CALL FOR PAPERS
Communities and Characters
46th Annual Conference on D.C. History,
Washington, D.C., November 21–24, 2019 (new dates)

Extended Submission Deadline: Friday, June 28, 2019, 11:59 p.m.

What does “community” mean to you? In 2019, the D.C. History Conference explores the theme “Communities and Characters.” The conference committee invites presentations and posters on topics relating to the history, archaeology, and culture of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., including the federal government and nearby Maryland and Virginia.

Presenters might explore all of these questions and more in submissions to the 2019 conference.

Conference themes are often broad and open to interpretation—we hope that thinking about what these words mean to you will help generate proposal topics. Some questions that might get you started:

- How are characters formed by their communities, and vice-versa?
- Who are some of the major figures and interesting personalities who have shaped Washington, for better or worse, throughout its history?
- How have communities responded to changes in their neighborhoods, and how have communities themselves changed?
- How have the meanings of “community” and “characters” changed over time?
- Who has a right or power to make decisions for the city’s residents?

The D.C. History Conference is an interdisciplinary conference. We welcome papers from public and cultural historians as well as academics in other fields, in addition to community members and local organizers. The conference also encourages participation of students at all education levels. To see panels and information about past conferences, visit http://www.dchistory.org/programs/annual-conference/.

The conference opens on Thursday evening with the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture in honor of Brown, who was a pioneering scholar of African American history. Friday morning begins with a Plenary Session followed by three to four concurrent panel sessions throughout Saturday.

Conference Format

Moderated panels take place on Friday and Saturday and last one hour and 15 minutes. Typically, three speakers each take 20 minutes to present their research followed by 10-15 minutes of discussion with audience participation.

Proposals for Individual papers may also be submitted to the conference. Authors will be grouped with other papers of related topics to create moderated panels as described above.
Workshops/Forums are designed to engage participants in an interactive experience exploring a critical issue to D.C. history or contemporary issues in the city.

During a lunchtime poster session on Saturday, November 9, conference attendees circulate through a hall of poster presentations and enjoy open discussion with researchers. Films or Performances may be seen at a variety of times throughout the conference.

Walking or Bus Tours are presented on Sunday.

Author Talks take place on Saturday, November 9 and feature short presentations on new books. Authors are encouraged to sell their books on site.

History Network takes place on Friday in a large space, where organizations or projects focused on history set up tables to promote their work and recruit new members. To participate in the History Network marketplace of ideas, please email Hannah Byrne at conference@dchistory.org or provide your contact information and affiliation at dchistcon2019.exordo.com

Submission Categories

There are a number of ways to participate in the conference: panels, individual presenters, posters, papers, workshops, and forums. The submission deadline is Friday, June 28, 2019, 11:59 p.m. All submissions are evaluated for suitability and scholarship by the D.C. History Conference Committee. Selections will be finalized in July, when submitters will be notified.

Please upload your submissions at dchistcon2019.exordo.com If you’ve never done this before, don’t worry! Conference organizers will be available to consult with you about your accepted paper or panel at one or more open sessions for accepted speakers. For a look at last year’s conference, please see http://www.dchistory.org/event/dchistcon/.

Panel:
- 150-word description of proposed panel complete with panel title
- titles and 150-word descriptions for each presentation.
- contact information for and role of each panelist (moderator and speakers)
- CVs or resumes with professional titles and institutional affiliations (if applicable)
- audio-visual/IT equipment needs, if necessary

Individual Paper:
- paper title and a 150-word abstract
- CV or resume, professional title, institutional affiliation (if applicable)
- contact information
- audio-visual/IT equipment needs.

Workshops & Forums:
- 150-word proposal for a workshop or forum designed to engage participants in an interactive experience exploring a critical issue to D.C. history or contemporary issues in the city.
- CV or resume, professional title, institutional affiliation (if applicable)
- contact information
- audio-visual/IT equipment needs
- requirements for tables or other display areas

Poster Presentation: Submit a 150-word abstract describing your large-format visual presentation of your research. Presenters are expected to be in the hall during the poster session to share their research with a broad range of conference participants. The mounted poster must be at least 2’ x 4’ in size.
Film or Performance Experience (one hour or less running time): Submit a brief description of your film including topic, running time, audience age restrictions (if any), project status (finished piece or work in progress), and whether you want to end with an audience Q & A.

Walking or Bus Tour: Submit a description of tour topic, location, length (running time and distance), start and stop points, ticket price, ages of audiences, any mobility restrictions, and guide’s professional and contact information.

Author Talk: Submit contact information and description of published book, including publication date. Authors selling books on site must supply a volunteer to handle sales independently.

PLEASE NOTE: Participants are encouraged to incorporate a PowerPoint slide show or other audio or video complement. You will be required to transfer any files/media in advance of your presentation. Laptops and projectors will be supplied. Specific details will be provided upon acceptance.

Please address any inquiries to D.C. History Conference program manager Hannah Byrne at conference@dchistory.org