



The Philadelphia Public History Truck project, created and directed by Erin Bernard, is a mobile museum which creates interdisciplinary exhibitions with people who live, work, and play within Philly's places and spaces. The project functions in a yearlong exhibition cycle which starts with relationships and various community-driven sharing events where people can map memories and record oral histories. From this point, project team members begin historical research on concerns expressed by community members, culminating in an exhibition complete with archival reproductions, artist collaborations, neighbor-created grassroots work, material culture, and more. History Truck is a project of intervention within the academy in terms of historical production because the oral histories (featuring commonly-marginalized voices) and project itself will be archived in Temple University's Special Collections Research Center, but it is also a community building project amidst Philadelphia neighbors and cultural organizations.

In the past, History Truck presented *Manufacturing Fire* (2013-14) about postindustrial textile mill fires and activism within the neighborhood of East Kensington and *They Say They Gonna Build* (2014-15) about Temple University's history of expansion in juxtaposition with North Philly community building efforts. In June 2016, History Truck will present the culmination of its 15-16 season in Chinatown/North-Callowhill-Chinatown with the exhibition *A Houseless Museum: Home and Displacement Around the Vine Street Expressway*, a month long residency within the Asian Arts Initiative's Pearl Street Storefront. Bernard, a graduate of Temple University's M.A. History (public history) program, is currently a Senior Lecturer of Museum Studies at the University of the Arts where, since Fall 2015, she is teaching Prototyping and Community Engagement to graduate students in the Museum Exhibitions, Planning and Design program. This class is working with the University of the Arts Spark-Fuel-Ignite! Program, mentoring high school students from local high schools in design thinking. All of these students are contributing to History Truck's 15-16 project in Chinatown/North. Bernard plans to deploy her students in the neighborhood surrounding Art Sanctuary in Fall 2015.

This January, through a grant from LISC, History Truck's work began in the Fairhill neighborhood in partnership with artist José Ortiz Pagan, Taller Puertorriqueño, and Temple Contemporary. Together, Bernard and Pagan will host intimate dinners with families and youth organizations to collect oral histories, brainstorm designs, and install six nontraditional historical markers for the neighborhood. The project will culminate in the sharing of a toolkit with Taller's education program so that future students can work as docents offering "radical history tours." Pagan will also create a map of the memory markers to be installed in Taller's new building, accompanied with an exhibit by the Truck in June 2017.

History Truck has received a number of awards, including the 2016 Outstanding Project of the Year Award from the National Council of Public History as well as a 2015 John Andrew Gallery Community Action Award from the Greater Philadelphia Preservation Alliance and the Best In Real Life Project of the Year at the 2014 Philadelphia Geek Awards. Bernard also works as an Adjunct Professor of History at Moore College of Art and Design, is a mother of two, and resident of South Philadelphia who believes all people deserve to use creative reflection to choose how they are remembered. Most recently, Bernard exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania and was published in 2015 editions of *Exhibitionist* and *Art & the Public Sphere*. Visit History Truck online facebook.com/phillyhistorytruck or follow on twitter [@historytruck](https://twitter.com/historytruck).