CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

An Invitation to Participate in the 2022 DC History Conference

The DC History Conference is an interdisciplinary, community conference considering the past, present, and future of the District. Since 1973, the conference organizers aim to provide a welcoming, educational, and stimulating forum for original research and engagement with the history of the Washington, DC metropolitan area (including Maryland, Virginia, and the federal government). The conference is co-presented by the DC History Center and DC Public Library, sponsored by the Graduate Program in Public History at American University, and organized by a volunteer planning committee.

We invite participation from scholars across the public humanities and other fields, community researchers, artists, local organizers and practitioners, and the community at-large. We encourage the participation of students at all education levels, particularly graduate students presenting research-in-progress.

The 48th annual DC History Conference will take place March 31 – April 2, 2022. This three-day event is free to all attendees. In our annual tradition, the conference will open with the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives on Thursday, March 31. Scholars and researchers of DC history will kick off the first full day of the conference at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library on Friday, April 1. That day, community-based history practitioners will also showcase their organizations at the History Network. Panels continue along with opportunities for additional programming including workshops, tours, and a poster session at the Library on Saturday, April 2.

Conference details may be subject to change due to the Covid-19 pandemic. At this time, the planning committee anticipates presenting the 2022 conference in a hybrid format with all panels occurring in-person and a number of panels live-streamed at the discretion of the planning committee and with the permission of panelists. Given the challenges to event planning during a pandemic, we ask for your patience and understanding.

Deadline Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST

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Session Formats

The submission form invites scholarly and creative submissions in a variety of formats, described below. When submitting, select the one which most closely resembles your vision. If you're not sure which format to submit under, email conference@dchistory.org to correspond with a program committee member to talk about your idea. All submitters fill out the same submission form regardless of submission type. We also invite individuals to volunteer to serve as a moderator for a session by filling out the submission form. The format types are:

- Poster
- Project Spotlight
- Individual Presentation
- Panel Proposal
- Group Conversation
- Creative Expressions
- History Network

Poster
Posters are visual representations of your research. Posters are typically printed in a 24” x 36” format. The planning committee also creates an opportunity for accepted posters to share digitally accessible versions of their posters for social media.

Project Spotlight
Create a 5-minute video on a significant project of original research including digital projects, podcasts, short films, curated exhibitions, dissertations, and books published within the calendar year since the November 2020 conference. Spotlight videos are shared primarily on social media, with the possibility of an in-person component depending on the number of submissions.

Individual Presentation
A presentation of your original research, typically including an argument, examples, and visuals. The conference committee identifies related individual presentation submissions to form approximately 75 minute-long panels. Typically, three speakers each have 15 to 20 minutes to present their research followed by 10 to 15 minutes of discussion with audience participation. The program committee will assign a moderator to each panel.

Panel Proposal (submit once, as a group)
Panel proposals consist of three to four speakers who address a single topic or overarching theme/subject together. If you propose a panel, you must identify all participants. Include in your proposal the name of the moderator who will introduce the panel and offer commentary. The proposal should include one contact person for the group.
Group Conversation
Group conversations are interactive sessions offering conversation and dialogue with attendees participating in the discussion. Explain in your description how the group will engage participants in exploring a critical aspect of DC history or a contemporary issue in the city or metropolitan area. This is a new format, so examples are included in the FAQ.

Creative Expressions of History (Performance & Response)
The possibilities for this category are wide-ranging: storytelling, original film or performance, pastiche of found footage, artistic expressions, music, spoken word and/or poetry, reenactment. Include in your project description how long the performance will be as well as your A/V needs. The program committee will assign time slots. You can include the name of a commentator to provide context for the performance or the planning committee will identify and assign one. This is a new format, so examples are included in the FAQ.

The History Network
Set up a table to network with conference attendees to promote your work, recruit members/volunteers, and meet people. Sign up for the History Network if your humanities-based work focuses on DC history and you want to set up an information table, simpler to an expo. Either fill out the submission form or email conference@dchistory.org to sign up.

Moderators
For the first time, the DC History Conference also invites individuals to volunteer to moderate a panel. Moderators introduce panelists, keep time, and take audience questions and comments. Training and resources will be provided. The number of submissions will determine how many moderators are needed and the program committee will match moderators with panels. Individuals interested in moderating a session can indicate interest in the first section of the submission form. In the next section, include your name, contact information, and areas of expertise so the committee can match you with a panel.
Submission Instructions

Submit your proposal by the deadline, **Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST**, via Google Form at [https://bit.ly/SubmitDCHistCon22](https://bit.ly/SubmitDCHistCon22). The form includes several short sections:

1. Introduction
2. How do you want to be involved?
3. Tell us about your project.
4. Who are your project partners?
5. Tell us about you.
6. Confirmation

**How do you want to be involved?**
This is your opportunity to select “present” or “serve as moderator.” If you select “serve as moderator, you will fill out an abbreviated version of the form. To submit your proposal, select “Present at the DC History Conference.”

**Tell us about your project.**
Tell us what you’re working on, what’s important, the takeaways, and who might be interested in your project. We also ask for a title and keyword “tags” so we can group your project with related ones. If you have an abstract, you may submit that text, but please be sure it answers the questions listed in the submission form. If you are submitting a panel proposal, select “Will anyone else be presenting with you?” and include the names and affiliations of your partners in the next section, called “Who are your project partners?”

**Who are your project partners?**
Provide the names and bio of each of your presenting partners. Include positions and affiliations, as relevant.

**Tell us about you.**
We ask for your name, a brief bio, and contact information. This is only for the individual submitting. Additional partners should be listed in the “Who are your project partners?” section. If you aren’t prompted to share the names of presenting partners, and you are presenting with other individuals, go back to the “Tell us about your project” section and select “Yes” when asked “Will anyone else be presenting with you?”

**Confirmation**
Finish the form by agreeing to the conditions listed. If you have questions, email the conference planning committee at conference@dchistory.org.
Submission Examples

Included below are some examples of each presentation type. Review past programs available at dchistory.org/conference to find more examples. If you have questions about what kind of format your presentation will work best in, email us at conference@dchistory.org

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Poster


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Project Spotlight


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Individual Presentation

(Each presentation was individually submitted and then grouped together)

- Untold Stories of Individuals and Institutions (2019)
  - “The Legacy of Myrtilla Miner’s Visionary Leadership,” Kim Bender, Executive Director, Heurich House Museum
  - “Charles Hamilton Houston, In Local Perspective,” Roger Fairfax, Professor, George Washington University Law School
  - “‘Rehabilitating’ to ‘Mainstreaming’: Webster Girls School and Reproductive Justice,” Maren Orchard, Graduate Student, American University

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Panel Proposal


It is well known that DC has always had a significant African American population. As segregation increased, so did the formation of distinct African American communities, in both rural and built-up areas of the District. These were not just physical places; the strong social ties that held them together were one means for members to survive the prejudice and special laws,
rules, and norms to which they were subject. Why were these communities targeted for displacement? This panel will explore the destruction of two DC communities in the early and mid-20th century: Meridian Hill, in the midst of a burgeoning embassy row, and Barry Farm, east of the Anacostia River and more remote. These two stories will be framed by a reminder of the displacement centuries ago of the Nacotchtank people of the Anacostia area, and an exploration of the displacement that is occurring today in DC, spurred by gentrification.

Moderator: Mara Cherkasky, Co-Founder, Prologue DC, LLC
Panelists:
- Alcione Amos, Curator, Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum
- Mara Cherkasky, Co-Founder, Prologue DC, LLC
- Samir Meghelli, Chief Curator, Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum
- Brett Williams, Retired, Professor, American University

Group Conversation
- Education Activism in 1980s Washington (a retired DC teacher and a former PTA president discuss their experiences with a graduate student studying the topic)
- Green Light! (former city planners, urban and transportation activists, and residents reflect on the 30th anniversary of the Anacostia Metro station)
- Sounds in the City (former and/or current musicians, DJs, and party promoters discuss how music has shaped DC culture over the years)

Creative Expressions of History
- A performance based on oral histories of life-long Washingtonians reflecting on changes in their neighborhood over the last six decades
- A slide presentation of historical street photography narrated by the photographer and participants
- DC murals come to life! A collaboration of local mural artists and performance
- An artist workshop reflecting on a moment in DC history with hands-on experience for attendees

History Network
DC History Center, The People’s Archive at DC Public Library, Female RE-Enactors of Distinction (FREED), Prologue DC’s Mapping Segregation
Frequently Asked Questions

General

What has the conference looked like in the past?
To see panels and information about past conferences, visit:

How can I participate in the conference?
We invite participation from all DC history enthusiasts as presenters, moderators,
volunteers, committee volunteers, and attendees.

How can I volunteer?
We invite volunteers to assist during the conference! Information will be available as the
date approaches.

Who is on the planning committee? How do I join?
The planning committee is a group of dedicated volunteers supported by staff at the DC
History Center. Learn who sits on the committee on our website. Each volunteer has
expertise across a variety of fields, all with a love for DC history. New committee
members join the committee at the start of the planning year in anticipation of the next
annual conference. If you want to be involved with the committee, email us at
conference@dchistory.org and specify you want to volunteer on the planning committee.

Submitting to Present

Who can answer questions as I’m preparing my submission?
Email conference@dchistory.org your questions. Either our conference manager or a
program committee member will respond.

What does the submission form ask me for?
The submission form asks you for basic information about your project including a
summary of your idea, what audiences might be interested in your presentation, and
keywords for tagging. We also ask for information about you, including your name and
bio.

How many times can I submit?
Each submission form allows only one submission. To submit multiple presentations, you
will need to submit the form multiple times. If you are interested in a presentation format
AND the History Network, you can apply via the submission form and email to sign up for
the History Network.
What’s a moderator? How are they determined?
A moderator introduces panelists, keeps time, and takes audience questions and comments. You can volunteer to be a moderator, and if your service is required, the planning committee will pair you with a session. Proposed panels are expected to identify their own moderator.

Can I see a sample biographical statement?
Sample A
Mariana Barros-Titus is a community organizer and government relations communications professional in Washington, DC. A graduate of the University of the District of Columbia’s Political Science program, Barros-Titus is a passionate scholar of power structures and is interested in better understanding the historical context that has shaped today's world. She is also involved with the Statehood for the People of DC movement and serves as a Neighborhood Captain for Ward 2 in the Neighbors United for Statehood Coalition. As a Latin American immigrant woman, she is dedicated to amplifying the history and presence of the Latinx community in Washington. Currently, she is working with the DC History Center as the Latino/a/x Community Outreach Fellow, where she is leading a project aimed at addressing historical archival silences as they pertain to Latino populations' experiences.

Sample B
Lina Mann joined the White House Historical Association in 2017 as American University’s Public History fellow and came onboard as a historian in March 2020. She is interested in many different aspects of White House history, including her latest research on the enslaved individuals that built, lived, and worked in the White House. As a lifelong Marylander, she also researches local and regional history. Previously, she has worked with the National Park Service and the Maryland Historical Society. Lina received her Bachelor of Arts in History with minors in Anthropology, Environmental Studies, and Museum Studies from St. Mary’s College of Maryland in 2016 and earned her Master of Arts in Public History from American University in 2019.

Sample C
Dr. Ruth Trocolli is the District Archaeologist for Washington, DC, in the Historic Preservation Office/Office of Planning. She was a 2015 winner of the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Award for exemplary public service, and a 2016 Society for Historical Archaeology Award of Merit for her work in the District. Dr. Trocolli's prime goals are to identify, record, and protect the District's archaeological resources. Her duties include reviewing federal and local constructions projects, maintaining the archaeological site files and GIS, curating the archaeological collections and technical report library, and conducting public outreach. She received her doctorate from the University of Florida in Anthropology with a specialty in North American Archaeology, and a BA from Douglass College, Rutgers University in Classical Archaeology. Dr. Trocolli has been employed as a professional archaeologist since completing her
undergraduate degree. She previously worked in the private sector as a consulting archaeologist, in academia, and was a contractor at the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History.

**What do I do if I’m submitting with a group?**

If you’re submitting a full panel, you only submit the form once. Designate one point of contact for the group. When asked if you are presenting with other individuals, answer yes to proceed to the “Who are your project partners?” section. If you aren’t prompted to share the names of presenting partners, and you are presenting with other individuals, go back to the “Tell us about your project” section and select “Yes” when asked “Will anyone else be presenting with you?”

**What is the Creative Expressions of History format, and how do I make sure I have the tech I need?**

This format is inclusive of a variety of creative possibilities! Tell us what you have in mind, and how you might be able to make this creative idea happen. If you want to discuss how to make your idea work, email conference@dchistory.org to be put in contact with a program committee member who will offer recommendations to shape your idea.

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**After Submitting**

**What happens after I submit?**

The program committee will review all submissions, make recommendations, and then build the schedule and the program.

**Who will read my submission?**

The DC History Conference planning committee includes a subcommittee dedicated to building the conference program. This is a group of volunteers with expertise across a variety of fields, all with a love for DC history.

**How will submissions be evaluated?**

Each member of the program committee will read all of the submissions and evaluate them based on originality (is this new research, information, or perspective?) interest (will the community be interested in this work?), and fit (is it in conversation with other submissions? Is it timely?). The committee then meets to determine which submissions will become part of the program. We receive outstanding submissions every year, and not all can be accepted. We may inquire if you are willing to transform your submission into a different format, most commonly from a paper to a poster.
When can I expect to hear about the committee’s decision?
   Based on our current timeline, we will notify presenters with our decisions by late November.

Will my submission be grouped with others?
   If you submit an individual presentation, you will be grouped with other individual presenters. When you submit your proposal, be sure to tag it with no more than five keywords provided in the submission form’s checkboxes. This will help the program committee group submissions based on relevant and overlapping themes.

How is the program created?
   The program committee will review all submissions, make recommendations, and then draft the schedule and the program.