



# CT State Library

*Museum of Connecticut History*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WHY LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS MATTER TODAY

*Connecticut's State Librarian and State Historian In Conversation*

(Hartford, CT): The upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's founding has many of us thinking about the importance of history and the institutions that preserve its many stories. How has the State of Connecticut, as one of the original thirteen colonies, documented and preserved its history over the years – and how does it do so today? Join the Connecticut State Library on Thursday, July 17 from 12-1:00 p.m. for a special discussion between Connecticut's State Librarian and State Historian.

In a conversation with State Historian Andy Horowitz, State Librarian Deborah Schander will discuss the Connecticut State Library's unique role in government throughout time, consider the significance of its non-partisan mission, speak to the uncertainty of humanities funding, and examine why libraries and museums still matter in the digital age. She will also share some Revolutionary War-era items from the State Library's rich collection of documents and artifacts that have resurfaced as the Museum of Connecticut History prepares for an exhibit to commemorate the Semiquincentennial of the United States.

Deborah Schander was named Connecticut's first female State Librarian in 2021. As head of the State Library agency, her work sits at the intersections of state and local history, government records, civic engagement, education, technology, and the humanities. In each arena, she champions the agency's role in government and in the lives of Connecticut residents.

Andy Horowitz is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut and was named Connecticut's State Historian in 2023. As a scholar of the modern United States, Horowitz's work strives to help people think through problems that are often imagined to be without precedent.

The discussion between State Librarian Schander and State Historian Horowitz will take place on Thursday, July 17 from 12-1:00 p.m. in the Museum of Connecticut History at the Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Admission is free and open to the public. Registration is requested: <https://forms.office.com/g/Ua8pVFWq1V>. For more information, please contact the Museum of Connecticut History at [museumofcthistory@ct.gov](mailto:museumofcthistory@ct.gov) or (860) 757-6535. Directions and parking information are available at <https://portal.ct.gov/csl/about/hours-and-locations>.

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### **About the Connecticut State Library**

The Connecticut State Library is an independent Executive Branch agency of the State of Connecticut. Founded in 1854, it is home to the State Archives, Office of the Public Records Administrator, Museum of Connecticut History, the Division of Library Development and the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books, and three reference departments (history and genealogy; law and legislation; and government information). Through these units, the agency provides a variety of archival, public records, museum, library, information, and administrative services to the employees and officials of all three branches of state government, libraries, students, teachers, researchers, town governments, and anyone seeking information within its collections. Visit the CT State Library at [CT State Library](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

### **About the Museum of Connecticut History**

The Museum of Connecticut History, a unit of the Connecticut State Library, chronicles the growth of the state and its role in the development of the nation from the Colonial era to the present. The mission of the museum is to connect the experience of residents and museum visitors to the artifacts, images, and documents of the past, increasing awareness of and pride in the state's political, military, and industrial history and building commitment to preserving and sharing its cultural heritage. The Museum of Connecticut History is located within the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court building, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Admission is always free! Learn more at [Museum of Connecticut History](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)