

Call for Papers

Small Places, Big Ideas

Annual Meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums

Worland, Wyoming

May 1-4, 2024

Proposals due January 14, 2024

Vincent Van Gogh once remarked, “Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together. And great things are not accidental, but must certainly be willed.”

We are a nation where ideas that start in small places become big. These places are geographic, like towns, structural, such as a tiny house museum or a one-room historical society, or human, as in a single curator overseeing a vast nature preserve. We have a hope, a dream, or ambition to do something that is not going to change the course of the world, but rather the thoughts of a child in an educational program, the conversation of a family interacting with exhibits, or the connectivity between two people experiencing something together for the first time.

Informed by the idea of big ideas coming to life in small places, the CWAM Program Committee invites sessions, papers, posters, and workshops that consider those ideas and places from a variety of different perspectives. We are especially interested in submissions that address the successes and failures of implementing big ideas; that share or seek inspiration in coming up with that next big idea; that investigate how to make our big ideas inclusive of race, class, and gender; that explore the materiality of small places in exhibit design; that offer creative solutions in collections management, education, gift shops, or other physical spaces; and that broadly address the idea of big ideas in small places.

Proposals and Submissions

While we encourage submissions to take up these themes, the program committee will consider papers, posters, and workshops addressing other related topics. Graduate students and new museum professionals are particularly encouraged to attend and present. Presenters and attendees may apply for scholarships to partially defray their travel and conference costs. The application window for scholarships closes February 1, 2024 and further details can be found on the CWAM website as they become available.

Proposals may be submitted for individual papers or posters for sessions, workshops or displays. Each proposal should include a paper or poster title, a one-page (150-word) abstract and a one-sentence biography for the presenter. Individual paper submissions will be combined into new sessions defined by themes chosen at the Program Committee's discretion.

All group session or workshop proposals should have a cover letter containing a title for the panel, a one-page (150-word) session abstract, a one-sentence biography for each presenter, and contact information for the panel organizer.

Submit your proposals via our Google Form at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeI5w0bpxG0-3_nACug_UZx2IUGOQRXd3I3K8SuEH99HuM0Nw/viewform

The deadline for receipt of all proposals is January 14, 2024. Notifications will be made by February 16, 2023. Everyone appearing on the program must register for the annual meeting.
