

## **Barbara Berglund Sokolov, PhD**

San Francisco Bay Area

barbaraberglundsokolov.com

[bbs@bbshistorical.com](mailto:bbs@bbshistorical.com) / 510-393-1934

### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

- Accomplished, dynamic historian specializing in the American West, California, and the San Francisco Bay Area with a record of award-winning exhibitions, peer-reviewed books and articles, stylistic breadth, and the ability to communicate orally and in writing to multiple and varied audiences. Author of *Making San Francisco American: Cultural Frontiers in the Urban West, 1846-1906* (University Press of Kansas, 2007).
- Judicious, visionary administrator with ten years' experience in executive leadership positions involving collaborative governance, team-building, hiring, budgeting, community partnerships, grant-writing, and the ability to both see the big picture and attend to the details necessary to get a job done.
- Organized and effective program producer and manager with eight years' experience launching and leading innovative, engaging public history programs in university settings and for the general public, often in partnership with historical and community organizations.
- Creative, inspiring teacher and learning facilitator with over fifteen years' experience developing history curricula, workshops, and trainings for multicultural urban universities and docent, staff, and intern education programs.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Employment**

Historical Consultant, BBS Historical and The Joy of History, 2020-

Historian, Presidio Trust, 2014-2020

Associate Professor with tenure, Department of History, University of South Florida, 2009-2014

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of South Florida, 2003-2009

#### **Education**

Ph.D. in History, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 2002

M.A. in History, San Francisco State University, 1995

B.A. in Sociology, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1987

#### **Fellowships and Awards**

- Making San Francisco American: Cultural Frontiers in the Urban West, 1846-1906* among the books chosen by the San Francisco Public Library for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Golden Gate Park to tell the story of how Golden Gate Park came to be and what San Francisco was like 150 years ago, April 2020.
- Western Museum Association Charles Redd Center for Western Studies Award for Exhibition Excellence for, *Exclusion: The Presidio's Role in World War II Japanese American Incarceration*, 2018
- American Alliance of Museums Excellence in Label Writing Award for the exhibition, *Operation Babylift: Perspectives and Legacies*, 2015
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Howard R. Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders, Yale University, 2004-2005
- Fletcher Jones Foundation Research Fellowship, Huntington Library, San Marino, California, 2004

### **Executive Leadership**

Associate Chair, Department of History, University of South Florida

- Collaboratively managed growing department of over 25 faculty with Department Chair, Graduate Director, and Undergraduate Director.
- Oversaw schedule of course offerings in light of departmental needs and university requirements.

Executive Council Member, Department of History, University of South Florida

- Advised Department Chair in matters relating to departmental governance and university policies.
- Hired new faculty.
- Evaluated departmental colleagues for annual reviews, mid-tenure review, and tenure & promotion.

Graduate Program Director, Department of History, University of South Florida

- Directed history department's MA & PhD programs.
- Launched successful new, interdisciplinary PhD program.
- Led faculty Graduate Committee.
- Updated policies and created manuals for M.A. & PhD programs.
- Oversaw graduate admissions and awarding of graduate student teaching assistantships.
- Developed more inclusive and streamlined processes.
- Served as department's graduate program liaison with college and university.
- Supervised and expanded staff role of Graduate Program Assistant.

Appointed and Elected Professional Leadership Positions

- Committee Member, Robert Cherny Prize, American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch, 2019-2021
- Advisory Committee Member, Shaping San Francisco, 2017-2019
- Nominating Committee Member, Western History Association, 2012-2014
- Member of the Board of Directors, Urban History Association, 2012-2014
- Editorial Board Member, *Western Historical Quarterly*, 2011-2013
- Prize Committee Member, Kenneth Jackson Award for Best Book, Urban History Association, 2010

### **Public History**

#### ***At the Presidio Trust:***

- Directed historical research, community engagement, public programming and historic site activation for *Presidio 27: "Mutiny" at the Stockade*, a two-day commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1968 peaceful sit-down protest by 27 prisoners in the Presidio Stockade, a galvanizing event of the GI Movement against the Vietnam War. Moderated panel discussions, created multimedia tour app for hand-held devices, conducted oral history interviews with the Presidio 27 community, made local TV news appearances.
- Directed historical research and writing for two award-winning special exhibitions – *Operation Babylift: Perspectives and Legacies* and *Exclusion: The Presidio's Role in WWII Japanese American Incarceration*. Collaborated with exhibition team, co-curators, and community partners from concept development and content acquisition to script writing, design, fabrication, and marketing.
- Conceptualized, produced, and created original public history programs, in collaboration with public programs team, for audiences of 60-200. Topics ranged from indigenous history under Spanish colonialism to Buffalo Soldiers, Golden Gate bridge workers, local Richmond District history, the restoration of Mountain Lake Park, Presidio bands, Japanese American incarceration during World War

II, and women of early California. Identify and coordinate with presenters, moderate discussions, and create relevant and engaging content and formats.

- Created and facilitated the Presidio Book Club, a monthly discussion-based book club open to members of the public, whether or not they had read the book, designed to enhance exposure to high-quality, accessible academic history. Topics focused on California and the West with a Presidio connection. Drew intimate audience of 10-30, with a core community of regular attendees. Taught high school youth from Bayview YMCA afterschool program to co-lead book club meeting focused on Buffalo Soldiers.
- Initiated and implemented new discussion-based, active learning education program for docents, interns and staff to enhance interpretation of permanent and special exhibitions at the Presidio Officers' Club. Created syllabi, chose readings, and designed assignments. Also created docent working groups for both new and ongoing historical projects.
- Designed docent-led Officers' Club exhibition tours with team of docent researchers and guides, structured around key themes and organized around a menu of story options. Trained docents in historical research methods and in how to bring history to life through storytelling.
- Created concept and content for the Presidio Experience Tour. A monthly event that combines a shuttle tour of the park with a tour of historical exhibitions in the Officers' Club. Trained staff and docents in content and interpretive techniques. Also created route and content for walking tours of the Presidio's Main Post and trained docents to deliver them.

***At the University of South Florida:***

- Built new Public History field and curriculum in collaboration with three other faculty members.

Director and creator of Urban Public History, a graduate course offered in collaboration with Tampa's Downtown Partnership

- Initiated partnership with Tampa's Downtown Partnership's Do-the-Local-Motion downtown walking program.
- Directed students to develop scripts and routes of history walks on community-oriented topics: Frontier Tampa, Shopping Downtown, In the Line of Duty, and Illicit Tampa.
- Trained students in skills that allowed them to make history come alive for the audience of 40+ people that attended each walk.
- Developed funding in the form of a Community-based Learning Expense Mini-Grant from the University of South Florida, Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships.
- Generated media exposure in numerous outlets (TV news, local NPR radio, print, online).

Director and Curator of "Siempre West Tampa," a virtual museum exhibit detailing the community's rich Cuban and African American past

- Initiated collaboration with community scholars and the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce.
- Partnered with USF Library Special Collections for web space and design.
- Directed graduate student teams to write text and assist in conceptualization and development of the virtual museum.
- Developed funding in the form of a Community-based Learning Expense Mini-Grant from the University of South Florida, Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships.

### **Oral History**

- Initiated and implemented *Presidio Recollections*, an oral history project designed to produce new historical knowledge about the Cold War Presidio for use in exhibitions, public programs, and social media. Developed partnership with the Oral History Center at the University of California Berkeley. Direct project conceptualization, identify narrators, conduct interviews, and oversee contracting and budget.
- Designed and conducted the oral history project, *Living Social Change: Gar Alperovitz & The Search for a Community Sustaining Economy* for The Democracy Collaborative, a Washington, D.C. think tank. Project focused on the activism and scholarship of political economist and co-founder Gar Alperovitz and his key collaborators. All interviews archived at Boston University's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center.

### **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

- Frontier Cities: Encounters at the Crossroads of Empire*, edited with Jay Gitlin and Adam Arenson (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013).
- Making San Francisco American: Cultural Frontiers in the Urban West, 1846-1906* (University Press of Kansas, 2007).
- “Western Living *Sunset* Style in the 1920s and 30s: The Middlebrow, The Modern, and The Civilized,” *The Western Historical Quarterly*, 37 (Summer 2006): 133-157.
- “Chinatown’s Tourist Terrain: Representation and Racialization in Nineteenth-Century San Francisco,” *American Studies*, Vol. 46: No. 2 (Summer 2005): 5-29.
- “‘The Days of Old, the Days of Gold, the Days of ’49’: Identity, History, and Memory at the California Midwinter International Exposition, 1894” *The Public Historian*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (Fall 2003): 25-49.

### **Select Presentations**

- Keynote speaker, Presidio Historical Association Annual Luncheon, April 2019.
- Panelist on Roundtable *Exploring the Gilded Age in California and its Reverberations Today*, California Historical Society, May 2019.
- Keynote Speaker, Honors Graduation Banquet, San Francisco State Department of History, April 2018.
- Featured Expert in Documentary Film, *Black Jack Pershing: Love & War*, 2017.
- Paper Presented, “Labor at the Midwinter Fair,” California Historical Society, May 2015.
- Panelist on Roundtable Reflecting on Anne Hyde’s *Empire, Nations & Families: A History of the North American West, 1800-1860*, American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch, August 2015.
- Paper presented, “Race, Class and Gender in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century San Francisco,” *Shaping San Francisco*, November, 2015.
- Commentator for *Gendered Borders: The Modification and Commodification of “Proper” Gender Roles in the West*, Western History Association, October 2012.
- Chair, *Urban Historians and Foundation Myths I*, Urban History Association, October 2010.
- Panel Chair and Commentator, *Rebuilding San Francisco: Social Divisions in a 20th Century City*, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, October 2009.
- Panel Chair, *City by the Bay: Issues in San Francisco's Urban History*, Urban History Association, November 2008.
- Invited Participant, Frontier Cities Symposium hosted by the Howard R. Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders at Yale University and the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri-St-Louis, February and March 2008.
- Panelist on Roundtable Session, *The Shape of the City: Contesting Culture and Space in Nineteenth-Century America*, the American Historical Association Meeting, January 2007. Paper presented, “Cultural Frontiers: San Francisco’s Urban Spaces of Empire.”