

Call for Conference Session Proposals

Preservation Forward: A Statewide Heritage Gathering

Sunday, June 1 – Monday, June 2
Johnstown, PA

Conference Location:

The Heritage Discovery Center

Heritage Johnstown

201 6th Avenue, Johnstown, PA

Preservation Pennsylvania invites session proposals for the upcoming **Statewide Heritage Gathering** that align with the goals and guiding principles of the newly released Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Plan. This event will explore the future of historic preservation in Pennsylvania, focusing on actionable steps and innovative ideas to advance preservation outcomes across the state.

Please review *Historic Preservation: The Keystone of Community (Pennsylvania's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2025-2030*

LINK: <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/phmc/documents/preservation/preservation-plan/documents/historic%20preservation%20the%20keystone%20of%20community%20pa%20statewide%20plan%202025-2035.pdf>

We are seeking session proposals that highlight success stories or innovative approaches and fit within one or more of the plan's three key goals:

Breaking Down Barriers:

Share strategies, data-driven insights, or case studies that demonstrate how we can reduce or eliminate barriers to preservation through meaningful investments in relationships, programs, funding, and policies.

Valuing Historic Places:

Explore how historic preservation contributes to community identity, sense of place, economic development, or sustainable growth. Highlight success stories or new approaches that integrate preservation into vibrant community development.

Leveraging Knowledge and Opportunities:

Inspire attendees with creative ways Pennsylvanians are leveraging knowledge, partnerships, or opportunities to create meaningful preservation outcomes. Sessions should explore the power of collaboration and innovation in advancing preservation efforts.

Guiding Principles to Consider:

Session topics should reflect the principles of holistic preservation, the public interest, the role of archaeology, and the importance of proactive efforts. Proposals are encouraged to include underrepresented stories, diverse perspectives, and forward-thinking approaches to preservation challenges.

Session Formats:

We welcome a variety of formats, including panel discussions, case studies, and roundtable discussions. Sessions should provide practical insights, tools, and resources that attendees can apply in their communities. Concurrent Sessions are 90 minutes in length.

Submission Details:

Please submit a brief proposal (no more than 500 words) via email to preservationpennsylvania@gmail.com Proposals should include:

- Session title and description
- How it aligns with one or more of the plan's goals
- Session format and intended audience
- Speaker(s) bio(s)
- The deadline for submissions is March 17, 2025. Selected proposals will be notified by April 14, 2025.

Help us shape the future of historic preservation in Pennsylvania by sharing your expertise and ideas. Together, we can build stronger communities and preserve the stories that make Pennsylvania unique.

Questions?

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