



## **CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS, Annual Conference 2019**

### ***REBOOT • REVAMP • REVITALIZE***

#### ***New Approaches to Sharing History***

**Connecticut League of History Organizations Annual Conference**

**Monday, June 3, 2019**

**Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT**

**Proposal Submission Deadline: Friday, January 25, 2019, 11:59 p.m.**

**To Reboot:** start something again in a way that is new and interesting

**To Revamp:** give new and improved form, structure, or appearance

**To Revitalize:** to imbue something with new life and vitality

It's time for change. To begin anew. A fresh start.

Motivated by the siren song of new technology or by the desire to reach out to new audiences, Connecticut history organizations are reinventing themselves in meaningful and exciting ways. Visitors are part of this change – they crave more interactive experiences from historic institutions, from escape room antics to hands-on learning.

Has your organization started something over in a new and interesting way-- **rebooted** your exhibition schedule or annual fund-raising event? Have you given new form and structure to roles within your organization, or changed the appearance of your website, logo, labels--or **revamped** a volunteer recruiting and training program? Have you dusted off a traditional approach and imbued it with new life and vitality--**revitalized** your school program in response to new research or curriculum frameworks? How did visitor evaluations, surveys, and anecdotal observations impact your thinking?

**If you *have* taken a fresh look at perceived best practices and started tinkering with new or out-of-the-box ideas, we want to hear from you!** Inspire others to take the risks you museum pioneers have taken by sharing success stories as well as lessons learned the hard way.

The Connecticut League of History Organizations invites you to share your insights at the next **CLHO Annual Conference on June 3, 2019**. This full-day conference is the perfect opportunity to hear practical advice, learn new skills, and participate in active discussions with colleagues, as well as network with friends old and new. Let's prove that history organizations statewide can celebrate the past in new and interesting ways.

You can contribute to this conversation by proposing a session for the conference. Sessions can be panel presentations, roundtable discussion, hands-on demonstrations, or experiential (role-play or performances), etc. In the spirit of rebooting, try something new. We are also looking for a range of sessions geared to our diverse audience: from volunteers to volunteer coordinators, curators, educators, and others, whether students just getting into the field or seasoned professionals.

***Please note, in the spirit of rebooting and trying new things, the CLHO Annual Business Meeting and CLHO Awards of Merit Ceremony which are normally held concurrently with the Annual Conference, will become their own separate event in April. This will allow us to focus on honoring Awards recipients and***

*showcasing their projects as well as making it possible for the Annual Conference to offer more sessions and learning opportunities.*

**Please consider these topics and questions while brainstorming your proposal:**

- *Has your history organization developed a new house tour or rethought how your core story is shared with visitors (ie. cell phone tours, iPad tours, theatrical presentations)?*
- *Have you tried new fundraising strategies or targeted new audiences for special activities? (ie. hands-on activities for adults, murder mysteries, tavern nights)*
- *Are you digitizing your collection in ways that make it accessible for users all over the state? Do you have a new website or learning portals that connect users with history?*
- *Has your school programming changed in light of the new CT Social Studies Frameworks and Common Core? Do you offer outreach to schools to help defray the cost of student transportation? How did you do it?*
- *Have you tried programs geared to audiences with special requirements, such as those with dementia or Alzheimer's disease? Do you have low-sensory programs geared to autistic visitors?*
- *Have you changed the "voice" of your museum in labeling and marketing materials? Have you learned something about your site's history from newer scholarship or different perspectives?*
- *Have you partnered with a non-Museum organization in a way that was mutually beneficial? Do you use your museum spaces in non-traditional ways (dance, music, theatre, community meetings, yoga)?*
- *Are you focusing energy on wellness and mindfulness, both for your visitors and staff? Has your organization become a place for relaxation and de-stressing from the cares of the world?*

**Proposal Instructions:**

Download and fill out the proposal form located at <http://clho.org/Annual-Conference>.

Please be sure to include a **250 word abstract** describing your session, an intriguing title, name of session leader, type of session (panel discussion, roundtable, hands-on demonstration, etc.), organizational or business affiliation, job title/position and contact information. Please include mailing addresses, phone numbers, and emails for all potential presenters.

Send electronically in Microsoft Word .doc or PDF formats to CLHO at [director@CLHO.org](mailto:director@CLHO.org) by **January 25, 2019, 11:59 p.m.** Include "Proposal Submission, CLHO June 2019 Conference" in the subject line. □

Notification: You will receive an email notification no later than **Friday, March 15, 2019** regarding the status of your proposal. All submitted proposals undergo review and selection by the members of the 2019 Annual Conference Committee. Proposals highlighting Connecticut organizations and collections are highly encouraged. Hands-on workshops will be given priority.