



## Call for Proposals

“Sustainable Public History”

2014 Annual Meeting, National Council on Public History  
Monterey, California, March 19 – 22, 2014

In 2014 the National Council on Public History will meet at the Monterey Conference Center. Monterey is one of California's most naturally beautiful and historically rich cities. The Conference Center is adjacent to the original Presidio of Monterey, founded in 1776. And it's a short walk to historic Colton Hall, site of the signing of California's first constitution. A paved bayside recreation trail leads to Cannery Row with its shops, galleries, IMAX Theatre, restaurants, clubs and the spectacular Monterey Bay Aquarium. Monterey is a city where nature and culture intersect in fascinating and challenging ways, an ideal place to explore issues of sustainability. The program committee invites panel, roundtable, workshop, working group, and individual paper proposals for the conference. The Call for Poster sessions will be issued in fall 2013.

At its core, sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future. Sustainability requires us to work within limited economic and natural resources, build lasting community and cross-disciplinary relationships, emphasize quality over quantity, and elevate social responsibility. The idea of sustainability is often applied to our relationship with the environment, but also relates to the way we manage and fund historic resources. This conference will examine how the idea of sustainability can advance the field of public history and, in turn, how public history can encourage sustainability. Questions to consider include:

- How can we use history to promote a better relationship with the environment?
- How can we ensure that our own work is sustainable and that the collections, institutions, and knowledge we build today will endure for generations?
- Recognizing that disparities of wealth and power undermine sustainability, how can we use history to ensure social justice?
- How can public historians connect local actions to global developments, particularly around processes like climate change or economic decline and redevelopment?
- How can our work inform vital public debate on these processes?

**Some ideas for sessions include: ...**

- Interpreting the history of energy resources and their use, climate change, global warming, consumption, transportation, and the material culture of waste and reuse
- Sustainable food – historic foodways and local food culture, historic farming practices and modern agriculture, farmers' markets, community gardening
- Preserving and interpreting historical resources in an era of climate change and limited resources, including resources that have themselves altered the environment
- The role of historic organizations and preservation in sustainable planning or rebuilding– how are historic communities rebuilding after hurricanes and other disasters? How should municipalities manage use of waterfronts, flood plains, or areas susceptible to drought, etc.?
- Reuse of historic buildings, issues of integrity, and the relationship between “green” architecture and historic preservation
- Developing and interpreting the heritage aspects of recreational trails and environmental preserves
- Graduate education: What do graduate students need to know about sustainability? Is the proliferation of graduate programs sustainable?
- Incorporating public history into university-based sustainability centers or councils

- Understanding sustainability issues in digital history projects
- Cultivating and sustaining community engagement relationships
- The impact of heritage tourism on communities and the natural environment
- Race relations—neighborhood segregation and connections to environmental justice on the Monterey Peninsula and elsewhere
- Creative ways to sustain heritage institutions; finding new audiences and new funding sources
- Diversifying the public history profession

### **Developing Your Proposal**

We welcome submissions from all areas of the field, including teaching, museums, archives, heritage management, tourism, consulting, litigation-based research, and public service. Proposals may address any area of public history, but we especially welcome submissions which relate to our theme. Case studies should evoke broader questions about practice in the field. The program committee prefers complete session proposals but will endeavor to construct sessions from proposals for individual presentations. Sessions are 1.5 hours (working groups and workshops may be longer); significant time for audience discussion should be included in every session

The NCPH urges participants to dispense with the reading of papers, and encourages a wide variety of forms of conversation and session format options. Please avoid panels of talking heads and overreliance on PowerPoint presentations; sessions should not simply be a “show and tell” but should demonstrate advice and methodology, and include opportunities for exchange between presenters and audience beyond a 10-minute Q&A at the end. Session format options can include, but are not limited to:

- **Experiential:** Participants simulate, role-play, or play games to convey key principles and learning objectives.
- **PechaKucha:** Facilitators quickly move the session through a variety of short tips/images/ideas designed to leave participants with inspiration and ideas. Typically, a PechaKucha is a multiple-presenter activity where each presenter shows 20 slides in 20-second increments. Allow time for debriefing.
- **Point/Counterpoint:** A moderated discussion that offers opposing points of view in a debate format.
- **Roundtable:** Presentations in roundtables are typically limited to 30 minutes of presentation, followed by 60 minutes of discussion and feedback. Roundtable presenters should bring targeted questions to pose to others at the table in order to learn from and with those attending. Roundtables are an ideal format for networking and in-depth discussion on a particular topic.
- **Structured Conversation:** Sparked by a shared interest or need, these facilitated participant-driven discussions are designed to encourage audience dialogue. Start with a provocative or problem statement and see where the conversation goes.
- **Traditional:** Three-person, chair and commentator panels.

Other non-session format options can include:

- **Working Groups (2 hours):** Involving facilitators and up to twelve discussants, working groups allow conferees to explore in depth a subject of shared concern before and during the annual meeting. In these seminar-like conversations, participants have a chance to discuss questions raised by specific programs, problems, or initiatives in their own public history practice with peers grappling with similar issues. Working groups articulate a purpose they are working toward, a problem they are actively trying to solve, and aim to create an end product(s), such as a report, article, website, or exhibition. Proposals should include only facilitators. An open call for discussants will be issued fall 2013.

- **Workshops (half or full day):** Workshops provide hands-on and participatory experiences that impart practical information or skills, and typically require participants to pay a fee.

**Here are some ideas for workshops:**

- Oral history projects as a way of understanding environmental change over time
- How to create sustainable relationships with environmental professionals within and outside of the history field
- Interdisciplinary approaches to resource management
- “Greening” your museum or historic structure
- Development and fund raising strategies for heritage organizations
- Beyond signage: new methods for interpreting historic landscapes and heritage sites
- Managing collaborations and institutional partnerships
- Making you heritage organization’s business model sustainable
- Digital tools and approaches to public history work

Participants may be members of only one panel, but may also engage in working groups, introducing sessions and leading discussions. See the NCPH website at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org) for details about submitting your proposal and be sure to peruse past NCPH programs for ideas about new session/event formats.

**Proposals are due by July 15, 2013.**

All presenters and other participants are expected to register for the annual meeting and pay the registration fee by November 1, 2013. If you have questions, please contact the program committee co-chairs or the NCPH program manager.

**2014 Program Committee Co-Chairs**

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