October 2026

NICOLE BELOLAN, PHD

EDUCATION

University of Delaware
2017, Ph.D., History of American Civilization
2012, M.A., History
2009, M.A., Winterthur Program in American Material Culture
The Pennsylvania State University
2007, B.A., American Studies, French Minor – With Honors from the Schreyer Honors College

Employment History

February 2023-Present, Nicole Belolan Consulting LLC, Consulting Historian Public Historian and Independent Scholar, Riverton, NJ

- Providing a variety of inclusive and sustainable consulting services for history, humanities, and arts non-profits in the greater Philadelphia region and beyond.
    - Editing services
    - Social history and the history of everyday life research, writing, and interpretation
    - Disability history research, writing, and interpretation
    - Historical research, writing, and interpretation
    - Historical program development
    - Access and inclusion planning for disabled people
    - Collections management for small museums and historic sites
    - Oral history
    - Volunteer management
- Recent projects
    - Museum of Russian Art, Minneapolis, MN, RE:VIEW
    - New Jersey Council for the Humanities, Humanities Lab accessibility workshop
    - University of Minnesota, REPAIR History disability history web site content evaluation
    - National Park Service/National Council on Public History, Disability History Handbook writing, review, and workshop (publication transferred to academic press due to federal restrictions on content)
    - New York City Department of Education, reviewer and essay writer, disability history curriculum
    - Facilitator, Accessibility Working Group, National Council on Public History
    - James Monroe's Highland project collections manager (IMLS-funded)
    - 120 East State, Trenton, NJ, interpretive planning consultant
    - Friends of Cooch's Bridge Historic Site, oral history project manager and article author
    - Roebling Rowhouse Project, Roebling Museum, Roebling, NJ, researcher and writer of historic research report

    - George Washington's Mount Vernon education game project historical consultant
    - City of Wilmington, DE, Researcher and writer, Caesar Rodney and his involvement with slavery and enslavement

August 2018-January 2023, Public Historian in Residence, Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH), Rutgers University-Camden/National Council on Public History

- Served as Acting Director, Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH), January 2020-August 2020
    - Managed graduate and undergraduate students performing a variety of programming and other humanities projects and editing the *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, in addition to duties listed below
- Directed the Continuing Education Program in Historic Preservation (MARCH)
    - Shaped curriculum and identified and hired instructors
    - Taught classes and workshops
    - Promoted the program and managed enrollment and processed payments
    - Managed program assistant
    - Mentored program participants
    - Collaborated with advisory committee
- Co-Edited *The Public Historian* (National Council on Public History)
    - Managed, cultivated, and edited non-book reviews and articles
    - Coordinated calls for papers and complementary material on NCPH blog, *History@Work*, https://ncph.org/history-at-work/
    - Collaborated in managing Assistant Reviews Editor
- Served as Digital Media Editor (National Council on Public History)
    - Managed, cultivated, and edited blog content for *History@Work*
    - Managed 20 volunteer Lead and Affiliate Editors
    - Coordinated calls for papers and complementary material for NCPH journal, *The Public Historian*
    - Edited and developed free electronic content that complemented journal and blog

August 2017-June 2018 Program Coordinator and Postdoctoral Fellow-in-Residence, Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

- Facilitated access to humanities collections at museums, libraries, and archives for scholarly audiences through coordinating research fellowship program applicant recruitment and evaluation
- Assisted in designing humanities public programming at Consortium member museums and libraries, including researching and proposing programming content and prospective scholarly participants, in person and digitally
- Facilitated and promoted scholarly working groups in the history of science, technology and medicine, in person and digitally
- Facilitated and promoted Consortium initiatives by managing social media

August 2016-June 2017, Fellow in Public History, Rowan University, and Curator, Red Bank Battlefield Park (house museum and historic site), Gloucester County, NJ

- Curated collections at Whitall House Museum and Red Bank Battlefield Park
- Provided public and scholarly access to collections at Whitall House Museum
- Managed completion of National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program archaeology survey grant
- Managed county grant for interdisciplinary programming about shad and the environment
- Supervised and trained site manager, volunteer guides, and college interns in best practices in preservation of collections and providing access to those collections
- Coordinated social media outreach
- Taught upper-level undergraduate courses in public history, material culture, and related fields, emphasizing issues and trends in the museum and public history field more broadly
- Mentored undergraduates pursuing museum and public history careers

August 2013-December 2014, Graduate Assistant for Sustaining Places, University of Delaware Museum Studies Program, Newark, DE

- Developed and taught small museum workshops on collections documentation and management for professionals and volunteers from over 26 museums and historic sites
- Coordinated and promoted small museum workshops on topics such as podcasting, managing archaeological projects, social media, and board development
- Project managed for annual museum “SWAT” inventory volunteer project

June 2009-August 2010, Cataloguing Assistant, IMLS Furnishing Textile Cataloguing Project and Lunger Cataloguing Project, Winterthur Museum, Wilmington, DE

- Lunger Project
    - Catalogued and photographed 702 eighteenth- and nineteenth-century silver spoons and other small silver objects using collections management software KE Emu
- IMLS Project
    - Inventoried, researched, catalogued, and assessed over 800 furnishing textiles made in the twentieth century using diverse historic textiles using collections management software KE Emu
    - Recommended and assisted with collections preventative conservation, rehousing, and overall collections management of furnishing textiles
    - Facilitated access to collections by hiring, training, and supervising a photographer for textile collection cataloguing project

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

"Disabled People and Early American Material Culture," in *This is a Place We Made*, ed. Kathleen M. Brian, forthcoming. (Previously a National Park Service Publication).

“Crutches, Material Culture, and Disability In Eighteenth- and Nineteenth Century Early British North America,” in *The Routledge History of Disability in America*, ed. Laurel Daen and Sarah Handley-Cousins, forthcoming.

“Starting Right: Lessons from the Friends of Cooch’s Bridge Historic Site,” *History News*, 80, 1 (2025): 12-17. (Published Fall 2026)

Research Report for the City of Wilmington, “Caesar Rodney, Slavery, and Enslavement Research Report,” Summer 2026, City of Wilmington, DE. Read here.

Review: *An Independent Man: Ed Roberts and the Fight for Disability Rights*, Scot Danforth, *Pacific Historical Review* (2026) 95, 3: 353-355. Read here.

Review: A Day at the MEM—Centre des mémoires montréalaises. Tour led by Catherine Charlebois, Chief Curator, and staff. *The Public Historian*, 27, 3 (August 2025): 144-150. Read here.

“William Lee: George Washington’s Enslaved Valet,” in *Hidden Voices: Americans with Disabilities in United States History*, ed. Michael Rembis (New York: NYC Department of Education, 2024), 83-92.

Review: *File/Life: We Remember Stories of Pennhurst*. A project of the Institute on Disabilities, Temple University, College of Education and Human Development. Jonathan Atiencia, David Bradley, Harold Gordon, Ramona Griffiths, Cecilia Lee, Jacob Lee, Danielle Moore, Frank Orr, Biany Perez, Nicki Pombier, María Teresa Rodríguez, Margery Sly, and Lisa Sonneborn, Community Archivists and Collaborating Artists. April 20–23, 2023, Arch Street Meeting House, Philadelphia; July 25–27, 2023, The Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC; additional sites listed here. Published in *The Public Historian*, 46, 1 (February 2024): 151-157. Read here

“Disability History,” January 3, 2024, *The Inclusive Historian’s Handbook*.

“Folklife and the Material Culture of Disability History in Early America,” in Nicole Belolan and Marla Miller, eds., *Living with Disabilities in New England, 1630–1930* (Deerfield, MA: Dublin Seminar For New England Folklife, Inc., 2024), 142-159.

Nicole Belolan, “Choosing and [Not?] Using Artificial Limbs in 19th-Century America,” *Historic Deerfield Magazine*, Health and Wellness, Volume 19 (Autumn 2021): 9-13.

“The Material Culture of Gout in Early America,” in Elizabeth Guffey and Bess

Williamson, eds., *Making Disability Modern: Design Histories* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2020), 19-42.

Book review—Terry Childs and Mark S. Warner, eds., *Using and Curating Archaeological Collections*, in *History News: The Magazine of the American Association of State and Local History* Vol. 75. No. 2 (Spring 2020): 37.

"Dear Dr. Gruber," *All of Us*, July 21, 2020.

"'Confined to Crutches': James Logan and the Material Culture of Disability in Early America," *Pennsylvania Legacies*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (Fall 2017): 6-11.

"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.

"Object Lesson: Desire Tripp and Her Arm's Gravestone," *Common-Place*, 13, 3 (Spring 2013).

"From the Collection: 'The Blood of Murdered Time': Ann Warder's Berlin Work Collection at Winterthur, 1840-1865," *Winterthur Portfolio* 45, 4 (Winter 2011): 321-352.

OTHER WRITING

The Bud Watch NJ, https://budwatchnj.org/
Nature Notes, https://buttondown.com/NNatureNotes/

EDITING (SEE ALSO EDITING DUTIES ABOVE)

Sabbatical Editor, *Contingent*, 2023-2024

Co-Editor, *The Public Historian*, 2018-2023

Digital Media Editor, *History@Work*, 2018-2021

Nicole Belolan and Marla Miller, eds., *Living with Disabilities in New England, 1630–1930* (Deerfield, MA: Dublin Seminar For New England Folklife, Inc., 2024).

Editor, with Sarah Case, *LGBTQ Public History: Reports from the Field* (National Council on Public History, October 2019).

Founding Editor, *All of Us*, Disability History Association blog.

SELECTED WORKSHOPS, PANELS, AND PAPERS

OTHER PUBLIC HISTORY

"Stories for the 250th," Bethany Lutheran Church, Palmyra, NJ, June 16, 2026.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

"10 Things Every Teacher and Student Should Know about US Disability History," Learning Lounge, State of New Jersey Department of Education, Division of Teaching and Learning Services, October 15, 2024. Online.

"Disability, Language, and Public History Communication" workshop National Council on Public History, August 9, 2024. Online.

"Accessibility and Disability History at Museums and Historic Sites," Countdown to 2026 Series, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, April 3, 2024. Online.

Convener, Disability History in Public Space, Roundtable Discussion, Cultural Accessibility Conference, Art-Reach, October 3-5, 2023. Online.

Public Talk: "Disability History, Contemporary Rights," Sunday, June 11, 2023, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA.

"Disabilities Then, Disabilities Now," Democracy Conversation Project, NJ Humanities, Multiple Sites, 2022-2024

Panelist, Doing Accessible Digital History, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, January 2023

Panelist, Disability Justice in Preservation, Preservation League of New York State, September 27, 2022

Panelist, "A Public Historian's Toolkit for Disability Justice," National Council on Public History Annual Conference, May 2, 2022

"Building an Audience for Accessible Digital Programs," New Jersey Historical Commission Webinar and NJ Humanities Webinar, May 28, 2020
"Best Practices of Preserving Collections and Providing Access in a Crisis," New Jersey Historical Commission Webinar, April 20, 2020

Accessibility Lab, Small Museum Association Annual Meeting, February 16, 2020

"Accessible Museums, Accessible Objects: Interpreting Material Culture of

Disability for Contemporary Audiences," Crossing Boundaries: Interpreting Institutionalization, Disability Rights, and Public Policy in the Mid-Atlantic Region, Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH), November 19, 2016

DISABILITY HISTORY

Presenter, "Telling Disability Histories in Historic House Museums," National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, online, November 20, 2025.

Roundtable Participant, NPS Disability History Handbook pre-launch event, online, July 2025.

Presenter, Researching Disability History in Revolutionary-era Delaware, Revolution 250: Planning for the Semiquincentennial, Delaware Public Archives, Dover, DE, February 3, 2025

Chair, Disability, Material and Visual Cultures in Early America, Disability in the Vast Early Americas Conference, October 2023, University of Notre Dame, IN, October 21-22, 2023

Convener, Disability History in Public Space Roundtable Discussion, Art-Reach Cultural Accessibility Conference, October 3-5, 2023

Speaker, "'Disability Things' In National Park Collections," National Park Service (internal), August 15, 2023

Public Talk: "Disability History, Contemporary Rights," Sunday, June 11, 2023, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA.
Capstone Presentation, "Folklife and the Material Culture of Disability History in Early America," Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife and Culture, June 25, 2021
"Crutches," History of Science Society and Society for the History of Technology Virtual Forum Joint Round Table, October 10, 2020

Discussant, Making Disability Modern Roundtable Discussion, February 11, 2021, Bard Graduate Center

Panelist, "Disability Rights in the United States: A History in Three Parts," Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, August 13, 2020

"Accessing the Material Culture of Physical Disability in the Early Republic," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting (SHEAR), July 19, 2019

What William Birch Left Out: The Visual Culture of Disability in Early America," William Birch and the Complexities of American Visual Culture: A Symposium Celebrating the

Tenth Anniversary of the Visual Culture Program at the Library Company of Philadelphia, Library Company of Philadelphia, October 5, 2018

"The Material Culture of Living with Physical Disability at Home, 1700-1900," Tuesday Talk, DAR Museum, Washington, DC, April 11, 2017, http://www.dar.org/museum/education/museum-program-videos.

"Gamaliel's Artificial Leg and Elizabeth's Invalid Furniture: Disability and Bradford Family History," Reclaiming a House's History, Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Duxbury, MA, March 25, 2017

Panelist for post-performance audience discussion about disability and The Elephant Man, by Bernard Pomerance, performed by the Resident Ensemble Players (REP), University of Delaware, March 16, 2017

"Shawnee Captive, Unhealthy Sister, and Infirm Shaker: Constructing Histories about People with Disabilities through the Things they Used at Home," Society for the History of Early Republic Annual Meeting (SHEAR), July 19, 2014

"Dismembered Memory: Desire Tripp and Her Arm's Gravestone," Newport Historical Society Annual Meeting Keynote Address, Newport, RI, September 22, 2011

EDITING AND WRITING

Public History Writing Lab, National Council on Public History (NCPH) Annual Meeting, March 11, 2021

"Writing for History Publications," American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Webinar, May 30, 2019

"Publishing in Public History: A Structured Conversation," Repair Work, National Council on Public History (NCPH) Annual Meeting, March 29, 2019

SELECTED TEACHING

Department of History, Rutgers University-Camden

Museums in the Digital Age (graduate seminar) (Fall 2023)

Development of the United States I: U.S. Survey I (undergraduate survey) (Fall 2022)

Accessibility and Inclusion in Public History and Public Life (graduate seminar) (Spring 2021)

Continuing Education in Historic Preservation, Rutgers University-Camden

Reading Groups for *Robert Morris's Folly*, *Historic Real Estate*, *Ethnic Renewal in Philadelphia's Chinatown*, *The House on Diamond Hill*, and *Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits*, *Entangled Lives*, *Smell Detectives* (2020-2022)

Preservation Showcases (Spring 2022 and Fall 2022)

Introduction to Online Historic Sources for Preservation Research (October 12 and 19, 2019)

Introduction to Historic Interiors (Five-week workshop, spring 2019)

Cleaning Historic Interiors for Beginners (May 10 and 17, 2019)

Department of History, University of Delaware

History Museums Behind the Scenes (undergraduate seminar) (Summer 2017 and Winter 2018)

World History from 1400-Present (undergraduate survey) (Summer 2014)

Department of History, Rowan University

American Material Culture Studies (undergraduate seminar) (Spring 2017)

Introduction to Public History (undergraduate seminar) (Fall 2016)

SELECTED BOARD SERVICE

2019-2024, Board Member, Disability History Association
2018-2023, Ex-officio Board Member, National Council on Public History

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023, Outstanding Young History Alumni Award, The Pennsylvania State University
2020, Rutgers-Camden Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service
2018, NEH Summer Institute, Global Histories of Disability
2015-2016, University of Delaware Dissertation Fellowship
2015-2016, Winterthur Library Dissertation Fellowship
2015, American Antiquarian Society Center for Historic American Visual Culture Fellowship
2015, General Society of Colonial Wars Caesar Rodney Fellowship
2015, Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science (now Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine) Research Fellowship
2015, Winterthur Library Short-term Research Fellowship
2013-2014, Delaware Public Humanities Institute Fellowship (DELPHI), Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware

OTHER TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Rutgers Environmental Steward (2026)

PUBLIC SERVICE

2026-present, Councilmember, Borough of Riverton, NJ
2025-present, Chair, Borough of Riverton, NJ, Green Team

OTHER SERVICE

Served as a peer-reviewer for: the National Endowment for the Humanities; the New Jersey Council on the Humanities; Middlesex County, NJ; Winterthur Museum and Library Dissertation and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program; and multiple peer-reviewed publications.