAH in summer 2016. She is currently at work on a book on childhood and children's objects with the

working title "Kidstuff."

Ms. Ruffins earned her BA at Radcliffe College and pursued graduate study in the history of American Civilization at Harvard University.

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**Vicki L. Ruiz** is Distinguished Professor of History and Chicano/Latino Studies at the University of California, Irvine. She received her PhD in History from Stanford University in 1982. An award-winning scholar and educator, she is the author of *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives* and *From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth-Century America* and co-author of *Created Equal: A History of the United States*. With Virginia Sánchez Korrol, she co-edited the three-volume *Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia*, which received a 2007 “Best in Reference” Award from the New York Public Library.

Over the course of her career, Dr. Ruiz has participated in numerous public history and community engagement programs, including Arizona State’s Hispanic-Mother Daughter Program and UCI’s Humanities Out There. From 2007-2012, she served as Dean of the School of Humanities at UC Irvine.

In 2012 Dr. Ruiz was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Directing 24 dissertations, she has mentored four generations of graduate students from UC Davis, Claremont Graduate School, Arizona State, and UC Irvine. In 2015 the National Women’s History Project named her an Honoree in recognition of her scholarship, and that year she also received the UC Irvine Lauds and Laurels Faculty Achievement Award. She is the immediate past president of the American Historical Association, the flagship organization for historians across all fields representing over 14,000 members. On September 10, 2015, President Barack Obama awarded Dr. Ruiz the National Humanities Medal, the eighth UC faculty member and first Latina to be so honored.



**Susan Strasser** has been praised by the *New Yorker* for “retrieving what history discards: the taken-for-granted minutiae of everyday life.” Her major books – *Never Done: A History of American Housework* (1982); *Satisfaction Guaranteed: The Making of the American Mass Market* (1989); and *Waste and Want: A Social History of Trash* (1999) – have won numerous awards for their contributions to women’s history, the history of technology and business, and environmental history, and have been translated into Italian, Korean, and Japanese.

Dr. Strasser is Richards Professor Emerita of American History at the University of Delaware, and she has also taught at The Evergreen State College, George Washington University, Princeton University, and the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture.

Her work has been supported by fellowships from the Rockefeller and Guggenheim foundations, the German Historical Institute, the Harvard Business School, the American Council of Learned Societies, Radcliffe College’s Bunting Institute, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Cultures of Consumption Programme, Birkbeck College, University of London.

Dr. Strasser is currently working on two projects: *A White Historian Reads Black History*, based on a series of talks for religious and community groups, and *A Historical Herbal*, an account of medicinal plants in American culture. She earned her PhD at Stony Brook University.