



RESOURCES

Center for the Future of Museums: Unschooling, Museums and Learning Models for this Century What do museums do best in terms of "education" and what can they do for home schooled students? Thinking about this population as an audience may prove useful. Take a look at one conversation that took place in May at the American Association of Museums Center for the Future of Museums by [clicking here](#).

Nonprofit leadership is a challenge. Nobody created or sustained a nonprofit organization from a small idea. Just think about it: what museum, artists' cooperative, hospital, school, or community garden didn't begin with someone saying "what if?"....and then taking action. [Click here](#) to read more about **The Powerful Force of a Big Idea**.

Announcing the online **Financial Health Assessment Tool for Arts & Cultural Sector!** Nonprofit Finance Fund has partnered with the Cultural Data Project (CDP), which is creating an emerging national standard that gathers reliable data on the arts and cultural sector, to create a free online analysis and reporting tool. The Financial Health Analysis (FHA) provides an in-depth look at an arts & cultural organization's financial condition over time. It is available for free to all users of the CDP - arts & cultural organizations and funders alike - in the 11 states where CDP operates. [Click here](#) to learn more.

PHC Speakers Available

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council invites history nonprofits to utilize their excellent Commonwealth Speakers program. Details about speakers and how to have one come to your site can be found at the

Volunteers:

A Lifeline for History and Heritage Sites in Southeastern PA

Volunteers at small and mid-sized history and heritage organizations give tours, teach school students, work in libraries, and provide all kinds of front line visitor services. They also do research and writing, work in offices, man the phones, help with gift shops, and do collections care and curatorial work. Many organizations are having trouble finding the volunteers they need. Are there willing and able volunteers in your community and can your organization attract and retain them?

The face of volunteerism in the United States has changed. How are small and mid-sized history and heritage organizations adapting? Two studies (see below citations) suggest that many non-profit organizations in the United States are not doing well adapting their volunteer programs to meet these changes.

Some examples of the changes that have taken place during the last 5-years include:

- United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that people between the age of 35 and 44 are the most likely to volunteer. One third of all baby boomers (people born between 1946 and 1964) do regular volunteer work and they volunteer more time than any other generational age group.
- Volunteerism is greatest among boomers who work part time.
- Teenage volunteerism is increasing and given a well structured and age appropriate program for young people they can be an incredible asset to your organization.
- "Family group" volunteers is a new area where people are offering their skills, talents, and time as a group.

The History Affiliates program will be working on this particular issue over the next year. We will do survey work among our members to understand your organizations' needs. We hope to report our findings in the winter of 2012-2013 with suggested next steps that we can take together to increase the effectiveness of your volunteer programs.

Citations:

Center for Health Communication, Harvard School of Public health, [Reinventing aging: baby boomers and civic engagement program](#) (Boston: Harvard school of Public health 2004.)

Volunteer Canada, [Volunteer connections: new strategies for involving older adults](#) (Ottawa Volunteer Canada 2001.)

Pennsylvania Museums website
by [clicking here](#).

ABOUT HISTORY AFFILIATES

There are hundreds of small history and heritage organizations in Southeastern Pennsylvania, and they face many similar challenges--a lack of funding, inadequate marketing resources, and a need to attract more visitors, members, and volunteers. To support these organizations in addressing these challenges, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania recently created the History Affiliates program. Funded by the Barra Foundation, this new program will initially provide a network for organizations to better communicate with their peers in the region. For more information, [click here](#).

CONTACT HISTORY AFFILIATES

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Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

Note: Please see Ellen Hirzu, *Transforming Museum Volunteerism: A Practical Guide to Engaging 21st Century Volunteers*. (American Association of Museums, 2007) for a comprehensive look at volunteerism in the US and the steps your organization can take to establish a strong and contemporary volunteer program.

2012 HIP Awards - Now Accepting Nominations!

Hello History Affiliates Members,

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania History Affiliates program is pleased to announce its first annual History in Pennsylvania Awards (HIP Awards). These awards honor volunteer-run, small, and mid-sized history and heritage organizations in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties for encouraging and fostering community interest and awareness.

The following awards will be given at a celebratory luncheon at the Union League in Philadelphia on Friday, October 19, 2012.

Three potential awards will be given in each of the following areas:

- Educational and Public Programs
- Stewardship, Care, or Interpretation of Historic Structures, Museum, and Archival Collections
- Partnership Projects

One award for Volunteer of the Year

Visit the HIP Awards Luncheon event page for criteria, forms, registration, and more by [clicking here](#).

Grant Opportunities

To explore Federal government grant opportunities [click here](#). You will need to be patient as you navigate this site. Start by going to the "Find Grant Opportunities" section on the left hand side of the page.

If you are a member of the American Association of Museums you can [click here](#) to get to their website. Log in with your member information and then to the Information Center.

Workshops

On June 7, 2012, plan to join your colleagues at Rider University for the **2012 NJ Historic Preservation Conference**, "Sustaining the Past - Inventing the Future". The annual event is an opportunity to explore a historic community, learn from peers about architectural and planning preservation methods from real-life case studies, discuss stewardship models for historic sites, and discover new partnerships in session and through professional networking. Starting June 1, all registration will take place at the conference, and the fee is \$95. Both the conference agenda and session list are available; [click here](#) for more information.

Art Conservators Alliance & Mercer Museum/Preservation Workshop present **Caring for Family Treasures: Preservation Workshop** on August 11, 2012, from 1-3 PM at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown. Learn how you can protect and preserve family heirlooms with professionals from the Art Conservators Alliance. Pre-registration and payment required: \$15/\$12 members. To register for the program, call 215-348-9461 or e-mail [Reservations](#).

If you would like more information about the History Affiliates Program or would like to be involved, please contact Prudence Haines at (215) 732-6200 ext. 243 or phaines@hsp.org.

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