NEWPORT MANSIONS | The Preservation Society of Newport County

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Award-Winning Newport Mansions Curator of Collections Dr. Nicole Williams to Offer Lecture Exploring Newport's Revolutionary History

Inspired by the current Rosecliff exhibition, "Revolution Reimagined," Williams will explore how generations of Newporters turned America's War for Independence into a rallying cry for social and political revolutions in their own times

NEWPORT, R.I. – Inspired by The Preservation Society of Newport County's current exhibition, "Revolution Reimagined," Curator of Collections Dr. Nicole Williams will offer a public lecture entitled "Revolution Reimagined: Memory and Freedom Struggles from 1876 to 2026" on Thursday, September 10, from 6-7 p.m. in person at Rosecliff and online via Zoom.

The lecture will explore how generations of Newporters turned America's War for Independence into a rallying cry for social and political revolutions, from the struggle for Black civil rights in the aftermath of the Civil War to the modern Civil Rights Movement and American Indian Movement in the Bicentennial era. Together these Newporters reshaped our collective memory of the conflict and advanced our founding principles of liberty and equality for all.

"I'm eager to highlight the courageous work of Newporters who seized major commemorative moments like the Centennial and Bicentennial to hold the nation to its high ideals," Dr. Williams said. "In the process, they created vibrant new visual histories of the war and enlarged what we know about the Revolution."

Dr. Williams earned her PhD from Yale University in the History of Art. She has taught art history courses at Yale University and Washington University in St. Louis. Her work as a scholar and curator focuses on the global contexts for 19th-century American art.

Dr. Williams' research has been published in museum catalogues and scholarly journals including Woman's Art Journal, The Journal of Modern Craft, Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide, Photography and Culture, and Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art. She is currently editing the Preservation Society's first ever collections catalogue. Nicole also recently curated exhibitions including "Global Vistas: American Art and Internationalism in the Gilded Age" (2020) at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum and "The Celestial City: Newport and China" (2023-2024), winner of the 2024 Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History.

Attendance at the lecture is available in person at Rosecliff and via Zoom video conference. For tickets and more information, visit NewportMansions.org/events.

ABOUT THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NEWPORT COUNTY

The Preservation Society of Newport County is Rhode Island's largest cultural organization, protecting, preserving and presenting the best of Newport County's architectural heritage. As a nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Preservation Society's 11 historic properties – seven of them National Historic Landmarks – span more than 250 years of American architectural and social development from the Colonial era to the Gilded Age.

Through its historic properties, educational programs and related activities, the Preservation Society engages the public in the story of America's vibrant cultural heritage. Today, these "Newport Mansions" are an integral part of the living fabric of the city in which they stand.

For more information, please visit NewportMansions.org.

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