

The Forum

Dedicated to the advancement of carceral interpretation for public benefit.

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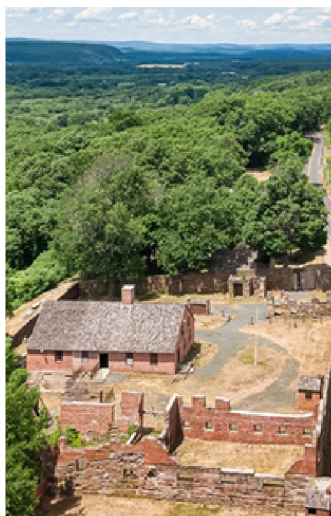
Monthly Meet-Up

The ACSM hosts monthly meetings for practitioners, scholars, and others involved with or interested in historic prison museums, and/or carceral sites. Meetings take place via Zoom on the second Monday of each month at 3:00 PM EST and cover a wide range of topics, including interpretation, community engagement strategies, and collaborative practices. Contact us to sign-up in order to attend. We hope to see you there!



Featured Site

Located in East Granby, CT, the Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine is "nationally recognized as the first chartered copper mine and first state prison in early America." The museum strives "to engage with historic and contemporary issues through the exploration and discovery of the site as a copper mine, prison, and tourist attraction." Old New-Gate also houses the Re-entry Hall of Change in honor of formerly incarcerated individuals who have positively impacted their communities." Learn more via their [website](#).



Introduction

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Forum, the official newsletter of the ACSM! We are excited to debut this monthly publication, which endeavors to provide information, resources, and engagement opportunities for those interested in, and involved with, carceral sites, both past and present.

The ACSM was founded in 2022 with one primary goal: to help research, create, and share best practices at historic prison museums and other carceral sites across the US. The organization's mission also includes connecting sites across the public history field, creating beneficial professional networks, and contributing to meaningful inter-institutional dialogue.

As the ACSM enters its first full "Pilot Year," we hope to establish and maintain useful resources for practitioners and the public alike. We welcome you to join us on this journey and thank you for your support!

In The News

Excerpt from: "[Titus Kaphar's Directorial Debut Is More Proof That Nobody Plans to Shut Up,](#)" Surface Magazine (January 12, 2023)

"The paintings read political, but they take on a deeply personal note for Kaphar—and scores of Black Americans grieving loved ones lost to police brutality and mass incarceration. "I was thinking about my cousin who died in prison last year," Kaphar told Artnet News. "And my other cousin who's in prison right now. And my father, who has been in and out my whole life. So as an artist, I'm not out to make activist paintings. I'm trying to make sense of some stuff for myself, and put it on canvas."



Merger on the Horizon

The ACSM is excited to announce an upcoming merger with the Prison Museum Consortium (PMC), effective February 2023. The PMC, established in 2020 and led by Morgan Bengel of New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine, represents an effort to start conversations and create the opportunity for mutual learning between organizations and sites engaged in carceral history. Within the ACSM, these monthly meetings will continue and hopefully expand as the ACSM pursues its Pilot Year goals. The ACSM extends a sincere thank you to Morgan for her leadership efforts, and warmly welcomes PMC members to the ACSM!

Call for Leadership

Be a part of ACSM's Pilot Year! Please consider joining the ACSM Leadership Team. The following positions are currently vacant and terms last for two years. More information, including descriptions of each opportunity, can be found [here](#).

- Professional Development Director (PDD)
- Communications Administrator (CA)
- Professional Resources Coordinator (PRC)
- Membership & Outreach Liaison (MOL)
- Funding and Development Manager (FDM)

Email thecarceral@gmail.com to express interest.

From The Desk of The Co-President

Creating something new is always a challenge – especially if the venture is worthwhile. Creating something new in the context of a global health crisis, as well as a tumultuous political and social climate, promises to be infinitely more difficult. Still, we realized that there was a real and urgent need for the ACSM. Our organization is a response to the American carceral state, as well as the rise of historic prison museums within the public history field. So, here we are today.

True, the ACSM does not have all the answers, and much work lies ahead. But the creation of this organization and the release of this newsletter represents a commitment to the purest spirit of public historical practice: using history to make intentional change in the contemporary world. We are excited for you to join us on this adventure.

– Dr. Megan Cullen Tewell,
ACSM Co-Founder & Co-President