The Small Museum Association is planning its 32nd Annual Conference, which will be held in Ocean City, Maryland on February 14-16, 2016. As the only conference in the country dedicated specifically to small museums, this gathering draws museum professionals from the Mid-Atlantic region and across the country as our membership and attendee base continues to expand.

SMA provides a unique and stimulating environment for a diverse array of individuals and institutions to meet and learn from each other, sharing their expertise, building capacity, and increasing professionalism. The goal of the conference is to support and nurture the small museum community through a mix of invited speakers as well as workshops, presentations, and discussions. Conference sessions typically include practical, informative presentations and in-depth discussions, showcasing examples of projects and initiatives that are relevant to small museums with limited resources.

Several different types of session proposals are sought:
  • 60-minute speaker presentation — individual or panel
  • 90-minute speaker presentation — individual or panel
  • 60-minute roundtable discussion — focused discussion on 1 topic, led by a facilitator
  • 3-hour workshop — in-depth, hands-on learning (2 slots available on Sunday afternoon)

This year, the SMA conference will offer sessions that address the theme Museums & More. Speakers are encouraged to explore instances in which their museum has pushed beyond its traditional role, programs, and/or approach to its work. Sessions may address the question of how museums can ask more of themselves, as well as how audiences can anticipate more from the museums in their community. Topics could include fundraising, education, collections and curatorial issues, exhibit development, board engagement, and volunteer management.

We invite proposals based on institutional experience and/or original research. Sessions should help attendees learn from your institutions’ successes and failures and provide low or no-cost ideas for making an impact. Proposals should indicate whether the presentation is most appropriate for emerging museum professionals, mid-career practitioners, or experts in the field as well as museum staff, volunteers, or board members.

Through this Call for Proposals we invite you to share your insights with hundreds of colleagues who, like you, are committed to excellence in small museums everywhere. Submit your proposal using the form below no later than Friday, September 25, 2015.

The Small Museum Association is an all volunteer organization serving small museums in the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. SMA’s mission is to develop and maintain a peer network among people who work for small museums, giving them opportunities to learn, share knowledge and support one another, so that they, in turn, can better serve their institutions, communities and profession.
2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION PROPOSAL FORM

Name:
___________________________________________________________________________________

Institution/Organization/Company:
___________________________________________________________________________________

Address:
___________________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number:
___________________________________________________________________________________

Email Address:
___________________________________________________________________________________

Preferred Session Type:  ☐ Individual Speaker  ☐ Panel  ☐ Roundtable  ☐ Workshop
Preferred Session Date:  ☐ Monday, Feb. 15  ☐ Tuesday, Feb. 16  ☐ Either
Preferred Session Length:  ☐ 60 minutes  ☐ 90 minutes  ☐ Either
Audience Level:  ☐ Beginner  ☐ Intermediate  ☐ Expert

Beginner: For those new to small museums or interested in exploring a new part of small museum work (i.e. Membership 101)
Intermediate: For those with some background in small museums, but are looking to learn more (i.e. Membership Ideas for Community Museums)
Advanced: For those with extensive background knowledge on a topic, but looking to delve into it further with an innovative program or idea (i.e. Thinking Outside the Box on Membership)

Title of Proposed Session:

Description of Proposed Session (use additional space as needed):

Relation to Conference Theme:

CONTACT SMA SPEAKER COORDINATORS WITH QUESTIONS OR COMPLETED FORMS:
Allison Schell (speaker2@smallmuseum.org, 610-812-0683) or
Auni Gelles (agelles@fredco-md.net, 301-600-4031)
Forms must be submitted no later than Friday, September 25, 2015.