

ACCESSIBILITY LAB

Small Museum Association Annual Conference

February 16-18, 2020, College Park, MD

PRESENTER

Nicole Belolan, PhD, is the Public Historian in Residence and Acting Director at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH) at Rutgers University-Camden. There, she directs a continuing education program in historic preservation that serves avocational historians and professional public historians alike. As part of her position at Rutgers, she is also the Co-Editor of *The Public Historian* and the Digital Media Editor for the National Council on Public History, a role in which she facilitates sharing ideas about the practice of public history. Nicole lectures and writes regularly on the history of disability and making small museums and historic sites more accessible both physically and programmatically. Nicole serves as the Secretary of the Disability History Association.

ABSTRACT

Is your small museum serving people with disabilities? Maybe you want to, but you don't know where to start! This hands-on workshop will introduce simple steps you can take today to make your programming and space more accessible to people with disabilities and their friends and families. This workshop will give participants quick, easy, and virtually free tips and tricks to make everything from social media posts to tours more accessible. Since accessibility is also about providing disability-related content when appropriate, this workshop will also provide participants with a primer on how to interpret the history of

disability at their site. In addition, participants will get a quick overview of the history of museums serving people with disabilities within the broader context of the history of disability rights in the US so they know how they fit into the longer history of advocating for and serving people with disabilities.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- What does accessibility mean to you? 10 min
- What is your site doing now for people with disabilities? 10 min
- Where are we coming from? Disability in History 20 min
- What are easy, quick things we can do to make our sites more accessible? 20 min
- Activity 20 min
- Regroup. What are your plans now to make your site more accessible and inclusive next week? Next month? Next year? 10 min

SELECTED READINGS AND RESOURCES COMPILED
BY NICOLE BELOLAN

ADA National Network, <https://adata.org>.

All of Us, Disability History Association blog, 2019-present,
<http://allofusdha.org>.

Art-Reach, <https://www.art-reach.org>.

The Public Historian: Disability and the Practice of Public History,
Vol. 27, no. 2 (Spring 2005), <http://tph.ucpress.edu/content/27/2>.

“Making Public History Accessible: Exploring Best Practices for
Disability Access – 2016 Working Group,” National Council on
Public History, [https://ncph.org/phc/ncph-working-groups/making-
public-history-accessible-2016-working-group/](https://ncph.org/phc/ncph-working-groups/making-public-history-accessible-2016-working-group/).

Nicole Belolan, “An ‘effort to bring this little handicapped army in
personal touch with beauty’: Democratizing Art for Crippled
Children at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1919-1934,” *New
York History* 96, 1 (Winter 2015): 38-66, [10.1353/nyh.2015.0012](https://doi.org/10.1353/nyh.2015.0012).

Nicole Belolan, “‘Confined to Crutches’: James Logan and the
Material Culture of Disability in Early America,” *Pennsylvania
Legacies*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (Fall 2017): 6-11.

Nicole Belolan, “The Material Culture of Gout in Early America,” in
Elizabeth Guffey and Bess Williamson, eds., *Making Disability
Modern: Design Histories* (Bloomsbury, 2020) (forthcoming).

Nicole Belolan, “We Will All be Phony Colonies,” *ALHFAM
Bulletin* XLV, No. 4 (Winter 2016): 25-27.

Disability History Association, "Public Disability History" (resources), Accessed February 14 2019, http://dishist.org/?page_id=1104.

Alima Bucciantini, "Getting in the Door is the Battle," *AASLH Blog, American Association for State and Local History*, January 22, 2019, <https://aaslh.org/getting-in-the-door/>.

Susan Burch and Hannah Joyner, *Unspeakable: The Story of Junius Wilson* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).

Sara Dean, Review: *Touch This Page! Making Sense of the Ways We Read*, *The Public Historian* 41, no. 4 (November 2019): 115-121, <https://tph.ucpress.edu>.

Cynthia G. Falk, "Accessibility," *The Inclusive Historian's Handbook* (National Council on Public History and American Association of State and Local History), April 1, 2019, <https://inclusivehistorian.com/accessibility/>.

Elizabeth Guffey, "The Disabling Art Museum," *journal of visual culture* 14 no. 1: 61-73 (April 2015), <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1470412914565965>.

Stacia P. Hanscom, Review: *Access Salem: For Those with Disabilities*, in *The Public Historian* 41, no. 3 (August 2019): 138-145, <https://tph.ucpress.edu/content/41/3/138>.

Therese-Adèle Husson, *Reflections: The Life and Writings of a Young Blind Woman in Post-Revolutionary France* ed. Catherine J. Kudlick and trans. Zina Weygand (New York: NYU Press, 2001).

Tom Mayes, “The 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act,” National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Leadership Forum, December 2, 2015, <https://forum.savingplaces.org/blogs/forum-online/2015/12/02/the-25th-anniversary-of-the-americans-with-disabilities-act>.

Jessica Martucci and Nicole Belolan, “Science and Disability History,” *History@Work*, Parts 1-2, September 5 and 12, 2019, <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/science-and-disability-part-1/> and <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/science-and-disability-qa-part-2/>.

National Center on Disability and Journalism, “Disability Language Style Guide,” Revised 2018, <https://ncdj.org/style-guide/>.

National Museum of American History (Smithsonian), *Everybody: An Artifact History of Disability in America*, Accessed November 2019, <https://everybody.si.edu>.

Kim E. Nielsen, *A Disability History of the United States* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2012).

Markus Rediker, *The Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quaker Dwarf Who Became the First Revolutionary Abolitionist* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2017).

Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan, “Experience Markings,” in *Anarchist Guide to Historic House Museums* (Walnut Creek, CA: Leftcoast Press, 2016): 101-128.

Bess Williamson, *Accessible America: A History of Disability and Design* (New York: NYU Press, 2019).