

Small Museum Association

2010 Annual Conference Call for Papers

The Small Museums Association (SMA) is planning its 26th Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, February 21-23, 2010. Every year, this conference brings together more than 250 museum professionals from a wide range of institutions, primarily from the Mid-Atlantic region—although our member and attendee base has been steadily expanding. The conference aims to improve professionalism within the community of small museums by providing a unique and comfortable environment for individuals and institutions with diverse experiences to meet and learn from each other. Conference sessions typically provide practical, relevant discussions, and examples for small museums and institutions with limited budgets.

This year, the Small Museum Conference would like to offer sessions that address the current economic recession that is affecting our institutions. As museum and education professionals, we certainly have been feeling the pinch in regard to our budgets. As a result it has been difficult for small museums to hire new staff, or create new programs and exhibits. We would like to encourage small museums to send representatives to the SMA conference in 2010 by offering some options to our attendees on how to function on a very low budget.

We invite proposals for sessions based on original research or institutional experience. Proposal topics should be based on how small museums can combat a loss of monetary support. This should be a central focus in any presentation category (fundraising, education, curating, museum boards, and volunteers). We would also like to know the level of your presentation, if it will be a beginner, intermediate or expert level presentation. Possible session topics include:

- Dealing with board members
- Fundraising/How to ask for donations
- Education: program funding, program ideas
- Volunteers
- Staff
- Marketing/finance: how to get the most bang for your buck
- Collections

There will be sessions all day on Monday, February 22, and on the morning of Tuesday, February 23, 2008.

Individuals from the museum, historic preservation, and related supporting communities who would like to present at this dynamic and friendly conference are

invited to submit proposals to the address below by July 20, 2009; you will be notified of your acceptance by August 31, 2009.

Session Proposal Application

Your Name: _____

Institution/Organization/Company: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Cell Phone Number: _____

Your Email Address: _____

Preferred Session Date: Mon. (Feb. 22) _____ Tues. (Feb. 23) _____ Either: _____

Preferred Session Length (select one): 60 min. _____ 90 min. _____

Title of Proposed Session:

Description of Proposed Session:

Contact Peter Leighton at (757) 408-1916 or Jennifer Ruffner at (410) 706-2822

SMA Speakers Coordinators

Peter.leighton@norfolk.gov or ruffner@son.umaryland.edu

with questions or completed forms.