

Local History
LIVE!

Kensington Historical Society presents:



'NIH: How We Got Here'

*Why NIH is Located in Neighboring Bethesda and
How it has Changed Over the Years*

Wednesday, May 20 • 7:00 pm

Speaker:

Devon Valera, Collections Manager and Curator of the Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum

We all know that 'NIH' is just down the road and that there's a Metro Stop named 'Medical Center,' but why is NIH—its full, correct name is National Institutes of Health—located in Bethesda and what is the history of this highly respected institution?

This talk will cover the origins of NIH from a one-room laboratory to the nation's premiere public health agency, including NIH's founding, which occurred during a time when scientific knowledge about the causes of disease was rapidly expanding. The presentation will place that story in the broader context of changing ideas about medicine, research, and public health in the United States, and will explore how a growing federal commitment to scientific investigation helped shape the institution we know today.

The talk will also describe how NIH came to reside in Bethesda, an especially intriguing story for local residents as it connects one of the nation's leading medical research centers with the history of our own region.

Both early American public health and local Bethesda history will be covered, making this a presentation that should appeal both to those interested in science and to those who enjoy learning more about the development of nearby communities.



*Entrance to the National Institutes of Health - Campus Buildings
ca. 1953. Credit: National Institutes of Health/Office of NIH History and
Stetten Museum*

FREE, All Welcome!

Social hour with light refreshments follows the presentation.

Two ways to attend:

- **In person** at Kensington Town Hall, Lower-level Classroom, 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895. An RSVP to info@KensingtonHistory.org is appreciated but not required.
- **Via Zoom:** You need to register for Zoom IN ADVANCE at this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/d2q8HgRLR5i3ggJJ3xHylA>

Registration is open until the end of the presentation. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email explaining how to join the meeting.