



MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kansas City PBS and Libraries of Greater Kansas City receive Award of Merit

Kansas City, Missouri, Oct. 1, 2018 — The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that Kansas City PBS and Libraries of Greater Kansas City are the recipients of an Award of Merit for *Kansas City Stories of the Vietnam War*. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 73rd year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. Kliff Kuehl, president and CEO of KCPT said, “Honored to be recognized by the The American Association for State and Local History. Proud of our team and the work they did to help people engage with this series.”

Kansas City PBS (KCPT) and the Libraries of Greater Kansas City used the power of media, production and collaboration with numerous community partners to create an unprecedented examination of the Vietnam War’s impact on Kansas City. As the local presenter of Ken Burns and Lynn Novick’s documentary series, *The Vietnam War*, KCPT took the opportunity of broadcasting the groundbreaking series, to explore the local connections to the Vietnam War through media productions, story collection, public programs, interactive online tools and educator resources.

In addition to programs and content produced directly by KCPT and its digital magazine Flatland, the station engaged with a number of community organizations to explore the fuller history of the impact of the war on the city — incorporating topics such as the draft, women in the military, protest, and the city’s Vietnamese American community. KCPT and the Libraries of Greater Kansas City, a consortium of six local library systems, utilized a NEA Big Read of Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* to extend localized programming throughout the metro area touching on additional topics like local music and the experiences of Vietnamese refugees.

This year, AASLH is proud to confer forty-four national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history. Presentation of the awards were made at a special banquet during the 2018 AASLH Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, on Friday, September 28, 2018. The banquet is supported by a generous contribution from the History Channel.

The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena.

For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615-320-3203, or go to www.aaslh.org.

KCPT believes in the power of media on every platform and seeks to use that power to enrich, engage and entertain our viewers both on-air and online. We strive to advance conversations through community engagement and social media; explore complicated issues facing our region with ongoing reporting, investigative reports and informed discussions; and share the stories of people, places, and progress in our community.



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About Kansas City PBS

At Kansas City PBS, a rich legacy of service has laid the foundation for a limitless future with our community. Our content platforms — television, radio, digital and education — exist to serve the diversity of our region. We advance conversations through community engagement and social media. We explore complicated issues with thoughtful reporting. We share the stories of people, places, and progress in our community.

About the American Association for State and Local History

The American Association for State and Local History is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH provides leadership, service, and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful in American society. AASLH publishes books, technical publications, a quarterly magazine, a monthly newsletter, and maintains numerous affinity groups and committees serving a broad range of constituents across the historical community. The association also sponsors an annual meeting, regional and national training in-person workshops, and online training.

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