Call for Pop-Ups

2017 NCPH Annual Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana | April 19-22, 2017
The Middle: Where did we come from? Where are we going?

For the first time, the National Council on Public History is soliciting proposals for pop-up exhibits or activities to set up in the exhibit hall over the course of the 2017 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. At past conferences, pop-ups have been informal but welcome additions to the exhibit hall and given NCPH the opportunity to showcase local organizations, increase diversity at the meeting, and give additional visibility to projects represented elsewhere on the Program—all while helping attendees shake things up and have fun. We’re formalizing the process now to allow the entire NCPH community the opportunity to lead a pop-up and share their work with meeting attendees in a less-structured way.

The pop-up format is, by nature, flexible and spontaneous. NCPH welcomes a wide variety of proposals and has no specific expectations in terms of materials or content. We ask that proposals reflect a pop-up that will be visual and interactive; whether it’s set up in the exhibit hall for an hour, two hours, or six, attendees should have the chance to wander up, talk with presenters, and try something new or different.

Deadline: January 15, 2017
Questions before you submit a proposal? Email Program Assistant Meghan Hillman at meghillm@iupui.edu.

The Exhibit Hall in Indianapolis

Pop-ups will be guaranteed two six-foot tables with chairs in the exhibit hall, and additional space (including round tables) will be available in the Commons gathering space where attendees can interact with the pop-up. NCPH may be able to provide some materials for the pop-up (such as electrical service and easels) if given sufficient notice.
Exhibit hall hours are as follows:
Thursday, April 20, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Friday, April 21, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday, April 22, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Examples of past pop-ups include:

**Seeds of Change: Public History and Sustainability** (Monterey, 2014) – Graduate students from American University created a pop-up museum exhibit examining the intersection of public history, the environment, human labor, and cultural resources – which connected to the 2014 conference theme, “Sustainable Public History.” Conference attendees were asked to contribute to the pop-up by photographing or drawing an example of their own organization’s sustainable practices and creating a label for the exhibit. Check out *History@Work* blog posts from the pop-up organizers before and after the meeting for more information.

**The Lost Museum Collections Annex** (Nashville, 2015) – Graduate student winners of the 2015 Student Project Award resurrected the Jenks Museum, a natural history collection that once existed at Brown University. Participants learned about the museum and helped recreate lost museum specimens in miniature, which were then displayed with the exhibit back in Providence. Learn more about the Jenks Society project on *History@Work*.

**‘Mickey Mouse History’: Fair Use for Public Historians** (Nashville, 2015) – Organizers answered questions about copyright and fair use and gathered stories and experiences from public historians who navigate images and copyright law in their work. Loosely modeled after *Seeds of Change*, pop-up organizers asked attendees to submit photos and captions to display in the exhibit hall. Learn more about the pop-up on *History@Work*.

**Choose Your Own Public History Adventure!** (Nashville, 2015) – Members of the 2015 working group *Free, Separate, Uncertain: Can Public History Play?* engaged participants in historically-based games and asked them to fill in a memory wall about their experiences of the relationships between public history and play. Learn more about the pop-up activities they offered on *History@Work*, and check out the *Storify* as the action unfolded.