

# NORA KATZ

## EDUCATION

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**Master of Philosophy in Public History and Cultural Heritage**, awarded with distinction

**Trinity College Dublin**, Dublin, Ireland

**Thesis:** “No More Fourth Wall: Performing Reality, Witnessing History, and the Rise of ANU Productions”

**Bachelor of Arts in History**, *cum laude*

**Carleton College**, Northfield, Minnesota

**Minors:** Archaeology and Medieval & Renaissance Studies

**Thesis:** “Mapping Norumbega: Aesthetics of Barren and Bountiful Landscapes in Samuel de Champlain’s New France, 1607-1632”

**Honors:** Phi Beta Kappa; Honors in Music Performance; David John Field Prize for exhibiting “qualities of imagination, ingenuity, energy, verve, and zest for life;” Toni Award in the Arts; Vice President of Mortar Board Senior Honor Society

**Edward H. “Ted” Mullin ’06 Fellowship Prize**, Carleton College History Department, 2015

## SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Historian**, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument, 2023-present

As the first historian at this new unit of the National Park Service, I conduct historical research; consult on interpretation initiatives; develop public programs; lead museum and archival collections projects; collaborate with colleagues on the preservation and restoration of the historic Evers Home; and interpret and share the lives and legacies of Medgar and Myrlie Evers.

**Director of Heritage and Interpretation**, Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, 2017-2023

Developed innovative southern Jewish public history programming throughout a thirteen-state region; produced and hosted *Southern & Jewish*, a video podcast that shares stories from the Jewish South; planned and led Southern Jewish Heritage Tours with a focus on Civil Rights history; served as co-chair of the Board of Overseers of Temple B’nai Israel, a historic synagogue in Natchez, Mississippi; oversaw restoration, fundraising, and programming at Temple B’nai Israel; developed and managed the ISJL Institutional History Archive; edited and designed *Shalom Y’all* magazine and marketing materials for the department and the organization.

**Grant Writer and Interpretation Consultant**, Noxubee County Historical Society, 2022

Led strategic planning sessions with board members of this local Mississippi historical society; proposed projects that will uplift underrepresented voices in the county’s history, especially stories about the history of slavery, segregation, and the Trail of Tears; wrote local, state, and federal grants to support preservation and interpretation initiatives.

**Curatorial Intern**, Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, 2017

Conducted independent archival research at libraries and archives across Dublin, Ireland, to source images and develop content for the exhibition “Glasnevin in Images.”

**Curatorial Intern**, New Bedford Whaling Museum, 2015

Collaborated with curatorial staff members on exhibition design, management, and installation; produced original content and research for the exhibit “For the Love of Beauty: The New England Aesthetic Style in Fine and Decorative Arts, 1870 – 1920;” curated an exhibition on the 1848 masterpiece *Grand Panorama of a Whaling Voyage ‘Round the World*; designed video production curriculum for the Museum’s high school apprenticeship program; edited content for the book *Treasures of the New Bedford Whaling Museum*.

**Writing Consultant**, Carleton College Academic Support Center, 2013–2016

Coached peers on writing and editing for a variety of subjects; led professional development workshops for tutors and staff; explored the relationships between museum interpretation and writing center pedagogy.

**Student Exhibition Assistant**, Carleton College History Department, 2014

Coordinated an exhibition exploring medieval manuscripts with introductory level history students; assisted with designing, writing, curating, and installing the exhibition “Process of Illumination: Word, Image, and the Scribal Imagination in the Middle Ages;” led a workshop about producing engaging exhibition narratives.

**Student Excavator**, Blackfriary Community Heritage and Archaeology Project, 2014

Excavated a 13th-century Dominican friary as a student at the Irish Archaeological Field School in Trim, Ireland; collaborated with archaeologists and historians from the National Museum of Ireland to preserve artifacts and share findings; produced original research about religious community life in medieval Trim.

**Archival Intern**, Mercer Museum & Library and Fonthill Castle, 2013

Developed an over-100-page research guide for the Bucks County Courthouse Archive, which contains thousands of documents spanning over 400 years; inventoried and organized the archival collection.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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***Rooted: A Modern Mississippian Map to American Home Cooking***, forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi, 2024

My chapter on the Mississippi Delta's Jewish foodways will be featured in this book by *Top Chef's* Nick Wallace.

***Doikayt: A Jewish TTRPG Anthology***, Kickstarter project, 2020

"Lunch Rush," an original comedic storytelling game about workers in a Jewish deli, is featured in this crowd-funded anthology of Jewish tabletop role-playing games.

***Literary Starbucks: Fresh-Brewed, No-Whip, Half-Caf Bookish Humor***, St. Martin's Press, August 2016

Based on the viral Tumblr blog of the same name, *Literary Starbucks* explores the hilarity of classic authors and characters visiting Starbucks in the present day. German language publication in July 2017.

***Treasures of the Whaling Museum: Touchstones to the Region's Past***, September 2015

This definitive work serves as a comprehensive catalogue of the New Bedford Whaling Museum's diverse collection.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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**Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference**, October 2023

"Civil Rights Tourism in the Jewish South: Notes from the Field;" in conversation with practitioners and civil rights historians about the opportunities and pitfalls inherent in southern civil rights tourism.

**Oral History Association Conference**, October 2022

"What Have We Learned? Lessons from CAJM's Unprecedented Pandemic-Era Consortial Oral History Project;" panelist discussing the experience of doing digital oral history work during the pandemic.

**Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference**, October 2021

"Expanding the Archives;" panelist discussing the development of the ISJL Institutional History Archive and its historiographic and community value.

**ISJL Education Conference**, June 2019

"Hit the Road, Jews! Experiential Learning in the Jewish South;" workshop for Jewish educators connecting meaningful educational travel experiences to contemporary Jewish identity, and exploring the history of Jews and the Civil Rights Movement with a focus on Freedom Summer in 1964.

**Global Day of Jewish Learning**, October 2018

"Travelers, Tourists, Pilgrims: Identity and Place in Journeys to the Jewish South;" online lecture exploring Jewish travel experiences through the lens of pilgrimage, using ideas from the fields of public history and memory studies.

**Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference**, October 2018

"Digital History and Mapmaking;" workshop on digital mapping technologies for public history projects.

**Oral History Network of Ireland Conference**, June 2017

"Performing Remembrance: History, Ethics, and Spectatorship in Irish Site-Specific Theatre;" exploring the ways in which contemporary theatre makers present and process the past through site-specific performance.

## LEADERSHIP

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**New Stage Theatre**, board member, 2019-present

**Partners for Sacred Places**, Historic Synagogue Fund advisory board member, 2022

**UpStart Change Accelerator**, national cohort member, 2021

**Mississippi Chorus**, board member, 2018-2020

**Institute of Museum and Library Services**, grant reviewer, 2020