



HSM Conferences

Guidelines for submitting a conference session suggestion

Thank you for your interest in the Historical Society of Michigan's conference! Please review the guidelines below, then submit your idea using the form on our website.

Conferences Overview

HSM offers three annual conferences:

- Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference
- Upper Peninsula History Conference
- Michigan History Conference

These conferences cater to history enthusiasts and professionals from across Michigan (and beyond). Please note that these are not academic conferences, so we do not accept presentations consisting of reading a paper or research project. Rather, sessions should be aimed at an educated lay audience and include visuals (e.g., a slideshow) when possible.

You may submit a proposal for consideration at all of our conferences, or you may specify which events you are submitting for. If you are interested in proposing a session for a particular conference, please read more about that particular event below.

Deadlines

Each conference is led by a planning committee comprised of local stakeholders and HSM staff. The planning committee meets approximately 6-7 months prior to the scheduled event dates. To ensure that your session is considered by the committee for a particular conference, please submit your proposal at least **eight months** before the conference is scheduled to take place.

Submission Requirements

To propose a session for consideration by a conference planning committee, please submit the following via our online form:

- A working title
- Presenter name(s) and affiliation(s)
- Contact information
- A brief description of the session (1-2 paragraphs or 3-4 bullet points)
- A brief description of where the presenter has spoken in the past, including at previous HSM conferences

You may submit a session to be presented by yourself, or you may recommend someone else to speak. If you are submitting for someone other than yourself, we will also ask for your name and contact information.

We recommend proposing one session at a time. To ensure that a wide variety of voices and perspectives are represented at our conferences, we try to avoid repeating speakers who have presented at the same conference in the past two years.

Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference

The largest of HSM's three annual conferences, this event focuses on the history of the Metro Detroit area. While a majority of the content relates to Southeast Michigan history, we include a handful of sessions on statewide topics as well. For examples of sessions that have been featured in the past, we encourage you to review the titles and descriptions available in recent programs on our website.

The Local History Conference takes place each spring, on a Friday and Saturday in mid-March or early April. In the preceding fall (late August or September), the planning committee reviews nearly 100 session ideas, selecting approximately 30 to include in the conference.

Upper Peninsula History Conference

The Upper Peninsula History Conference explores the Upper Peninsula's history and celebrates the heritage of the host area, which moves to a new location every year. While a majority of the content covers the history of the host area, we include a handful of sessions on topics from elsewhere in the U.P. as well. For examples of sessions that have been featured in the past, we encourage you to review the titles and descriptions available in recent programs on our website.

The U.P. History Conference takes place on a weekend (Friday–Sunday) in June. In the preceding fall (October–November), the planning committee reviews 50+ session ideas, selecting approximately 15 to include in the conference.

Michigan History Conference

Our fall conference explores Michigan's history and offers a close look at the heritage of the host area, which moves to a new location in the Lower Peninsula every year. While a majority of the content covers the history of the host area, we include several sessions on topics from elsewhere around the state as well. For examples of sessions that have been featured in the past, we encourage you to review the titles and descriptions available in recent programs on our website.

The Michigan History Conference also features HSM's annual meeting and takes place on a weekend (Friday–Sunday) in mid-September or early October. In the preceding January, the planning committee reviews 50+ session ideas, selecting approximately 15 to include in the conference.

Workshops

HSM hosts an extensive schedule of workshops throughout the year, including at the U.P. and Michigan History Conferences. Conference workshops include a three-hour program on the Friday morning of the event and one-hour programs during each of the breakout time slots. Unlike other sessions that are reviewed by the planning committee, HSM staff are largely responsible for selecting the workshops. You are welcome to propose a workshop for the summer or fall conferences.