

Request for Proposals: NCPH Seeks to Fund Virtual Projects and Programming

Submit: <https://ncph.org/conference/proposals-for-virtual-programming/>

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant unemployment and under-employment of many public historians, the National Council on Public History seeks to fund proposals for virtual programming or projects to be planned and executed before December 31, 2020. Because NCPH has a small staff and small capacity, by proposing an idea you agree to take the lead on planning and execution of the project should it be selected, although assistance in the form of promotion, limited staff-time, and access to NCPH platforms like our WordPress-driven website or Zoom account will be possible. Proposed programming should be free for participants and not restricted to NCPH members, although proposers may choose to restrict attendance in other ways to suit the goals of that program. You need not be a member of NCPH to submit a proposal or to receive funding in the form of a facilitation fee or honorarium. At this time we're hoping to fund approximately five professional development programs or projects and five more casual networking/community-building events.

We welcome you to read [this post on our blog, *History@Work*](#), for more information about the impetus for and ethos behind this RFP. In line with the original goals for the allocation of this funding, we particularly look to prioritize proposals from public historians who have been laid off or furloughed by the COVID-19 pandemic; BIPOC public historians; LGBTQ+ public historians; and disabled public historians.**

We are seeking proposals in two distinct categories, each with different goals, expectations, deadlines, and levels of funding:

1) Professional development projects

Proposals due August 1, 2020 | Maximum funding of \$1,000 per project or program

NCPH intends to fund programs and projects that will help public historians* build their professional skills and tools and/or will encourage development of conversations or resources that will live beyond the date of the program. We are particularly interested in proposals that tackle the urgency of the moment, whether that be related to COVID-19 or to the ongoing struggle for racial justice. Requested funding should be used primarily to compensate facilitator(s)/organizer(s) for their time or to pay honorariums to public historians for their participation. We've provided some examples of the sort of thing we have in mind, but we encourage creativity and are interested in hearing more out-of-the-box ideas too.

Examples of digital professional development programming might include:

- A Twitter chat and a supplemental collection of digital resources on an important and timely topic, in the vein of [#MuseumsRespondtoFerguson](#);
- A webinar on supporting frontline staff at reopening institutions during COVID-19;
- A Zoom workshop on best practices for safe and ethical crisis collecting;
- The development of a virtual mentorship program for a specific sub-group of public historians (for example: mid-career public historians; furloughed, laid off, and unemployed public historians; LGBTQ+ public historians).

To propose a professional development program, project, or resource, [fill out the form](#) by August 1, 2020. After this date NCPH staff and an advisory group composed of several board members will evaluate and select from the received proposals. Proposals will still be accepted on a rolling basis after this date if funding remains available. You are *not required* to share your employment status or information about your identity (race, sexual or gender orientation, ability), but if you choose to do so in the provided space on the form, you may be eligible for specially-allocated funds designed to preference specific groups.**

2) Networking and community-building events

Proposals accepted on a rolling basis until funding cap of \$1,000 is reached | Maximum funding of \$200 per event

With many public historians furloughed, laid off, or working from home, and with many of our usual networking and social professional events (like conferences, mini-cons, and informal peer groups) going virtual, we seek to provide new avenues for connection, inspiration, and venting. Unlike the first category of proposal, these more informal events might require very little pre-planning of content, and requested funding should be used to compensate the facilitator or organizer for a correspondingly smaller amount of labor.

Examples of this sort of programming might include:

- A virtual coffee hour for BIPOC public historians;
- A networking event for grad students or new professionals;
- A monthly-meeting support group for public historians leaving the field, either temporarily or permanently.

To propose a networking or social event, please [fill out the form](#). These proposals will be evaluated on a rolling basis as they are received, and must be received no later than November 1, 2020. You are *not required* to share your employment status or information about your identity (race, sexual or gender orientation, ability), but if you choose to do so in the provided space on the form, you may be eligible for specially-allocated funds designed to preference specific groups.**

* Please note that NCPH's definition of *public historian* is broad and includes community activists and organizers; artists, filmmakers, and musicians who produce historically-minded work; and anyone who puts history to work in the world, regardless of their professional or educational background.

***A note on allocation and prioritization of funding:*

These programs will be funded from lines of NCPH's 2020 budget related to our mini-con program, workshop seed money intended for our canceled in-person 2020 conference, and Board-approved funding drawn from our Endowment to support annual meeting diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. In order to preserve the goals for these specially-allocated funds, five thousand of the available seven thousand dollars will be reserved for public historians who have been laid off, furloughed, or otherwise had their employment impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; BIPOC public historians; LGBTQ+ public historians; and disabled public historians. Proposals that pull from this pool of money must be organized/submitted by a person representing at least one of these groups *and* the majority of funding must be used to support public historians from one or several of these groups. The remaining two thousand dollars will be open to all. For more information about the impetus for this RFP and the allocation of funds, please see [the blog post](#).