



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

November 8, 2024

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No.	<u>240373</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
REC & ED	-L

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Recommendation of the Appointment of County Historian in accordance with
New York State Arts and Cultural Affairs Law Section 57.07

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body appoint Christine Ridarsky as County Historian in accordance with New York State Arts and Cultural Affairs Law Section 57.07.

Pursuant to Resolution 105 of 2023, Monroe County and the City of Rochester entered into an Intermunicipal Agreement ("IMA") to move the County's historical archives from St. John Fisher's Lavery Library to the Local History and Genealogy Division of the Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County (the "Local History Division"). The Local History Division has been holding and maintaining the County's historical archives; performing the duties of the County Historian; and evaluating optimal physical and virtual spaces to provide these services. The current term of the IMA is from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, and may be renewed for up to three (3) additional one-year terms. From the Commencement of the IMA, Ms. Ridarsky has been overseeing and providing County Historian services.

As County Historian, Ms. Ridarsky will be responsible for preserving and interpreting the history of Monroe County and its city, towns, and villages. Her duties will fall into four categories: 1) research and writing, 2) teaching and public presentations, 3) historic preservation (documents, artifacts, and buildings), and 4) organization, advocacy, and tourism promotion. In addition, she will maintain the County's historical archives.

The specific legislative action required is to appoint Christine Ridarsky as County Historian in accordance with New York State Arts and Cultural Affairs Law Section 57.07, for a term to commence immediately and to expire co-terminously with the Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Rochester for the provision of County Historian Services authorized by Resolution 105 of 2023, together with any renewals thereof.

The legislative action requested in this referral is not an "Action," as that term is defined in 6 NYCRR § 617.2(b), and is not subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

This appointment will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the current Monroe County budget.

I recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,


Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

CHRISTINE L. RIDARSKY

HISTORIAN/MANAGER

Rochester, NY

585-461-5817

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EXPERIENCE

- January 2012–present Director of Historical Services, Rochester Public Library, Rochester, NY.
- October 2008–present Historian, City of Rochester, New York.
- June 2009–present Editor, *Rochester History* journal.
- Sept. 2013–Jan. 2019 Director, High Falls Center & Interpretive Museum, City of Rochester/Rochester Public Library, Rochester, New York.
- July 2007–June 2010 Archival Consultant, Documentation of Land Use and Population on the Hector Backbone (Phase I – Planning; Phase II – Survey; Phase III – Collections Development Planning), Interlaken Historical Society/Schuyler County Historical Society.
- July 2001–July 2009 Project Historian, Finger Lakes National Forest Farmstead Archaeology Project, State University of New York, College at Brockport.
- July–December 2007 Adjunct Instructor, State University of New York, College at Brockport, Department of History. Courses: HST 211 – Modern America; HST 330 – History of Recreation and Leisure; HST 401/501 – Field Methods in Local History Research.
- March 2002–August 2004 Regional Archivist, New York State Archives Documentary Heritage Program, Rochester Regional Library Council.
- January 2002–January 2003 Archivist/Oral History Coordinator, Baker-Cederberg Museum and Archives (now known as the Rochester Medical Museum and Archives), Rochester Regional Health.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- President, Association of Public Historians of New York State, 2020–present; Trustee, 2010–2018; Regional Coordinator (Region 11), 2019; Deputy Regional Coordinator (Region 11), 2012–2018; Instructor, New Historian's Orientation, 2013–2019.
- Co-chair, Government Historians Committee, National Council on Public History, 2018–2019; Member, 2015–present.
- Member, Equity Committee, Allendale Columbia School, 2020–present

Vice President, Joseph Avenue Arts & Cultural Alliance, 2019; trustee, 2016–2018.

Collections Committee, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 2014–present.

Vice President, Charlotte Community Association, 2014; trustee, 2012–13.

EDUCATION

A.B.D. University of Rochester, American History with minor fields in women's history, rural history, and popular culture.

M.A. State University of New York, College at Brockport, American History with minor field in public history, December 2003.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Certificate Project Management for History Professional, American Association for State & Local History, July 2019.

Certificate Leadership Skills for Supervisors, City of Rochester, NY/Bryant & Stratton College, December 2013.

PUBLICATIONS

"Woman Suffrage in the Mid-Atlantic," in *The 19th Amendment and Women's Access to the Vote Across America*, National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/woman-suffrage-in-the-mid-atlantic.htm> (April 2019).

"The Second Time as Farce: Archaeological Reflections on the New New Deal," in *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 18, no. 2 (June 2014), 224–241, co-authored with LouAnn Wurst.

Susan B. Anthony and the Struggle for Equal Rights, University of Rochester Press (December 2012), co-edited with Mary M. Huth.

"'We Called Her Anna': Nathaniel Rochester and Slavery in the Genesee Country," *Rochester History* 71, no. 1 (Spring 2009), co-authored with Marilyn Nolte and Victoria Sandwick Schmitt.

EXHIBITS

Project Director/Lead Curator, *Stonewall: 50 Years Out*, Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County, April–July 2019.

Co-Curator, *Because of Women Like Her... Winning the Vote in New York State*, Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County, June–September 2017, <https://rocheritage.org/exhibits/show/rocsuffrage/introduction>.

Advisory Committee Member, *Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism and the AIDS Poster*, Memorial Art Gallery, March–June 2022, <https://mag.rochester.edu/exhibitions/up-against-the-wall/>.

Community Curator, *The Changemakers: Rochester Women Who Changed the World*, Rochester Museum & Science Center, October 2020–May 2021, <https://rmsc.org/changemakers/>.