

MAINE BEYOND BORDERS: Overcoming Barriers

2023 Maine Archives & Museums Annual Conference
Friday, October 13, 2023
University of Maine at Presque Isle

Keynote: Paul Buck
Opening Plenary: John Dennis

[SUBMIT A SESSION PROPOSAL](#)

Deadline: June 15, 2023

As we travel to Presque Isle, let's think about **borders and barriers**.

What are the barriers to entry to your site? Your work? How have you crossed boundaries, and what did you learn from the experience? If you have ideas to share, please consider **submitting a session proposal for this year's conference** no later than **June 15, 2023**.

This is a tough time, especially for small institutions. MAM members across the state are dealing with a lack of people at their sites - whether in the form of visitors, volunteers, or staff. Many of us are hoping to reach out to the next generation.

We also hope to celebrate geography - the unique spark that makes your site and region worth treasuring and sharing. **How do you become a destination?** How does your location relate to the rest of the state and world?

This conference will include a dedicated track for small institutions and their unique challenges and opportunities. We encourage sites with few or no paid staff members to submit proposals. If you are not comfortable sharing on your own, MAM would be happy to help find a panel of people to speak on a topic you care about.

You can also take this year's theme literally. **We encourage session proposals from organizations outside of Maine.** This is an opportunity to reach out to new people and open the door for collaboration.

Note - Sessions do not have to tie in to the conference theme. If you have a good idea, we would love to hear it.

We invite both hands-on **workshop** submissions and the more standard **presentation** format. **ALL sessions are limited to 60 minutes.**

Here are some questions that might prompt creative sessions:

- How do you find people - volunteers, members, board, or staff?
- How do you keep the doors open and the heat on?
- How do you care for your collections?
- How have you raised funds to support your work?
- How do you bring visitors to your site?
- How do you work with students and teachers?
- How have you designed an exhibit with limited resources?
- How do you keep your museum relevant to your community?

We will hold this year's conference in-person at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. This will be a hybrid conference, so attendees will have the option to join virtually as well as physically.

We will follow CDC guidelines concerning vaccination requirements that are in place at the time of the conference.

As a presenter, you'll only pay the **low \$40 student rate** if you wish to attend the whole conference. You are also welcome to apply for a scholarship.

The deadline for **submitting proposals** is **June 15, 2023**. MAM's Conference Committee will review submissions and notify applicants of the status of their proposal by mid-summer.

Questions? Need to submit via mail? Contact us at info@mainemuseums.org.