



UPDATED CALL FOR PAPERS: “Museums Different,” Second Biennial Conference of the Council for Museum Anthropology

Location: Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dates: September 19 – September 21, 2019

EXTENDED DEADLINE: June 15, 2019 midnight MST

The Council for Museum Anthropology’s second biennial conference will take place in Santa Fe, New Mexico from Thursday, September 19th through Saturday, September 21st, 2019. Using the unique position of Santa Fe -- the “City Different” -- as a starting point for thinking broadly about both local and global approaches to museum anthropology, the conference theme is “Museums Different.” We will build off the theme and conversations from our first conference, “Museum Anthropology Futures,” held in May 2017 at Concordia University in Montreal.

The conference is based on Santa Fe’s Museum Hill, home to both the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology, the Museum of International Folk Art, and the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian. The conference includes sessions and activities at the Institute of American Indian Arts as well as an evening reception at the School for Advanced Research.

Call for Papers: Join CMA colleagues as we discuss imagined and practical realities of collaboration between anthropology, museums, and communities. With the goal of overcoming institutional silences and so-called mute collections, this conference is about the spaces between the objects on museum shelves and the communities who created them. The conference will focus on how institutions can close the gaps between the theoretical and the practical, or ‘doing.’

We welcome proposals and submissions from museum practitioners, scholars, students, Tribal Historic Preservation officers, artists, and all community members. If you are unsure if you or your work would fit into our conference, please reach out and ask. We are more than happy to talk you through your ideas.

Session Formats & Proposals: We want to highlight innovative ways of presenting anthropological museum work, and are particularly interested in ways in which your presentation format can contribute to community engagement. Please send us ideas for innovative ways to express your research -- whether it be artist dialogues, roundtables, posters, pop-up exhibitions, workshops, pre-circulated papers, Pecha-Kucha-style sessions, problem-solving sessions, installation works, or anything else you can think of. Nothing is too bold -- we will do our best to accommodate your ideas.

Focus: Sessions should explore both the imagined and real work among anthropology, museums, and communities. While proposals do not have to respond to the below questions, we offer them as guideposts. We are excited to hear how anthropology works where you are.

- What work have we already completed? How does engagement with the histories of museum anthropology affect our work? How does it make it better or worse? How can we mobilize our institutional pasts to inform and improve our community futures?
- What are the ways in which museum anthropology can better collaborate with communities? How can we and do we live up to our ideals?
- What does collaboration mean in a day-to-day sense?
- What are the unintended consequences of collaborative, community-based museum anthropology?
- What does decolonizing work mean to you, to your collaborators, and in your contexts?
- What might we stop doing? What hasn't worked?

Funding Opportunities: In the coming weeks, we will be announcing scholarship opportunities for Native speakers and participants. The Council for Museum Anthropology has limited funding available for student travel. We are offering three grants of \$400 each. To apply, please send us a resume/CV and a 500-word statement demonstrating how attendance at the conference will advance your academic or professional goals.

REGISTRATION, VOLUNTEERING, AND MORE INFORMATION: Registration is now open! For additional information on registration, volunteer opportunities, funding, and visiting Santa Fe, please visit our recently launched conference website (<https://www.museumsdifferent.squarespace.com/>).

Submission Guidelines and Deadlines: Please limit submissions to 100 words. To submit, please send your proposal and preferred presentation format to cmaconference2019@gmail.com. Please send your proposal in the body of the email, rather than as an attachment. **All proposals and funding applications are due on June 15, 2019 by midnight MST.**

About CMA: A section of the American Anthropological Association, the Council for Museum Anthropology is an all-volunteer membership organization that serves anthropologists and museum professionals. CMA's mission is to foster the development of anthropology in the context of museums and related institutions. See the CMA's website (<https://museumanthropology.org>) and blog (<https://www.museumanthropologyblog.com>) for more information.