



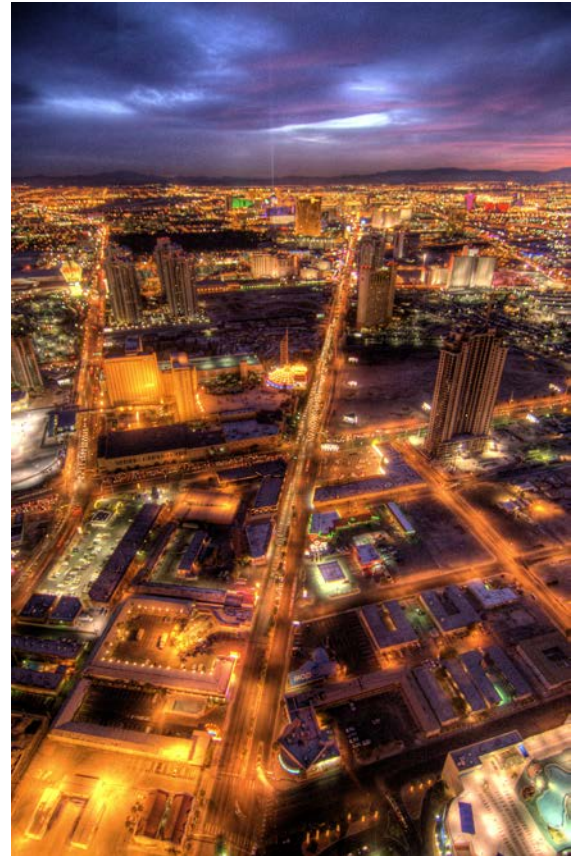
"POWER LINES"

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY
2018 ANNUAL MEETING
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA | APRIL 18-21, 2018

Public historians want our work to matter. We use our skills at uncovering, sharing, facilitating, and collaborating to advance a vision of a rich, variegated collective past that contributes to shared interests in the present. For decades, "community" has been our catchphrase and our aspiration. How does our field's longstanding embrace of the collective stand up in a time of divisiveness? Do our commitments to individual agency, group identity, social justice, and civic engagement reinforce or strain against each other?

In drawing lines between past and present, delineating distinctive communities, and underlining the contributions of overlooked actors, how can public history bring us together and when does it pull us apart?

NCPH invites proposals for its 2018 conference that address the power of public history to define, cross, and blur boundary lines—work that explores public history's power in all its complexities, idealism, and, perhaps, unintended consequences.



Las Vegas by night, courtesy of Ville Miettinen for Wikimedia Commons and made available by Creative Commons 2.0 license.

Proposals are due by 11:59 PM local time on **July 15, 2017**.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER INCLUDE:

Can public history help envision a civic whole?

- **How do boundary lines divide us and create inequities (of class, race, geography, etc.)?**
- What responsibility do public historians have to navigate and reconcile power structures within communities?
- How do personal histories become public history?
- How do environmental interventions (water lines, highways, tourism networks) create new connections and divisions?
- How do digital initiatives cut across lines of division to create new communities or new boundaries?

What is public history's role in building community?

- **How does delineating boundaries enhance a sense of identity?**
- When does "tight-knit" drift into "exclusive"?
- How can public history projects create links *between* communities?
- When have marginalized communities charted new lines to claim power or, perhaps, escape it?
- How does the internationalization of public history open up new lines of inquiry and new opportunities and challenges for cohesiveness?

How can public historians be effective advocates, facilitators, and spokespeople for the power of the past?

- **What "lines" can we deliver that will cut through and get heard? What transmission lines work best in a fractured media landscape?**
- What tools can public historians use to communicate effectively *across* power lines?
- What networks empower professionals to advance public history?
- How do public history institutions inscribe lines of power on our landscapes?

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:

- Complete sessions (as opposed to individual papers)
- 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):** Three presenters, chair, and commentator.
- **COMMUNITY VIEWPOINTS (90 mins):** A project showcase that features participants from the communities that the project served. **NEW for 2018!**
- **EXPERIENTIAL (90 mins):** Participants simulate, role-play, or play games to convey key principles and learning objectives.
- **PECHAKUCHA (90 mins):** Facilitators quickly move the session through a series of images or ideas. Typically a PechaKucha 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.
- **WORKSHOPS (1/2-full day):** Workshops provide hands-on and participatory experiences that impart practical information or skills. They typically require participants to pay a fee.

- **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 should include only facilitators; an open call for discussants will be issued in Fall 2017. For more information, see <http://bit.ly/ncph2017workinggroups>.



Transmission towers redistributing power from Boulder Dam to Basic Magnesium Incorporated near Las Vegas, 1942. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA/OWI Collection, LC-DIG-isa-8d36060.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

See <http://ncph.org/conference/2018-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, 2017**. Topics will be distributed to NCPH members via email and posted to 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, 2017**.