



## “The Presence and Persistence of Stories”

Call for Proposals

National Council on Public History

2021 Annual Meeting

Salt Lake City, Utah | March 24-27, 2021

Stories are the cornerstones of our relationship to each other and to the land. With each telling and re-telling, we reinforce relationships, we bridge past and present, and we lay foundations for the future. A single place might have many histories, it might have vibrant pasts distinct from our own, but through our stories, our memories, and our experiences, we become inextricably connected to that place. This conference celebrates stories and histories, and explicitly grounds them in the land of their telling.



Leisl Carr Childers, Photo of Jetsonorama (Chip Thomas) Art on the Navajo Nation near Page, Arizona 2012.



Downtown Salt Lake City. Image Courtesy Visit Salt Lake.

At the dawn of NCPH’s fifth decade, this conference invites sessions that illuminate the ways stories of the past bring meaning to the present and that consider how narratives form and re-form through the ongoing nature of their interpretation. While the theme is particularly focused on Indigenous storytelling, the telling of under-told stories, and what it means to speak stories to future generations, we also hope to engage histories that reveal the dynamism and complexities of all communities, known and less-known.

**Early Topic Proposals due June 1, 2020**

**Full Proposals are due July 15, 2020**

**More submission information and proposal submission forms are available via <http://bit.ly/NCPH2021>**

NCPH strongly urges participants to dispense with the reading of papers and welcomes a wide variety of session formats. We encourage sessions that push past “show and tell” to share lessons learned, identify implications for future work, and invite substantive exchanges between presenters and audience.

Preference will be given to:

- Sessions that include traditionally underrepresented voices
- Sessions that consider public impact and the points of view of relevant collaborators

#### PRESENTATION FORMATS MAY INCLUDE:

- **ROUNDTABLE (90 mins):** Roundtables are typically limited to 30 minutes of presentation, followed by 60 minutes of discussion and feedback. Presenters should bring targeted questions to pose to others at the table in order to learn from and with those attending.
- **STRUCTURED CONVERSATION (90 mins):** 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 PANEL (90 mins):** At least three presenters, chair, and commentator.
- **COMMUNITY VIEWPOINTS (90 mins):** A project showcase that features a variety of stakeholder and collaborator perspectives.
- **EXPERIENTIAL (90 mins):** Participants simulate, role-play, or play games to convey key principles and learning objectives.
- **PECHA KUCHA (90 mins):** Facilitators quickly move the session through a series of images or ideas. Typically a Pecha Kucha is a multiple-presenter activity where each presenter shows 20 slides in 20-second increments. Allow time for debriefing.
- **POINT-COUNTERPOINT (90 mins):** A moderated discussion that offers opposing points of view in a debate format.
- **WORKING GROUPS (2 hrs):** In these seminar-like conversations between facilitators and up to 12

discussants, participants discuss questions raised by specific programs, problems, or initiatives in their own public history practice with peers grappling with similar issues. Before and during the meeting, working groups articulate a purpose they are working toward or a problem they are actively trying to solve and aim to create an end product(s). Proposals are submitted by facilitators; an open call for discussants will be issued in late summer 2020. For more information, see <https://ncph.org/public-history-commons/working-group-discussions/>.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

See <http://ncph.org/conference/2021-annual-meeting> for details on submitting proposals.

#### EARLY TOPIC PROPOSAL OPTION

Gather suggestions on a topic and look for collaborators/co-panelists by filling out a “topic-only” form online by **June 1, 2020**. Topics will be distributed to NCPH members via email and posted to [ncph.org](http://ncph.org). Respondents will contact the original submitter directly, helping to complete a proposal for the July deadline.

#### FINAL PROPOSAL DEADLINE

Submit your fully formed session, working group, individual paper, or workshop proposal online by **July 15, 2020**.

The Call for Posters and Call for Working Group Discussants will be forthcoming in the summer of 2020.



Main Street, Salt Lake City, ca 1908. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. <https://www.loc.gov/item/93505883/>