

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

111TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA | SEPTEMBER 23 - 27, 2026

2026 BLACK HISTORY THEME: A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS

Conference Theme

The ASALH Academic Program Committee is pleased to invite proposal submissions for panels, workshops, roundtables, papers, posters, media sessions, and Woodson Lightning Rounds at the 2026 ASALH Annual Meeting and Conference. The conference will be held in person in Norfolk, VA on September 23-27, 2026.

As we approach our 111th ASALH conference, we seek to showcase versatile and innovative historical research that includes and reaches beyond our theme of A Century of Black History Commemorations and highlights the roles and importance of storytelling, memory, and history. On this anniversary year, we are commemorating the history of the Association and are interested in the impact of challenges and successes in institutionalizing the teaching, study, dissemination, and commemoration of Black history. From Negro History Week to Black History Month, ASALH has carried forth the tradition, and these observances have become part of the fabric of American culture and increasingly the global community. Thus, this conference provides an opportunity to examine in depth this history as forces weary of democracy seek to use legislative means, book bans, and challenges to excise Black history from America's schools and public culture. Black history's value is not its contribution to mainstream historical narratives, but its resonance in the lives of Black people.

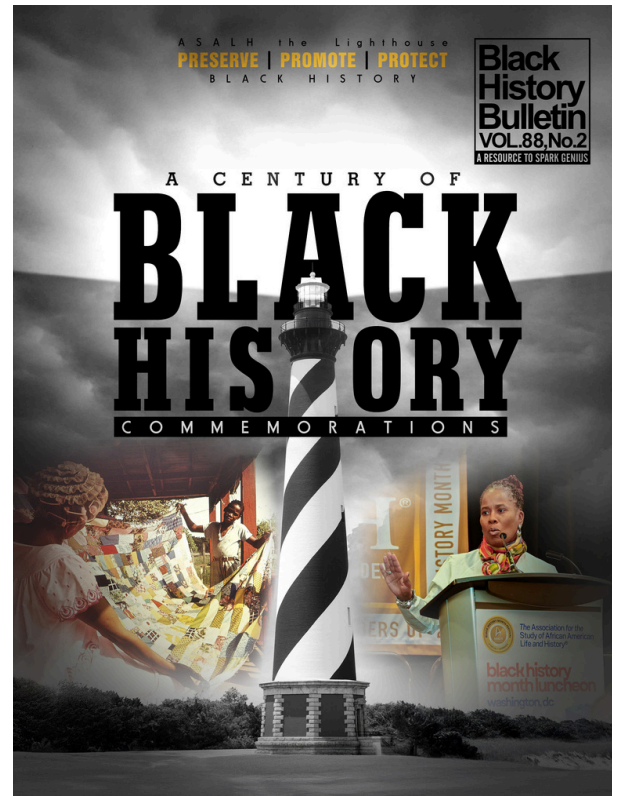
During this year, in which the 250th Anniversary of United States Independence is being commemorated, it is important to not only tell an inclusive history, but an accurate one.

Our 111th Annual Conference will also preserve and strengthen African American history in these stressful times. Black history continues to be assaulted on multiple political fronts, and we require scholars committed to studying the African American experience across many fields, topics, and interests. We especially call on emerging scholars and graduate students to submit research from their subfields. ASALH grows stronger each year as new scholars introduce their work at our annual conference.

We call on all scholars, organizations, students, independent researchers, and others interested in the African American experience to convene in Norfolk, VA, for the continued reshaping of African American history and thought.

General Proposals of Black Life, History, and Culture

To be included in the program, your panel proposal need not be centered on the Annual Theme. The Academic Program Committee will also accept panels and individual submissions that explore all aspects of Black life, history, and culture.



Proposal Types

Proposals should be detailed, comprehensive, and descriptive that outlining the theme, scope, and aim of the session. Proposals that incorporate the annual theme are encouraged, but submissions can be on a variety of temporal, geographical, thematic, and topical areas in Black history, life, and culture. Details on each can be found on the ASALH and All Academic websites.

Individuals who are interested in collaborating on a panel, workshop, or roundtable, should use the [Google spreadsheet](#), which is an informal tool to connect individuals who are seeking ideas and/or collaboration. The spreadsheet is not monitored by ASALH or the Academic Program Committee and is not part of the official submission process.

Individual Submissions: Paper Submissions: Individual(s) can submit papers. These papers will be put together with other papers on a similar theme/topic by the Academic Program Committee. Papers will ONLY be accepted by non-academics, undergraduate, and graduate students on the 2026 Annual Black History Theme: [A Century of Black History Commemorations](#). Paper submissions are not guaranteed audiovisual during the conference. There will be limited slots for paper sessions at the ASALH annual meeting. Submissions that are performances or plays will not be accepted.

Woodson Lightning Round/Pop-Ups: Individual(s) can submit lightning round papers/presentations. These proposals will be put together with other lightning-round proposals by the Academic Program Committee.

Poster Submissions: Individual(s) and ASALH Branches can submit posters. The posters will be put together in a single or multiple sessions by the Academic Program Committee. Posters may have both a virtual/pre-recording and in-person component.

Session Submissions: Proposals will be accepted by all affiliations and academic statuses. Access to audiovisuals is not guaranteed during the conference. Panels: Are sessions composed of individuals presenting different papers/presentations on a specific concept/topic/idea. Early-bird session proposals that include a request for AV will receive it.

Roundtables: These are sessions that are composed of individuals presenting a single idea/concept/theme.

Workshops: These are sessions that are hands-on and work to teach attendees about a particular tool, project, idea, and theme. Sessions that are performances or plays will not be accepted.

Media: These are sessions that are composed of an individual film or a film panel where a moderated or group discussion of a film is conducted following the screening.

Submission: All proposals are submitted in the All-Academic system. You must provide an abstract (300 words or less), a title of your presentation, your name, phone, email, and affiliation. If you are submitting a panel, workshop, roundtable, or media session, you will need the information for all the presenters. Once the proposal is submitted, the submitter and all presenters will receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive this confirmation, immediately contact the Academic Program Committee using this link [ASALH - The Founders of Black History Month | Contact the Academic Program Committee](#).

The submission deadlines for proposals are as follows: Early Bird Submissions will be accepted via All Academic until **March 20, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (EST)**. Conditional acceptance responses to Early Bird submissions will be sent out by **April 22, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (EST)**. After this date, the committee will accept all submissions until the deadline of **May 18, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (EST)**. Regular conditional acceptance submissions will be responded to by **June 12, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (EST)**.

In 2025, ASALH moved to a new membership platform called YourMembership. Your password for the All Academic database is the same as YourMembership. If you do not have an account or are not a member, email the national office at membership@asalh.org for a guest account. You do not have to be a member to submit a proposal, but all presenters must join ASALH and register for the conference.

The conference schedule will be available in July 2026.