DC HISTORY CONFERENCE

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Present at the 50th Annual DC History Conference

📅 **April 4 – 6, 2024**   📍 **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library**

The DC History Conference is an interdisciplinary, community conference considering the District's past, present, and future. Since 1973, the conference organizers have provided a welcoming, educational, and stimulating forum for original research on and engagement with the history of the Washington, DC metropolitan area—prioritizing the local city but including nearby Maryland and Virginia, and the federal government. The DC History Conference is co-presented by the DC History Center, DC Public Library, and HumanitiesDC, and supported by organizational partners and a volunteer planning committee.

If DC's history informs your work or you have an appreciation for how the city's past shapes its present and future, this is the conference for you! We invite presentations from community members: researchers, artists, local organizers, performers, public history practitioners, and scholars across the humanities and other fields. We encourage submissions from educators and students at all levels, including high school, undergraduate, and graduate.

The conference begins the evening of Thursday, April 4, with the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture, invited by the conference committee. Presentations and the History Network take place Friday, April 5, with more presentations and the Poster Session on Saturday, April 6. While there may be sessions available virtually, all presenters must present in person due to our technical and management capacity. We thank you for your understanding.

Deadline   Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 11:59 PM EST
Submission Form   https://bit.ly/SubmitDCHistCon2024

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Session Formats

The submission form invites scholarly and creative submissions in various formats, described below. When submitting, select the one that most closely resembles your vision. If you are not sure under which format to submit, email conference@dchistory.org to connect with a program committee member about your idea. The format types are:

- **Poster/Recent Books**
- **Panel Proposal**
- **Individual Presentation**
- **Community Roundtable**
- **Creative Expressions**
- **History Network** *(separate application)*

Poster/Recent Books

Posters are visual representations of your research and offer a great forum for those who want to present exploratory research, talk about their recently published books (since April 2022), and more. Please keep your posters to no larger than a 36" x 48" format, which is the recommended size. **New this year:** Authors with a book released after April 2022, can sell and sign books and meet conference attendees at their own table during the Poster Session. Authors are encouraged but not required to bring visual components for their table, including a poster.

Panel Proposal (submit once, as a group)

Panel proposals consist of two to five speakers who address a single topic or overarching theme/subject together, including an argument, supporting evidence, and visuals. Sessions are typically 75 minutes and audience Q&A is required. If you propose a panel, please identify all participants in the submission. If selected, you will have the opportunity to revise the list when the conference program in January. Include in your proposal the name of the moderator who will introduce and guide the panel. The proposal should also include one contact person for the group. *Suggestion: Panel proposals are encouraged because they create cohesive experiences for both presenters and attendees. When creating a panel, please consider your panel demographics. A diverse panel offers more perspectives and insights and will be given additional consideration by the committee.*

Individual Presentation

A presentation of your original research, typically including an argument, supporting evidence, and visuals. The conference committee groups individual submissions with complementary themes to form panels of three speakers, each of whom will have 15 to 20 minutes to present their research followed by 10 to 15 minutes of panel discussion with audience participation, resulting in a 75-minute session. The program committee will assign a moderator to each

grouping. ***Suggestion****: Consider inviting other scholars who could join you to create an outstanding panel proposal.*

Community Roundtable

Community Roundtables are interactive sessions offering conversation and dialogue *with* attendees participating in the discussion. Session sizes are limited to the number of chairs in the discussion room, placed in a circle. In your proposal, focus on the discussion aspect of the session. Explain how the group will engage audience participants in exploring a critical aspect of DC history, a contemporary issue in the city or metropolitan area, or an issue faced by local cultural heritage organizations that would benefit from community input. While open to all conference attendees, the program will highlight the intended audiences for the roundtables.

Creative Expressions of History (Performance & Response)

The possibilities for this category are wide-ranging and include storytelling, performance, a collage of found film or video footage, artistic expressions, music, spoken word and/or poetry, and reenactment. Include the length of your performance and your anticipated A/V needs in your project description. Please list the name of a moderator to provide context for the performance or the planning committee will identify and assign one. Examples are included below in the FAQ section. ***Suggestion****: Identify your session as a Creative Expression only if it does not fit the other session formats. We recommend emailing us at conference@dchistory.org in advance to discuss your idea and determine if Creative Expressions is the best category for you.*

History Network

The History Network is an ideal way to promote your organization or project and recruit members/volunteers. For this two-hour session, you will set up a table, similar to an expo, where you can meet and talk with conference attendees. Qualifying participants must do humanities-based work focused on DC history and culture. **There will be a separate sign-up for the History Network circulating later this fall.**

Submission Instructions

The deadline for submission is **Sunday, November 12, 2023,** at **11:59 PM EST**. The form includes several short sections:

1. Provide your email. This allows us to send you a copy of your submission and a confirmation email.
2. Tell us about yourself.
3. Tell us what you're working on.
4. Who is presenting with you?
5. Complete the confirmation section.

To present at the conference, visit our submission site and proceed with the form.

Tell us about yourself!

We ask for your name, a brief biographical statement, and contact information. This is only for the individual submitting. Additional partners should be listed in the "Who is presenting with you?" section. ***Helpful tip:*** If you aren't prompted to share the names of presenting partners, and you are presenting with other individuals, return to the "Tell us about your project" section and select "Yes" when asked "Will anyone else be presenting with you?"

Tell us what you're working on

Tell us what you're working on, what's important, key takeaways, and who might be interested in your project. Please provide a title and keyword "tags" so we can group your project with related ones and easily indicate subject areas for attendees. If you have an abstract, you may submit that text, but 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 is presenting with you?"

Who is presenting with you?

Provide the names and a brief biographical statement for each of your presenting partners. Include positions and affiliations, as relevant.

Confirmation

Complete the form by agreeing to the conditions listed. If you have questions, email the conference planning committee at conference@dchistory.org. The form is set to collect email addresses, which allows us to send you a confirmation email with your submission information. If you are not comfortable or able to submit via Google Form, contact us conference@dchistory.org to arrange another option.

Submission Examples

Below are some examples of each presentation type. Examples of past programs are available at https://conference.dchistory.org/program. If you have questions about choosing the best format for your presentation, email us at conference@dchistory.org.

Poster

Posters from the 2023 DC History Conference. Photos by Shedrick Pelt.

Individual Presentation

Each presentation was individually submitted and then grouped with other related individual presentations. The program subcommittee assigned a moderator.

- *Belonging In DC: Special Interests and Community Formation* (2022)
  - Ken Avis, "Nashville of the North: When Country Was King in DC"
  - Jose Gutierrez, "Mi Casa Es Tu Casa: DC Latinx LGBTQ+"
  - Pamela Harris Lawton, "Re-Discovering Graphics: A History of the Smithsonian's Printmaking Program for DC Area Youth"
  - Moderator: Lina Mann, Historian, White House Historical Association

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Panel Proposal

This panel was fully formed at the time of submission and included the names of the panelists and moderator.

- *Swann Queen: Remembering DC's First Black Queer Icon, William Dorsey Swann* (2023)

  Know the name: William Dorsey Swann. Swann, the first documented, self-described drag queen was the host of iconic underground drag balls in 19th-century DC. Born into slavery in Maryland in 1858, Swann created authentic, joyful, safe queer spaces in the nation's capital. In doing so, their chosen-family faced persecution and attacks on their lives, including by local police, marking some of the first documented instances of queer resistance in the United States. The producers of SWANN QUEEN, an upcoming historical fiction film, highlight Swann's contributions to Black, queer, DC history while evaluating film as a way to honor historical memory.

  Presenters:
  - L Cedeño Miller (they/them), Writer/Director/Producer, SWANN QUEEN
  - Lee Levingston Perine (he/him), Producer, SWANN QUEEN
  - Pussy Noir (she/they), Producer/Actor, SWANN QUEEN

Community Roundtable

- *What's Next for the DC Oral History Collaborative?* (2023)

  HumanitiesDC convenes a town hall-style discussion with facilitators who have experience with the DC Oral History Collaborative. As the Collaborative turns six years old, we want to envision its future together. While hearing from grantees about their projects, the focus will be a facilitated conversation with the audience that seeks to answer questions such as:
  - What stories have been left untold?
  - How do we encourage Washingtonians to listen to and learn from recorded stories?
  - What should the DC Oral History Collaborative be doing differently?
  - How can the Collaborative better serve you? How can it be more accessible?

  Audience: Washingtonians interested in oral history.

Community Roundtables at the 2023 DC History Conference. Photos by Shedrick Pelt.

Creative Expressions of History

- A play based on experiences of gentrification in DC reflecting on the history of the changes and their impact on local, mostly Black, communities.
- A presentation of historical street photography narrated by the photographer with commentary from the audience.
- 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.
- An explanation of the history of hand-dance with performance and teaching elements (image from the 2022 conference below).

Creative Expression at the 2022 DC History Conference (Left). Performance at the 2023 DC History Conference Reception (Right). Photos by Shedrick Pelt.

FAQs

General

What has the conference looked like in the past?

To see panels and information about past conferences, visit:
https://conference.dchistory.org/program

How can I participate in the conference?

We invite participation from all DC history enthusiasts as presenters, moderators, volunteers, committee volunteers, and attendees. Explore our website, and if you want to be involved, but aren't sure how, email us at conference@dchistory.org.

How can I volunteer?

We invite volunteers to assist during the conference. If you want to volunteer, there will be a form available in the spring when the program is announced. If you want to volunteer as a moderator for a session that isn't a proposed panel, email us at conference@dchistory.org.

Who is on the planning committee? How do I join?

The conference 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 of DC history and culture. New committee members join the committee at the start of the planning year for the next annual conference. If you want to be involved with the committee, email us at conference@dchistory.org and specify that you want to volunteer on the planning committee.

Submitting to Present

Who can answer questions as I'm preparing my submission?

Email your questions to conference@dchistory.org. DC History Center Program Manager Maren Orchard 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 a bio.

How many times can I submit?

Each submission form allows only one submission. To submit multiple presentations, you will need to submit a form for each presentation. Please be mindful that we try to create a diverse program featuring presenters of all backgrounds. The committee will consider multiple submissions from the same presenter but may not accept more than one submission.

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 by emailing us at conference@dchistory.org. If your service is needed, 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 an independent researcher and community organizer based in Washington, DC. Her work primarily focuses on amplifying the perspectives of historically silenced communities to inform public policy and advocacy efforts. She currently serves as the first Community Outreach Fellow at the DC History Center, while working as a researcher and coordinator on two public history projects: Black Broad Branch and The Herbert Denton Biography Project. As the Community Outreach Fellow, Barros-Titus is working to design a public program aimed at addressing the archival silences related to Washington's Latinx history in Spring 2022.

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

Lopez D. Matthews Jr., Ph.D., is the State Archivist and Public Records Administrator for the District of Columbia. Formerly, he was the manager of the Digital Production Center and Digital Production Librarian for the Howard University Libraries and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. He was a commissioner on the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and a member of the board of directors of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture in Baltimore. Currently, he is a member of the Council of State Archivists, and an Executive Council Member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and

History. He has published several articles and is the author of *Howard University in the World Wars: Men and Women Serving the Nation*. In 2020, he became a Senior Advisor to the US Truth, Healing and Transformation Leadership Group.

Sample D

Fontana Micucci is a second-year Public History graduate student at American University, as well as the DC Preservation League's Public History 2022-2023 fellow. She has previously worked for George Washington's Mount Vernon and WETA's Boundary Stones website, and comes to the DC History Conference to serve as the social media manager. She has specialized in web content creation, but also enjoys working with in-person education and programming. While she originally hails from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Fontana has enjoyed learning more about DC history, and continues to share its rich history and culture throughout her work.

What do I do if I'm submitting with a group?

If you're submitting a full panel, only submit the form once. Designate one point of contact for the group, but be prepared to share the names and short bios of the other presenters. The committee is more likely to accept a presentation if the panel members are identified and there are no placeholders.

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 your plan for making this creative idea happen. If you want to discuss your thoughts, email conference@dchistory.org to be put in contact with a program committee member who will offer recommendations to shape your idea. If your idea is creative in thought but presented in a standard format, please submit as an individual presentation or panel proposal. Creative Expressions are intended for creative programming formats like documentaries, performance, etc.

After Submitting

What happens after I submit?

The program committee will review all submissions, make recommendations, and then build the schedule and the program. You will be alerted to the status of your submission in November or December 2023. If accepted, the conference committee will edit your submission for use in the program. You will approve the final copy.

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 of DC history.

How will submissions be evaluated?

Each member of the program committee will read submissions and evaluate them based on originality (is this new research, information, or perspective?), interest (will the DC history 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. As we receive many outstanding submissions every year, not all can be accepted. We may ask if you are willing to transform your submission into a different format, most commonly from an individual presentation to a poster.

When can I expect to hear about the committee's decision?

Based on our current timeline, we will notify presenters of our decisions in November or December.

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. We schedule to the best of our ability based on expected interest and attendance in particular sessions.

Do I need to submit a proposal form to participate in the History Network?

No proposal is required. We will circulate a sign-up sheet after releasing the call for submissions.

What is the cost to attend the conference?

The conference is free to attendees and to presenters!

Am I paid for presenting?

DC History Conference presenters are not provided with financial compensation, with the exception of invited keynotes, like the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecturer, who receives a dedicated honorarium.