



Conference Call for Proposals

"What's Next?: Facilitating Public Engagement with Oral Histories"

OHMAR Conference 2024

Dates: April 19-20, 2024

Location: Virtual

Deadline for Submissions: January 15, 2024

Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) invites you to submit paper, panel, and “idea development” session proposals for its 2024 Annual Meeting, themed “What’s Next?: Facilitating Public Engagement with Oral Histories.” This year’s theme encourages attendees to share examples of and strategies for how to facilitate audience engagement with oral histories. Archival collections of oral histories are constantly increasing at the same time as audiences are expecting user experiences modeled after short-form advancements in social media (for example TikTok, reels, etc.) and virtual reality interactions. How can and do oral historians, archivists, documentarians, curators, educators, public-humanities professionals, and more make use of social media to share and mobilize oral histories when attempting to reach various academic and public audiences? Moreover, how can and how do these practitioners engage with and seek out the rich stories, depth of knowledge, and long-form storytelling of oral histories beyond social media? Examples might include podcasting, audio-documentaries, online and in-person curated engagement, creative classroom projects, live storytelling events, and more. We encourage proposals that share successes as well as failures/needs for improvement, both completed projects and works-in-progress, and examples of grappling with a range of audience accessibility needs. We want presenters to engage with the conference theme creatively, reflecting on their own work and community projects for insight and inspiration.

While submissions on the conference theme are encouraged, all topics related to the Mid-Atlantic region, or proposals from oral historians active in the Mid-Atlantic region, are welcome and will be considered equally.

The conference will be held virtually with the opportunity to share links, digital exhibit materials, video, and audio.



Application Guidelines:

The program committee invites proposals for panels or roundtables, as well as for individual papers and an “ideas development” session. The “ideas development” session is an opportunity for presenters to briefly share their project idea and/or proposal and get feedback from the audience to workshop and further develop the idea presented. We encourage submissions from students, early career oral historians, community practitioners, and people who use oral history in their work but may not self-identify as oral historians. We welcome presentations that feature audio-visual components. We highly encourage oral historians and projects to use this conference to include narrators as co-presenters.

- Individual or co-authored paper/presentation proposals should include a brief abstract of 250-500 words, a one-paragraph biographical summary about each author, contact information, and any accessibility accommodations you anticipate needing at this time.
- Panel proposals should include a broad, 1-2 sentence description of the panel theme, a brief abstract of 150-200 words for each paper, and a one-paragraph biographical summary about each author. **Please provide one point of contact per panel.**
- “Ideas development” session proposals should include a 200-300 word abstract, a one-paragraph biographical summary of the creator, and the creator’s contact information. Please make it clear that this proposal is for the “ideas development” session.
- Other submission formats will be considered. Feel free to be creative. Please be as descriptive as possible when submitting your proposal.

The deadline for all submissions is January 15, 2024. All submissions should be emailed with attachments to ohmar.conference@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact us at that email address at any time with questions.

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OHMAR also invites proposals for the 2024 conference program cover design! The prize for the winning design is free conference registration.

### **Design Submission Requirements:**

Letter size (i.e., 8.5” x 11”)



include the following:

- OHMAR logo (large)
- Conference title
- Conference dates
- Social media info: (@OHMidAtlantic #OHMAR2020)
- OHMAR's website: <http://ohmar.org>
- Submitted as a PDF

**Submission Deadline:** January 15, 2024

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Conference registration fees will be kept as low as possible (below \$50) in alignment with previous years. Exact prices TBD.

All fees help cover operational costs and our [Martha Ross Prize](#), awarded annually to an undergraduate or graduate student creating original work in oral history. None of our Board members receive any compensation for their work with OHMAR.