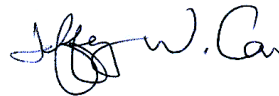
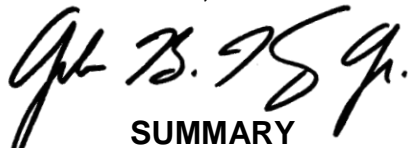




TO: Cultural Education Committee
FROM: Jeffrey Cannell 
SUBJECT: New York State History Month Activities
DATE: November 10, 2014
AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

November is New York State History Month. This is a time to celebrate New York State history and New York's state and local historians.

Reason for Consideration

Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, Section 57.02, designates November as New York State History Month as a celebration of state history and contributions of state and local government historians. The law authorizes the Education Department to undertake projects to recognize the month. Robert Weible, New York State Historian, will provide the committee with an overview of History Month activities across the state.

Background Information

The Office of Cultural Education's Office of State History coordinates statewide activities in November and throughout the year with the state's many history museums, historical organizations, and the network of officially designated municipal historians.

Listed below are the State Museum's History Month activities and statewide initiatives with cooperating organizations

Office of State History/State Museum Activities

Provision of a specially designed logo to be used by any New York State organization sponsoring History Month activities

History Month web page listing Museum, Library, and Archives resources and offerings and linking to activities sponsored by cooperating institutions

“New York Minutes,” a web feature showing significant statewide historical events for each day in November

Film presentation: *The Rise and Fall of Penn Station* (Nov. 2)

Lecture: “Lasting Impact: The Waterford Flight,” by Senior Historian Brad Utter (Nov. 12)

Lecture: “Cities Under Pressure: How the Great Migration Affected Upstate New York,” by senior historian Jennifer Lemak (Nov. 19)

Family program: Great Spaces and Places (Nov. 22)

Civil War lecture and book signings: renowned Civil War historian Harold Holzer on his new book *Lincoln and the Power of the Press*; combined with a book signing for the recently published State Museum catalog, *An Irrepressible Conflict: The Empire State in the Civil War* (Nov. 24)

Family program: “Celebrating 100 Years of the New York State Museum’s Carousel” (Nov. 29)

Special presentation: “Preserving the Carousel: The History and Conservation of the NYS Museum’s Carousel,” by historian emeritus John Scherer

Statewide Initiatives

New York Council for the Humanities: sponsorship of more than 50 presentations on a wide range of topics at public venues across New York

Association of Public Historians of New York State: public meetings to promote more and better historical markers in New York, with funding from the New York Council for the Humanities and the William T. Pomeroy Foundation

University Club, Albany: sponsorship of ten programs, open to the public, on New York State history, all held at the Club, 141 Washington Avenue, Albany:

- Monday, November 3 - Mayor’s Luncheon - Albany: Our History, Our Future;
- Friday, November 7 - Reception - A Celebration of New York State History Month – Honoring the artist Len Tantillo;
- Monday, November 10 - 6 p.m. - Presentation - Art, Literature, Industry and Conflict on the Hudson with author Vernon Benjamin;
- Thursday, November 13 - Dinner - Sharing a U Club Tradition: The 106th Annual Duck Dinner;
- Friday, November 14 - 6 p.m. - Presentation - Haunted History in the North Country: The Legend of Major Duncan Campbell with Duncan Crary;
- Tuesday, November 18 - 6 p.m. - Panel Discussion - Building Modern Social Justice Movements with Barbara Smith and Dr. Virginia Eubanks, moderated by Elaine Houston of WNYT;

- Wednesday, November 19 - Luncheon - Achievement and Betrayal at the New York State Capitol - 1913 - a discussion of Gov. Sulzer with former Assemblyman Mark J. F. Schroeder;
- Friday, November 21 - 6 p.m. - Reception - History Hunt Wrap-Up Party;
- Monday, November 24 - Luncheon - New York's Tradition of Innovation with P. Thomas Carroll, Senior Scholar and Treasurer, Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway; and
- Tuesday, November 25 - 6 p.m. - Presentation - Hands On History with Ann Pfau and Dave Hochfelder, founders of the "98 Acres in Albany" project, a study of buildings demolished and families uprooted for the construction of the Empire State Plaza.

University at Albany: sponsorship of the annual conference "Researching New York," with a special presentation by celebrated historian Richard Norton Smith on his recently published biography of Nelson Rockefeller

New York Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation: sponsorship of various programs at state parks throughout New York