

**The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia  
Civic Partnership and Planning Workshop  
April 16-17, 2009, at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania**

**Summary of Sessions**

**DAY 1**

**Morning Panel: Capitalizing on the Region's Historical Assets**

The session began with an introduction from **Howard Gillette**, who spoke about the general goals of the Encyclopedia project and the role of civic investment and engagement within it. He emphasized the importance of collaboration across disciplines and state lines and the Encyclopedia's potential to build on existing assets while also generating new initiatives and knowledge. **Panel chair Steven Conn** then introduced the panel and posed the question, "What are we doing here?" In response to his question, Conn spoke of the parallel flourishing of new scholarship on Philadelphia over the past twenty years and a civic and cultural renaissance that this project hopes to connect further. Conn also described the past's ability to reflect on the present and inform the future and concluded with the hope that the Encyclopedia will be a resource that resonates with people in the present and shapes debates about the future.

The first speaker was **Michael Coard from the Avenging the Ancestors Coalition**, who spoke about the President's House project. Coard described the uniqueness of the President's House site and Liberty Bell Center as a space where visitors must cross the "hell of slavery" into the "heaven of liberty" and addressed the importance of recognizing both sides of that story. To this point, Coard identified *truth* as the prime historical need and spoke of the power of projects in civic engagement and investment like the President's House to challenge one-sided history and make the experiences of African Americans part of the larger narrative. Coard also described history as cultural ammunition and emphasized the importance of organization and mobilization to the President's House project, which relied on vital contributions from groups like Ad Hoc Historians.

The next speaker was **V. Chapman Smith from the National Archives**, who spoke about **National History Day**. Chapman Smith encouraged the editors to hear the voices of students engaging in the process of history and consider how the Encyclopedia can be a resource for their studies. She identified institutional involvement in the schools as a vital need, particularly in terms of familiarizing students with the city's resources and getting students to care about their communities. Chapman Smith described the growth of National History Day from 175 student participants to 1,000 in a five-year period, the importance of civic partnerships for judging and evaluation, and the ways in which their projects get students excited about Philadelphia and its history. Chapman Smith concluded with the proposal that the Encyclopedia gives students a voice by including their project work for National History Day as contributions.

Next to speak on the panel was **David Young of Historic Germantown**. Young began by underscoring the need to make history useful, especially when working within an at-risk community like Germantown. To this point, Young emphasized the importance of community connections and the reality that if Germantown fails as a community, none of its historic sites can thrive. He described house museums in particular as at a crossroads, in danger of becoming mausoleums and staking their sustainability on engaging the community. Here, Young detailed projects throughout Historic Germantown, from gardens and poetry to the History Hunters Youth Reporters program, that allow historic sites to work together and stretch site capacities and offerings. Working collaboratively, sites that previously welcomed fewer than 5,000 visitors per year now serve 60,000 through community use; such collaboration also has allowed sites to cultivate better services through coordination and cooperation. Young noted that, acting as a consortium, the sites of Historic Germantown have developed better interpreter frameworks and marketing, as well as pooled their resources by sharing staff. He observed that these strategies have spurred the creation of a Historic Germantown brand with stronger community awareness and common themes that define both the historic sites and the neighborhood as a whole. Finally, Young shared that Historic Germantown hopes to continue these developments and further galvanize the community's sense of shared history with its *Germantown Works* project involving community history from the twentieth century.

The final speaker was **Charles Hardy**, whose website **ExplorePAHistory.com** uses the more than 2,000 historical markers throughout Pennsylvania as a gateway to the state's history. Hardy began by demonstrating the website's three main components: "Stories from PA History," a section of thematic articles; "Teach PA History," a collection of lesson plans written by Pennsylvania teachers; and "Visit PA Regions," a collection of tourism resources organized by region. The main feature of the site is "Stories from PA History," whose thematic articles are arranged chronologically and include video footage, timelines, and bibliographies. There are thirty-six planned articles and the site is scheduled for completion in 2011. Hardy described the use of interactive, virtual tours and photographs to draw people in and emphasized the use of hyperlinks to allow visitors to link within and across stories. Hardy identified his project as a potential model and resource for the Encyclopedia's web component, detailing its use of peer-reviewed documents on Philadelphia, average of 200 images per article, and direct links to collections, resources, and expertise from around the state. In terms of future developments, Hardy emphasized the need to bring the state's historic markers into the twenty-first century, provide schools with good scholarship that promotes heritage tourism, and cultivate more institutional collaborations. He concluded by observing upon the site's remarkable growth to 21,000 hits per month and its growing usage in area schools, as well as the rise of other states interested in developing similar websites.

**Dialogue:** Following the panel presentations, the discussion began with a question about the logistics of connecting institutional work with communities and students. Here, Chapman Smith cited the importance of eliminating hurdles that prevent people from participating in public projects and detailed her efforts to assuage any costs associated with National History Day, such as travel expenses. The discussion then

turned to practical issues involving contributions to the Encyclopedia, such as the application of federal copyright laws, the right to ownership of contributions, and the logistics of work-for-hire. Here, participants also raised the issue of the Encyclopedia's web component, questioning how much of the Encyclopedia will be web-based and debating how web-publishing might affect the quality of the material. Participants also cited the impermanence of the Web and the degree to which it is constantly evolving as a concern. Still, participants emphasized that the Encyclopedia ultimately must be useful and should include up-to-date scholarship, a mission that many saw as invaluable aided by a web component.

**Breakout groups** following this panel continued the discussion and sought input from the workshop participants about the purposes of an Encyclopedia, the needs it may fulfill, and intersections with existing projects.

### **Group 1 (facilitated by Randall Miller, St. Joseph's University)**

The session began with requests for clarification on the feedback form, specifically the statement "what ideas do you feel should not be included in the Encyclopedia." Some expressed uncertainty about the question and the general premise that some ideas or themes, such as homicide, were off-limits. It was suggested that, rather than some ideas being off-limits, there might be "toxic" interpretations and participants debated the extent to which the Encyclopedia will be open to all interpretations, including those of amateur historians. Here, the discussion turned to questions about the vetting process, how the editors will ensure viable and credible interpretations, and what role institutions will play in this regard. Special concern was paid to being inclusive towards diverse experiences and perspectives, with some question as to how the editors will deal with varying views and memories of particular events.

From here, key questions included who is the Encyclopedia for, what public or institutions are its audience, and how does the audience extend beyond the scope of the city. It was argued that the audience must include historians and institutions outside of Philadelphia, with *The Encyclopedia of New York City* cited as an example. To the question of who is the audience, one participant asked whether children were included and argued that the Encyclopedia needs to be comprehensible and valuable to both historians and students. The issue of users led to some discussion of the implications for preparing the Encyclopedia in both print and web form. It was suggested that the Encyclopedia consist of at least two platforms of varying degrees of sophistication, while still maintaining scholarly integrity and trustworthiness. In terms of the web format, participants favored a "living Encyclopedia" with a design accessible to multiple users, though cautioned that such designs require management, monitoring, and extensive funding. Still, it was emphasized that the Encyclopedia will not be beholden to old models and that the project will be approached as expansively as possible and as a learning process.

Some expressed doubts about comparisons between the current project and the Encyclopedias of Chicago and New York and suggested that *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland* is a more apt comparison given the difficult issues of that city's history. It was asked whether dealing with Philadelphia's decline and its various problems as a

city would hamper the Encyclopedia's reception and success, both financial and scholarly. Some argued that *The Encyclopedia of Chicago* provided a good model for addressing hard issues and that the focus must be on rigorous rather than celebratory scholarship. At the same time, participants spoke of the need to build up the city's self-confidence with the project, a task that some believed can be achieved by telling the truth and confronting the city's past. Overall, participants described the Encyclopedia's goal as honest truth in compelling packages and history with meanings that must extend beyond the scholarly community.

By and large, the duration of the discussion focused on the web format for the Encyclopedia. It was agreed that the web component must be a "different kind of beast" and that the website cannot simply reproduce print entries online. With a number of historic sites represented at the meeting, many participants expressed concerns that web content could become a substitute for visiting the sites themselves and discussed how cyber-reality might connect to concrete reality. It was suggested that the Encyclopedia's web component weave direction with interpretation by providing the location and hours of historic sites. The hope was expressed that historic sites will also benefit from the web content in seeing online exhibitions and research by others that may inspire their own work. A similar point was made regarding libraries for whom the Encyclopedia would be a resource on topics less familiar to their collections, as well as an impetus for people to visit libraries to explore topics in greater detail. To the issue of user-generated content, participants asked whether the web component will be a community or simply a product and encouraged the editors to consider how much information will be sealed and proprietary. Here, the issue of unsolicited content was raised, along with the observation that a lot of the city's history is oral and unwritten. To this point, it was suggested that the web component could be a forum for oral history interviews, personal accounts, and other materials that have not been published. To the question of web design, participants also debated the efficacy of linking to other existing materials. The issue of the Philadelphia portal on Wikipedia was raised and some encouraged the editors to tap into that power in some fashion and also be conscious of its primacy on Google. Participants likewise suggested linking to existing online exhibits without having to recreate material, though some were wary of creating a collection of endless links that pulled users farther and farther away from the main site. Rather, it was suggested that the Encyclopedia's web component collect existing information and repurpose it into a site that is truly a central hub for these disparate materials.

The discussion of web design once again raised the issue of students, with participants arguing that a web component must be accessible to teachers and applicable to the classroom. Here, the point that the Encyclopedia must have both intellectual and practical applications was once again raised and it was emphasized that the Encyclopedia project should include different layers that engage scholars, amateurs, and students. To the question of students, participants favored a web component that does not simply present materials, but rather actively involved students in its creation. Students likewise factored into the discussion of biographies and how they will or will not be included in the Encyclopedia. One participant shared that the editors of the Encyclopedia of Chicago chose to not include biographical entries except as particular

people were mentioned in the Encyclopedia's thematic essays. Some participants questioned this approach, emphasizing that students often have to do research on historical figures and that the engaging personalities of history are often vehicles for connecting people to the subject. It was suggested that biographies perhaps comprise a separate volume of the Encyclopedia and that, in some form, the Encyclopedia should include them given the needs of students in particular. Finally, on the issue of biographies, some cautioned against the Encyclopedia embracing a top-down approach and expressed the hope that potential NEH funding will allow greater freedom of interpretation and the bottom-up view favored for the project.

### **Group 2 (facilitated by Charlene Mires, Villanova University)**

The breakout group began with establishing two goals: to determine the purposes and the audiences of the proposed *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*. Beginning with that premise, one member offered that a purpose of the project would be to provide a platform, forum, and/or framework for civic dialogue in showing what makes the city of Philadelphia special. Another participant expanded on this to suggest that the project would need to represent the scholarship about Philadelphia as well as reflect the voices of the community.

From this beginning, the group began to pose a series of questions that the encyclopedia would ideally answer. Reiterating the earlier question, one person asked: What is the special quality of the city? Another member expanded this to assert that the project must analyze the significance of the city, both nationally (that Philadelphia is a nationally significant resource) as well as chronologically (fighting the notion that the importance of the city ends after roughly 1800). Another question was posed regarding the themes of the encyclopedia: What narratives are generated for the project? A colleague responded to this by posing a further question: How should one develop a narrative of Philadelphia? To this, a member offered that the encyclopedia's narrative should represent the impacts and significance of the entire city instead of a chronology of events.

At this point, the question was posed about the form that the encyclopedia should take, since form is often shaped by and related to its purpose. It was generally agreed that the form of the project should be in the shape of a set of events, thereby allowing for community involvement in its creation. However, a deeper debate emerged over how the encyclopedia would manifest itself: a print format or an internet format. It was determined that both sides represented positive as well as negative attributes. It was argued that while a web-based version would serve present purposes, the permanence of a print version would serve future purposes. Several members argued that a book format captures a moment in time of how we look at Philadelphia history now and that future historians could use our recordings in their future research.

Meanwhile, proponents of a web-based format argued that the main strengths of the internet would be the ability to update and provide user interaction with the project, something that is virtually impossible with a print version. However, it was agreed that a web-based encyclopedia is problematic: the essential nature of its malleability could lead to an overloading of data. Additionally, a website would need to be maintained and

updated, but by whom? (Mentioned possibilities included the editors, the scholarly community, and the general public.) The concept of public access to altering the encyclopedia's contents spurred a debate about the validity of the project becoming a localized version of Wikipedia. One person argued that there are some merits to this approach, including the timeliness of posts and the assurance of locally relevant material. However, many participants pointed out the flaws of unsupervised access, such as the validity and trustworthiness of the information being offered. To these objections, one member asked what it would take for the group to feel safe about a web-based format? General assent was that, regardless of the level of public access, there would have to be some oversight but that public access in developing content was a good idea. There were several reasons offered for giving the public access to make changes, fix errors, and develop content: one person suggested that it provides transparency of reliability, while another suggested that public access offered a level of possibility that would break the generational gap. Finally, someone mentioned that public access would help keep the project as current as possible, since the public would be mostly concerned with more current events, and that a web-based format is generally more successful in keeping up with changes to recent events.

Returning to the issue of a narrative, the group next turned to the question of how to interpret the information contained within the encyclopedia. Two methods of interpretation were raised: a presentist approach that attempts to historicize only the most current burning questions, versus the more traditional approach of focusing and historicizing older events. One attendee suggested that importance should be placed on the voices and identities found within Philadelphia. The member argued that since interpretations are always relational the project should be explicitly comparative in narrative. As an example the issue of ethnicity was raised: the participant suggested that topics in the encyclopedia should show relational identities whenever possible. Therefore, on the subject of ethnicity in Philadelphia there should be two interpretations, one which views them holistically or comparatively and smaller articles focused on individual ethnicities. This led another person to suggest that the project must involve different layers and types of context.

The discussion of narrative and interpretations spurred one attendee to suggest that the project should re-imagine the encyclopedia away from its typical format. It was then suggested that perhaps this should mean a set of thematics in the form of extended essays with sidebars for terms. This idea was further refined by suggesting that the thematic contain the history while the terms contain the information. This way, it was explained, every issue gets founded in its history and Philadelphia becomes an exemplar of these issues in America. Another person added that these themes be divided into subjects instead of the typical chronology in an attempt to separate the encyclopedia from the authority and format of the book *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History*.

One member commented that the aforementioned thematic approach may be more suitable to a web-based format, due to the ease of inserting hypertext links wherever they are needed. This caused another participant to remind everyone that the purpose of an encyclopedia is a gathering place or method of accumulating knowledge and that

other formats (the internet, film, radio, etc.) were simply ways of distributing knowledge. It was then suggested that one way to accomplish all of this would be in having a series of magazine-style “issues” that would tackle the more current events while the standard text could adequately handle the more traditional history. Someone then remarked that perhaps multiple delivery mechanisms would be appropriate for the project.

With time running short, the facilitator asked the group to focus on the issue of who would be the audience for the project and how would this audience benefit from the encyclopedia? A list was quickly established that included: students and young people, twenty-first century readers, heritage tourism, journalists, the everyday history buff, teachers/librarians (one participant termed them “information wholesalers”), former Philadelphians and non-Philadelphians, scholars of all fields (it was suggested that themes could be geared to have various scholars contribute and not just historians), artists, politicians and policy makers, and foundations.

Finally, the facilitator asked if there were ways that the project provided intersections or collaborations with the attendees’ own fields of work. An archaeologist in attendance offered that the project would serve as a method of disseminating findings that are usually never widely seen, which could benefit not only archaeologists, but also scholars in all fields. Another member said that it would benefit his work if the content addressed fables, myths, stories, and tales of Philadelphia that are untrue.

In the closing minutes of the breakout session the timeframe of the project was questioned. Would it be appropriate to focus the themes on fifty-year intervals, for example, or was it better to structure the articles by decade? A final point was raised that for the encyclopedia to be successful it should take a decentralized approach: instead of being primarily written by scholars it must reach out and involve the various institutions, groups, and communities of Philadelphia.

### **Group 3 (facilitated by Howard Gillette, Rutgers University-Camden)**

The primary topic of discussion during the hour focused on the format the *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* would take. There appear to be three choices available: a web-based version with no printed volume; only a printed edition with no web presence; or a hybrid of the two. The majority of fourteen people in this session seemed to favor a web edition as necessary. However, there were several people who stated that a printed edition was necessary.

A print edition has the several advantages. It marshals intellectual pursuits in different directions and exposes readers to topics that they would not have thought to pursue on the web. A web version will allow for much greater “distribution” of the encyclopedia than a printed edition and thus many more readers would benefit from it. It is obviously much easier to regularly update the content of a web edition than to reissue a new print edition to incorporate new material. However, many participants were quick to point out that the editors of a web edition need to recognize that it is a tremendous time commitment to undertake these updates.

Another significant factor is the fact that a “digital divide” exists in our society. People who are poor, older, less educated, lack internet service in their home, or lack basic typing/computer skills are much less likely to use the internet version of the encyclopedia as opposed to the printed edition which might be on the shelf of their local library. A printed version might have much more initial credibility than a web version that competes for the reader’s attention with bloggers and others who lack expertise but are quick to put their opinions on the internet. The credentials of the editors and writers of the encyclopedia will have to be clearly spelled out in any internet version in order to gain acceptance from scholars. However, a distinct advantage of the web version of the encyclopedia is that it would allow video, still, and audio clips to be incorporated in the entries. This would assure a much deeper, multi-dimensional narrative for the reader to enjoy and potentially could allow the reader to provide feedback and opinions on the content. Dr. Gillette explained to those present that it is anticipated that the National Endowment for the Humanities grant application will be submitted in July and a decision on the print vs. web format will have to be made by that time.

One of the participants stated that the encyclopedia would be invaluable to city officials as it would allow them to learn more about the history of various neighborhoods and the context of prior decisions impacting the community when trying to resolve citizen’s concerns or formulate policies. Additionally, it would quickly become a resource for librarians, archivists, and historians, who could direct local citizens seeking information about their city to the encyclopedia.

There was a shared belief that it is vitally important that the editors form a partnership and maximize input from local organizations and leaders in order to create an encyclopedia that is responsive to the needs of the community. Because librarians, archivists, and historians are asked questions on a daily basis by citizens, they are in a very good position to know what types of information would be most in demand.

The encyclopedia must be responsive to the needs of the K-12 school population. This will help to assure the widest usage of the publication. Future historians will come from this pool of talented youngsters, and their thirst for knowledge must be properly addressed. If we are looking to tap the next generation as part of our marketing for the encyclopedia we must also keep in mind that this generation is very internet savvy as compared to the older generation, which might prefer a printed volume. One participant questioned the potential market for encyclopedias for graduating high school seniors, which has been a primary market for *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*.

Finally, the city’s archives are a valuable source for information for data and material to include in the encyclopedia. The editors and writers should carefully examine this rich trove of material.



## Luncheon Speaker: Why Encyclopedias Matter

**James Grossman, Newberry Library, and co-editor of *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*** was the featured Luncheon speaker on the opening day of the workshop. Grossman's first point was to define the goals of an encyclopedia: to collect, systematize and transmit knowledge to generations to come so that the work of preceding generations is not lost. He argued that an encyclopedia is much different from a traditional work of nonfiction in that it is a collection of many different narratives from many contributors as opposed to a single narrative from one author. An encyclopedia stresses synthesis vs. simple detail. One of the key points to always remember, according to Grossman, is that a city encyclopedia can't stop at a municipal boundary. Within its pages are established links among neighborhood ethnic groups and across neighborhoods and suburban municipalities.

A critical editorial decision is determining who is most qualified to provide the desired narratives for each entry in the volume. For instance, according to Grossman, if a Native American historian is asked to write an entry on Native American religion, the narrative would be quite different than if a professor of religious studies undertook the same assignment. By its very nature an encyclopedia presents information in a very fragmented format and it is critical to carefully evaluate the interdependence and interconnectedness of the information so that it is most informative to the reader. When presenting the entries the editors must judiciously decide when information needs to be "lumped" in its presentation and when it is more important to "split" information apart from similar material.

Grossman provided two cautionary tales which he and his co-editors learned through trial and error. First, *The Encyclopedia of Chicago* editorial staff initially determined that no separate entries would be made for distinct neighborhood or ethnic groups. They quickly discovered that this was *not* a good idea as they found that people sought the encyclopedia precisely so they could see themselves in the volume and they wanted to "find" their home (neighborhood) and "self" (ethnic group to which they belonged). Prospective customers won't buy a book if they can't find themselves or their neighborhoods in it. The second lesson which was learned pertained to fundraising. The Chicago project set an initial goal of \$50,000 from some prospective donors. This proved to be highly ambitious and it is now felt that raising the necessary capital would have been easier if the threshold had been \$25,000.

The lumping, splitting, and categorization of entries is another challenging task. Grossman stated that after much review a decision was made that in Chicago's volume ethnic groups would be divided by their nation of origin. Thus, there is no entry for "Arab" but rather one would find Egyptian, Iranian, Jordanian, and so on. Religion is another challenging topic. The Chicago team decided to use broad terms such as "Protestant" rather than separate terms such as Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian. Every post-secondary college is listed separately in *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*. However, lumping is used for entries related to primary, intermediate, and secondary schools.

In a large metropolitan area like Chicago there are thousands of businesses. It is a difficult decision to determine which ones should be included. A decision was finally

reached to include those firms which are nationally significant, have a very large local payroll, employ a significant labor force, generate very large revenue, or were important to the historical development of Chicago.

Grossman ended his remarks with two recommendations: First, it is critically important to always remember that “an encyclopedia can not gather all knowledge under the heavens.”. Second, the establishment of focus groups of teachers and librarians is recommended so that the editors can find out what information is currently being sought by the target audience of potential users of the encyclopedia.

### **Afternoon Panel I: New Possibilities**

After chair **Bill Adair of Heritage Philadelphia** introduced the panel, **Sam Katz** was the first to present. Katz discussed the eighteen-part documentary on Philadelphia that he is currently working on and detailed how digital content and institutional linkages are being used to support the project. The documentary is scheduled to include fourteen chronological episodes and four thematic ones and will begin by going back to 1575 with the history of the Native America Lenape tribe. Katz described the documentary’s focus as capturing the people of Philadelphia and their stories and providing “goosebump moments” when telling that history. He cited the public’s connection to history as key and spoke of the desire to communicate that history is “made in one’s backyard” in communities across the city. To this point, Katz plans to solicit personal histories on the documentary’s website and, much like the Encyclopedia itself, is focused on generating new knowledge and collecting the stories that are not recorded anywhere else. Katz described how the documentary will capitalize on the collection and presentation of this new knowledge with a series of webisodes made up of material cut from the main documentary, as well as a series of podcasts of material not included in the webisodes. Katz also detailed the project’s efforts to create a unique flash player for the website, which will allow for central control of the web material; additionally, he cited the use of a general release form and standard compensation agreement as tools that have standardized the process of working with different institutions and collections. Finally, Katz spoke of co-fundraising with WHYY and working with them to lobby for the documentary to air on PBS.

The next speaker was **Joan Saverino of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania**, who spoke about her work on the **PhilaPlace** project. Saverino cited neighborhoods as a way of engaging communities and building co-constructed narratives. She described her work with the neighborhoods of South Philadelphia and Northern Liberties, which are generally outside of the traditional historical grid. Saverino underscored the use of place to chronicle history and described how landscapes can provide links to culture and memory, as well as act as bridge between the past and the present. She emphasized the importance of asking community members how they want to tell their story and related her experience of a generational divide between older residents who favored guided trolley tours and younger people who wanted a virtual experience. Saverino described how her project has worked to bridge media, art, and disciplines to ultimately create co-authored and interactive narratives. She cited neighborhood

meetings as vital to this process and encouraged the embrace of disparate voices while decrying the idea of one authentic truth. Saverino described the project's web site, which will launch in September 2009, as a multi-ethnic project that connects places across time through primary source documents, audio visual clips, oral histories, photographs, maps and digital models, and downloadable mp3 tours. The web site will also allow for user-generated content through an ancillary site. In her presentation, Saverino also emphasized the need for adequate staff to process the information collected from the neighborhoods and teacher workshops that aided the creation of classroom guides for the project.

**John Gallery of the Preservation Alliance** was the next panelist. Gallery spoke about the preservation plan that the Alliance is testing out with a strategic plan over the next ten years for a citywide survey of historical resources. He described the use of historic atlases and existing property maps to determine what historic resources are still in place throughout the city. Gallery identified the Alliance's central focus as determining what preservation issues were overlooked in the past and if historical integrity has been maintained. He described the creation of a kind of mosaic map that shows both the past and present views of a space and emphasized the importance of neighborhood clusters and thematic studies. Gallery also spoke of the grassroots perspective on preservation and what people on the ground value about their neighborhoods or view as historical.

The next speaker was **Veronica Wentz of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation**, who spoke about various tourism initiatives and the development of gophila.com. Wentz summarized highlights in the city's development as a historical travel destination over the past twenty-five years, including the President's House project, the Museum of Jewish American History, and the expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. She emphasized the national and international audience looking towards Philadelphia and the 3.5 million visitors who come specifically to visit a historic attraction and are very interested in history. Wentz spoke of efforts to market historical areas collectively as a walkable whole, as well as give museums an online presence. She also referenced her agency's new initiative focusing on African-American themes, Philadelphia 360°, and described 200,000 photographs of city attractions and video vignettes that her agency could make available to the Encyclopedia. Finally, she offered assistance in promoting and marketing the Encyclopedia project.

The final speaker was **Melissa Clemmer from the Civil War Consortium**, who related her experience coordinating projects and resources among the consortium's sixty-five member organizations. Clemmer spoke about the consortium's plans for the upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial in 2011. She emphasized the importance of partnerships and described the planned use of transit posters and bus stations as interpretative spaces to tell the stories of everyday people. Clemmer referenced the difficulty of maintaining public interest in the Sesquicentennial for four years and detailed the consortium's proposed Freedom Month program, which will establish one set time to focus its marketing every year and hopefully achieve high-impact programming. Additionally, Clemmer described the consortium's efforts to create new knowledge both

from their own collections and beyond through the creation of a shared inventory of collections, mailing lists, and other digital media and initiatives. Finally, she spoke about the use of social networking tools to discuss and identify information needs and share information through sites like Craigslist.

**Dialogue:** Following the panel presentations, the discussion initially focused on the challenges of collaboration, specifically how to efficiently share resources and avoid redundancy. Participants suggested taking advantage of the connectivity of the web to find existing resources and connecting those little bits to a larger web project. To this point, others suggested that redundancy is difficult to avoid given the extensiveness of the web and that, in establishing a web presence, the editors need to ask “what do you have that no one else has?” and “is anybody else doing what you are doing?” In terms of existing resources, one participant suggested using maps from the Philadelphia GeoHistory project. Participants also discussed the tension between historians’ assumed credibility and grassroots efforts, asking who will have authority in this project and will one side ultimately win out over the other. Participants advocated for the inclusion of different perspectives and multiple voices and asked whether this framework will require that notions of “authority” and “history” be re-defined. Finally, the issue of African American history was raised and participants underscored the importance of telling the stories of ordinary people, overcoming negativity in historical collections, and increasing historical awareness among the public, particularly as it relates to their own neighborhoods and communities.

## **Afternoon Panel II: Publishing in the Age of Electronic Communities**

The first speaker of the afternoon panel, **Robert Cheetham of Avencia, Inc.**, started by saying that he was presenting as both a Philadelphia citizen and business owner, rather than as a historian. His business focuses on recording city life via geography and maps. Some of the projects that his business has helped to create are [www.phillyhistory.org](http://www.phillyhistory.org), [www.connect211.org](http://www.connect211.org), and the Mural Arts Program’s [MuralFarm.org](http://MuralFarm.org). With each of these projects, one of the chief goals is to have everything geographically tagged and searchable.

The speaker then turned to the topic of publishing in the digital age. He argued that today “publishing” involves more formats than just books and includes: online maps, Twitter, blogs, websites, wikis, forums, email, Facebook, Myspace, and Kindle. And this range of activities will continue to proliferate for some time. He asked the question, what makes this proliferation possible? He listed positive and negative aspects of digital media as a platform for publishing. On the good side, digital media is active, personal, and connective (all knowledge is inter-connected and people are connected to other people which, in turn, creates connections to the physical world by creating communities). Furthermore it is interactive (slidebars on maps, for example, are tactile, manipulative, and customizable) and empowering (everyone can contribute, giving people a sense of personal power). Cheetham continued by explaining that digital media can be self-correcting (errors can be changed) and transformative (by changing the way we interact socially it gives a new meaning to the phrase “customer service”).

Lastly, he argued that is the web has grown quickly because HTML was easy (it is an open format that anyone can learn), cheap (once you have the material, duplication has low costs), and democratizing (the low cost of distribution makes publishing an activity that anyone can perform).

The speaker then described how there can be flaws with digital media publications, too. They can be anonymous, isolating, ephemeral (web sites and content comes and goes), overwhelming, deceptive (it's just as easy to publish garbage as good material), rigid, exceedingly complex, expensive to initially create, and used as a tool for control. To contrast this list he explained that there are certain qualities of print media that are not associated with the digital format, namely that print media is tactile, portable, authoritative, semi-permanent, and requires no electricity.

Cheetham then went on to describe what a digital version of an encyclopedia should look like. He argued that it should be interactive (so that people could manipulate it), participatory (which would enable people to engage the contributions), and self-correcting. Also, it should be self-sustaining (especially financially), trustworthy, and represent a balance between authority and democracy. Finally, it should strive to be geographic yet local (location is profoundly important to people), mobile (include the next generation of digital platforms such as the iphone and notebooks), and intimately personal (so that viewers can make it their own).

He noted that there will be challenges specific to a digital format that may not be as problematic to a print version. Many of these issues involve licensing and intellectual property, but also include vandalism, interpretation, and finding a model of sustainability. Also, one of digital media's greatest assets is a large drawback: a balance between authority and openness must be found that allows both to coexist. Furthermore, Cheetham suggested that we are currently involved in a revolution of similar scale to that of publishing in 1500. And just as it was not clear in 1500 how the printing press would change the world, it is not clear to us today how digital media will evolve to replace and transform our current institutions. We face a situation in which it is clear that the old technology is broken and obsolete before it is clear what will be put in its place. Quoting a recent blog by Clay Shirky (<http://www.shirky.com/weblog/2009/03/newspapers-and-thinking-the-unthinkable/>), the speaker argued the current concern about "how do we replace newspapers?" is actually a demand that new methods of news reporting be created before the old, printed methods die, and that this may not be a realistic expectation. No one knows what publishing will look like in the near future.

What does this mean for a digital version of the encyclopedia? The speaker urged the audience to not be afraid to experiment with different ideas and methods, but to be careful to do so ruthlessly – try many small experiments over several years, but don't be afraid to let them fail. He closed by challenging the creators to not just create a great encyclopedia, but make it a revolutionary encyclopedia.

Following Robert Cheetham, **Amy Hillier of the University of Pennsylvania** commented that one of the risks of digital media is that it is very easy to get lost in the technology itself. She argued that consideration must be given to how technology

facilitates discussion. She explained that one of the challenges of talking about digital media is having to convince people that it is, in fact, scholarship because there is a tendency to see print media as for scholars while websites are relegated to everyone else. To combat this inclination, one should try to view the encyclopedia as a marketplace of ideas and a place to build upon ideas, therefore including any digital formats of the project.

Hillier reminded the audience that digital media publishing is a way to make primary sources available on a large scale and that it is dynamic because it can be supplemented, live, and grow. Furthermore, it gives the user the ability to create their own world. Finally, the speaker encouraged the creators of the project to remember that the process is ultimately as important as the product and that digital tools should be used to facilitate participation from the diverse communities of Philadelphia.

Speaking last, **Elizabeth Nash of the Reinvestment Fund** suggested that a way of imagining the project digitally is to see it as a type of policy map. A policy map inherently involves the voice of the community (who we involve and what we have available is crucial to the finished product). Furthermore, any policy map must include a detailed system of linkages that provides the user to navigate from one idea to the next with ease. As an example of a good effort with some bad results, Nash used the [recovery.gov](http://recovery.gov) website to illustrate that, although it provides a great deal of transparency (so that the community feels empowered), it is overwhelming in the sheer number of linkages it contains (there are simply too many links and it becomes difficult to return to previous information).

Focusing on the content of digital media, the speaker argued that they provide an avenue of historical and cultural documentation as well as political and policy research. These sites provide consistent indicators and incorporate user-generated content because building communities involves the sharing of information. Furthermore, a good piece of digital media should include interactive maps; something that people enjoy looking at and therefore enjoy contributing to, which ultimately leads to the establishment of a legacy project. Incorporating the above criteria insures a greater coverage of the information.

Regarding the medium of such a project, Nash argued that it will provide a user-experience along with a scope of geography to help show trends. Furthermore, it should include static and interactive maps at the same time along with thematic data. Lastly, the speaker explained that a successful digital project must be searchable and therefore should include thorough indexing, tagging, and highly intuitive search functions.

**Dialogue:** Following the three speakers the Q&A moderated by **Chris Satullo of WHY** began with a question asking how it will be possible to find authors/contributors to provide both interactivity and authenticity (accuracy)? The panelists answered that there must be some combination of structure and interactivity and conceded that this will be complicated to achieve. They argued that although such a task is context-sensitive a product like Wikipedia may not be the best model in comparison. However, they argued that it isn't a choice between one extreme or the other (authority and

interactivity). They suggested that perhaps a network of “community advisors” would be a workable model. This way, they would not just provide authoritative tours of the site, but provide tools to create your own personal tours.

The second question raised the issue of a non-profit organization as a risk-adverse organization: How do we implement a model and how do we keep it going? No direct response was offered by the panelists.

A question was then raised about documentary evidence (such as newspapers) versus audience-owned material. How would a sustainable model with different purposes and different audiences be sustained? The panelists suggested that with such a long-reaching project it becomes necessary to accept that the structure will change throughout its existence. As an example of a workable model the panelists offered [www.pacivilwar.com](http://www.pacivilwar.com) as a site that has three levels of authorship, with all levels available for public comment.

Lastly, a final question returned to the issue of authority and interactivity and if there will be some separation of them in a digital format. The panelists answered that the encyclopedia must have both and explained that these are not separate issues for the audience. The stressed that the appeal of an encyclopedia is that it provides middle ground or an intermediate level of knowledge with shorter articles that provide the foundation and starting ground for future pursuits. One panelists described an encyclopedia as “digestible middle ground.”

## **DAY 2: GENERATING NEW KNOWLEDGE AND ITS RETURNS**

### **Panel A. Growth and Development**

**Walter Licht of the University of Pennsylvania**, who chaired the panel, provided an overview of the purpose of the discussion and elaborated on the diverse background of each of the presenters.

**Philip Hopkins from Select Greater Philadelphia** opened his remarks by covering many of the strengths and weaknesses which must be factored into development decisions in Philadelphia. The location of the city along the heavily populated corridor running Boston to Washington, as well as the facts that the Greater Philadelphia area has a large population and comparatively high income levels, need to be emphasized in the Encyclopedia. Hopkins argued that the region has cost advantages over New York and Boston, and this is especially true with respect to rail, highway, and marine transportation costs. A unique situation has arisen over the years, however, in that Philadelphia has developed a reputation as an area where few inventions are made; rather, it is the city where inventions from other areas are perfected and many applications are found for these imported discoveries. Associate or more advanced degrees are awarded by ninety-two educational institutions in the region, which can be a tremendous asset for the growth of the area. Progress is hindered in the region by the inordinately high number (392) of municipal/school governing boards which must be navigated by those seeking to improve the area.

**Joseph N. DiStefano of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*** opened his comments by pointing out that many of the largest service companies in some major contemporary industries are located in the city and its immediate suburbs. While the city has lost big employers like the Pennsylvania Railroad, Baldwin Locomotive, and Philadelphia National Bank, the region is now home to Comcast cable TV, Vanguard mutual funds, SunGard financial software, the two dominant U.S. credit card companies, and a dozen major pharmaceutical companies. However, unlike the old locally-focused employers, these giant service companies are focused on national and world markets, and the region has lost its powerful, tight local business elite. The audience was further reminded that this city served as the nation's financial capital as well as the seat of government in the nation's infancy. While Philadelphia doesn't experience the rapid growth of some areas of the nation, the diverse nature of its industries makes it less likely to be as adversely impacted by recessions which might occur during expected business cycles. He speculated that the current economic crisis might have been much less dramatic had that pattern prevailed in other parts of the country. DiStefano closed his presentation by concurring with Mr. Hopkins that the areas growth is stymied by too many levels of government bureaucracy and reminded the editors that the success of the Encyclopedia will hinge on its editing.

**David Thornburgh, Director of the Fels Institute at the University of Pennsylvania,** pointed out that the Encyclopedia needs to recreate the context of the times when covering historical events as "nothing was predetermined to occur." Two of the important moments in the growth of the city, according to Thornburgh, were the 1854 consolidation and the highly successful Centennial celebration. Similarly, the creation of Fairmount Park, the Center City District, and the Convention Center as well as the development of Society Hill marked great progress in the city. Each of these advances was accomplished with tremendous citizen input and involvement. Thornburgh asked that the Encyclopedia consider the economic typography of the region as a legacy of the city's role as the "workshop of the world." He described the areas as a "great forest with small trees." By this he meant that many of the nation's cities are dominated by a single corporation employing in excess of 30,000 people, whereas Philadelphia is much more diversified and the largest private employer has a payroll of only 12,000. The term "mini-cities" more aptly describes the outlying areas of Philadelphia as the concept of suburbs does not accurately apply to this city as it does to many other metropolitan areas. Any study of the city would be incomplete if it did not consider the impact of the "50s era" airport, I-95 which cuts the city off from the Delaware River, and the Blue Route and the impact each of these has on growth and development. The significantly adverse impact of the public policy to implement the "wage tax" needs to be fully explored as it proved to be "very damaging." Finally, immigration patterns to Philadelphia are much different than to other cities in North America. This includes the movement of African-Americans into the region.

**Guian McKee, from the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs,** discussed his recent study of deindustrialization in Philadelphia and concluded that it pointed out the need to challenge existing assumptions about the nature, process, and inevitability of economic change. He stated that he hopes the Encyclopedia will similarly encourage readers to challenge their own preconceptions about the city's history and



the implications of that history for the present. He also pointed out the many connections between this and other panels at the workshop. He observed that it is impossible to separate historical issues of growth and development in Philadelphia (and elsewhere) from the history of immigration and ethnicity, the built environment, race and rights, and politics and public policy, and noted specific points of overlap between areas. The Encyclopedia should strive to contextualize growth and development within these sorts of relationships. McKee suggested that the Encyclopedia can serve as a repository of valuable historical statistical information about the city's economy that is currently not centralized in any single source. This data could be explored using GIS capabilities, potentially allowing users of the online version to map the city's economy over time. It could also be linked to various spatial information about the city's historical development – Sanborn maps, census maps, PhillyHistory.org's GIS-linked photographs – to create a multi-dimensional historical portrait of the city and facilitate users research into the history of specific places within the city.

**Rutgers University historian Philip Scranton** pointed out that the institutional base for the industrialization of Philadelphia is grounded in the nineteenth century. He argued that the foundation of this project should involve several intellectually significant questions re American history, urbanization and Philadelphia, which this work will help its audiences understand and address: Why has Philadelphia seemed so fragmented, socially/culturally/economically? Was it always so? If not, what changed it? Why has Philadelphia been a center for family-owned firms across the centuries? Possible formats of the *Encyclopedia* could be: Emblematic—make certain to cover all icons; Thematic—Philadelphia pictured within larger dynamics; Distinctive—what about Philadelphia is unique? Resonance—how can readers find themselves in the Encyclopedia? This panel emphasizes growth and development but we will need to address other dynamics, like displacement & decay, and perhaps revival through restaurants/consumption. Several other important areas to consider are dimensions of the larger project. We have long focused on production and consumption: what was made here, how were goods purchased and how did people shop? But we should pay attention to a least four other dimensions of the urban process. Environment—how did the topography, landscapes, and rivers impact the way in which the city developed? Infrastructure—how did sewers, the water system, and transportation such as the trolleys assist in the economic growth of the city? Professions and Services – the significance of law, finance, medicine, merchantry, real estate, and construction to the city's growth. Last, the value of the colleges and universities to the evolution of the city was echoed by Dr. Scranton who further pointed to the Franklin Institute, the Merchants' Club, Wagner Institute of Science, Central High, the Union League, DRPA, and SEPTA as organizations that have been critical to the city.

**Walter Licht** closed the panel discussion by reading his succinct entry on Philadelphia from the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History*.

**Dialogue:** At this point a lively interchange with the audience began. Among the topics addressed were the ways in which companies in the region have recruited personnel and what attractions have led to the economic development of the city. The suburbs are certainly impacted by events in Philadelphia, and this needs to be examined. A

number of audience members mentioned the “rules” which are passed from generation to generation and which govern much of the social, economic, and cultural activities of a region. These “rules” are different in each city, and there are specific rules in Philadelphia which either nurture or thwart change. There was some consensus that some of the most successful people in Philadelphia’s history were “rule breakers” who shunned conformity and thought “outside the box.” A final discussion centered on the age demographics of the city and whether the popular perception that the region’s most educated youth tend to move elsewhere.

## **Panel B. Immigration and Ethnicity**

After **Morris Vogel of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum** introduced the panel, the first to present was **Richard Juliani of Villanova University**. Juliani began by encouraging the editors to view the Encyclopedia as a cross-over document, one that will act as a reference source for scholars as well as an introduction for the general public. In terms of public knowledge, Juliani emphasized the degree to which the public “knows” history through accessible, but unreliable sources with which the Encyclopedia will have to contest. To this point, he also noted that there is no one history of the city, but rather many different histories across location and time, each of which has a place in the Encyclopedia. Here, Juliani underscored the issue of “people without history,” i.e. different racial, religious, and ethnic groups whose history has been recovered over the past thirty years. In terms of his own work, Juliani compared Italian-Americans to African Americans as a group whose history has similarly been lost and stolen and whose experiences need to be better understood through projects like the Encyclopedia. As part of this effort, Juliani highlighted questions of migration and the history of the port of Philadelphia, economic cycles, and the role of fraternal and volunteer societies. Finally, Juliani concluded by arguing that biography becomes historiography and observing that the Encyclopedia also may serve to introduce students to colleagues’ work on diversity that needs to be remembered and upon which future scholarship will build itself.

The next speaker was **Kathryn Wilson of Georgia State University**, who spoke about the Encyclopedia’s potential to create new structures of knowledge, particularly in terms of Philadelphia’s identity as a global city. Wilson encouraged the study of immigration and ethnicity to expand beyond the settlement of immigrants to include the flow of people in and out of Philadelphia, the city’s role in the transatlantic economy, and its position within the larger Americas. She also underscored the importance of ethnic interactions in terms of shaping group identities, the evolution of neighborhoods over time, and issues of interchange, overlay, conflict, and displacement. In studying immigration and ethnicity, Wilson argued that one must tell the story of why groups came, but also why some left and look beyond ethnic enclaves to capture diffused settlement patterns throughout the region. She emphasized that many immigrants live translocal and transnational lives and that these networks are a key part of their history.

In terms of recent immigration, Wilson described the Encyclopedia as an opportunity to involve communities in the production of knowledge, particularly through partnerships with community organizations and services. She also underscored the importance of creating a resource in the Encyclopedia that, perhaps through its web component, is flexible and adaptable as populations change and can continually provide up-to-date information. With regards to the creation of new knowledge, Wilson anticipated finding longer regional histories for some groups, such as Greeks and Southeast Asians, than have previously been recorded and encouraged the editors to think beyond nostalgia and group identity to also recognize issues of conflict and change. Finally, Wilson returned to the idea of community involvement and argued that the dissemination and production of neighborhood stories can lead to new interpretations and preservation efforts involving immigration and ethnicity.

The next panelist was **Judith Goode of Temple University**, who likewise spoke on the importance of capturing moments of change in the history of immigration and ethnicity. Goode described how historical narratives often record snapshots of before and after, but rarely capture the transition during which change took place. To this point, she argued in favor of using micromoments and small, on-the-ground interactions within communities to capture periods of instability and intergenerational shifts, noting that the “mess on the ground” yields interesting historical views. Goode also asked “what does the audience want” in terms of historical narratives and underscored the public’s desire to locate themselves in history and for narratives to capture the particular and specific before broadening out to larger themes. Like Kathryn Wilson, Goode encouraged the editors to study the relationships within ethnic groups in addition to the groups themselves and cautioned against relying upon institutions or organizations to tell the story. Rather, she argued that conflicts can exist between institutions and individuals on the ground and that institutions do not always represent the local, on-the-ground reality. Goode concluded by asking how the current moment differs from other eras of globalization and underscored increased global movement, the draw of universities, and the growing cosmopolitanism of the city overall.

**Michael Katz of the University of Pennsylvania** presented next and summarized the key findings of his research on immigration. Among the trends that Katz discussed were Philadelphia’s reemergence as a gateway city and a historic shift in immigrants’ relationship to urban space. Whereas new immigrants historically settled in the city before eventually migrating to the suburbs, Katz described a contemporary settlement pattern whereby many of these individuals now immediately settle in the suburbs; according to his findings, metro Philadelphia currently ranks sixteenth nationally among metropolitan areas with immigrants and two-thirds of immigrants living within the metropolitan area live outside the city. In addition, Katz detailed the growth of Indian, Asian, and African populations in the city and underscored diversity as the hallmark of these populations, whose only common characteristic is their foreignness. Katz also cited the city’s immigrants as responsible for the growth of its workforce, particularly the professional class. In conclusion, Katz emphasized that immigration is a truly metropolitan issue that requires a new approach or typology that deconstructs the old divisions between city and suburb and perhaps approaches the issue by municipality.

Next to speak was **Avi Decter from the Jewish Museum of Maryland**, who began by asking how the Encyclopedia might synthesize the ideas and proposals discussed in the panel thus far. Decter identified thematic essays, biographical, and discrete entries as important components of the project, as well as first-person accounts and voices. Decter underscored the importance of capturing the “talk of the town” and suggested that the editors start with that “talk,” then move on to a succession of articles, and finally a broad perspective on immigration and diversity. Regarding first-person accounts, Decter also highlighted the problem of deciding whose voices speak for a group’s history and the issue of outliers who may be a minority within the city, but a majority within their neighborhood. To this point, Decter added questions of where and how is “homeland” defined among different groups and where rural migrants and sojourners like foreign students fit into the study of immigration and diversity. Decter concluded with the observation that, if the Encyclopedia takes a regional approach, it must deal with metropolitan connections like Camden when considering issues of immigration and diversity.

The final speaker was **Domenic Vitiello of the University of Pennsylvania**. Vitiello began by noting that the story of migration and ethnicity is the story of the receiving communities and one that also involves histories of internal migrations, such as those of African Americans and Puerto Ricans. Vitiello asserted that one cannot write the history of immigration without including these movements and noted that immigration and migration also involve issues of race in terms of the relational and comparative understanding of race and ethnicity that develops as groups encounter one another. Vitiello then spoke on the issue of uncovering the stories of these groups and deciding what is true among the mixed voices and complexities of different neighborhoods. He cited civil service organizations as a prime historical source and described how an organization’s growth, change, or disappearance reflects upon the community that it served. Here, Vitiello asserted that the Encyclopedia could be of use to such organizations in turn, giving them a tool for making sense of immigration and providing a foundation for people who write and determine public policy. Vitiello concluded with the idea that the Encyclopedia’s role in public policy-making would enhance its utility as a living document and asset to the communities of Philadelphia.

**Dialogue:** Following the panel, the discussion initially revolved around the concept of the Encyclopedia as a living, useful document. Participants specifically debated how to make the print component a living document and some suggested piecing together contributions solicited from the public into larger articles. In addition, a representative from the National Constitution Center suggested previewing portions of the Encyclopedia at public institutions like the Constitution Center. On the whole, participants emphasized building ownership of the Encyclopedia in communities themselves and acknowledged the tension between scholars and communities inherent in such a project. Still, it was argued that larger, thematic studies of issues like immigration and diversity cannot succeed without the bottom-up knowledge that is localized in Philadelphia’s communities. One participant, however, questioned whether every topic needs a bottom-up groundswell or if this need is just particular to certain topics such as immigration and diversity. Finally, participants spoke of the need to be

conscious of the audience outside of the city and engage issues of how we constitute ourselves as a nation when speaking of immigration and diversity.

### **Panel C. The Built Environment**

The Built Environment morning panel, chaired by **Randall Mason of the University of Pennsylvania**, began with **Gregory Heller of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission**. He suggested that the main goal of the Encyclopedia project should be to find a method of transferring history into a more accessible form. He explained that a printed book would be a fine product, but that the project should strive to go beyond print, allowing users access and participation through a wiki format, and creating a dynamic online interface.

Furthermore, the project should try to integrate new ideas in scholarship, rather than simply reiterate previously known information. The speaker noted that there are several scholars currently developing new printed works on Philadelphia historical topics that have received little attention to-date. Such topics include the development of recreation and transportation in Philadelphia.

Also, the speaker offered that pre-WWII infrastructure projects and programs have been largely overshadowed by the much more famous post-WWII period and that this error should be rectified. He continued to explain that, even in the post-WWII period, the whole story of the development of infrastructure and physical development in Philadelphia has not been told, specifically in the evolution of spaces around the city.

The speaker argued that the project should strive to give voice to people who had impact on the physical environment of Philadelphia, but whose stories have been largely forgotten. Offering some ideas for future research and thought, he asked, “What happened to the built environment since the 1960’s?” and “As the city repopulates, how do you retain the historical memory of those [spaces] already gone?” He noted that a new generation of urban dwellers are moving in and redefining neighborhoods, without strong knowledge of the history and meaning of those places.

Next, the speaker outlined a few resources and subjects that should be included in the encyclopedia. Philadelphia is known for emerging topics such as urban farming, guerilla gardening, and urban activities such as skateboarding (for which Philadelphia is internationally famous). Furthermore, he argued for the inclusion of what he called “forgotten” and “hidden” Philadelphia. Forgotten spaces no longer exist (like Broad Street Station), while hidden spaces are essentially the “necessary ruins” of the city which still exist but are largely undiscovered or overlooked. These areas have a story to tell in their past, the speaker argued. Ultimately, he argued that hidden meanings of the built environment must be explored (what the city looks like and why it looks that way).

Also, there are resources that can be used or communities that can be consulted regarding the modern form of Philadelphia’s built environment. For example, the current wave of modern physical development has largely been catalogued by the

PhillySkyline blog ([www.phillyskyline.com](http://www.phillyskyline.com)), and other bloggers and ad-hoc built form planners who serve as a community of interested and knowledgeable parties that would be a useful resource in the development of the project.

Finally, regarding the actual form of the encyclopedia, the speaker suggested that any online component could include dynamic articles with geo-coded links on the city map. This resource could tap into existing GIS data sets maintained by various public and private organizations.. Furthermore, he argued that the project must add value to what information already exists. He speculated that the online component, separate from a published book, may best serve the community if it were uploaded onto [www.wikiphilly.com](http://www.wikiphilly.com) or onto [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com).

He noted that studies have shown Wikipedia is as accurate as Britannica (for example see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4530930.stm>). However, unlike a conventional encyclopedia, Wikipedia gives the world scholarly community access to add and develop entries. This would allow the world community to expand on the content, and build the scholarly research developed for this project into something more robust, accurate, and accessible, over time.

Next, **Rebecca Yamin, an archaeologist for John Milner Associates**, began by asserting that the encyclopedia project will provide an opportunity for her field to tell their version of the story of Philadelphia. She explained that archaeologists often feel left out of these projects, but that their work plays a crucial role in the crafting of history.

She stated that although archaeological evidence of the built environment is fragmentary, it shows the power of the place, and this leads to numerous stories of the life of the city. Furthermore, archaeology can show the apparent resilience and multiple purposes of spaces--things that cannot be adequately proven through documents alone. For example, backyards and other places of “domestic infrastructure” display intimate but unintentional pictures of people’s lives and help show how things are organized while telling parts of the city’s past that generally cannot speak for itself. The speaker offered a few other built environments within the city that can be better explored through the use of archaeology: cemeteries and the waterfront. While cemeteries can tell stories about people and how they congregate, explorations of the physical environment of the waterfront can give new insights into the tale of immigration in Philadelphia.

Finally, Yamin argued that archaeology should be included in all parts of the encyclopedia, and not just in small articles on specific buildings, monuments, and other such objects. She argued that archaeology should be regarded as a “way of knowing with much to contribute to the stories of the urban process, landscapes, changes, building and rebuilding, and the neighborhoods and people of Philadelphia.

The third speaker, **Tuomi Forrest of Partners for Sacred Places**, spoke briefly of the importance in recognizing the multitude of sacred places and the phenomena attached to them throughout Philadelphia. These places cross all denominations of religions and are stories worth telling due to their local and national significance. Forrest argued that sacred places provide positive narrative arcs for the Encyclopedia project. He explained that the histories of the sacred places provide relatively unbroken continuity of

religious communities who offered aid, help, and comfort for the people of Philadelphia during periods of social and economic change. Furthermore, sacred places contributed to or reflected the art forms of the various periods. In conclusion, he urged the editors to consider and embrace the histories of sacred places, both as built structures, and the new stories created when such structures would change hands over the years.

The next speaker, **George Thomas of the University of Pennsylvania**, began by offering that one of the challenges facing the encyclopedia project will be to deal with the issue of rapid change. He explained that the book is often viewed as old media where the reader is confronted with outdated information. For the project to be successful the challenge of rapidly changing data must be faced.

Thomas posed several questions that he considered should be the focus of the project, namely “What made Philadelphia so special?” and “How did it grow so fast?” The Encyclopedia must show, he argued, that Philadelphia created the modern world and that what made the beginning of the city different from all of the others was not the Quakers, but the industrialists that founded it. Also, the project should help the reader understand the critical ideas found in William Penn’s experiment in religious freedom.

Most importantly, according to the speaker, the encyclopedia should work to re-brand Philadelphia—from a place of “old history” (focusing on class and order) to a history that shows a city where the world grows (stressing change, adaptation, and transportation). In this spirit the project should focus on the city’s “bests” instead of the traditional approach that simply focuses on its “firsts.”

The final speaker for this panel, **John Gallery of the Preservation Alliance**, offered that there were three things that interest him in any topic about Philadelphia’s built environment: What is the story? What is noteworthy or significant about it? What is its urban form? He continued by explaining that what marks a structure as historical is intimately tied to the people associated with it, both during its construction as well as its current use. The speaker suggested that the project should include some kind of index that identifies people associated with the various buildings that were written about, even including those historians and professionals that researched the built environment itself.

Turning to the form of the project, Gallery argued that any articles in the Encyclopedia focusing on the built environment should also reference the architectural history of the city. This should not only include how these environments were created and used but also how Philadelphia will continue to use them in the future. The latter is important, he stressed, because most people don’t understand how recent the Philadelphia built form is and also how it continues to evolve. Lastly, the speaker offered that it is ineffective to talk about the built environment without showing pictures of it, and therefore the project must include numerous visual references to be successful.

**Dialogue:** The Q&A session for the Built Environment panel mostly progressed as a general discussion of ideas amongst the panelists and those present in the audience. One participant suggested that the project should serve to fill in various embarrassing gaps in scholarship (referred to as an “enormously large forest of short trees”) that are instrumental in understanding Philadelphia’s built environment, such as public housing

and row houses. Another person offered that the built form of the city must be considered through both topography and culture. One member suggested that suburban growth should be mentioned, including tracing suburban growth, suburbanization, and land preservation.

A participant offered that the project should be structured around the five great migrations of Philadelphia's history and that associated articles should discuss both who lived there first and who lives there currently while another person said that the Encyclopedia should refer to the city as setting an individual standard for the rest of the country to follow.

Many other subjects for consideration were offered, including: vernacular structures and cultural landscapes, congregations and the multiple uses of structures (such as a religious institution existing in a building with a different purpose), the strategic archaeology of the riverfront, the importance of commuters, the Philadelphia Social History Project, and oral documentation (which was argued to provide a more holistic picture of the built environment since, while architects may be present in the official documents the general contractors are not). One person reminded those in attendance that Philadelphia's urban form exists in two spheres, the built environment above ground and the archaeological remains beneath. Finally, someone suggested that commentaries about the built environment by public figures should be included in the Encyclopedia.

#### **Panel D. Politics and Public Policy**

In this panel chaired by **Carolyn Adams** of **Temple University**, the discussion began with **Richardson Dilworth**, **Drexel University**, who asked how politics and policy would fit in an encyclopedia. Coming from a strong institutionalist position, Dilworth suggested levels of analysis and abstraction, with both bounded and discrete institutions. Rule systems would be important to include as well as institutional mechanisms such as voting and home rule. Additionally, he posited that habits of thought and scripts (such as that of a political leader) would provide a template for understanding the people involved in both politics and public policy. He noted the interesting levels of abstractions in the metropolitan region of Philadelphia, such as the municipalities. He added a cautionary note that a topic can disappear in its abstractions and urged the audience to remember that the focus is Philadelphia.

**Larry Eichel** of the **Philadelphia Research Initiative, Pew Charitable Trusts**, suggested tracing the evolution from WASP control leading to ethnic empowerment. He posed the question of whether Mayor Nutter's strong support from white voters signals a shift to "post-racial politics" in Philadelphia. Government and public policy matter to people in Philadelphia and reflect a deeply entrenched political culture that tends to separate citizens into two groups: people view themselves as either users of government services or as payers, but rarely both. An important question to ask: How did the city become such a high-tax city, with a quarter of the population living in poverty



and a city too poor to support their needs? He also noted the region's importance in the last five presidential elections. How did this happen?

**Wendell Pritchett, University of Pennsylvania**, noted the wealth of the region's contribution to public policy history, citing numerous institutional "firsts." New organizations are emerging that are much different than traditional ones. The new organizations are issue-based organizations, connected to national trends and national organizations, such as the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, and Young Involved Philadelphia. They are new and innovative and affect current public policy. Pritchett suggested that an encyclopedia could highlight them and use them to show how the city is changing. An encyclopedia could serve as a point of access to the city and a mechanism to connect current debates to the region's past, an example being Fairmount Park and its sustainability.

**Stephen Highsmith, NBC Universal**, said an encyclopedia is a civic project whose purpose is to disseminate information about the city. New knowledge is key, along with an awareness of new consumption. Who is your audience? There is no need to redo the earlier 300-year history volume. The new encyclopedia could include pop culture and be more in-depth than a compilation, noting that public policy hasn't been covered comprehensively. Highsmith argued that controversy shouldn't be a deterrent. He saw a need to include the city's drug culture and its devastation to the city, along with the effects of public policy on weapons within the city, the region, and the nation. There has been a failure among leaders to address these issues effectively.

Highsmith also said it is important to include the links between public policy and culture and to acknowledge the unsung heroes of communities, such as the Women's Aid Society of 1918 (3,000 people died in the 1918 Spanish Flu Epidemic, half because of a public policy failure). Often when government has failed the city, private organizations have helped save the city. It is also important to view Philadelphia as a city of neighborhoods. Highsmith noted the community cohesion in South Philadelphia, citing the Mummers as people with jobs who did not leave the city to flee to the suburbs because of their strong affiliation to their clubs. He asserted there has been a failure of historians to address the culture of corruption in local politics, the "ideal" versus the "real" of public service. Another area he suggested is noteworthy is the impact of lost skills and the influence of newspapers on the city. The MOVE issue is important to include also. Highsmith noted that the encyclopedia is being written for a future audience in a very visual society and to keep that in mind moving forward.

**Dialogue:** Are there any taboo subjects as project moves forward? Caution was urged when the story is incomplete. For civic myth-making, it is extremely important to check facts (an example was given of Chicago political corruption). A suggestion was to focus on such issues as political culture and urban history, rather than on individuals. Myths could be included as part of the discussion of political culture. The question could also be posed to determine for whom corruption was functioning. The corruption discussion continued with the following questions:

Are Philadelphians corrupt and contented?  
What groups were responding?

Who receives benefits?  
Is Philadelphia the “best poor man’s city”?

Then a question was raised about the utility of the term corruption. It was suggested that a functionalist definition of corruption would be more helpful – corruption as an institutional dynamic of American government. The challenge is not to sanitize history.

The question was then raised whether we are introducing a notion of reform in this encyclopedia? Is our goal to improve? Is there an agenda? The motivation of government in what it does and doesn’t address needs to be included. The challenge is writing about what doesn’t happen because of political culture, economic structures, etc. To do this, one needs to compare Philadelphia to other cities.

Most public policy is not made by government officials. Several participants in the session saw corruption in the city as being dwarfed in its influence on the city by other city issues such as poverty, pensions, and the penal system. There is a need for this project to address the present needs of the region, but participants also cautioned against referencing relatively new developments without looking at historical patterns to contextualize the “newness.”

Several participants noted grassroots politics as a rich resource. We should probe beneath formal institutions, because they don’t always represent reality on the ground in the city’s communities. It was then noted that there is already an encyclopedia of non-profit organizations.

Returning to the purpose of the encyclopedia, it was emphasized that this is first and foremost a resource. As a secondary function, it can educate people that there are two ways of looking at a particular entry: for example, an entry on corruption could tell readers that corruption has been interpreted from competing perspectives: 1. rationalist/functionalist 2. Muckraking. The extent of interpretation is a challenge for this project.

When the suggestion was made that we would want many of the entries to show the relationship of their topics to power/policy/mobilization, James Grossman (representing the Encyclopedia of Chicago) recommended that if this is the purpose, it must be included in the instructions for your authors.

It was noted that policy comes from everywhere, and it is important to emphasize what is unique to Philadelphia while covering broader trends.

**Luncheon Speaker: Gary Nash, University of California-Los Angeles,  
“The Time is Now: Philadelphia’s Future Lies in the Past”**

In his luncheon speech, **Gary Nash** recalled that eighteen months ago in an address marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History*, he called on Philadelphians to launch new projects to create a documentary film and an encyclopedia of the city’s history. He recounted his arguments for the encyclopedia,

including the availability of a wealth of recent scholarship and the potential for such a project to unite the city's diverse population and neighborhoods. He called for a process of civic engagement that would build upon the lessons learned from the controversies that surrounded the placement of the Liberty Bell Center without regard to the history of slavery on the site of the President's House at Sixth and Market Streets.

Nash noted with approval that the Encyclopedia project had gained "astounding momentum" and was fulfilling his call for wide-ranging participation. But he cautioned that controversy could lie ahead as the project tackles sensitive subjects such as race, religion, gender, and class. For those who may wish a only a triumphal story, the project needs to show that history can be complex, ambiguous, and thought-provoking. The overhaul of exhibits inside the Liberty Bell Center has shown that this is possible and desirable, Nash argued.

Nash concluded, "If ever there was a chance to tell this city's story in all its complicated past and its many meanings to so many people who washed up on the Delaware's shores and who sank their roots through good times and the times of sorrow, then now is the time." Echoing the language of the Gettysburg address, he concluded that the Encyclopedia will be "of the people – all of them; for the people – all of them; and by the people – by as many as will step forward to contribute."

**Dialogue:** The Q&A session for Gary Nash's lunchtime speech was dominated by discussion of a need for greater diversity among the editors. One participant suggested that, because of this, the project was in danger of forgetting or omitting various Philadelphia communities. Nash answered that the editors should be seen as simply putting pieces together that were created by others. Another person in attendance offered that perhaps a larger board was needed to create sections of the encyclopedia, such as a editor for religious articles, etc. It was then said that the project should avoid making the mistakes of the book *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History*, which was written by elder scholars who were essentially reflecting back on the previous twenty years of scholarship. Instead, the current project should look forward by leaving authorship to young scholars that represent the future of their respective fields.

## **Panel E. Race and Rights**

Chaired by **Joyce Wilkerson**, the afternoon panel focusing on race and rights began with **Emma Lapsansky-Werner of the Haverford College Quaker Collection**, who reminded attendees that "one persons trivia is another's minutiae." She then argued that the struggle for civil rights in Philadelphia went back to the days of William Penn's original vision and that there is an opportunity with the Encyclopedia to talk about the civil rights movement as a moving target, one which was not static but a true movement since it was constantly changing. Lapsansky-Werner argued that the movement, referred to as "negotiated civil rights," continually created spill-off, and even those with Rights were still subject to rules and regulations. This was also true in religious societies like the Quakers.

The speaker suggested that any discussion of race and rights must involve the tensions over the use of public space—Who can do what in which spaces? And, who was the right to use the streets, and for what purpose? Additionally, the project should not just cover “non-tensions,” it must focus on darker elements such as street riots, gangs, and immigration. However, instead of just identifying the rioters, the Encyclopedia should strive to explore those who chose not to riot. Furthermore, the writers should attempt to look for examples of equality and inequality in unexpected meanings and places--the speaker argued that some parts of the Civil Rights story is more invisible.

In conclusion, Lapsansky-Werner stressed that the Philadelphia story is a great place to move the issue of race and rights outside the traditional economic, legal, political, and gender spheres. Ultimately, she argued, the project is about how knowledge is generated, cycled, stored, and formed and that the indexing of the encyclopedia should match the questions that the people are asking.

The second speaker, **Romona Riscoe Benson of the African American Museum of Philadelphia**, focused on identifying information needs for the Encyclopedia project with regard to race and rights. Specifically, this should involve the collection and dissemination of African American history, events, and people. She began her list by stating that the history of the civil rights movement in Philadelphia should be traced from the seventeenth century through the twentieth century. Also, the speaker stated that there were many movements and institutions involved in the creation of the city and community of Philadelphia, including: black Baptist, Catholic, and Muslim communities, black political movements, and black educational institutions, as well as people civically involved on a grassroots level.

Benson also argued that black influences in the arts and music of Philadelphia must be included in the project, especially the city’s importance in the development of jazz. Furthermore, many African American social and professional organizations that have contributed in numerous ways to what makes Philadelphia so significant.

Lastly, the speaker argued that the benefits of a successful encyclopedia would be to generate knowledge for everyone to have access to information. She argued that the creation of the work should be an inclusive process that includes diverse expertise so that the content is as comprehensive and authoritative as possible.

**Philip Seitz, of Cliveden of the National Trust**, spoke about the importance of historic sites to the story of Philadelphia and their value to the project. He argued there is a great diversity of experiences and information to be gleaned from historic sites that would only serve to better the Encyclopedia. Unfortunately, due to the lack of resources and lack of time to perform research, there is a lack of ready-to-present knowledge from most of these historic sites.

As an example, he cited current research at three area historic houses: Cliveden, Stenton, and Bartram’s Garden. All three houses had subsidiary plantations to which to outsource their labor and produce. Therefore, what they put on the table in Germantown came from the hard work of a plantation worker elsewhere. Deeper levels of research into these subsidiary plantations, however, have paid off generously. Seitz

explained that at Whitehall, the plantation for Cliveden, letters between the plantation workers and the Chew family back in Germantown provided insight into the lives of these workers and the rights they were allowed.

The speaker argued this type of breakthrough is possible at many other sites if only they have the resources and time for the research. Seitz argued that the problem for the Encyclopedia is that so much of this research is very early in the process and, therefore, none would be ready for print for inclusion in the Encyclopedia project or some type of online database, no matter how desperate the historians of these historic sites are to get the information to the public.

Next, **Matthew Countryman, of the University of Michigan**, posed the problem of how to think about the history of race in Philadelphia since WWII. He argued that the city is a paradox since it exists as both a liberal beacon and a place with a continual presence of racism. Furthermore, he offered that there are as many narratives of race as there are communities within Philadelphia. As examples, he explained that there are both individual memories of historical moments as well as memories of internal segregation. Also, there are all kinds of knowledge of the history of race and rights. However, he stressed that it was crucial for the Encyclopedia to let these individual stories be told, no matter how challenging. He suggested a melding of stories that may typically be separated, such as traditional tales of struggle and conflict melded with stories that defend racial beliefs.

Countryman then offered some topics for consideration in the project. These included: community formation, great migrations (multiple, not singular), the beginnings of diasporas, and black life in the city (centered on the local community such as North Philadelphia, South Philadelphia, etc.). The flowering of black civic organizations and communities, the role of neighborhood transitions, white racial identity, and contested equality in a multi-racial city were also suggested by the speaker.

The final speaker, **John Seitter, of the South Jersey Tourism Commission**, argued that there are so many Southern New Jersey connections to Philadelphia that the true story of the city cannot be told without including them. He then provided several examples of such connections in hopes of proving how crucial Southern New Jersey has been in the history and culture of Philadelphia. These examples included: the Underground Railroad's presence in Camden and Cherry Hill, African American communities and their links to Philadelphia communities, and the role of Native Americans the creation of the original settlement of the city. Furthermore, he showed other connections between the two regions, such as South New Jersey supplying colored troops during the Civil War and the importance of the region in the development of local industries like agriculture and shipbuilding. Also, echoing Philip Seitz of Cliveden, the speaker mentioned the use of slave plantations in Southern New Jersey and their affiliation with Philadelphia-area families. Lastly, Seitter offered the history of segregated schools and even the Ku Klux Klan as historical connections between the two regions.

The speaker finished by suggesting that the Encyclopedia could benefit Southern New Jersey by creating extra interest in its heritage tourism. In addition to bringing more

visitors to local and regional historic sites, the Encyclopedia could benefit the economy of the area by helping spur politicians and policymakers to provide funding and support for the sites.

**Dialogue:** The Q&A session for the panel began with a question of how one categorizes “rights” and what is to be done with those groups and individuals are racially categorized but do not fit into the traditional stories of the struggle for rights? One panelist agreed that there exists a previously construed idea of Philadelphia’s history of race and rights, but suggested that this should be examined for its truth and rewritten in part or in whole as it proves necessary.

A follow-up question asked how one problematizes race in an Encyclopedia. A panelist acknowledged that a lot of the story is lost when the issue is not placed in its proper context and conjectured that an electronic version of the project could be one method of solving this problem. The use of links could show the complexity of the issue by putting race and rights together while still giving the reader the opportunity to see the spaces between them. The panelist conceded that although it is impossible to see at this point how the Encyclopedia will bring all the information together, the issue of race must be seen not just as a regional issue, but as a national issue. Furthermore, the issue is not simply about race and rights, but also about riots, politics, and enforcement.

A panelist suggested that the editors must plan for the technology of tomorrow in creating the Encyclopedia, offering that if one plans for the technology of today it will be obsolete by the time it’s finished. Another person said that the entire project will only have a certain amount of space and that once the size is determined, choices of inclusion and exclusion must be made; there will ultimately be things that will be forced to be left out. The trick, they argued, is to create an encyclopedia that is not encyclopedic.

The final question asked for ways to continue to reach out, involve, and interest the public. A respondent offered that if this is possible, it will involve contending with different voices and radically different narratives of Philadelphia. Someone suggested that perhaps this could be overcome with the online (or Wiki) version being released first. Another attendee offered that perhaps a staged rollout could be used to engage different peoples and groups within the community.

## **Panel F. Arts and Culture**

**Derick Dreher from the Rosenbach Library and Museum** chaired the panel and introduced its members.

**Stephan Salisbury from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*** advised that as newspapers shrink there are increasingly fewer writers to focus on artistic and cultural activities. During his thirty years in the city he has seen it transformed from very limited arts and cultural activity to an explosion in the city’s offerings. He argued that there are several reasons for these positive changes. First, the art world itself has changed. Second, public money has infused cultural activity starting with the initiatives of former Mayor Rendell.

Finally, rents in New York City became so expensive that Philadelphia became an attractive alternative and artist cooperatives and galleries opened throughout the city. This resulted in art collectors beginning to gravitate to Philadelphia to make purchases for their collections.

**Sandra Turner Barnes from the Camden County Cultural and Heritage**

**Commission** pointed out that there are many jewels to be found in the Philadelphia region and their story should be told in the Encyclopedia. She cited as an example the Belmont Mansion, which is a beautiful and historically significant site and one of the stops on the Underground Railroad. She quickly pointed out that there are many well-known poets and writers with local ties such as Whitman and Poe but that there are many lesser-known talents whose works deserve recognition. She was quick to remind the audience that history can often be found in the pages of literature where writers capture the essence of times and events. The tradition of jazz in this city is long and rich, according to Turner Barnes, and other noteworthy local performers include Bill Cosby and Patty Labelle. A recounting of the story of the early abolition movement in Philadelphia and its impact on the end of slavery in America is a proud moment in this city's history and deserves to be told in the Encyclopedia, according to this speaker.

**Kenneth Finkel from Temple University** was the next presenter. He reminded the audience that "there can be no untouchable subject" for the Encyclopedia. He recounted many of the cultural institutions in the region which had sold precious items from their collections. There is a critical role for the arts and humanities to assume a place in the revitalization of the city's citizenry. He cautioned that a quality Encyclopedia is bound to "ruffle feathers" and that is to be expected as a price to be paid for openness and transparency.

**David Brigham from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts** recounted Philadelphia's role as an American cultural center dating back several centuries. The Peale Museum was a model for early museums. The public arts programs in Philadelphia including the private commissions, Mural Arts Program, outdoor sculptures, etc. have made the arts accessible to everyone. He then detailed the very important role of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in the flourishing art environment in the city. Many prominent African American and female artists were born, educated or lived here for extended periods. A history of art in this city would not be complete, according to Brigham, without mentioning the WPA projects which thrived in this city as well as the Pyramid Club, which thrived for two decades (1941-1959) in Philadelphia and which ran racially integrated exhibits at a time when this was virtually unheard of.

**Damon Sinclair**, who is currently filming a documentary with Sam Katz, elaborated that his demo film will focus on the 1855-1865 period in Philadelphia. There is hope that this will be available as part of a series to be underwritten and shown by PBS nationally. One of the most poignant moments in Philadelphia history centers on the two days when President Lincoln's body laid in state at Independence Hall while it was heading to Springfield for burial. The lines to see the casket stretched from Independence Hall to the Schuylkill River, according to the speaker.

**Dialogue:** The audience then engaged in a lively discussion with the panel. Several people mentioned the rich tradition of theater in the city. The contribution of the Philadelphia Film Office to the growth in the number of films shot on location in the city was detailed. The role of the Mummers and their parade is an often overlooked local contribution to the national experience and would be worthy of examination in the encyclopedia.

There seemed to be a consensus that Philadelphia has served as an incubator for new trends in American art. The reasons for this phenomena should be further explored. Several questions need to be examined: What is the role of local art collectors and patrons in the development of art and culture in Philadelphia? Did some artists have to leave the area as there was no market for their work? Were the collecting habits of local collectors different than the national trends?

Several institutions made tremendous contributions to the city's arts and culture. The Freedom Theater, University of the Arts, and High School of the Arts are among this group. Additionally, the story of the development of Industrial Arts in the late 1800s in this city needs to be explored as it was a national leader in this field.

Finally, several of the presenters and audience members wanted to caution the editors to avoid the trap which many residents of the city frequently fall into, that is to focus on the things that Philadelphia doesn't have rather than those things for which it is well known and respected. As one audience member put it, "the focus of the Encyclopedia should be on who we are, not who we are not."

## **Plenary Session**

The final session and dialogue began with the editors' summary of the dominant questions and ideas that emerged during the workshop. The general consensus presented was that the Encyclopedia must be part of a larger framework, even as participants were divided over a print versus online format. It was suggested that a print Encyclopedia might be viewed as a twentieth-century production, whereas a hybrid model of print and electronic media would be more forward-looking. The inclusive potential of a hybrid model was discussed, as some argued that the Encyclopedia must be electronic to be publically engaged and responsive. With regards to determining the Encyclopedia's design, it was suggested that the editors try out different formats by publishing in interim steps and not locking into a singular approach at the outset. Participants spoke in favor of being open to multiple options and decried the either/or dichotomy of print and online options, with some encouraging the editors to allow the project to grow online and see what form it takes.

The editors described the overall purpose of the workshop as part of the process of deciding what is important to the project and what the goals are for it. Howard Gillette singled out the inclusion of "greater" in the Encyclopedia's title as one of the issues to emerge in that process. Gillette questioned whether the regional idea worked and if the intellectual footprint existed for the Encyclopedia to cover this expansive scope. His



tentative response was “not yet” and he highlighted this issue as one that would evolve as the project progressed. Additionally, Gillette spoke of the effort to attract contributors and questioned whether the editors’ willingness to deal with difficult questions in the Encyclopedia could lead to conflicts with the publisher down the road. Other participants also addressed the question of regionality and whether it needs to be made explicit or might be made clear by the scholarship included in the Encyclopedia.

Randall Miller likewise addressed the question of scope as he identified “creativity” as the key descriptor for the Encyclopedia. Miller emphasized the editors’ desire to generate new knowledge and highlight the creativity at work in the field. To this point, it was agreed that the Encyclopedia will be in search of vehicles with which to express that changing history and the new stories emerging from it. In particular, one participant suggested using the Encyclopedia’s online component to capture ephemeral materials like live performances.

The final thoughts of the discussion once again turned to the Encyclopedia’s web component. One participant noted that web sites tend to get a lot of hits in the first three to six months, but that activity tends to fall off after that time without something new and cool to drive traffic. The participant emphasized that web sites are an ongoing commitment and encouraged the editors to “do what they know.” The possibility of creating separate print and online Encyclopedias that complement one another was discussed, as participants argued that there must be a printed work, but an online component would allow it to also be a living, growing document. As the Encyclopedia may be continually edited online, one participant discussed how different media may eventually lead to multiple volumes and ultimately allow the Encyclopedia to remain current as technology inevitably advances beyond current plans.