

[Call for Editorial Board Members: Literary and Cultural Heritage Maps of Pennsylvania](#)

Announcement published by Bernadette Lear on Thursday, June 2, 2022

Type:

Call for Volunteers

Date:

July 15, 2022

Location:

Pennsylvania, United States

Subject Fields:

Women's & Gender History / Studies, Race / Ethnic Studies, African American History / Studies, Asian American History / Studies, Latin American and Caribbean History / Studies

The Literary and Cultural Heritage Maps of Pennsylvania project is seeking Editorial Board members to assist in ongoing efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) on its sites and within its editorial operations. For additional project and application details, see below. If interested, contact Bernadette A. Lear (BAL19@psu.edu), Affiliate Faculty of the PACFTB, no later than Friday, July 15th, 2022.

The [Literary and Cultural Heritage Maps of Pennsylvania](#) is a digital humanities project and reference source developed and maintained by the [Pennsylvania Center for the Book](#) (PACFTB, a state affiliate of the [Library of Congress Center for the Book](#)) within the Education Library at Penn State's University Park campus. It currently consists of a [database of approximately 1,000 biographies](#) of literary and cultural figures who are connected to Pennsylvania, about [300 feature articles](#) concerning Pennsylvania cultural history topics, plus a [Literary Heritage Map](#), a [Cultural Heritage Map](#), and other maps that present similar information geospatially. Elementary and secondary curricula are being developed to encourage educational use of the sites. For more information, see our [About page](#).

Inspired by a [paper-based map from the 1950s](#) and significantly expanded 10-20 years ago, our existing biographies and feature articles were primarily developed as course-related writing assignments for Penn State and Lock Haven undergraduate students. After undertaking significant content assessments in 2021/2022, however, we have redeveloped our Inclusion Criteria and other internal documentation to center diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). We now prioritize new content about women, people of color, and other historically excluded/underrepresented groups. Also, we are revising older content to be more culturally aware and informative. Thus, we seek additional Editorial Board members with personal or professional experiences, community connections, and/or academic knowledge that can assist us in attaining our current purpose of representing all geographic locations and demographic groups that have contributed to Pennsylvania's literary and cultural heritage. We especially welcome Editorial Board members who will empower and equip others who choose to work with us, and who will help us identify and correct editorial procedures that contain systemic biases or otherwise hinder the project's development.

Editorial Board members' duties are as follows:

Citation: Bernadette Lear. *Call for Editorial Board Members: Literary and Cultural Heritage Maps of Pennsylvania*. H-Announce. 08-22-2022.

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- Assist PACFTB faculty and staff in identifying and prioritizing cultural and literary topics, categories, and biographies to be added to the project.
- Assist in assessing and evaluating the Literary and Cultural Heritage Maps project's websites and advise PACFTB faculty and staff about opportunities for enhancement.
- Review inclusion criteria, style guides, and other project documentation and advise PACFTB faculty and staff about necessary or desirable revisions.
- Identify potential authors within one's geographic and other communities; communicate the project's purpose, priorities, and procedures to them; and assist PACFTB faculty and staff in reviewing authors' contributions to the project.
- Assist authors in using primary and secondary information sources pertaining to one's assigned areas of expertise.
- Assist PACFTB faculty and staff in reviewing other incoming submissions pertaining to one's assigned areas of expertise.
- Notify PACFTB faculty and staff of, and assist with, opportunities to promote the project to educators, librarians, historical society and museum employees, and other potential users within one's assigned areas of expertise.
- Attend meetings (held virtually, approximately once per month) and assist with other aspects of the project upon request of the project's administrator (Bernadette A. Lear)
- Maintain one's knowledge of Pennsylvania culture, history, literature, populations, and scholarship by engaging in relevant educational activities or professional development opportunities.

We are seeking at least 3 new Editorial Board members this year. New members will serve staggered terms of 2 or 3 years (August 1, 2022-July 31, 2024, or August 1, 2022-July 31, 2025), with the possibility of reappointment for additional 2-year terms. Each member will be assigned several Pennsylvania counties contiguous to their location or research interests; chronological periods; populations; and/or subject areas of expertise (such as African American History).

If interested, contact [Bernadette A. Lear \(BAL19@psu.edu\)](mailto:BAL19@psu.edu), Affiliate Faculty of the PACFTB, no later than Friday, July 15th. Please include a brief statement indicating your background related to DEI, History, Humanities, Geography, Literature, development/review of reference sources, editorial work,

and other topics related to the project. Also, please indicate which Pennsylvania counties, major cities, chronological periods, topics, and populations are of greatest interest to you. As currently configured, the project's websites highlight:

- Cultural Subjects: Activism, Art and Design, Athletics, Business, Education, Entertainment, Law and Politics, Medicine, Military, Religion, and Science
- Cultural Periods: Before 1600, 1600-1775, 1775-1800, 1800-1865, 1865-1900, 1900-1945, 1945-present
- Literary Genres: Children's, Fiction, Young Adult, Graphic/Comic, Journalism, Nonfiction, Oral Tradition, and Screenwriting/Playwriting
- Literary Periods: Before 1600, Colonial, Revolutionary, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, and Contemporary

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact Info:

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