



Revolutionary Spaces

Open History. Enter Democracy.



Nathaniel Sheidley, Ph.D.
President and CEO at Revolutionary Spaces

About

Nathaniel Sheidley is the President and CEO of Revolutionary Spaces, an organization that stewards Boston's Old State House and Old South Meeting House. He was formerly Executive Director of the Bostonian Society and Assistant Professor of American and Native American History at Wellesley College. He is a graduate of Stanford University and holds a Ph.D. in American History from Princeton University.

Sheidley is a programmatically daring historian whose leadership has reimaged public history at the center of Boston's cultural landscape. His work is guided by a deeply held belief that public history at its best can do more than tell us about the past; it can also deepen our understanding of the present and equip us to build a more just and equitable future.

Sheidley curated and provided creative direction for numerous exhibitions and programs, including *Blood on the Snow*, an immersive, site-specific work of theater written by playwright Patrick Gabridge that dramatizes the pivotal aftermath of the Boston Massacre in the very room where the events took place.

Areas of Expertise – Discussion Topics

- Public history, including exhibitions and programs development

- Civic dialogue that connects the past and present to create contemporary experiences
- Planning programming (both traditional exhibits and newer modes of engaging and interactive programs) that focuses on the work of democracy
- Evolution of the revolutionary American experiment
- Contemporary lessons in the history of American democracy, slavery, immigration, and other issues
- American history, Native American history, and the history of gender and masculinity

Speaking Engagements, Bylines and Commentary

To see Nat speak on the formation of Revolutionary Spaces and the intended impact of this new organization, please visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zxl_1DF4po4

Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate: [Our Nation's Founders and Today's Political Challenges](#)

Boston Globe: [Two Freedom Trail destinations joining forces](#)

National Parks Conversation Magazine: [Accidental Hero](#)

The Take Magazine: [BRINGING NEW VOICES TO OLD BOSTON](#)

Smithsonian Magazine: [The Story Behind a Forgotten Symbol of the American Revolution: The Liberty Tree](#)

WBUR: [Boston Massacre Hits Home With New Play, 'Blood On The Snow'](#)

WGBH: [Dr. Nathaniel Sheidley on Refurnishing Boston's Historic Council Chamber](#)

Discovery Channel: "How Booze Built America," hosted by Mike Rowe (Season 1; Episode 1: [America's Revolution](#))

About Revolutionary Spaces

Revolutionary Spaces stewards the historic Old South Meeting House and Old State House as landmarks, museums, and gathering spaces for the open exchange of ideas and the continuing practice of democracy. Viewing history as a powerful tool for today, Revolutionary Spaces brings people together to explore the American struggle to create and sustain a free society. For more information, visit RevolutionarySpaces.org