

State Historian's Update

September 2023

Board of Regents Meeting



New York State Historian

The New York State Historian position was created by an act of the Legislature in 1895 to “provide for the appointment of a State Historian and for the compilation of the military and naval records of the State.”



Local Government Historians



New York is one of only two states in the nation that require that all villages, towns, cities, counties and boroughs appoint a local historian.

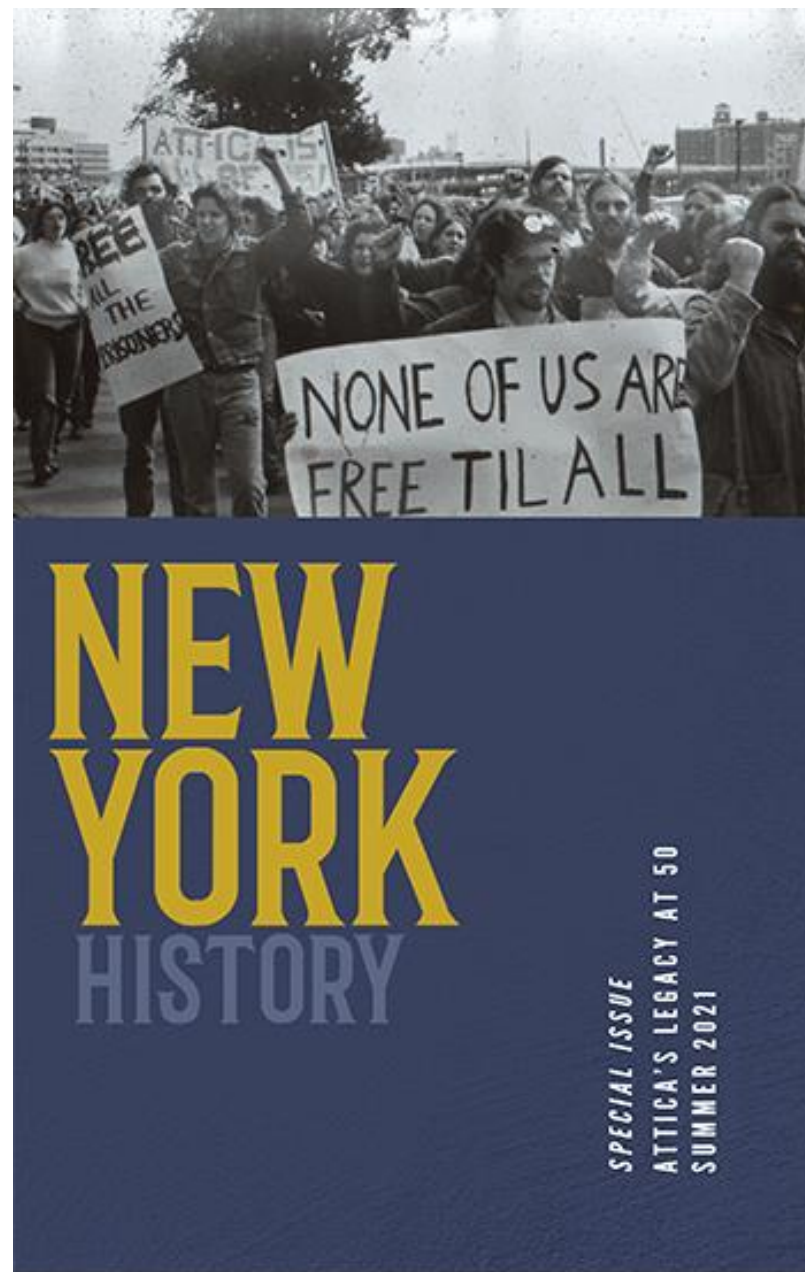
All local government historians report to their municipalities and to the State Historian according to Cultural Affairs Law 57.07 and 57.09.



Museum Chartering

Museums and historical societies with collections within New York State are required to charter as a private education corporation with The New York State Board of Regents. The Board of Regents also incorporates friends groups and other cultural agencies through a Regents certificate of incorporation. The State Historian provides program oversight for Museum Chartering.





New York State 250th Commemoration Act

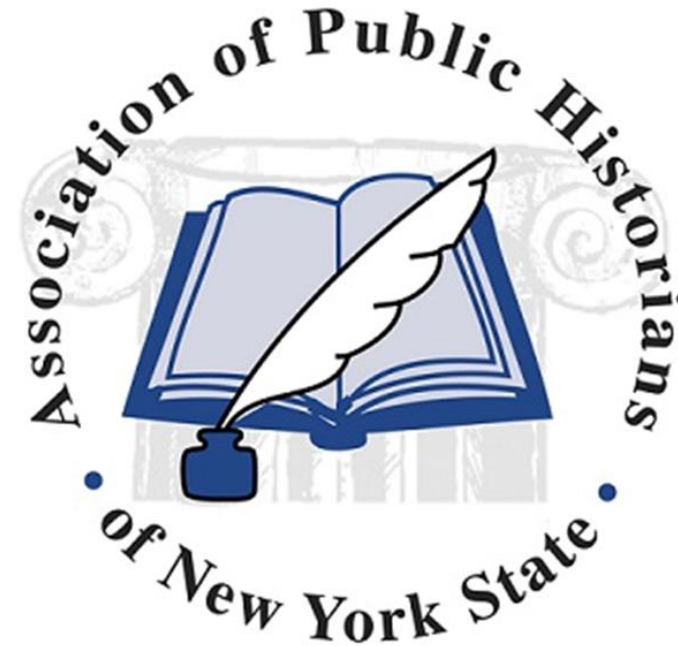
- Passed the Legislature by unanimous vote.
- Governor Hochul signed into law February 24th, 2022.
- Creates a State Commission made up of 21 voting members. The Commissioner of SED and the Commissioner of OPRHP are co-chairs.



Senator Shelley B. Mayer (left) and Assemblymember Carrie Woerner



New York State 250th Field Guide



- Partnership between the Office of State History and the Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS)
- Based on the American Association of State and Local History's *Making History at 250* field guide



6 Expansive Themes

- **Indigenous History is New York's History**
- **Choose Your Side**
- **The Power of Place**
- **We the People?**
- **Unfinished Revolutions**
- **Changing Interpretations of the Revolution**



Other Current Initiatives



- **AASLH Conference panel on Ensuring Authentic Indigenous History is incorporated in all 250th planning and programming.**
- **Developing a Revolutionary NY 250 website.**
- **Meetings with State and Federal agencies.**
- **Taking part in all America250 state and regional planning meetings.**
- **Partnering with SailNYC250 to bring the international fleet of tall ships and US Naval Review to New York Harbor on July 4th, 2026.**



THANK YOU!

