

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
HOW TO, WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S NEXT: EXPLORING OUR COLLECTIONS
Annual Connecticut League of History Organizations Conference
Four Points by Sheraton, Meriden - Monday, June 6, 2016

Proposal Submission Deadline: December 14, 2015

Our collections are central to our organization's existences; they shape mission and vision, and define our values. They share stories and connect the past to the present in our communities. They also demand our day-to-day attentions and resources. Join the Connecticut League of History Organizations on June 6, 2016 for a full day devoted to the topic of collections. Sessions will include hands-on learning and "how-to's", ideas to share and steal, deaccessioning strategies and policy, and "big idea" discussions. Throughout the day, participants will explore and challenge basic assumptions behind what we endeavor to "collect, preserve and interpret" in the 21st century. Share basic practices with colleagues as you converse about your experiences – inspirations to tribulations! Learn hands-on skills and take your first (or next) steps to resolving collections accessibility for your organization. Examine the needs of today in order to collect, preserve and interpret your collections for the future. This conference will offer a mix of sessions for everyone, whether new to collections work or an experienced practitioner.

The Connecticut League of History Organizations strengthens and builds connections among those who preserve and share the stories and objects of our past by sharing knowledge and experience, and promoting best practices. Visit www.clho.org for more information.

You are invited to contribute to the conversation with session proposals. We are seeking basic to mid-level hands-on workshops, inspirational stories, and models from the regional heritage field. Please consider these topics and questions while developing your proposal:

- ✓ Hands-on and How-to Skill Building (i.e. build a case for a delicate book; register, number and catalog an artifact)
- ✓ Ideas to Share & Steal (i.e. training volunteers to work with collections – or training ourselves!)
- ✓ Switching from Paper to Digital (i.e. in accessing your collections, for your archives, your management, or for your visitors)
- ✓ Dealing with the Dirty Word of "Deaccession"
- ✓ Using Collections as Programming Tools
- ✓ How and where can your organization advocate for your collections?
- ✓ Can accepting "new" collections connect you to your local community and keep your organization relevant?
- ✓ What does "preservation in perpetuity" mean for our collections in the 21st century?
- ✓ How can our collections deepen connectedness and preservation ethics within the communities we serve?
- ✓ What questions should we ask now and what will we need to ask of ourselves as we continue to collect and preserve?
- ✓ What can your organization do to maintain preservation of and accessibility to your collections?
- ✓ Does the new normal of 24/7 access to your collections push your organization to reprioritize collection's needs?
- ✓ Can the creative engagement and interaction offered to visitors help to invest them your organization's heritage collections?
- ✓ What are "collections" in the digital age?

Proposal Requirements

- ◆ Title of proposal
- ◆ 250 word abstract describing your session
- ◆ Name of session leader, organizational or business affiliation, job title/position and contact information. Include mailing address, phone and email.
- ◆ Name(s) of additional presenters and complete contact information
- ◆ Send electronically in Microsoft Word .doc or PDF formats to Liz Shapiro, CLHO Executive Director at liz@clho.org by December 14, 2015. Include "Proposal Submission, CLHO June 2015 Conference" in the subject line.

- ◆ Notification: You will receive an email notification no later than February 1, 2016 if your proposal has been accepted. All submitted proposals undergo review and selection by conference committee. Proposals highlighting Connecticut organizations and collections are highly encouraged. Hands-on workshops will be given priority.