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April 23, 2007

DURHAM, N.H. -- How do universities and public arts and humanities organizations build coalitions that enhance cultural life and creative pursuits? The University of New Hampshire Center for New England Culture will explore the topic at a forum, “The Public Project: Making History in the Middle of Somewhere.”

The forum is part of the Heritage New Hampshire Lecture Series. The event takes place Monday, April 30, 2007. The luncheon begins at 12:15 p.m. with the keynote address at 12:45 p.m. A panel discussion and conversation starts at 1:30 p.m.

According to David Watters, director of the UNH Center for New England Culture, public scholarship joins serious intellectual endeavor with a commitment to public practice and public consequence. It includes scholarly and creative work jointly planned and carried out by university and community partners; intellectual work that produces a public good; artistic, critical, and historical work that contributes to public debates; and efforts to expand the place of public scholarship in higher education itself, including the development of new programs and research on the successes of such efforts.

Keynote speaker Julie Ellison, professor of American culture, English, and art and design at the University of Michigan, leads Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life, a national consortium of 70 colleges and universities committed to public scholarship in the arts, humanities and design.

The forum is designed to promote coalitions between higher education and the public arts and humanities at the state level. It is intended for UNH faculty, directors of museums, historical societies, and other cultural organizations to discuss ways to enhance public scholarship as it sustains cultural life and the creative economy.

Please RSVP to David Watters at 603-862-0353 or david.watters@unh.edu.

The Center for New England Culture’s Heritage New Hampshire Lecture Series is supported by an endowment from Heritage New Hampshire. The series annually presents lectures on the images, people, and places of New England, featuring the best of contemporary scholarship on the region.