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JOIN the American Association for State and Local History
September 11–14, 2024, in MOBILE
when we come together for
DOING HISTORY

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2021 21st Avenue S., Suite 320 | Nashville, TN 37212
615-320-3203 | Fax 615-327-9013
membership@aaslh.org | advertising@aaslh.org | aaslh.org
DEAR COLLEAGUES,

What’s going on, beloved? I hope this letter finds you well. I have been reflecting on the upcoming conference and want to reach out to each of you. My name is Richard Josey, and I am honored to serve as the chair of the Program Committee for this year’s conference. I sincerely hope to have the pleasure of meeting you in Mobile September 11–14.

For those of you whom I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I extend a warm welcome and look forward to the possibility of connecting at the conference. If we have crossed paths before, I greet you with: what’s good, kinfolk? Let me know if you need anything.

First, I want to express my deep gratitude for your ongoing contributions to our collective work. It is crucial to me that you feel valued and appreciated, especially considering the challenges many of us are currently facing. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and I want to start a new narrative by affirming my sincere appreciation for each one of you, members and staff.

As we prepare for our time together in Mobile, I am mindful of the difficulties that many of us are encountering across the nation. Despite these challenges, I am filled with hope and optimism for the opportunities that lie before us. This feeling has been further reinforced by recent personal experiences, like the joy of holding my second grandchild for the first time. Talk about historic moments!

I believe that we are uniquely positioned to inspire hope within our history community, among our guests, and with other stakeholders. Hope has the extraordinary power to shape our reality and drive positive change, as evidenced by historical social movements. I invite you to join us in Mobile to explore the wealth of knowledge and wisdom present in the conference sessions and within our membership. I am eager to hear about your aspirations and the positive impact you hope to achieve.

I am also aware that AASLH offers scholarships, and I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities if it would help your participation in the conference. At present, the available scholarships are the Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko Memorial Scholarship, Douglas Evelyn Diversity Fellowship, and the Small Museums Scholarship. Details can be found on the AASLH website. The deadline for applications is June 21.

Your unwavering commitment to your work serves as a profound inspiration to me, reminding me of the transformative potential of “Doing History” and the capacity to instill hope in individuals and our collective community. Let us continue to build hope and drive positive change, not only for others but also for ourselves.

I look forward to the opportunity to connect with each of you in Mobile and to collectively shape a future filled with the hope and possibility our ancestors laid the foundation for us to further shape.

With warm regards,
Richard Josey
Chair, Program Committee
Mobile welcomes you to one of America’s most historic cities! We are honored to host the American Association for State and Local History’s Annual Conference and look forward to serving as the location for discussion and discovery as we “Do History” together.

Mobile is a place apart. A port city forever tied to the rivers, bay, and Gulf which are its reason for existence. The city boasts a rich heritage unlike any other in the area. Our roots stretch back to 1702 when the city was founded by the French as their first permanent settlement anywhere on the Gulf Coast. Through more than three and a quarter centuries of subsequent development Mobile has served as a colonial capital; the object of military campaigns in multiple wars; risen to become a regional economic powerhouse; and become a unique melting pot of peoples and cultures. We believe our story is one of the richest, most diverse, and compelling America has to offer. As you will discover in your time here, we are actively working to leverage our heritage for a better informed future.

We have a number of exciting special tours and events planned which are designed to help you explore our region’s illustrious past and amazing natural environment. We hope to showcase the good work of “Doing History” going on here in hopes it will educate, inspire, and spark collaboration. Bus trips to Indigenous peoples and early European archaeological sites; tours of museums, forts, and battlefields; and walking and driving tours of cemeteries, historic homes, churches, businesses, and landmarks in the city’s Civil Rights Movement history are just the beginning of what lies in store. We take special pride in being the birthplace of Mardi Gras, and though it is not carnival season, you will get a chance to learn why this special celebration is such an important part of local culture. Of course, no visit to such a maritime city as Mobile is complete without an outing on its waterways, and we have some cruises along the storied Mobile River lined up which will introduce chapters in our past both tragic and triumphant, from Revolutionary War era battles to the last known ship to bring enslaved Africans to American shores.

We look forward to your visit and this special opportunity to share, learn, and celebrate the good work of “Doing History” that is going on across this country in Mobile!

Mike Bunn, 2024 AASLH Host Chair
Director, Historic Blakeley State Park
ike its namesake river as it winds its way into venerable Mobile Bay, Mobile’s rich history flows deep and wide through the centuries.

The city’s story begins over 300 years ago, when French colonists founded the community in 1702 to serve as the headquarters of a vast province they called La Louisiane. When they arrived, numerous Indigenous peoples had lived on the land that would become Alabama for centuries, including Cherokees, Choctaws, Creeks, and Chickasaws, and smaller groups such as the Alabama-Coushattas and the Yuchis. Striving to win the support of these Indigenous groups, the French, led by co-founder Jean-Baptiste LeMoyne de Bienville, labored for decades to develop Mobile before it came under the ownership of the British in 1763. The Union Jack would wave over Mobile during a time in which it served as a primary port of the forgotten “fourteenth” British colony of West Florida. The British lost the city to the Spanish in a whirlwind Revolutionary War campaign featuring battles on both sides of Mobile Bay. The British lost the city to the Spanish in a whirlwind Revolutionary War campaign featuring battles on both sides of Mobile Bay. The British lost the city to the Spanish in a whirlwind Revolutionary War campaign featuring battles on both sides of Mobile Bay. The British lost the city to the Spanish in a whirlwind Revolutionary War campaign featuring battles on both sides of Mobile Bay. The British lost the city to the Spanish in a whirlwind Revolutionary War campaign featuring battles on both sides of Mobile Bay.

American control of Mobile ushered in a dynamic era of growth that defined its trajectory. The rise of upstate cotton plantations powered by the labor of enslaved people enabled Mobile to become the outlet for one of the most lucrative trades in the country during the antebellum era. Hundreds of thousands of bales annually flowed through the port aboard steamboats to national and international markets. Cotton money funded construction of an array of homes, businesses, and churches in Classical Revival styles, many of which remain landmarks still today.

Mobile’s cultural diversity proved even more enduring than its antebellum built environment in some ways. In the decades prior to the Civil War the city grew to become one of the largest cities in the South, comprising Alabama’s largest white, foreign-born, Creole, and free Black populations. While Mobile lay far from Alabama’s primary agricultural districts where plantation slavery prevailed, it served as a center of the state’s slave trade for decades and enslaved people at times represented as much as a third of its population. Perhaps the most poignant story of national significance to emerge from that troubled foundational era is the recent discovery of the remains of the last known ship to bring enslaved Africans to America, the infamous Clotilda. Its wreck lies just north of the city in the muddy waters of the Mobile River. The story of its passengers, and their lives after arrival, is one of the most profound in the area’s history.

While Mobile contributed to the Confederate war effort during the Civil War in a variety of ways,
including serving as testing ground for the submarine *Hunley*, the city escaped coming into the crosshairs of Federal forces until the last months of the war. Only after the Battle of Mobile Bay (and its famous phrase, “Damn the Torpedoes!”) did Mobile at last become the target of a substantial military force. Ultimately more than 50,000 troops and more than 40 warships would fight for control of Mobile, with the decisive clashes of the “Mobile Campaign” taking place across the bay in Spanish Fort and Fort Blakeley. Mobile was the last major city in the South to remain in Confederate hands, not surrendering until April 12, 1865.

The end of the war brought dramatic changes to Mobile, none more profound than the first opportunities to experience freedom by a large portion of the city’s Black population. Much as was the case throughout the South, though, Mobile’s Black residents found a series of roadblocks against full enjoyment of their rights put in their path by state and local authorities. Repressive voting regulations, racial segregation, and unfair employment practices were an unfortunate reality for long periods in Mobile’s history. Yet Mobile’s Black community had its own success stories despite the odds against it. Several Black Mobilians managed to own businesses and accumulate wealth in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and the Davis Avenue corridor became the heart of a thriving community featuring a concentration of Black-owned businesses.

The city’s economy was a shell of what it had been prior to the war until the turn of the century, however, and the city languished for decades with little overall growth. Its population in 1900 stood at almost the same total it had in 1860 and it soon lost its longstanding place as Alabama’s largest city. In its search for trade to again enliven its port, boosters sought markets for a variety of new products, ranging from lumber to coffee. None proved more iconic than Central American fruit—in the late 1800s Mobile became one of the nation’s primary importers of bananas, a novelty at the time. Even during this trying economic period, residents found a way to celebrate their favorite tradition. Mardi Gras parades, first made popular in the 1830s as a revival of a colonial-era celebration dating to 1703, were renewed. Local legend Joe Cain became prominent in this revival, helping define some of the unique Mobile elements of revelry while dressed as fictional Chickasaw chief Slacabamorinico.

Mobile began to at long last emerge from its economic doldrums in the early 1900s. The port became a major shipbuilding center during World War I. Among the largest and best equipped ports in the region by the 1930s, Mobile’s harbor stretched for more than five miles along the riverfront and comprised over 3,000 acres of cargo handling facilities connected to the Gulf via an ever-deepening dredged shipping channel. During World War II the port experienced an unprecedented boom, as over 100,000 workers, many of them women, more than doubled the population of the city and helped its shipbuilders construct more than 100 ships and repair thousands more.

Mobile’s return to normalcy after the activity of the war years presented it with several challenges. None proved more consequential than determining the course it would pursue as the developing Civil Rights Movement forced consideration of longstanding inequalities. While the city avoided being caught up in type of sensational confrontations and violence that brought national news teams to places such as Birmingham and Selma, a pivotal and protracted low-key war was nonetheless waged between activists and city leadership. Local Civil Rights icon John LeFlore became the face of the struggle for equality by Black Mobilians during the era. Through steady persistence and alliances with moderate politicians, LeFlore was able to help secure recognition of basic rights and make progress on integration over time which others would expand upon.

Today modern Mobile is a metropolitan community connecting both sides of scenic Mobile Bay. Its port is still a driving force in its economy, and with neighboring Baldwin County, the area has blossomed into a natural and cultural heritage tourism powerhouse. It is perhaps more aware than ever of the intrinsic connection it has to the fragile natural environment which has given it birth, shaped its development, and allowed it to play an influential role in multiple eras of regional history. More than ever, its location within the national treasure that is the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, “America’s Amazon,” is a point of pride. But so is its resiliency in weathering the storms that its location has brought to its doorstep. Whether taking the shape of the numerous hurricanes which periodically laid the city low, or in the form of wars, economic setbacks, or struggles to treat all of its citizens equitably, the past looms especially large in Mobile. Each trial has brought a rebirth and a redefinition, and the stories of each era are preserved and commemorated for what they tell us about who we are, how we got to this moment, and what paths we might take in the future. We welcome you to the special place that is Mobile and invite you to discover why it has been and remains a place apart.
1. Mobile was the first city in Alabama, founded in 1702, 117 years before Alabama became a state.

2. Mobile is home to five Major League Baseball Hall of Famers: Hank Aaron, Billy Williams, Willie McCovey, Satchel Paige, and Ozzie Smith.

3. Mobile is home to the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta which is the second largest in the U.S. Mobile is also home to “America’s Amazon,” one of the largest wetland ecosystems in the world.

4. On New Year’s Eve, Mobile drops the world’s largest 600 lb. electric Moon Pie! During the street party, you can also dig into the world’s largest edible Moon Pie, join the second line, watch live entertainment, and ooh and ahh over the fireworks show!

5. Mobile is the birthplace of America’s original Mardi Gras. In 1703, it became home to the first Mardi Gras celebration in the New World!

6. Another Mardi Gras fun fact: In addition to beads, Mobilians throw MoonPies during their parades. MoonPie, however, was not first choice to throw. Originally, revelers leaped for tossed boxes of Cracker Jack. But, in 1972, the boxed treat was banned because the packages’ sharp edges injured spectators. Desperately seeking a replacement, maskers searched for something soft, round, and safe to throw. They decided on the MoonPie.

7. Mobile is one of the rainiest cities in America, with more than 5 feet of rain annually. However, we have an average temperature of 72 degrees, and we boast 220 sunny days per year!

8. Musical artists, including Bob Dylan, Cher, Dolly Parton, Robert Palmer, Johnny Cash and Hank Williams Jr., have recorded more than 26 hit songs with Mobile in the lyrics.

9. In 1860, America’s first war submarine, the H.L. Hunley, was secretly assembled in downtown’s Seamen’s Bethel Church, which now stands on the University of South Alabama’s campus.

10. Close Encounters of the Third Kind was filmed here. Many townspeople were extras. The film’s conclusion shows Roy Neary, played by Richard Dreyfuss, being escorted to the mothership by pint-sized aliens. The aliens were girls from a local children’s ballet class dressed in rubber spacemen suits.

www.mobile.org/blog/post/bet-you-didnt-know-these-10-facts-about-mobile
Protect, Preserve & Interpret
Alabama's Historic Places

Reenactor at Fort Toulouse-Fort Jackson
Freedom Rides Museum
Artifact from Clotilda
The AASLH Program Committee works diligently each year to offer a wide variety of session types to appeal to a wide range of learning styles. This will help you decide what type of session you prefer to attend during the conference. The session formats are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charette</td>
<td>A charette is a collaborative session in which a group comes together to draft a solution to a particular problem or expand on an idea. This session is designed as a working session that creates an output. The organizer decides the topic, but the participants supply most of the discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversation</td>
<td>Audience members engage in discussion/debate. One facilitator poses a predetermined question and encourages attendees to participate. The facilitator manages the discussion as a guide on the side, not a sage on the stage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provocation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doing History</td>
<td>In Doing History sessions, speakers will share case studies about historical research and interpretation by local history organizations. They are a chance to learn something new and hear about your colleagues’ interesting work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential</td>
<td>Do a program—don’t just hear about it. Be immersed in a playful (or dark) experience. Attendees will spend time doing something, not just talking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idea Studio</td>
<td>Informed and inspired by a prompt or topic area, attendees will work together interactively to develop new ideas and creative solutions for their sites, in their communities, or in the field at large.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightning Round</td>
<td>A moderator selects a particular theme and recruits speakers who can teach something specific to the audience in ten minutes or less.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts and Bolts</td>
<td>This session type focuses on a particular skill that is needed in the history profession. It should be specific enough that attendees leave with a practical skill, but flexible enough that any size museum can adapt it for their needs. It is not designed to be a “show and tell,” but a “show and how to.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roundtable</td>
<td>One chair and up to three panelists examine complex historical or professional issues in discussion before an audience. Ample time will be allowed for audience discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>These long-form, in-depth sessions are designed to teach special skills in a small group setting and may occur on- or off-site. Participants in workshop sessions pay fees which contribute to the conference budget.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Conference Format

The AASLH meeting is purposefully designed as a more personal, retreat-like conference. We encourage each person to step beyond the observer mode of being an audience member or attendee and to use this chance to really engage with colleagues from across the country.

We encourage your full participation in the Mobile sessions, workshops, and tours outlined in this program and hope you will try the in-depth discussions, hands-on experiences, and social events we have planned. Each session type is categorized so that you can see the level of participation it involves. We also encourage you to visit history institutions and cultural sites in the area and to participate in workshops and tours that accentuate the history, culture, and sense of place of this unique city. In addition, Mobile is a very walkable city and we have placed throughout the program times when there will be an opportunity to get out and explore on your own or in an informal group. Program and Host committee members and the AASLH staff have striven to make this conference unique to Mobile and to the theme, “Doing History.”

Why Attend?

• This is the last AASLH conference for gathering ideas and inspiration for long-range planning for the United States Semiquincentennial in 2026.
• Choose from more than 60 sessions that will inspire and challenge you in your work.
• Recognize our achievements as a field and think about how our work impacts us as individuals.
• Explore the Exhibit Hall to find the newest products and services that directly improve the way history professionals operate.
• Have fun and get to know Mobile, the Gulf Coast, and its rich history.

Events Included in Registration

Full conference registration includes all general sessions and concurrent sessions along with access to the Exhibit Hall throughout the meeting. Pre- and post-conference workshops, tours, evening events, and affinity meals are not included. You can purchase tickets to these events during the registration process.

If You Can Do Only One Ticketed Event

When planning for the conference, the Program Chair, Host Chair, and staff recognized the unique opportunity Mobile offers to get attendees out to see a new history museum interpreting a compelling story of Africatown and the Clotilda that is still unfolding. To accommodate as many AASLH attendees as possible who want to visit this site and reflect on this period of history, tours to the Africatown Heritage House and the Clotilda site are offered multiple times during the conference. Please register early if you want to participate as space is limited due to the size of the venue. Details are on pages 18 and 21.
America’s 250th Is Almost Here

The 250th anniversary of the United States is rapidly approaching. As you’ve probably heard from us before, this anniversary offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to share a more complete and inclusive story of our nation’s history with our audiences and to strengthen our field for the next generation. With just two years left to plan, we have reached the last major opportunity to plan big, transformative initiatives.

That’s why, at this year’s conference, you’ll find several sessions, workshops, and convenings that can help you prepare for the Semiquincentennial. No matter where you are in your planning, you’ll find 250th-related programming to help meet your needs. From reaching youth audiences, to planning programs, to meeting your state commission representatives, to discussing the anniversary with colleagues at our evening events, we hope the conference will help inspire your thinking about the 250th and provide you with some practical steps you can take when you return home.

As we move toward 2026, we hope you’ll be able to use this year’s conference to plan for the Semiquincentennial—and make strides towards becoming a stronger, more effective, more inclusive field in the years that follow.

Doing History in 2024

AASLH envisions its annual conference as an opportunity to invigorate and promote our field’s honest approach to history. AASLH and its members, wherever they live and work, believe that whole history belongs to all of us.

Honest, inclusive approaches to history and other liberties are under fire in states and localities around the country. Periodically holding the AASLH conference in these areas allows us, as a professional community, to show support for our colleagues who are “Doing History” in challenging environments and to learn from their experiences. AASLH’s purpose, especially as we approach the nation’s 250th anniversary, is to share with people of all backgrounds and beliefs the entire sweep of our common history and its centrality to our continued progress toward “a more perfect Union.”

AASLH is committed to ensuring that our conference is a welcoming, respectful, intellectually stimulating, and safe event for all who attend. We have a robust policy on conference safety and responsibility, and we will strive to make it possible for all attendees to navigate their way through a fulfilling conference experience.

We hope you will join us in Mobile in September and add your voice to the chorus of those working to make history more meaningful to all people.
This year, there are even more opportunities to network with your colleagues and meet people new to AASLH. Events include:

• **LEARNING CIRCLES** will convene cohorts of six attendees several times throughout the conference, each group facilitated by a seasoned history professional. The group will meet on Thursday morning to create individual learning plans for the conference. They will meet on Thursday afternoon, Friday lunch, and Saturday morning to share observations, discuss new ideas or lessons learned in sessions, and develop a map on how to act upon the ideas learned during the conference when they return home. You can register to participate in a Learning Circle as you register for the conference. There is no additional cost. Space is limited, so don’t wait if you are interested.

• **BREAKS IN THE EXHIBIT HALL**  
Coffee and refreshments included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:30 am</td>
<td>• Opening Reception in Exhibit Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 – 4:15 pm</td>
<td>• First-Time Attendee Reception</td>
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<tr>
<th>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 – 10:45 am</td>
<td>• Break in the Exhibit Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• NCPH Poster Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 – 3:30 pm</td>
<td>• Closing Reception in the Exhibit Hall</td>
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• **MEET AND EAT**  
Sign up in advance to join colleagues for lunch at a nearby restaurant (food, drink, and transportation not included). [Details on page 30.](#)

• **RECEPTIONS AND HAPPY HOURS**  
Don’t miss out on the breaks in the Exhibit Hall. If you are new to AASLH, sign up for the First Time Attendee Reception. For an early evening gathering, register for the Diversity and Inclusion Mixer and the History Leadership Institute Reception. All of these are free for all attendees, but preregistration is encouraged.

• **EVENING EVENTS**  
Mobile offers you a great chance to get out, see some museums, and have fun with colleagues. The evening events are one of the best ways to meet new people and learn more about AASLH’s host institutions. Even better, Friday night has no major outing, allowing you to grab dinner with a colleague. After dinner, you can join us at an informal gathering at the headquarter hotel to play cards and games, sing karaoke, or just hang out meeting new folks. [More on page 23.](#)
# Session Suggestions

## First-Time Attendee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur 9/12</td>
<td>9:30–10:30 am</td>
<td>First-Time Attendee Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 am – 12:15 pm</td>
<td>Keynote Address: Dr. Palina Louangketh</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30 – 7 pm</td>
<td>Diversity and Inclusion Mixer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9/13</td>
<td>11:45 am – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards Luncheon, Cost: $15*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5 – 6 pm</td>
<td>History Leadership Institute Reception</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 – 7:45 pm</td>
<td>Evening Event: Public Plenary: Interpreting the Clotilda and Africatown</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8 – 11 pm</td>
<td>Historians Take Over the Renaissance, Cost: $15*</td>
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## 250th Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 9/11</td>
<td>9:30 am – 4 pm</td>
<td>Putting it All Together: Preparing for 2026 at Small History Organizations, Cost: $65*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 9/12</td>
<td>8:30 – 9:45 am</td>
<td>Engaging Younger Generations in the U.S. 250th Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 – 3:15 pm</td>
<td>Healing Commemorations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:15 – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>When Are We US? Reexamining Democracy’s Messy Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9/13</td>
<td>8 – 9:15 am</td>
<td>Unfinished Revolution: Place, Environment, and Social Justice in the 250th</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:15 – 11:30 am</td>
<td>FSA Tips: America 250 on a Shoestring</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:30 – 2:45 pm</td>
<td>When the Dust Settles on America 250</td>
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## Diversity and Inclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur 9/12</td>
<td>8:30 – 9:45 am</td>
<td>Interpreting Slavery in Black and White Bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 – 3:15 pm</td>
<td>New Strategies for LGBTQ+ Interpretation at Historic Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:15 – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>The Power of Inclusion: Working with Deaf/Blind Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9/13</td>
<td>8 – 9:15 am</td>
<td>Engaging in Socially Responsible Sports Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:15 – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Disrupting History: Incorporating the Native Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 – 2:45 pm</td>
<td>What If It’s Historically Accurate but Inaccessible?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 9/14</td>
<td>9 – 10:15 am</td>
<td>Sharing Difficult Histories in Civic Spaces</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Walk the Walk: Engaging Community Through Participatory Archivism</td>
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## Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 9/11</td>
<td>1:30 – 5 pm</td>
<td>How Cultural Competency Can Impact Your Institution and Your Stakeholders, Cost: $45*</td>
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<td>Thur 9/12</td>
<td>8:30 – 9:45 am</td>
<td>Protecting Your Organization Through Succession Planning</td>
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<td>Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Listening Session</td>
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<td>Fri 9/13</td>
<td>8 – 9:15 am</td>
<td>Leading from the Middle</td>
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<td>It’s a Culture Thing: Authenticity at Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 9/14</td>
<td>9 – 10:15 am</td>
<td>Creating Change from the Inside</td>
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## Small Museums

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 9/12</td>
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<td>Capturing Oral Histories</td>
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<td>12:30 – 1:45 pm</td>
<td>Small Museums Luncheon, Cost: $42*</td>
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<td>2 – 3:15 pm</td>
<td>Small Museums, Big Impact: Steps for Ensuring Your Exhibition Resonates</td>
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<td>4:15 – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Surviving Disaster: Learn By Doing the Work</td>
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<td>Fri 9/13</td>
<td>8 – 9:15 am</td>
<td>Strategic Vision at Small Museums</td>
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<td>10:15 – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Marketing 101: Minimal Effort for High Reward</td>
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<td>Small Museums Affinity Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 9/14</td>
<td>10:45 am – 12 pm</td>
<td>Creative Approaches to Primary Sources</td>
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*Preregistration Required
#FEATURED SPEAKERS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

**11 am – 12:15 pm**

**Keynote Address:**

**Dr. Palina Louangketh**

Dr. Palina Louangketh (‘loo-on-gate’), a former refugee from Laos into Boise, Idaho in 1981, founded the Idaho Museum of International Diaspora (IMID) in 2018. Idaho is her home. As a Lao-American, finding a special way to give back to the community that welcomed and embraced her family has been a childhood dream. Her journey to explore innovative collaboration in meaningful ways to honor and celebrate diversity later evolved into her vision of a museum founded on the principles of a welcoming community. In June 2018, she jotted down her vision that evolved into the framework for a museum concept founded on diaspora which became the Idaho Museum of International Diaspora (IMID). As the founder and CEO/Executive Director of the IMID, Dr. Louangketh turned her vision into reality on February 10, 2019, when the IMID became a nonprofit corporation. Additionally, Dr. Louangketh serves as the advisor for the Idaho Lao Community. She completed her Bachelor of Science and Master of Health Science at Boise State University and holds a Doctor of Strategic Leadership (DSL) degree from Regent University, School of Business and Leadership (Virginia Beach) with a concentration in Strategic Foresight. In addition to managing the IMID, Dr. Louangketh also teaches at Boise State University in the Honors College, College of Health Sciences, and University Foundations Program.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

**3:30 – 4:45 pm**

**Keynote Address:**

**Dr. Sharony Green**

Dr. Sharony Green, Professor of History at the University of Alabama, is an intentional storyteller who is greatly interested in exploring our complex ties to one another across time and space. A native of Miami, Florida, she is an interdisciplinary scholar-artist who was born and raised in Miami, Florida, with roots in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and the Bahamas. Following her graduation from the University of Miami, she began working as a journalist for *The Miami Herald* and later, at its sister-papers in Detroit and Columbus, Georgia. Amid changes in the newspaper industry, she moved to New York City to work as a freelancer and worked as a visual artist being represented for several years by a New Orleans gallery. During this period, Green wrote and illustrated her first book, *Cuttin’ the Rug Under the Moonlit Sky: Stories and Stories About a Bunch of Women Named Mae* (Anchor, 1997). Following the collapse of the Twin Towers, Green returned to school, earning an MA in Dance and Related Studies (History, Film, and Theatre) at UNC-Greensboro, an MA in History at the University of Chicago, and a PhD in History at the University of Illinois. Her six published books include *Remember Me to Miss Louisa: Hidden Black-White Intimacies in Antebellum America* (NIU Press, 2015), for which she won the 2016 Western Association of Women Historians Barbara “Penny” Kanner Prize for excellence in archival research. Released in April 2024, her latest book is *Teaching Public History Creatively in Alabama: About (Public) Face* (Routledge), a memoir recounting how Green uses Tuscaloosa and Alabama as a “lab” to help her students learn more about our shared past and present. Her awards include the 2020 PEN America/Jean Stein Grant for Literary Oral History for a project on a little-known community in greater Black Miami and a 2021 Mellon-funded fellowship at Chicago’s Newberry Library. Green enjoys making art to help her breathe through our shared present moment. Undaunted amid uncertainty while on lockdown during the initial days of the COVID-19 pandemic, she joined other artists in finding meaning in those days via “Pandemic Blues,” an online exhibition in *About Place Journal*.

#AASLH2024
FEATURED SPEAKERS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
6:30 – 7:45 pm

Public Plenary: Interpreting the Clotilda and Africatown

In May 2019, the Alabama Historical Commission announced the wreck of the last slave ship to America had been located. For nearly 160 years, the waters around Mobile concealed the final destination of the gulf schooner Clotilda. The people of Africatown, a community on the edge of Mobile created by survivors of the enslaved on that ship, have carried the memory of their ancestors who were forcefully and violently migrated from Africa to the shores of Alabama. Once the ship was identified, the work began on how to tell the complex stories it unearthed, and who would tell that history. This session will bring together representatives from the various community groups connected to this powerful American story to talk about the work done so far and what still needs to be done.

The memorial wall inside the Africatown Heritage House.

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Alabama Department of Archives & History

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As excitement builds for the U.S. 250th, make your local history part of this once-in-a-lifetime event with a fully-funded historical marker.

Visit wgpfoundation.org to learn more.
These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form for details.

**A Day in Montgomery**
*Cost: $85, Preregistration Required*

Montgomery is the capital of Alabama and the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement. This tour will include a visit to the Equal Justice Initiative’s National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the Legacy Museum, and the newly opened Freedom Monument Sculpture Park. Then you will ride through downtown Montgomery to see key sights related to the history of the Civil Rights Movement including the Rosa Parks statue and Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Tour cost includes lunch.

**Africatown and the Clotilda**
*Cost: $45, Preregistration Required*

(Note: This tour is also offered twice on Wednesday, Thursday, September 12, 1–5 pm and Saturday, September 14, 1–5 pm)

In the summer of 1860, a ship carrying 110 Africans slipped into Mobile Bay. The Clotilda, the last known U.S. slave ship, made its illegal voyage fifty-two years after the international slave trade was outlawed. In the years to come, the displaced Africans survived enslavement and established a community as free Americans. But they also maintained their African identities, creating the tight-knit, independent community known as Africatown. Then, in 2019, it was announced that the shipwreck of the Clotilda had been discovered at the bottom of the Mobile River: a tangible link to the names and stories passed down through generations of descendants. This tour will include a visit to the Africatown Heritage House led by members of the Africatown community and a boat tour of the site of the wreck led by Alabama’s State Archaeologist Stacey Hathorn. Limit of 50 people per tour. Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Archives and History.
**WEDNESDAY TOURS CONTINUED**

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form for details.

**9 am – 4 pm**

**Historic Pensacola**  
*Cost: $85, Preregistration Required*

Pensacola is the home of the first multicultural European settlements in the current United States known as the Luna Settlement. The first stop is at the archaeological site which dates back to 1559 where you will get a tour from Dr. John Worth, Chair of the Department of Anthropology, University of West Florida. The tour continues on to Historic Pensacola Village where you will eat lunch while hearing about the purpose, operations, and challenges of the site followed by free time to explore the village and the Pensacola Museum of History. Sponsored by Historic Pensacola. Tour cost includes lunch.

**1 – 4 pm**

**Mobile’s Historic House Museums**  
*Cost: $30 Preregistration Required*

Hop on Mobile’s trolley to visit two downtown historic house museums. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Condé-Charlotte Museum is the “Gateway to Mobile’s History.” Jonathan and Elizabeth Kirkbride built it in 1850 on the foundation of the city’s first jail dating back to 1822. Cell doors and a portion of a jail foundation can be seen in the house today. The museum’s mission is to preserve its historic structure and collection to interpret the history of the site and the influence of those who have flown their flags over the city: France, England, Spain, the Confederate States of America, and the United States. Then visit Historic Oakleigh, Mobile’s oldest house museum. See how Mobile’s cotton factors lived during the 1800s on a tour of this restored 1833 Greek Revival mansion. Also, visit the circa 1866 Union barracks building on site and learn about the story of Reconstruction and Emancipation at Oakleigh and in Mobile.

**1 – 5 pm**

**Africatown and the Clotilda**  
*Cost: $45, Preregistration Required*

(Note: This tour is also offered on Thursday, September 12, 1–5 pm and Saturday, September 14, 1–5 pm)

In preparation for the 60th anniversary of the museum's founding, the team at the Mobile Museum of Art created a series of exhibitions that immerse visitors in the history, design, and fashion of the twentieth century. *Decades: Looking Back, Moving Forward (1950–1959)* marks the final chapter of these installations and features seven masterworks of Surrealism on loan from the Museum of Modern Art. Join Executive Director Jon Carfagno for an art historical walk back in time, which will include a tour of the galleries, feedback exercise, and guided discussion.

**1 – 5 pm**

**Looking Back, Moving Forward at Mobile Museum of Art**  
*Cost: $30, Preregistration Required*
Mobile, Alabama, is home to a diversity of faiths. Since the Port City’s founding over three hundred years ago, congregations have formed and constructed many places of worship. This tour highlights Mobile’s three most architecturally and historically important sacred buildings: Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal); Government Street Presbyterian Church; and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Christ Church is home to one of the finest groupings of stained glass windows in the Deep South. Government Street Presbyterian Church is a National Historic Landmark. The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is one of the oldest basilicas in the country. The tour will explore the exteriors and interiors of all three buildings.

Mobile has fourteen National Register Districts and numerous individually listed National Register sites. Featuring the Port City’s first skyscraper, a grand nineteenth-century townhouse, and an Aesthetics Movement former church, this tour will highlight three architecturally and historically significant buildings that have undergone recent historic preservation overhauls. As part of a rehabilitation by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, the exterior and lobby of the Van Antwerp Building, a Chicago Style skyscraper, were restored to their early 1900 appearance. Government Street Presbyterian Church restored and preserved the exterior and interiors of the Guesnard House, one of Mobile’s finest side hall with wing Italianate townhouses. Private developers restored and now a new congregation maintains St. Francis Street Methodist Church. As with the two preceding stops on the tour, the elevations and interiors of this house of worship will knock your socks off!

See page 18 for details.
FRIDAY TOURS — SEPTEMBER 13

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form for details.

8:30 – 11 am
Historic Cemeteries Tour
Cost: $35, Preregistration Required

Historic cemeteries tell us so much about cities and the people who lived in them. The Church Street Graveyard was acquired by the City of Mobile in 1820 and replaced the older colonial burial ground located at the site of the present Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The earliest burials in the graveyard date from 1819, while negotiations for the purchase of the site were still in progress. Many of the early burials were victims of yellow fever. In 1836, Mobile passed a municipal ordinance to establish the New Burial Ground outside the city limits on thirty-six acres of land. Today, Magnolia Cemetery, as it has been known since 1867, covers over 120 acres, and contains some 80,000 grave sites. Adjoining the cemetery is a National Cemetery containing the graves of over 6,000 veterans and the cemeteries of Mobile’s two Jewish congregations. Learn about historic preservation efforts and research about these significant sites in Mobile.

9 am – 12 pm
Revolutionary and Civil War Campaigns in Coastal Alabama
Cost: $47, Preregistration Required

This unique narrated voyage of discovery explores two prominent chapters of the Mobile Bay area’s rich military heritage. During a three-hour excursion through the busy port of Mobile and into the storied waters of rivers of the Delta and the headwaters of Mobile Bay, we will discuss the two Revolutionary War battles which occurred on either side of the bay. We will also discover the sites on land and water associated with the last major combined-forces operation of the Civil War—the Campaign for Mobile—which resulted in the capture of the city in April 1865. Tour cost includes a light snack.

9:30 – 11:30 am
Africatown Heritage House
Cost: $35, Preregistration Required

(Note: This tour is also offered on Saturday, September 14, 9–11 am, but does not include the boat ride to the site of the Clotilda wreckage.)

Clotilda: The Exhibition covers the story of the Clotilda with a special focus on the people of the story—their individuality, their perseverance, and the extraordinary community they established. The exhibition tells the story of the 110 remarkable men, women and children, from their West African beginnings, to their enslavement, to their settlement of Africatown, and finally the discovery of the sunken schooner, all through a combination of interpretive text panels, documents, and artifacts. The pieces of the Clotilda that have been recovered from the site of the wreck are on display in the exhibition, on loan from the Alabama Historical Commission. The exhibition was curated, developed, and designed in conjunction with the local community and the wider descendent community, and in consultation with experts around the country. Limit of 25 people per tour. Sponsored by the Alabama Historical Commission.

10 – 11:30 am
Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail Civil Rights Tour
Cost: $45, Preregistration Required

Take a lunchtime walk and learn what the Historic African American Central Business District of Mobile looked like during the times of the Jim Crow South. The tour will start with the building that was once the Mobile Public Library during the “separate, but equal” laws of Plessy v. Ferguson. Experience oral history videos featuring those who were a part of Mobile’s Civil Rights Movement. The Foot Soldiers Park was a major force during the civil rights movement of the early 1960s and 1970s. Most Pure Heart of Mary was the meeting place for the Neighborhood Organized Workers, N.O.W., who engaged in civil disobedience through marches, boycotts, and picket lines to administer economic pressure to force the majority (white) business owners and Mobile city officials to hire and appoint African Americans in responsible positions for the first time in the city’s history. Sign up for this tour to hear many more historic accounts of the Civil Rights Movement here in Mobile.

Click here to go to Registration Form page 1
Click here to go to Registration Form page 2
SATURDAY TOURS — SEPTEMBER 14

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form for details.

8 am – 5 pm

Discover Coastal Alabama
Cost: $85, Preregistration Required

This special bus tour will provide guests with a one-of-a-kind snapshot of some of Baldwin County’s diverse heritage and numerous amazing historic sites. Along the journey guests will discover Alabama’s largest (and amazingly intact) Civil War battlefield; learn about the unique single tax colony of Fairhope; tour the circa 1880 Swift-Coles Historic Home; discover an ancient Native American canal; and tour Fort Morgan—site of the Battle of Mobile Bay. As Admiral Farragut might have said: “Damn the Torpedoes!”—there is much more than beaches to discover in coastal Alabama! Tour cost includes lunch.

9 – 11 am

Africatown Heritage House
Cost: $35, Preregistration Required

See page 21 for details.

12:30 – 5 pm

Fort Mims and Poarch Band of Creek Indians Cultural Center
Cost: $60, Preregistration Required

The Poarch Creek Indians are descendents of a segment of the original Creek Nation, which once covered almost all of Alabama and Georgia. Unlike many eastern Indian tribes, the Poarch Creeks were not removed from their tribal lands and have lived together for almost 200 years in and around the reservation in Poarch, Alabama. This tour will visit the Kerretv Cuko (Building of Learning), the tribal museum and the place to experience the Tribe's history firsthand. The exhibit showcases how their ancestors—the Muscogee Creek Indians—lived with samples of stoneware, pottery, tools, baskets, and textiles. See what early village life was like for families living and farming together. The tour will also visit Fort Mims State Historic Site. On August 30, 1813, a force of about 700 Creek Indians destroyed Fort Mims, killing defenders and taking captives, in the first major battle of the Creek War of 1813-14. Some 400 American settlers, U.S.-allied Creeks, and enslaved African Americans had taken refuge inside a stockade hastily erected on the plantation of Samuel Mims. The Creek attack on Fort Mims, and particularly the killing of civilian men, women, and children at the end of the battle, outraged the U.S. public, thus prompting military action against the Creek Nation, which controlled what is now much of modern Alabama. Site Director Claudia Campbell will lead the group around the site and discuss the challenges of interpreting a site with this complicated story. Tour cost includes a light snack.

1 – 5 pm

Africatown and the Clotilda
Cost: $45, Preregistration Required

See page 18 for details.
**EVENING EVENTS**

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form for details.

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**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

**USS Alabama**

6 – 9 pm  
Cost: $62, Preregistration Required

AASLH is kicking the 2024 Annual Conference off with a bang at the historic **USS Alabama**. Gather in the Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion, home of the site’s extensive aircraft collection, historic vehicles, and war artifacts for hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Explore the **USS Alabama** who began her World War II adventures in the North Atlantic in 1943, then later that year, went to the South Pacific seas. She ended up in Mobile, Alabama as a National Historic Landmark and memorial to millions. Also climb in the **USS Drum** (SS-228), the National Historic Landmark WWII submarine, sitting in her cradle beside Mobile Bay. The **Drum** is the oldest American submarine on public display. You will enjoy exploring the historical treasure while you catch up with old friends and make new ones.

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**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

**Welcome to Mobile!**

6 – 9 pm  
Cost: $49, Preregistration Required

Celebrate the rich history of the home of Mardi Gras with visits to the History Museum of Mobile and the Mobile Carnival Museum. The evening will begin at the History Museum of Mobile just a five-minute walk from the convention center and host hotel. Explore their galleries and museum story while snacking on hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Then, the party will move about a half-mile down Government Street to the museum that is all about the spirit of Mardi Gras. You can enjoy dessert and a coffee bar while learning about the history of Mardi Gras in Mobile. It is an easy walk between the two museums, but a shuttle will be available for anyone who chooses not to go on foot.

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**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

**Historians Take Over the Renaissance**

8 – 11 pm  
Cost: $15, Preregistration Required

This year, AASLH is arranging an after-hours event at the host hotel. This informal event will include card- and role-playing games, snacks, conversation, and karaoke. There will also be a new activity where you have two minutes to tell a story about “Doing History.” (It must be true.) More details will be revealed closer to the event.

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Dr. Imani Perry
Alabama Humanities Fellow

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
A FILM BY KEN BURNS, SARAH BOTSTEIN & DAVID SCHMIDT

COMING FALL 2025
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

These events are not included in the Annual Conference registration fee and require preregistration. See the registration form for details.

9 am – 12:30 pm

Field Services Alliance Meeting
Cost: Free, Preregistration Required
The Field Services Alliance (FSA) is a professional network of individuals who, on a statewide or regional level, offer educational services to local historical organizations and others who practice history. Join us for the FSA annual meeting where we’ll network, share updates on our programs, discuss trends we are seeing across the regions we serve, and plan topics for future trainings. Registration includes coffee or tea and a snack.

Introduction to Transcribing and Annotating Your Document Collections Workshop
Cost: $45, Preregistration Required
This workshop focuses on two activities for making your document collection more accessible, discoverable, and thus usable: transcription and annotation. Explore the “whys” of these activities and the decisions involved in a transcription and/or annotation project. You will also participate in exercises to help you develop your own project policies. Registration includes coffee or tea and a snack.
Katie Blizzard, eLaboratories, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA; Victoria Sciancalepore, Jane Addams Papers Project, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah, NJ

9:30 am – 4 pm

Putting It All Together: Preparing for 2026 at Small History Organizations Workshop
Cost: $65, Preregistration Required
The U.S. 250th is an opportunity to share history that tells everyone’s story and to strengthen the history field. AASLH has developed key resources to help practitioners both conceptually and concretely plan for this commemoration’s transformative potential. Attend this workshop to learn about the Making History at 250 field guide, our new handbook of low-resource programming ideas, and how to effectively apply these tools to your site or organization. Registration fee includes a morning and afternoon snack and boxed lunch.
Melissa Prycer, Prycer Consulting, Dallas, TX

1:30 – 5 pm

How Cultural Competency Can Impact Your Institution and Your Stakeholders Workshop
Cost: $45, Preregistration Required
Cultural competency is the ability to function with awareness, knowledge, and interpersonal skill when engaging people of different backgrounds, assumptions, beliefs, values, and behaviors. Participants will be challenged to examine personal perceptions and introduced to strategies that will increase their ability to employ these skills for interpretation, workforces, visitors, and stakeholders. Registration includes a water or soda and a snack.
Helen Wong Smith, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI

Preserving Oral Histories with Podcasting Workshop
Cost: $45, Preregistration Required
Capturing oral histories provides perspectives and details that scholarly work and analysis sometimes lack. This workshop will explore how small (or lean) museum staff can conduct oral histories in ways that preserve their archival integrity and can be published through digital platforms such as podcasts and exhibits. Presenters will share tips on how to collect oral histories with an oral history release form, conduct an oral history, curate a podcast season, and incorporate audio files with digital platforms from audio tours to exhibits. Registration includes a water or soda and a snack.
Pamela Morales de Hendricks, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX; José “Tony” Peña, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX

6 – 9 pm

Evening Event: USS Alabama
Cost: $62, Preregistration Required
See page 23 for information.
### Wednesday, September 11

#### Full Day Tours
- 7 am – 5:30 pm: A Day in Montgomery, Cost: $85
- 9 am – 4 pm: Historic Pensacola, Cost: $85

#### Morning Tour
- 8 am – 12 pm: Africatown and the Clotilda, Cost: $45

#### Full Day Workshop
- 9:30 – 4 pm: Putting It All Together: Preparing for 2026 at Small History Organizations, Cost: $65

#### Morning Workshops
- 9 am – 12:30 pm: Field Services Alliance Meeting, Cost: Free
- Introduction to Transcribing and Annotating Your Document Collections, Cost: $45

#### Afternoon Tours
- 1 – 4 pm: Mobile’s Historic House Museums, Cost: $30
- Africatown and the Clotilda, Cost: $45
- Looking Back, Moving Forward at Mobile Museum of Art, Cost: $30

#### Afternoon Workshops
- 1:30 – 5 pm: How Cultural Competency Can Impact Your Institution and Your Stakeholders, Cost: $45
- Preserving Oral Histories with Podcasting, Cost: $45

#### Evening Events
- 6 – 9 pm: Evening Event: USS Alabama, Cost: $55

### Thursday, September 12

#### Morning Tours
- 7:30 am – 9 am: Walking Tour: Sacred Architecture, Cost: $25

#### Concurrent Sessions
- 8:30 – 9:45 am: Capturing Oral Histories
- Collaborating on K-12 Professional Development
- Engaging Younger Generations in the U.S. 250th Anniversary
- Interpreting Slavery in Black and White Bodies
- Moving Mountains: Creating Sustainable Change in Interpretation
- The Perils of Benign Neglect: How NOT to Run a Museum
- Pressing Forward: Black Agency in the Lincoln Narrative
- Protecting Your Organization Through Succession Planning
- Statement of Standards and Ethics Listening Session
- Striking the Balance: In-Person vs. Digital Experiences

#### Keynote Address
- 11 am – 12:15 pm: Dr. Palina Louangketh

#### Afternoon Tours
- 12 – 1:30 pm: Walking Tour: Historic Preservation Success Stories, Cost: $25
- Africatown and the Clotilda, Cost: $45

#### Concurrent Sessions
- 2 – 3:15 pm: Civics Education Isn’t Partisan! Visitor Attitudes to Civics Content
- Data Literacy and Digital Humanities Collaborations in Public Spaces
- Digging into Community: Archaeology at Pope’s Tavern Museum
- Doing History: Dr. Garcia’s Gold
- Engaging Formerly Incarcerated Adults Through Museum-Based Professional Learning Programs
- Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Listening Session
- Healing Commemorations
- New Strategies for LGBTQ+ Interpretation at Historic Sites
- Small Museum, Big Impact: Steps for Ensuring Your Exhibition Resonates
- Tiers Without Fears: Ranking Your Collections

#### Evening Events
- 5:30 – 7 pm: Diversity and Inclusion Mixer, Cost: Free
- 6 – 9 pm: Evening Event: Welcome to Mobile!, Cost: $49
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

**CHARETTE**

8:30 – 10:30 am  •  Preserving the House Museum by Educating the Next Generation of Historic Craftsperson

**MORNING TOURS**

8:30 – 11 am  •  Historic Cemeteries Tour, Cost: $35

9 am – 12 pm  •  Revolutionary and Civil War Campaigns in Coastal Alabama, Cost: $47

9:30 – 11 am  •  Africatown Heritage House, Cost: $35

10 – 11:30 am  •  Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail Civil Rights Tour, Cost: $45

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

8 – 9:15 am

•  Crafting Learner-Centered Ecosystems for Community-Driven Transformation

•  Engaging in Socially Responsible Sports Interpretation

•  Everyone’s Archives: Community History Days

•  History as a Tool for Change

•  It’s Complicated: Interpreter Training and Contested Histories

•  Leading from the Middle

•  Pathways Into the Profession

•  Re-envisioning 9/11: History and Memory for a New Generation

•  Reflective Patriotism: A New (Old) Lens on the Past

•  Strategic Vision at Small Museums

•  Unfinished Revolution: Place, Environment, and Social Justice in the 250th

**EXHIBIT HALL**

9:45 – 10:45 am

•  Break in the Exhibit Hall

•  NCPH Poster Session

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

10:15 – 11:30 am

•  Disrupting History: Incorporating the Native Story

•  Doing History: Segregated Travel in the U.S.

•  FSA Tips: America 250 on a Shoestring

•  Interpretation of Firearms in Collections and Living History

•  Lens Check: From the Black Visitor Perspective

•  Living the Legacy: How History Becomes Advocacy

•  Marketing 101: Minimal Effort For High Reward

•  Something to Say: History and Narratives at a Southern Museum

•  Where Do I Begin? Tools for Disaster and Climate Resilience Planning

•  Wisconsin Adventures: Roll for Initiative!

**AASLH LUNCHEON**

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

•  AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Awards Presentation and Luncheon, Cost: $15

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

1:30 – 2:45 pm

•  Affirming Communities: The History Museum Experience Impacts Study

•  Doing History: Underground Railroad Through South Texas

•  Fund That Story with the Library of Congress

•  It’s a Culture Thing: Authenticity at Work

•  The Most Difficult Conversation

•  Reunited: Uniting Black History and Black Arts for Justice

FRIDAY continued

1:30 – 2:45 pm

•  Small Museums Affinity Committee Meeting

•  Through a Child’s Eyes: Sharing Southern History with the Children in Our Audiences

•  Using AI Imagery in Museum Exhibitions

•  What If It’s Historically Accurate but Inaccessible?

•  When the Dust Settles on America250

2:45 – 3:30 pm

•  Closing Reception in the Exhibit Hall

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

3:30 – 4:45 pm  •  Dr. Sharony Green

**EVENING EVENTS**

5 – 6 pm  •  History Leadership Institute Reception, Cost: Free

6:30 – 7:45 pm

•  Evening Event: Public Plenary: Interpreting the Clotilda and Africatown, Cost: Free

8 – 11 pm

•  Historians Take Over the Renaissance, Cost: $15

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

**BREAKFAST**

7:30 – 8:45 am  •  STEPS Session and Breakfast, Cost: $29

**ALL TOURS**

8 am – 5 pm  •  Discover Coastal Alabama, Cost: $85

9 – 11 am  •  Africatown Heritage House, Cost: $35

12:30 – 5 pm

•  Fort Mims and Poarch Band of Creek Indians Cultural Center, Cost: $60

1 – 5 pm

•  Africatown and the Clotilda, Cost: $45

**WORKSHOPS**

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

•  Building Reciprocal Relationships, Cost: $45

9 am – 5 pm

•  Putting It All Together: Preparing for 2026 at Small History Organizations, Cost: $65

9:30 – 4 pm

•  Historic Window Repair, Cost: $100

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

9 – 10:15 am

•  Building a House Museum as a Community Anchor

•  Creating Change from the Inside

•  Doing Local History Through “History’s Habits of Mind”

•  Interpreting Slavery with Youth

•  Marketing 101: Minimal Effort For High Reward

•  Exploring Capacity: Making Space and Doing More

•  Using AI Imagery in Museum Exhibitions

•  Southern Jewish History “Out of the Box”

•  Wisconsin Adventures: Roll for Initiative!

•  Where Do I Begin? Tools for Disaster and Climate Resilience Planning

•  Wisconsin Adventures: Roll for Initiative!

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

9 am – 1 pm

•  Meeting of the State 250th Commissions, Invitation Only

10:15 – 10:45 am

•  Beverage Break in Concourse

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

10:45 am – 12 pm

•  2025 Annual Conference Roundtable

•  Alternative Facts: When Remembrance Faces Reality

•  Creating New Engagement Opportunities Using Mobile Gaming and Apps

•  Creative Approaches to Primary Sources

•  Do I Have History with Art

•  Empowering Descendants Through Archaeology

•  How to Engage Youth to Do Public History
Capturing Oral Histories

**Experiential**
Before you can start using oral histories, techniques must be in place for deciding which topics need to be recorded, which subjects have the knowledge of the topic, and who will be interviewed. Decisions must also be made on who will be the interviewer and lead the discussions. To do so requires skills that will keep the interviewee comfortable and on track so the conversation/revelations will keep moving. This session will help attendees identify and improve these important skills.

**Panelists:**
Camraletta M. Williams, Ph.D., The Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City, Kansas City, MO; Laura Darnell, The Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City, Kansas City, MO; Trey Delida, Made By Us, St. Louis, MO

Collaborating on K-12 Professional Development

**Experiential**
Alabama’s bicentennial commemoration provided an opportunity for public history practitioners and classroom teachers to devise new professional development training for K-12 educators. Hear from museum and classroom professionals on how the program created a community of practice that breaks down barriers between campuses and history organizations.

**Panelists:**
Hayden McDaniel, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL; Kelly Hallberg, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL; Melissa Motes, Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies, Mobile, AL; Krystle Smith, Spanish Fort High School, Spanish Fort, AL

Engaging Younger Generations in the U.S. 250th Anniversary

**Roundtable**
Research shows widespread disenchantment among younger generations when asked about the future of the United States. With America’s 250th anniversary just two years away, how can planners attract these stakeholders with programming and services that best address their needs and encourage a lasting engagement with the history field? Attend this session to hear perspective from three members of “Gen Z” to learn how your site or organization can better engage with younger audiences and make the most of 2026 while connecting with this vital audience.

**Panelists:**
Caroline Kilbanoff, Made By Us, Miami, FL; Cameron Katz, Made By Us, Atlanta, GA; Jasmine Lewis, Made By Us, Tuscaloosa, AL

Interpreting Slavery in Black and White Bodies

**Roundtable**
An interpreter’s racial identity is integral to how they share stories of slavery. Speaking truth, holding emotion, supporting a visitor’s learning crisis—“doing history”—takes a toll. This diverse panel will share their experiences with advice for doing the work while caring for yourself.

**Panelists:**
Keenan Salla, Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis, IN; Kisha Tandy, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis, IN; Olivia Williams, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument, Jackson, MS

Moving Mountains: Creating Sustainable Change in Interpretation

**Roundtable**
North Carolina State Historic Sites staff share their experiences making and sustaining interpretive change at state-run sites, in hopes of energizing others doing similar work. The colleagues will share lessons learned from imperfect, ongoing, and meaningful re-interpretation.

**Panelists:**
Liz Torres Melendez, Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, Sedalia, NC; Vera Cecelski, Historic Stagville State Historic Site, Durham, NC; Kara Deadmon, North Carolina State Capitol, Raleigh, NC; Lauren May, Vance Birthplace State Historic Site, Weaverville, NC

The Perils of Benign Neglect: How NOT to Run a Museum

**Roundtable**
Founded in 1985, the John Rivers Communications Museum in Charleston, SC, focused on the history of communication technologies. Facing challenges of poor oversight and insufficient funding, it closed in 2015. The panel will detail lessons learned from the closure, including museum accreditation and responsible collections stewardship, and highlight efforts to salvage the artifacts.

**Panelists:**
Kelly Kerbow Hudson, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC; Zinnia Willits, Southeastern Museums Conference, Atlanta, GA; John W. White, Ph.D., College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

Pressing Forward: Black Agency in the Lincoln Narrative

**Roundtable**
This panel will explore how President Lincoln’s story was reframed to center Black agency in the fight for emancipation and citizenship. The panelists will discuss connecting national and local history, involving community partners within ongoing relationships, and helping visitors connect the past and today’s events in personally resonant ways.

**Panelists:**
Susannah Koerber, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis, IN; Keenan Salla, Indiana State Archives, Indianapolis, IN; Kisha Tandy, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis, IN

Protecting Your Organization Through Succession Planning

**Nuts and Bolts**
Lyris and the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts will share the results of the Cultural Stewardship Succession Planning Initiative, an IMLS-funded research and resource development project. Attendees will explore new tools for institutional knowledge transfer, process documentation, and advocacy related to succession planning.

**Panelists:**
Tom Clareson, Lyris, Lewis Center, OH; Katie Lowe, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, PA
Statement of Standards and Ethics
Listening Session
Idea Studio
The Standards and Ethics Committee is heading up a multi-committee task force to review and revise AASLH’s 2018 Statement of Standards and Ethics and your input is needed. Please join members of the Statement of Standards and Ethics Review Task Force for discussion of some proposed changes and bring your own ideas!
Erin Richardson, Ph.D., Frank & Glory, Cooperstown, NY

Striking the Balance: In-Person vs. Digital Experiences
Roundtable
This panel will discuss the challenges and opportunities of pressing forward with ambitious digital agendas in the age of increasing expectations of our audience, funders, and board members, and an explosion of exciting new technologies and ways to reach and engage the universe of potential digital users. Hear inventive and inspiring examples from the field that demonstrate how our storytelling and our operations can be enhanced while fulfilling our mission through the use of digital experiences.
John Russick, Bronzeville Center for the Arts, Milwaukee, WI; Franky Abbott, Levine Museum of the New South, Charlotte, NC; Benjamin Filene, Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, Washington, DC; Christina Shutt, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, IL

9:30 – 10:30 am
Opening Reception in Exhibit Hall
Cost: Free
Grab a cup of coffee and snack and get to know conference sponsors and exhibitors.

First-Time Attendee Reception
Cost: Free, Preregistration Required
Join members of the AASLH staff and Council to learn more about AASLH and get tips for navigating the conference.

11 am – 12:15 pm
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Dr. Palina Louangketh

12:30 – 1:45 pm
AFFINITY LUNCHEONS

Historic House Museums and Military History Joint Luncheon
Cost: $42, Preregistration Required
With America 250 close approaching, many historic house museums are planning what they want to do at their site to commemorate the occasion. One area that has not been discussed for several years is the role of military history in historic house interpretation. Hear from three historic house leaders who have thoughtfully incorporated military history in their tours and brainstorm with other historic house and military history folks to develop new connections.

Small Museums Luncheon
Cost: $42, Preregistration Required
Join other small organization staff and volunteers for the annual Small Museums luncheon! Always a fun and informative event, this gathering is a chance to meet other people from small institutions, network, and share ideas through group discussions. We will hear a short presentation and, as always, there will be prizes. Everyone is welcome!

MEET AND EAT LUNCHEONS
Cost: Free (food, drink, and transportation not included), Preregistration Required
Sign up and join colleagues for lunch at a nearby Mobile restaurant. A full schedule will be released in late August.

• Climate and Sustainability Affinity Community Meet and Eat
Join members of the AASLH Climate and Sustainability Committee for lunch at the Noble South, a farm-to-table restaurant near the convention center. Learn more about the committee and how you can get involved. The restaurant owner will also give brief remarks on reducing the environmental impact of running a restaurant. Attendees are responsible for their own food and drink.

2 – 3:15 pm
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Civics Education Isn’t Partisan!
Visitor Attitudes to Civics Content
Roundtable
Civics, politics, partisanship—words that mean different things. Yet many museum-goers are conflating them, making civics education in museums tricky. Explore recent findings from the Annual Survey of Museum-Goers to learn how different audiences feel about civics education, and discuss data-driven tactics for effective work as we approach America250.
Susie Wilkening, Wilkening Consulting, Seattle, WA; Sarah Jencks, Every Museum a Civic Museum, Washington, DC; Monique Davis, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS; Jennifer Ortiz, Utah Historical Society, Mill Creek, UT
Data Literacy and Digital Humanities Collaborations in Public Spaces

**Experiential**

This “bring your own device” session is a launching point for discussions on how smaller museums and local historical sites benefit from harnessing digital humanities tools and resources in exhibits, programming, and educational outreach. Speakers will share a wide range of examples as participants explore and brainstorm potential partnerships to enhance teaching and learning across the humanities. Attendees are encouraged to bring ideas for upcoming exhibits and programs that might benefit from adding data literacy and cross-curricular content.

Annie Evans, New American History, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA; LaToya Spark Gray, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Digging into Community: Archaeology at Pope’s Tavern Museum

**Nuts and Bolts**

This session will provide a blueprint for building and sustaining a community archaeology program at a historic site outside of a university. Participants will come away with a clear understanding of how to implement and maintain a local history program using the processes of archaeology.

Brian Murphy, Florence Arts and Museums, Florence, AL; Clayton Davis, Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, Florence, AL; Daniel Rhodes, Alabama Archaeological Society, Huntsville, AL

Doing History: Dr. García’s Gold

**Doing History**

In 1933, Dr. José García secretly buried gold under his house in rural Texas. Uncovered by a plumber in 2002, the gold became the subject of a court case. The Museum of South Texas History used this story to explore the importance of Mexican Americans and their contributions to the history of south Texas and to show how family stories and legacies can foster new partnerships in communities that may have counternarratives about their place or community.

Francisco Guajardo, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX; Tony Peña, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX; James Jupp, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX

Engaging Formerly Incarcerated Adults Through Museum-Based Professional Learning Programs

**Roundtable**

Three museums are leading groundbreaking efforts to engage and train systems-impacted and formerly incarcerated adults in museum-based professional learning programs. Panelists from the Broad, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History will examine the role of museums in reshaping cultural and professional landscapes.


Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Listening Session

**Roundtable**

What does the history field need to prepare its institutions, employees, and boards to address and prevent gender discrimination and sexual harassment? AASLH created a GDSH Task Force at the beginning of 2024 and would like to hear from you about things the association can do to help. For more information on their work, download the article and Technical Leaflet #303 from the Fall 2023 History News.

Veronica Gallardo, Surratt House Museum, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Clinton, MD; Sean Blinn, Heritage Trail Association, Bridgewater, NJ; Richard M. Josey, Jr., Collective Journeys, LLC, Newport News, VA; Lisa E. Worley, Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI

Healing Commemorations

**Conversation/Provocation**

2022 was the 80th anniversary of the Alaska Highway and many of the themes being explored through the Alaska 250th resonated while developing materials and programs for the commemoration. This session will discuss comparisons with previous commemorations, events and materials created, community conversations promoting reconciliation, and moving forward.

Janna Swales, Yukon Transportation Museum, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada

New Strategies for LGBTQ+ Interpretation at Historic Sites

**Roundtable**

Panelists discuss strategies to broaden LGBTQ+ interpretation. Fallingwater is in the process of expanding Queer stories and ensuring programs are inclusive. Through tours and programming, Gibson House made the museum welcoming and affirming for LGBTQ+ communities. Historic New England is broadening the Queer histories it tells through an exhibition and publication.

Kenneth C. Turino, Tufts University, Nahant, MA; R. Tripp Evans, Wheaton College, Norton, MA; Justin Gunther, Fallingwater, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Mill Run, PA; Meghan Gelardi Holmes, Gibson House Museum, Boston, MA

Small Museum, Big Impact: Steps for Ensuring Your Exhibition Resonates

**Idea Studio**

Panelists will discuss the motivation for and execution of the traveling exhibition “Artistry in Iron: Blacksmiths of New Orleans” and challenge attendees to apply the strategies of adaptable design and local partnerships at their small museums. The project brought an under-represented history to the community through cultural and institutional collaboration. The flexible format and inclusion of both historical and contemporary artists added to its impact, reaching new audiences underserved by cultural institutions.

Katie Burlison, Hermann-Grima + Gallier Historic Houses, New Orleans, LA; Amanda Falls, City Archives and Special Collections, New Orleans Public Library, New Orleans, LA; Jonn Hankins, New Orleans Master Crafts Guild, New Orleans, LA; Darryl Reeves, Andrews Welding & Blacksmith, New Orleans, LA
Tiers Without Fears: Ranking Your Collections

Collection tiering provides common language to help justify new acquisitions and refinement through deaccessions. Three panelists, representing three encyclopedic collections, will share their experience with tiered collections systems—each building on existing policy, procedure, and process. Participants will take away methods and reference tools to apply to their own collections.

Todd Topper, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; Rebecca Odom, Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH; Sondra Reierson, History Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

3:15 – 4:15 pm

Break in Exhibit Hall

Meet Your State 250th Commission

Are you looking for inspiration, resources, or guidance on how to observe the U.S. 250th anniversary in your state? Connecting with your state 250th commission is a great place to start. Representatives from various state commissions will be available to answer questions and meet local planners.

4:15 – 5:30 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Alabama and the Healing History Initiative

Roundtable

How do those of us in the public history and humanities fields help a broader public engage across differences to consider influences of the past on our present? Come for discussion of Alabama Humanities Alliance’s effort, “Healing History Initiative,” and hear from their model partner the Wallace Center for Arts and Reconciliation.

Laura Caldwell Anderson, Alabama Humanities Alliance, Birmingham, AL; Kathy Boswell, B. Intentional, LLC, Birmingham, AL; Nell Gottlieb, Wallace Center for Arts and Reconciliation, Harpersville, AL; Jennifer McCohnell, Wallace Center for Arts and Reconciliation, Harpersville, AL

Bridging Sources: Telling the Past through Archaeology, Oral History, and Archives

Lightning Round

Bringing together newly collected archival, oral histories, and archaeological data from a large cultural resource management project in downtown Mobile provided avenues to rewrite the history of the city in collaboration with the public. Learn about how they advocated for a multidisciplinary perspective and shared opportunities for synergy.

Rachel Hines, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL; Philip Carr, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL; Raven Christopher, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL; Ryan Morini, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL; Kern Jackson, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

Building Empathy Through History

Experiential

History is a vehicle for helping people understand their past and better engage in their present. Two institutions committed to this goal by updating decades-old reenactment education programs. Presenters will walk attendees through their process of topic selection, identification of learning goals, and desired outcomes for learning games that immerse students in events and leave them arguing about the results on the school bus ride home.

Megan Gately, Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute, Simi Valley, CA; Matt Wilding, Revolutionary Spaces, Boston, MA

Crafting Living History Centering Marginalized Perspectives

Experiential

In this session, attendees will explore the effectiveness of living history by utilizing primary sources to create an engaging living history script that centers the perspectives of marginalized narratives, including the stories of women, people of color, immigrants, the LGBTQIA+ community, and folks with disabilities.

Lauren Todd, Frances Osborne Homestead Museum, Derby, CT

Doing History: Persistence Through Resistance: Dasher and Pinevale High Schools

Doing History

Two equalization schools in Valdosta, Georgia, Pinevale and Dasher High Schools, thrived in their communities, but due to poor academics and absence of in-city support, there is a lack of historical documentation. Their stories of establishment and integration remain untold, as compared to predominantly white schools. Researchers sought out those stories and created an exhibit displaying the cultures and school spirits of Pinevale and Dasher High Schools, connecting the Valdosta community to a lost piece of its history.

Isabelle Reimer, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA

The Power of Inclusion: Working with Deaf/Blind Communities

Roundtable

With the continued struggle for inclusivity, it is imperative for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Low Vision communities to have a voice in the American story. This roundtable will discuss the importance of serving this community with progressive programming, cultural connections, community
partnerships, employment, and the power of bi-lingual languages in American Sign Language and Braille. Marian Carpenter, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC; Rebecca Buchan, Sign Language Interpreter, Fishers, IN; Kelly Krogmeier, Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN; Annelise Meck, National Park Service, Mumford, NY; Leah Roggeman, Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN

Prison Prisms: Viewing the Landscape of Carceral History
Roundtable
Few constructs so indelibly alter the landscape of an inhabited place than a prison. Considering the polarizing political and social stakes, what are museums and historic sites to do amid the contradictory narratives of mass incarceration? Through the prism of prisons, the presenters will discuss how conference attendees can use their positions as trusted sources of truth to tell difficult stories and challenge audiences to imagine different democratic futures.
Jeffrey Ludwig, Seward House Museum, Auburn, NY; Kristin Doughty, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY; Joshua Dubler, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY; Jerome Loach, Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia, PA; Kyes Stevens, Alabama Prison Arts + Education Program, Auburn University, Waverly, AL

Surviving Disaster: Learn By Doing the Work
Nuts and Bolts
No matter how much you prepare for a disaster, when it comes, it rarely turns out that you prepared enough. This session will provide practical steps to preparedness, response, and community involvement gleaned from the loss of eight museums and historic sites in the August 2023 Lahaina wildfire disaster.
Kimberly Flook, Lahaina Restoration Foundation, Lahaina, HI

We’ll Leave the Light On For You: Using Historic Sites for Accommodations
Idea Studio
Speakers from three historic sites will talk about the properties they manage and how they incorporate overnight stays to help with sustainability and relevancy. Then, breakout groups will dream big about ways their historic structures could be used to generate revenue and allow guests to “live” history. Anne McCudden, Thomasville History Center, Thomasville, GA; Sara Phelan, Warrenville Historical Museum and Art Gallery, Warrenville, IL; Lauren Riviello, C&O Canal Trust, Williamsport, MD

When Are We US?: Reexamining Democracy’s Messy Business
Idea Studio
North Carolina’s “When Are We US?” (WAWU) committee spearheads the state’s efforts to reimagine how we commemorate the nation’s founding at and beyond sites of the American Revolution. Join them as they explore how organization centers can enhance inclusive historical interpretation during the country’s 250th anniversary.
Michelle Lanier, North Carolina State Historic Sites, Raleigh, NC; Jennifer Farley, North Carolina State Historic Sites, Sedalia, NC; Jason Melius, North Carolina State Historic Sites, Statesville, NC; Kaitlin O’Connor, North Carolina State Historic Sites, Durham, NC

EVENING EVENTS
5:30 – 7 pm
Diversity and Inclusion Mixer
Cost: Free, Preregistration Recommended
All are welcome to enjoy a lively evening of networking with the AASLH Diversity and Inclusion Committee! Come meet committee members, other conference attendees, and local Mobile professionals to celebrate the diversity of the field. The mixer is a great space to connect with peers and learn about future initiatives of the committee.

6 – 9 pm
Welcome to Mobile!
Cost: $49, Preregistration Required
See page 23 for information.
Crafting Learner-Centered Ecosystems for Community-Driven Transformation
Roundtable
Step into the future of education and learn more about the transformative power of learner-centered ecosystems. Discover adaptive, networked structures redefining education and nurturing whole human development. Explore the value of partnerships among learners, peers, and adults. Gain insights for revolutionizing education, breaking down barriers, and fostering community collaboration.
Fernande Raine, History Co:Lab, Milton, MA; Emily Wegner, History Co:Lab, Lee’s Summit, MO; Tyler Samstag, Remake Learning, Pittsburgh, PA

Engaging in Socially Responsible Sports Interpretation
Roundtable
Inspired by the book Interpreting Sports at Museums and Historic Sites (Rowman & Littlefield, 2023), this session will explore what has worked and what more could be on the horizon for this emerging part of the field—with the aim to engage attendees in examining and broadening the conversation about sports history as a lens for challenging long-held cultural ideologies and driving a more inclusive understanding of sports and the broad lens of humanity found there within.
Douglas Stark, Interpreting Sports, Barrington, RI; Sarah Calise, Special Collections and University Archives, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; Kristin Gallas, MUSE Consulting, Medford, MA; Kathryn Leann Harris, Interpreting Sports, Somerville, MA

Everyone’s Archives: Community History Days
Nuts and Bolts
See how post-custodial archiving is implemented through community history days. Post-custodial archiving creates exciting opportunities for developing equitable and accessible digital collections at the Pueblo City-County Library District. Community history days provide an opportunity for individuals to digitize their materials, optionally donate a copy to the library, and reconnect with other community members.
Alyssa Vargas-Lopez, Pueblo City-County Library District, Pueblo, CO; Blake Hatton, Pueblo City-County Library District, Pueblo, CO

History as a Tool for Change
Roundtable
Rokeby Museum in Vermont and Mt. Tabor Preservation Project in Pennsylvania are working in their communities to uncover and share the missing and hidden histories in their region and highlight how history plays an important role in how we view the places we live, work, and play. This session will explore how historical organizations can use history as a tool for change in their communities and provide tools and resources for other institutions to adapt to their own communities.
Lindsay Varner, Ph.D., Rokeby Museum, Ferrisburgh, VT; Carmen James, Mt. Tabor Preservation Project, Mt. Holly Springs, PA; Tucker Foltz, Rokeby Museum, Ferrisburgh, VT

It’s Complicated: Interpreter Training and Contested Histories
Nuts and Bolts
Panelists describe training methods for preparing interpreters to engage visitors with diverse perspectives at some of the most well-known sites of contested history in America. By describing scenarios from their respective institutions and past consultation, focusing on both empathic and fact forward techniques, they share strategies to encourage collective learning.

Leading from the Middle
Idea Studio
As we move through our careers, we might find ourselves leading from the middle—but resources and community to be successful can be difficult to find. Join this participatory session where presenters will explore challenges and opportunities in leading up, down, and out while inviting attendees to do the same.
Bethany Hrstovec, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN; René Ballesteros, Latinos in Heritage Conservation, Edinburg, TX; Andrea Jones, AASLH’s History Leadership Institute, Washington, DC; Carla Mello, Ohio History Connection, Columbus, OH

Pathways Into the Profession
Panel
Many people begin their careers with a museum studies, public history, or other graduate program and some arrive in our field from other directions. One of the strengths of public history is its “porous edges,” the way it overlaps with other fields and disciplines and benefits from a diversity of life, work, and education experiences. Join us in a discussion of our panelists’ pathways to their current job and their career advice for others.
John R. Dichtl, Ph.D., AASLH, Nashville, TN

Re-envisioning 9/11: History and Memory for a New Generation
Roundtable
While the field has focused on America 250, 2026 also marks a milestone anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001. This session will feature a conversation about how we navigate our changing understanding of the history of 9/11 as it transitions from memory to history and its continuing repercussions in ways that expand the narratives of that day to generate a public understanding of the complexities of the historical events of both September 11th and its aftermath, integrating multiple and underrepresented perspectives.
Reflective Patriotism: A New (Old) Lens on the Past

Expansive

Now that history education has become political, many practitioners are struggling to determine how to teach good history without jeopardizing their careers. But the bipartisan EAD Roadmap may have already offered us a solution. Based on research and experimentation ongoing at the New-York Historical Society, participants will use Frederick Douglass’s speeches to consider whether reflective patriotism is a useful lens for these troubled times and consider whether applying this lens might both strengthen their work and protect them against bad actors.

Allyson Schettino, New-York Historical Society, New York, NY

Strategic Vision at Small Museums

Nuts and Bolts

This session will help jump-start strategic planning by exploring the crucial role of mission, vision, and value statements at small museums preserving local history amid global challenges. Learn to engage public audiences in ‘Doing History’ and communicate the significance of our work by expanding historical relevance to broader audiences.

Ann Bennett, Laurel Historical Society, Laurel, MD; Laura Apelbaum, Apelbaum Nonprofit Consulting, Chevy Chase, MD

Unfinished Revolution: Place, Environment, and Social Justice in the 250th

Roundtable

Members of AASLH’s Climate and Sustainability Affinity Group share ideas about how the history of climate and the environment (and deepening understanding of environment and social justice connections) can inform research and development of public programming related to the U.S. Semiquincentennial. Speakers will share how to document the relationship of the natural environment in a place 250 years ago, link those natural sources to the human experiences at the site, and explore how this approach affects the way we “do history.”

Kathy Garrett-Cox, Maymont Foundation, Richmond, VA; Marian Carpenter, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC; Debra Reid, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI; Kimberly Robinson, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry, WV

Preserving the House Museum by Educating the Next Generation of Historic Craftspeople

Charette

There is a national shortage of historic craftspeople, which puts our historic house museums and architectural heritage at risk. The charette will discuss different types of training and educational programs that will prepare the next generation of tradespeople and preservationists to steward our historic buildings into the future.

Kevin Cherry, Ph. D., Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, Hillsborough, NC; Joseph Beatty, Ph. D., Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, Hillsborough, NC; Christina Butler, American College of the Building Arts, Charleston, SC; Thomas Rhinehart, George Washington’s Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, WA

Break in the Exhibit Hall

NCPH Poster Session

Built on the National Council on Public History’s model, the poster session at AASLH 2024 is an opportunity to share project-based work with attendees in a creative, visual format that invites lively discussion. It can include works-in-progress, student-driven work, ephemeral or temporary projects, and collaborative or experimental work, especially for presentations where visual or material evidence represents a central component. Proposals are due June 24. Sponsored by the National Council on Public History.

Disrupting History: Incorporating the Native Story

Roundtable

Native representation in public history is often an afterthought. There has been progress, but institutions still grapple with how to address the Native story that exists throughout American history. This presentation addresses implementing methodologies that are best practices to respectfully collaborate with Native communities who are demanding it.

Shana Bushyhead Condill, Museum of the Cherokee People, Cherokee, NC; Dakota Brown, Museum of the Cherokee People, Cherokee, NC; Evan Mathis, Museum of the Cherokee People, Cherokee, NC
Doing History: Segregated Travel in the U.S.

Representatives from the Rosa Parks Museum, the Freedom Rides Museum, and the Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Institute will discuss the “two buses”—the Montgomery City Bus and the Greyhound/Trailways Buses along with significant legal cases that changed the Civil Rights Movement and American history.

Dorothy Walker, Freedom Rides Museum, Montgomery, AL; Donna Beisel, Rosa Parks Museum, Montgomery, AL; Thomas Rains, The Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Institute, Montgomery, AL

FSA Tips: America 250 on a Shoestring

Building on the America 250 Programming Handbook, this session features field services providers from across the country expanding on examples of how small history organizations can leverage resources to maximize 250th programming and impact. Following a short presentation, FSA members will work with small groups to workshop ideas and offer feedback.

Allison Campbell, Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, WA; David Belew, Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore, MD; Tamara Hemmerlein, Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, IN; Kate Jacus, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, PA

Interpretation of Firearms in Collections and Living History

Roundtable

Across the United States, the interpretation of firearms in collections and living history is a hot topic in museums and historical sites. There are multiple perspectives on interpretation, and it is not an easy conversation to navigate. Three museums/historic sites representing different regions of the country will talk about their navigation of this topic.

Alison Bruesehoff, Rancho Los Cerritos Museum and Historic Site, Long Beach, CA; Mari Ruth Leftwich, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA; Leah Roggeman, Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN

Lens Check: From the Black Visitor Perspective

Idea Studio

This panel explores the transformative power of shifting the historical lens to the Black visitor’s perspective. Gain insights into the biases and limitations in current practices, learn to leverage empathy in interpretation, and discover practical collaboration models for more inclusive historical sites.

Tamyra Gordon, Greenwood Seneca Foundation, Los Angeles, CA

Living the Legacy: How History Becomes Advocacy

Roundtable

How do we carry on the good work of those who came before us? In this session, panelists from three organizations with roots in Progressive causes will discuss how they combine history, social service, and advocacy in inspiring ways that build on the past to shape a better future.

Kenneth C. Turino, The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association, Salem, MA; Dakota Russell, The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association, Salem, MA; Katie Vogel, Henry Street Settlement, New York, NY

Marketing 101: Minimal Effort For High Reward

Experiential

What can you do when you aren’t sure what to do? Marketing and communications can seem daunting and time consuming. This session focuses on basic marketing and communications practices you can implement in just 1–3 hours per week. Get the most out of your time and budget and see results!

Haille VanPatten, Utah Historical Society, Salt Lake City, UT

Something to Say: History and Narratives at a Southern Museum

Roundtable

Atlanta, a pivotal city in the Civil Rights Movement, serves as a microcosm for nationwide discussions on presenting historical narratives in diverse society. This session explores Atlanta’s distinctive history and how its role in the American South provides a backdrop for discussions on contemporary community issues of race and ideology.

Kristian Weatherspoon, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA; Shatavia Elder, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA, Claire Haley, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA

Where Do I Begin? Tools for Disaster and Climate Resilience Planning

Nuts and Bolts

Climate change is affecting all cultural organizations and planning needs to be addressed as part of institutional disaster planning. This session will introduce attendees to a set of tools that guides cultural institutions in creating a climate resilience plan as well as combining resources for disaster planning.

Kathy Garrett-Cox, Maymont Foundation, Richmond, VA; Jerry Foust, Ph.D., Environment & Culture Partners, Washington, DC; Ann Marie Waller, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA

Wisconsin Adventures: Roll for Initiative!

Experiential

Proven education foundations and dragon-slaying go hand in hand! “Wisconsin Adventures” combines the myths and legends of Wisconsin’s past with the inherent learning opportunities of fantasy roleplaying games. Reach new audiences by incorporating the history of your state and locale into the ever-growing community of TTRPG (tabletop roleplaying games) enthusiasts.

Kurt Griesemer, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI
11:45 am – 1:15 pm
LUNCHEON AND PRESENTATION
AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards

Cost: $15 for lunch, Preregistration Required

The business meeting of AASLH will be held during this luncheon including reports from Council and the President and CEO and announcement of new officers and Council members. AASLH will also honor the best in state and local history with the 2024 Leadership in History Awards highlighting the great work in history organizations throughout the country. Note: There is a fee for the lunch portion of this event. To just attend the presentation without a meal is free and does not require preregistration.

1:30 – 2:45 pm
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Affirming Communities: The History Museum Experience Impacts Study
Roundtable
Presenters will present emerging findings from “The History Museum Experience Impacts Study,” a national survey involving twelve U.S. history museums and sites of varying sizes, audiences, and geographical locations. Session goals include discussions of why people visit historical places, what experiences they value, and how to plan and implement a study of this scale/scope both onsite and virtually.

Lynn D. Dierking, Institute for Learning Innovation, Corvallis, OR; Sheila Brommel, PhD, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; John H. Falk, Institute for Learning Innovation, Corvallis, OR; David M. Simmons, Woodstock Foundation, Inc. and Billings Farm & Museum, Woodstock, VT

Doing History: Underground Railroad Through South Texas
Doing History
Museum staff discuss how research from the local university, other historians, and the museum highlighted the story of the Underground Railroad as it moved through South Texas and into northeastern Mexico, particularly the story of how local people were active participants in shaping its story.

Presenters, including descendants, will explore the histories of two U.S.-Mexico borderland families and their roles assisting self-emancipators to freedom.

Melissa Peña, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX; Roseann Bacha-Garza, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX; Francisco Guajardo, Ph.D., Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX; Maria Esther Hammack, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; O.J. Treviño, Dallas, TX

Fund That Story with the Library of Congress Nuts and Bolts
Engage in a dynamic Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources session, guiding them to explore the untold stories within small museums and archival collections. Foster engagement by illustrating how Library of Congress grants can fund initiatives, inspiring attendees to envision and plan compelling narratives that resonate with their communities.

Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, Teaching With Primary Sources, Broomfield, CO; Laura Israelsen, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, Broomfield, CO; Keith Patterson, Metropolitan State University and the Library of Congress Teaching With Primary Sources Program, Denver, CO

It’s a Culture Thing: Authenticity at Work Lightning Round
Employee burnout, museum growth, and community engagement are concerns for museums both small and large. The goal of this session is to share with other museum professionals and people who “do history” the philosophy of one institution that the culture we build in our workplace reflects how we show up in the community. This includes building meaningful relationships among staff and volunteers to better serve the community.


The Most Difficult Conversation Roundtable
When descendents of an enslaved community and descendents of the enslavers started parallel conversations around the feasibility of reconciliation, it became clear that the scene of their shared history was more than a setting. It was a character unto itself and needed a seat at the table. There was no rulebook for what happened next.


Reunited: Uniting Black History and Black Arts for Justice Roundtable
This session will explore the ways Black historians, artists, and community members in the United States unite art and history to remember the past, mark the moment, and imagine the present.

Noelle Lorraine Williams, New Jersey Historical Commission, Trenton, NJ

Session Suggestions on page 14
Small Museums Affinity Committee Meeting

Committee Meeting
Have you ever wanted to deepen your connection with AASLH? Are you looking for ways to connect with other museum professionals beyond each year’s conference? Consider getting involved with the Small Museums Affinity Committee. Join us for our annual in-person meeting, where you can get to know committee members, meet other small organization staff and volunteers, ask questions, share what needs you have, and learn about what we do. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend!
Sean Blinn, Heritage Trail Association, Bridgewater, NJ

Through a Child’s Eyes: Sharing Southern History with the Children in Our Audiences

Roundtable
Sharing historical content with adult audiences is challenging enough—but often, we are welcoming entire families to our sites and must think about cross-generation experiences. This session offers lessons learned and strategies tested at sites in the Gulf Coast region that seek to engage broad audiences of all ages.
Stella Baty Landis, Ph.D., Longue Vue House and Gardens, New Orleans, LA; Joy Banner, The Descendants Project, Wallace, LA; Rayanne Darensbourg, Houston Children’s Museum, Houston, TX; Tifferney White, Louisiana Children’s Museum, New Orleans, LA

Using AI Imagery in Museum Exhibitions

Idea Studio
Join a mid-project discussion about the use of Artificial Intelligent images in exhibitions. Mount Vernon exhibition design partner Solid Light are generating new portraits to provide stunning visuals of the people who shared Washington’s world.
K. Allison Wickens, George Washington’s Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon, VA; Mike McCarthy, Solid Light, Louisville, KY

What If It’s Historically Accurate but Inaccessible?

Idea Studio
We are all committed to preserving and sharing history, but what do we do when those historical sites and spaces may be inaccessible? We don’t have the luxury of adding in accessibility from the beginning, so what are some ways we can prioritize accessibility without compromising on the historical significance? By engaging with real-life examples of accessibility challenges, attendees will be assigned prompts and work collaboratively in small groups to devise practical and applicable solutions.
Corinna S. Hill, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

When the Dust Settles on America250

Roundtable
Once the party is over and America250 is literally history, what do you hope your organization retains moving forward? This will be a panel discussion with museum professionals, historians, and educators on incorporating long-term strategies that will stick with audiences.
David Towry, DeepSouth Creative, Huntsville, AL; Laura Caldwell Anderson, Alabama Humanities Alliance, Birmingham, AL; Holly Wait, National Civil War Naval Museum, Columbus, GA; Dorothy Walker, Freedom Rides Museum, Montgomery, AL

Closing Reception in Exhibit Hall

3:30–4:45 pm
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Dr. Sharony Green

History Leadership Institute Reception

Cost: Free, Preregistration Recommended
Join the History Leadership Institute for an evening reception! Connect with program alumni, facilitators, and history professionals to learn about the premier professional development program for the field’s emerging leaders. This gathering is also an opportunity to meet and celebrate this year’s cohort.

6:30–7:45 pm
Evening Event: Public Plenary: Interpreting the Clotilda and Africatown

Cost: Free, Preregistration Required
See Evening Event on page 23.

8–11 pm
Historians Take Over the Renaissance

Cost: $15, Preregistration Required
See page 23 for more information.
9:30 am–4 pm

Historic Window Repair
Cost: $100, Preregistration Required
Participants in this workshop will learn about historic window design, operation, and maintenance. They will get the opportunity to assess historic windows in their historic setting and practice removing, reglazing, and rehanging sashes. Fee includes transportation, lunch, and personal protection equipment.
Natalie Henshaw, The Campaign for Historic Trades, Baltimore, MD

8:30 am–12:30 pm

MORNING WORKSHOP

Building Reciprocal Relationships
Workshop
Cost: $45, Preregistration Required
How do we build reciprocal relationships with excluded communities? How can relationships change institutions from the inside out? The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is leading a cohort of museums and community partners to take on these questions. Presenters will share stories and tools for reflection, collaboration, and internal change. Registration fee includes coffee or tea and a light snack.
Stacey Marie Garcia, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, Santa Cruz, CA; Tessa Jagger, Hermann-Grima + Gallier Historic Houses, New Orleans, LA; Tobi Voigt, Michigan History Center, Lansing, MI; Jade Walker, City of Austin Heritage Museums, Elisabet Ney Museum, Austin, TX

Putting It All Together: Preparing for 2026 at Small History Organizations
Workshop
Cost: $65, Preregistration Required
The U.S. 250th is an opportunity to share history that tells everyone’s story and to strengthen the history field. AASLH has developed key resources to help practitioners both conceptually and concretely plan for this commemoration’s transformative potential. Attend this workshop to learn about the Making History at 250 field guide, our new handbook of low-resource programming ideas, and how to effectively apply these tools to your site or organization. Registration fee includes a morning and afternoon snack and boxed lunch.
Melissa Prycer, Prycer Consulting, Dallas, TX

9 am–5 pm

FULL DAY WORKSHOPS

Putting It All Together: Preparing for 2026 at Small History Organizations
Workshop
Cost: $65, Preregistration Required
The U.S. 250th is an opportunity to share history that tells everyone’s story and to strengthen the history field. AASLH has developed key resources to help practitioners both conceptually and concretely plan for this commemoration’s transformative potential. Attend this workshop to learn about the Making History at 250 field guide, our new handbook of low-resource programming ideas, and how to effectively apply these tools to your site or organization. Registration fee includes a morning and afternoon snack and boxed lunch.
Melissa Prycer, Prycer Consulting, Dallas, TX

9–10:15 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Building a House Museum as a Community Anchor
Nuts and Bolts
What do you do when you are gifted with a house museum while house museums are struggling to stay relevant? You create a space for storytelling that creates ties within a community. Learn how one museum embraced the immigration story contrasting European immigrants from 100 years ago with immigrants today. Be inspired by this museum’s story to have sometimes difficult conversations with donors and partners to tell a more relevant story and discuss issues relevant to today.
Kelly Klobucher, Joliet Area Historical Museum, Joliet, IL

Creating Change from the Inside Roundtable
Often, when an institution has been around as long as The Henry Ford, it can be easy to continue down the same “we’ve always done it this way” path. Still, the institution has made internal changes to ensure that the public history stories they tell match the communities they serve. To create inclusive narratives and explore tough topics, institutional change must happen. Learn how to make small but mighty changes within your institution so your guests and staff feel welcome.

Doing Local History Through “History’s Habits of Mind” Experiential
Use “History’s Habits of Mind,” a program developed to help teachers teach about historical thinking, as a framework for doing local history! Join us for discussion, primary source activities, and real-world examples of ways we learn and teach about our local places. Be more intentional with the
**Interpreting Slavery with Youth**  
*Roundtable*

Fifty years ago, the city of Frederick opened a children’s museum in a former plantation house. The staff has been doing research into the lives of the enslaved on the property and integrating it into the visitor experience. Learn about tools they used or developed for scaffolding difficult and abstract information for audiences of all ages.

*Amanda Kramer, Rose Hill Manor Park and Museums, Frederick, MD; Kari Saavedra, Frederick County Parks and Recreation, Frederick, MD*

**Reevaluating Capacity: Making Space and Doing More**  
*Idea Studio*

Museum educators know their work is important but are battling burnout. How do we strategize to accurately reflect what we’re actually able to accomplish in a year, and better advocate for support? Participants will discuss models from other sectors to consider strategies for understanding and explaining department and individual capacity.

*Michele Longo, Office of Historic Alexandria, Alexandria, VA; Mary Ladrick, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, VA; Elizabeth Maurer, National Museum of the United States Army, Fort Belvoir, VA; Sally Meyer, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA*

**Sharing Difficult Histories in Civic Spaces**  
*Conversation/Provocation*

How might we cultivate curiosity and understanding in our communities through the telling of difficult histories? Together we’ll explore this and related questions, using the example of Dix Park in Raleigh to frame our conversation, and your own experiences sharing layered history to add new dimensions to the conversation.

*Madge Bemiss, Brocade Studio, Richmond, VA; Kate Pearce, Dix Park, City of Raleigh, Raleigh, NC; Trey Roberts, Dix Park Conservancy, Raleigh, NC; Toni Wynn, Brocade Studio, Philadelphia, PA*

**Southern Jewish History “Out of the Box”**  
*Experiential*

The Beth El Civil Rights Experience is a public history project that explores the intersection of Birmingham’s Jewish and civil rights histories. Seeking to foster reconciliation and accountability through ongoing acts of tikkun olam (“to repair the world”), the project encourages a different way to “do history.” Participants will experience this work by engaging in a hands-on activity designed to humanize history and inspire action.

*Melissa Norman, Ph.D., Beth El Civil Rights Experience, Birmingham, AL*
Alternative Facts: When Remembrance Faces Reality  
Roundtable  
Every museum professional will eventually encounter an entrenched local myth that is really fiction. What are our responsibilities as public historians as we navigate this difficult intersection of history and memory, and what choices must we make as we face stakeholders on both sides of the revisionist divide? Attendees will leave this session inspired to address and engage with the falsehoods within their own local histories.

Jonathan Scott, Cultural Heritage Department, Winterville, GA; Lynne Calamia, Roebling Museum, Roebling, NJ; Ashleigh Oatts, T.R.R. Cobb House Museum, Athens, GA

Creating New Engagement Opportunities Using Mobile Gaming and Apps  
Experiential  
Learn how Bowers Museum is supplementing their interpretive programming with engaging mobile AR games. Visitors travel around the site to complete educational challenges on their smartphones and explore exhibitions. Participants will learn how leveraging mobile technology supports inclusivity and accessibility, and have the opportunity to play a demo game.

Kelly Radomske, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, CA; Mary Clark, Agents of Discovery, Inc., Kelowna, BC, Canada; Joel Krupa, Agents of Discovery, Inc., Kelowna, BC, Canada; Anna Scheck, Agents of Discovery, Inc., Kelowna, BC, Canada

Creative Approaches to Primary Sources  
Experiential  
Discover innovative ways for using primary sources and connecting the past with the present. Attendees will participate in Black and Latino Studies lessons developed for high school students. Learn how the Connecticut Museum creatively utilized primary sources from their collection to highlight the importance of telling underrepresented local stories.

Corinne Swanson, Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, Hartford, CT; Nina Vazquez, Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, Hartford, CT

Doing History with Art  
Experiential  
Art is a great way to introduce children and adults to history. Learn from experienced museum educators about how they integrate art and history and try some of the art projects yourself.

Mariruth Leftwich, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Williamsburg, VA

Empowering Descendants Through Archaeology  
Roundtable  
Learn about Historic Sotterley’s innovative study in which descendents play an active role in archaeological research at the site’s slave dwelling to inform the structure’s preservation and interpretation. Working together, professionals and community members will recover, analyze, and interpret the structure’s history and, importantly, its meaning for America.

Katherine Humphries, Historic Sotterley, Inc., Hollywood, MD; Julia A. King, Ph.D., St. Mary’s College of Maryland, St. Mary’s City, MD; Gwendolyn Bankins, Historic Sotterley, Inc., Hollywood, MD

How to Engage Youth to Do Public History  
Nuts and Bolts  
“Invisible Labor: The History and Impact of Women Domestic Workers” is a public history project where fourteen high school students, in partnership with teachers, archivists, and museum professionals, researched and created exhibits telling the story of women who made up the metro-Detroit domestic worker industry in the twentieth century. Attendees will leave the session with a template for how you can provide historians-in-training projects for students that document their local history, including a roadmap with project outlines, planning, and lesson plans.

Lisa E. Worley, Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI; Annemarie Harris, University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
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Learn more about our institutional membership levels and partner benefits at aaslh.org/membership.

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- AASLH would like to thank our Legacy Society members who have generously decided to include AASLH in their estate planning to help leave a lasting legacy for the history community. If you would like to know more about the AASLH Legacy Society or if you are interested in joining, please contact John Dichtl at dichtl@aaslh.org.

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SPECIAL THANKS

AASLH would like to recognize the many volunteers who contributed their valuable time, energy, and expertise to the success of this year’s conference. Thank you!

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Mike Bunn, Chair, Historic Blakeley State Park, Spanish Fort, AL

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who worked to make this event possible. We appreciate their warm welcome and hospitality.

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Africatown Redevelopment Corporation
Alabama Department of Archives and History
Alabama Historical Commission
Bob Allen
Baldwin County, AL
Baldwin County Commission
Baldwin County Department of Archives and History
Baldwin County Historic Development Commission
Cart Blackwell
Claudia Campell
Condé-Charlotte House
Department of Anthropology, University of West Florida
Fairhope History Museum
Karlos Finley
Fort Mims
Fort Mims Restoration Association
Fort Morgan State Historic Site
Dr. Ramie Gougeon
GulfQuest National Maritime Museum
Historic Blakeley State Park
Historic Oakleigh
Historic Pensacola
History Museum of Mobile
Georgia Ann Hudson
Magnolia Cemetery
Tom McGhee
Mobile Carnival Museum
Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society
Mobile Historic Preservation Society
Mobile Museum of Art
Steve Murray
Tracy Neely
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Swift-Coles Historic Home
USS Alabama
Visit Mobile
Dr. Gregory Waselkov
COME EARLY AND STAY LATE

The last AASLH conference on the Gulf Coast was held in New Orleans in 2000, so this area is overdue for some exploration from our members. This is such a history-rich region, we encourage you to add an extra day or two to your trip to explore more the area has to offer.

1. **Dig your toes in the sand.** Mobile is only an hour to some beautiful white sand beaches fronting the Gulf of Mexico. September is a great time to enjoy the ocean with fewer crowds. Get some sun, eat fresh seafood, or visit *Southern Living* magazine’s 2024 Best Dive Bar in Alabama, Flora-Bama in Orange Beach.

2. **Pretend you’re an Angel.** The National Naval Aviation Museum is the world’s largest naval aviation museum and one of the most-visited museums in the state of Florida. Share the excitement of naval aviation’s rich history and see more than 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aviation. The active military base where the museum is located is also home to the famous Blue Angels. If the time is right, you can see them practice, or try your hand at a jet simulator. Museum admission is free, but there is an additional charge for some of the activities.

3. **Watch the sun set.** Spend the day on Dauphin Island, known as Alabama’s Sunset Capital. Less than an hour from Mobile, the island offers beaches, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and Alabama Aquarium, and the Audubon Bird Sanctuary with three miles of trails.

4. **Follow Alabama’s Civil Rights Trail.** South Alabama holds some of the most important locations in America’s struggle for civil rights. Selma, Montgomery, and Tuskegee offer powerful looks at this point in history and what it means to Americans today. Selma is almost three hours from Mobile, so an overnight in Montgomery is recommended.

5. **Eat fresh seafood and explore the history of southern Mississippi.** If you travel west of Mobile on I-10 for about 45 minutes, you can explore the rich culture of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Pascagoula, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, and Gulfport can be seen in a day trip with small towns in between full of museums, artisan shops, and great food.

6. **Hit the Big Easy.** New Orleans is just over two-hour drive which you could make in a day. Walk the French Quarter, visit the National World War II Museum, or eat beignets at Café Du Monde. If you drive a bit further north, you can visit Whitney Plantation in Edgard, LA, a museum dedicated to the history of slavery, situated on a historical sugar, indigo, and rice plantation which operated from 1752–1975.

For more about things to see in Alabama and the Gulf Coast region, visit [https://alabama.travel](https://alabama.travel).
Conference Center Location
The majority of the conference will be held at the Mobile Convention Center. A few meal functions will be held at the headquarter hotel.

Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center
1 South Water Street
Mobile, AL 36602
asmglobalmobile.com

Headquarter Hotel
Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel
64 South Water Street
Mobile, AL 36602
AASLH Room Rate: $155 per night plus taxes and fees. (Book your hotel room early. The cutoff date for reservations is August 12 or whenever the block is sold out.)
The hotel is across the street from the Convention Center and connected by a pedestrian bridge.
Click for details: Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel

Airport Transportation
The Mobile Regional Airport is located 13 miles from downtown. It is a smaller airport but offers lots of amenities for travelers. Visit their website for transportation options.
mobileairportauthority.com/mra/transportation
The Pensacola International Airport is about an hour from Mobile and offers more airlines. There are multiple shuttle services that can provide transportation to/from Mobile, or you can rent a vehicle.
flypensacola.com

Downtown Transportation
Mobile offers lots of options for dining or shopping within walking distance of the convention center. They also have the Wave Transit System which provides bus services throughout the city.

Register Now! Click here.
Membership and Nonmembers
You may become a member or renew your membership
with AASLH when you register for the Annual Conference
by checking the appropriate box on the registration form.
Nonmembers may attend the annual meeting. Please see
the appropriate fee on the registration form.

Scholarship Opportunities
There are three opportunities for scholarships to attend
the AASLH Annual Meeting

Douglas Evelyn Diversity Fellowship
The Douglas Evelyn Diversity Fellowship is named
in honor of Douglas Evelyn, AASLH president from
1992-1994, and recognizes Evelyn’s strong support of
AASLH’s professional development mission. A primary
objective of the Douglas Evelyn Diversity Fellowship is
to increase culturally diverse participation at the AASLH
Annual Meeting and in all the association’s programs.
The scholarship covers full registration and $750 travel
stipend. Ticketed events with an extra fee are not
included in the scholarship but can be covered with
a portion of the travel stipend. AASLH will offer up to
five full conference scholarships for culturally diverse
attendees. Deadline for applications is June 21, 2024.
https://aaslh.submittable.com/submit/295004/
2024-douglas-evelyn-diversity-fellowship

Small Museums Scholarship
AASLH’s Small Museums Committee is offering
scholarships to any AASLH members who are full-
time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small
museums. The $850 scholarship will cover the cost of
registration and the Small Museums Luncheon. Any
remaining funds can be used to offset travel and/or
lodging expenses. To qualify, the applicant must work
or volunteer for a museum with a budget of $250,000
or less and either be an individual member of AASLH
or work for an institutional member. Deadline for
applications is June 21, 2024.
https://aaslh.submittable.com/submit/295005/
2024-small-museums-scholarship

Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko Memorial Scholarship
Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko will be best remembered
because she used her power to change lives, inspire
movements, and challenge the status quo for the better.
In memory of Cinnamon and her generational impact on
museums, historic sites, and public history, AASLH has
created a special scholarship in her name to advance her
legacy of transformational change across the museum
community. The fund will provide one $1,000 scholarship
for the AASLH Annual Conference which includes a
full conference registration. The remainder of funds
can be used for ticketed events or travel costs. Eligible
applicants include those working in small museums, as
either full-time or part-time paid or volunteer employees
and who are institutional or individual members of
AASLH; and Indigenous persons and those employed
as staff members with a tribal organization, program,
or collection. For guidance on what constitutes a
small museum, see https://aaslh.org/communities/
smallmuseums. Applications are due June 21, 2024.
https://aaslh.submittable.com/submit/295006/2024-
cinnamon-catlin-legutko-memorial-scholarship

Registration Deadlines
Early Bird Registration—July 26, 2024
Preregistration Deadline—August 16, 2024
If you are unable to register by mail before the
preregistration deadline (August 16), plan to register
on-site at the Mobile Convention Center. Registrations
received by the AASLH office after August 16 will be
taken to the meeting and treated as on-site registrations.

One-Day Tickets and On-Site Registrations
One-day registrations received by the AASLH office after
August 16 will be taken to the meeting and treated as
on-site registrations. One-day tickets are valid only for
the day of issue for program sessions, general sessions,
coffee breaks, and admission to the exhibit hall. On-site
registration will be available.
Student Volunteers
Any full-time student who is a member of AASLH may volunteer to work eight hours during the Annual Conference in exchange for a complimentary full meeting registration. Each volunteer will be assigned to work two, four-hour shifts during the meeting. For more information on student volunteer opportunities, please contact Becky Schoenbachler at schoenbachler@aaslh.org or 615-320-3203.

Special Events and Workshops
Tickets are available in advance and require preregistration. AASLH reserves the right to cancel special events and workshops if minimum numbers are not met. Refunds will be made after the meeting for any canceled event.

Program Updates
AASLH will post a PDF Onsite Guide on the website a week before the conference. There will also be a new free conference app with the latest information about the conference including any changes to sessions, their descriptions, or other events. The app and PDF will include meeting room locations for all sessions and activities. AASLH reserves the right to make changes in programming as necessary.

Accessibility
AASLH is committed to providing access to all individuals attending the Annual Conference. Please mark the appropriate box on the registration form if you have special needs that require our consideration. Send your request to AASLH no later than August 16 so that we have adequate time to prepare for your accommodations.

Cancellation/Refunds
All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellations postmarked on or before August 16 will be subject to a $55 processing charge on the cancelled registration fee and a 50% cancellation fee on all special events, including workshops. No refunds for registration, workshops, and special events will be made after August 16. AASLH is not responsible for cancellations that were mailed or emailed but never received. If you do not receive confirmation from AASLH within three weeks, please contact the AASLH office at 615-320-3203 or membership@aaslh.org.

Waiver and Photo Release
By submitting a registration for the AASLH Annual Conference, you authorize AASLH to use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to you—including your image, likeness, and/or voice without compensation. AASLH may use this material in various publications, recruitment materials, or for other related endeavors in print and online, including the AASLH website and email correspondence. You also agree that you are not aware of health or medical conditions preventing your safe participation in the activities for which you register, and release and discharge AASLH, their respective affiliates and subsidiaries, as well as any event sponsor, jointly and severally, from any and all liability, damages, costs (including attorney fees), actions or causes of action related to or arising from or out of your participation in or preparation of any of the events for which you register.

Meeting Safety & Responsibility Policy
AASLH is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants and AASLH staff. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, AASLH staff, service providers, and others are expected to abide by this Meeting Safety & Responsibility Policy. This policy applies to all AASLH meeting-related events, including those sponsored by organizations other than AASLH but held in conjunction with AASLH events, in public or private facilities. Click here to view the complete statement online.
REGISTRATION FORM

Page 1 of 2

We will produce the conference participant list and your name badge directly from this form. Please type or print legibly. All correspondence and written confirmations will be sent to the address below.

First Name ___________________________ Last Name ___________________________

Organization ________________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ___________ Country__________

Phone ___________________________ Email ______________________________________

AASLH Member Number ___________________________ X Handle _________________

First-time Attendee □ Yes □ No 2024 Award Winner □ Yes □ No

Would you like to appear in the Attendee List? (name, organization, city, state, and X handle only) □ Yes □ No

How would you like to be contacted by conference sponsors? □ Email □ Mail □ Do not contact me

□ I agree to the AASLH policies listed at aaslh.org/annualconference.

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Register Online at aaslh.org/annualconference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Conference Rate</th>
<th>Early Bird Rate by July 26</th>
<th>Preregistration by August 16</th>
<th>Onsite Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Member</td>
<td>$384</td>
<td>$457</td>
<td>$497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Nonmember</td>
<td>$442</td>
<td>$548</td>
<td>$587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Staff of Partner Level Members</td>
<td>$384</td>
<td>$384</td>
<td>$384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Full-time Student Member</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Student Volunteer</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Free</td>
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</table>

Part-time students who are employed full-time do not qualify for the student rate.

More Savings!
Become an AASLH Member and Save up to $75!

AASLH New Members or Renewals (Check One) □ Join □ Renew

□ Patron Member $1270 □ Sustaining Member $1620
□ Supporting Member $1080 □ Individual Member $760
□ New Professional Member $450 □ Retired Member $450
□ Student Member $300

AASLH Institutional Membership (Choose Budget Level)
□ <$50k $198 □ $50k-$250k $118
□ $250k-$500k $168 □ $500k-$1M $226
□ $1M-$2.5M $307 □ $2.5M-$5M $374
□ $5M-$10M $502 □ >$10M $686

□ Academic Program Member $350

AASLH Institutional Partner Levels
□ Partner $1,200 □ Premier Partner $3,615
□ Platinum Partner $10,000

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Daily Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Bird Rate by July 26</th>
<th>Preregistration by August 16</th>
<th>Onsite Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ One Day: Member</td>
<td>$213</td>
<td>$233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ One Day: Nonmember</td>
<td>$274</td>
<td>$305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Circle the day: Wed, Sept 11  Thur, Sept 12  Fri, Sept 13  Sat, Sept 14

Accessibility at AASLH

Please check any special accommodations you may need during the conference.

□ Assistive listening device □ Captioning □ Large print □ ASL Interpreter
□ Reserved front row seat □ Advance copy of slides to be projected
□ Wheelchair access □ Wheelchair access to working tables throughout room
□ Scent-free room □ Lactation room □ Gender neutral bathroom
□ Accessible transportation to offsite events
□ Diet Restrictions List: ____________________________________________

□ Other Restrictions: ____________________________________________
### Wednesday, September 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tours</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Day in Montgomery</td>
<td></td>
<td>$85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning: Africatown and the Clotilda</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Pensacola</td>
<td></td>
<td>$85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile’s Historic House Museums</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon: Africatown and the Clotilda</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking Back, Moving Forward at Mobile Museum of Art</td>
<td></td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Transcribing and Annotating Your Document Collections</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putting It All Together: Preparing for 2026 at Small History Organizations</td>
<td></td>
<td>$65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Cultural Competency Can Impact Your Institution and Your Stakeholders</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserving Oral Histories with Podcasting</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Services Alliance Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening Event: USS Alabama</td>
<td></td>
<td>$55</td>
<td></td>
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### Thursday, September 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Luncheons</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historic House Museums and Military History Joint Luncheon</td>
<td></td>
<td>$42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Museums Luncheon</td>
<td></td>
<td>$42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet and Eat Luncheons</td>
<td></td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate and Sustainability Affinity Community Meet and Eat</td>
<td></td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking Tour: Sacred Architecture</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking Tour: Historic Preservation Success Stories</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africatown and the Clotilda</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception: Diversity and Inclusion Mixer</td>
<td></td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening Event: Welcome to Mobile!</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Friday, September 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tours</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historic Cemeteries Tour</td>
<td></td>
<td>$35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolutionary and Civil War Campaigns in Coastal Alabama</td>
<td></td>
<td>$47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africatown Heritage House</td>
<td></td>
<td>$35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail Civil Rights Tour</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheon: AASLH Meeting of the Membership and Leadership in History Awards</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception: History Leadership Institute</td>
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<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening Event: Historians Take Over the Renaissance</td>
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<td>$15</td>
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### Saturday, September 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tours</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STEPS Session &amp; Breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td>$29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover Coastal Alabama</td>
<td></td>
<td>$85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africatown Heritage House</td>
<td></td>
<td>$35</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Mims and Poarch Band of Creek Indians Cultural Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>$60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africatown and the Clotilda</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Reciprocal Relationships</td>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putting It All Together: Preparing for 2026 at Small History Organizations</td>
<td></td>
<td>$65</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic Window Repair</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning Circle (space is limited)</td>
<td></td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Registration Form

All registrations must be prepaid by check or credit card. Send completed Registration Form (both page 1 and page 2) with payment by:

- **Online** – Registrations can be submitted through the AASLH website at aaslh.org/annualconference.
- **Fax** – You may fax your registration form with credit card information to 615-327-9013, 24 hours a day.
- **Mail** – AASLH
  Attention: Annual Conference Registration
  2021 21st Avenue S., Suite 320
  Nashville, TN 37212

**Confirmation** – You will receive a registration confirmation from AASLH. If you do not receive confirmation from the AASLH office within one week of sending your registration, please contact our office.

AASLH is not responsible for registrations faxed or mailed and never received.

Be sure to fax/mail BOTH pages of the registration form. Do not mail registration forms or payment after August 16. If payment has not been received by August 16 you will be responsible for payment at the registration desk. Check your registration forms carefully. An incomplete form could delay your registration.

### Payment Information

- □ Check # __________________________
  (Payable to AASLH)
- □ MC □ Visa □ AmEx □ Discover

  Card # __________________________

  Security Code __________________________

  Exp Date __________________________

  Name on Card __________________________

  Signature __________________________

### Payment Enclosed

- Registration Rates $ __________________________ (from pg 1)
- Membership Fees $ __________________________ (from pg 1)
- Special Event Fees $ __________________________
- I want to donate to the AASLH Annual Fund $ __________________________

  Total Due $ __________________________