Call for Proposals
“Crossing Borders/Building Communities—Real and Imagined”

2011 Annual Meeting
National Council on Public History
April 6-10, 2011
Historic Pensacola Village and the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pensacola, Florida

The National Council on Public History will meet at the Historic Pensacola Village and the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pensacola, Florida. The program committee invites panel, roundtable, workshop, working group, paper, and poster proposals for the conference.

Located on the Gulf of Mexico in western Florida, Pensacola, has long been identified with numerous cultures and diverse populations. Since 1559, Pensacola has been ruled by Spain, France, England, the Confederacy, and the United States, and the cultural diversity accruing to the city’s architecture, cuisine, holidays, and varied races and social perspectives is everywhere apparent. At once a post-colonial city, a technological powerhouse, and a tourist destination Pensacola is an ideal place to consider issues and ideas structured around the theme of “Crossing Borders/Building Communities—Real and Imagined.” These include the movement of peoples, ideas, technologies, and institutions across national boundaries; the interrelationships of divergent peoples, cultures, races, and ethnic groups one to another; and the memory of these themes in many societies and nations. One area we wish to explore is intersectional identities and the ability to inhabit multiple communities.

Our intention is to broaden the discussion beyond the borders of the nation state to other kinds of borders and boundaries. We take as a starting point the statement of Darryl McIntyre and Kirsten Wehner in their introduction to National Museums: Negotiating Histories (2001)—that museums need to embrace “different geographics of reference” that “contest and shape the imagination.” This theme recognizes that our frames of references are just as political as they are historical and sessions relating this current concerns, but with an historical focus, are also welcome.

Proposals may address any area of public history, but we especially welcome submissions which illustrate or explicate the theme of “Crossing Borders/Building Communities—Real and Imagined.” The program committee prefers complete session proposals but will endeavor to construct sessions from proposals for individual presentations. Sessions will be scheduled for 1.5 hours; significant time for audience discussion should be included in every session. The committee invites proposals for sessions in formats beyond the usual paper session, and encourages presenters in more traditional sessions to dispense with the reading of papers. Participants may give only one formal presentation at the conference, but they may also engage in roundtable, chairing, or comment duties. See the NCPH website at www.ncph.org for details about submitting your proposal. Proposals are due by July 15, 2010.

Some Program Committee funds may be available to assist participants, such as individuals from outside the United States, who might not normally attend a public history conference and whose presence would increase the diversity of the program. Proposals must indicate if anyone on the panel will be requesting NCPH assistance from the committee.

All presenters and other participants are expected to register for the annual meeting. If you have questions, please contact the program committee chair or the NCPH program director:

NCPH Program Committee Chair
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