



Call for Conference Session Proposals

Preservation in Practice: Big Challenges. Real Work. Shared Solutions.

Preservation Pennsylvania invites session proposals for the 2026 Statewide Conference on Heritage, a gathering focused on how preservation is being practiced today—and where it must go next.

Across Pennsylvania, preservation is happening in complex, evolving contexts. It intersects with conservation, transportation, community development, and economic change. Practitioners are navigating real challenges—from development pressure and infrastructure demands to climate impacts and shifting community priorities.

This conference is about the work: the projects, partnerships, tools, and decisions that are shaping outcomes on the ground.

We are seeking sessions that move beyond theory to share **practical experience, tested approaches, and lessons learned.**

Tuesday, September 15 – Thursday, September 17
York, PA

Conference Location:
The Yorktowne Hotel
48 East Market Street
York, PA

What We're Looking For

We welcome proposals that reflect the theme *Preservation in Practice* and explore topics such as:

- **Working across disciplines**
Partnerships between preservation, conservation, planning, and infrastructure
- **Creative adaptive reuse**
Real-world strategies for reusing historic buildings in sustainable and economically viable ways
- **Transportation and infrastructure**
Projects that successfully integrate historic preservation into transportation or public works
- **Responding to threats**
Development pressure, demolition, data centers, neglect, climate impacts—and how communities are responding
- **Tools that work locally**
Design review, zoning, ordinances, and planning approaches that are making a difference

- **Case studies with lessons learned**
Successes, challenges, and even projects that didn't go as planned—but offer valuable insight
- **Collaboration in action**
Examples of partnerships that led to better preservation outcomes
- **Expanding the field**
Efforts that broaden whose stories are preserved and who is involved in the work.

What Makes a Strong Proposal

We are especially interested in sessions that:

- Focus on **real projects and real outcomes**
- Share **practical tools, strategies, or takeaways**
- Reflect **collaboration across sectors or disciplines**
- Address **current challenges facing historic places**
- Offer **honest lessons learned**, not just success stories

Session Formats

We welcome a variety of formats, including:

- Case studies
- Panel discussions
- Roundtables
- Mobile Workshops

Sessions should be engaging, solution-oriented, and designed for audience participation where appropriate. Concurrent sessions are 90 minutes. Mobile Workshops are 3 hours.

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
- Key takeaways for attendees
- Session format and intended audience
- Speaker(s) and brief bios

Deadline for submissions is May 4, 2026. Selected proposals will be notified by June 1, 2026.

Why Present?

This conference brings together the people doing the work—architects, planners, historians, advocates, public officials, and community leaders from across Pennsylvania.

Your session will contribute to a shared understanding of how preservation is practiced today—and help shape how we tackle the challenges ahead.

Questions? Mindy Gulden Crawford, Executive Director mcrawford@preservationpa.org