



Call for Proposals

Abolishing Slavery in the Atlantic World: The 'Underground Railroad' in the Americas, Africa, and Europe

The Tenth Anniversary Underground Railroad Public History Conference

Sponsored by the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc.

April 8 - 10, 2011 at Russell Sage College, Troy, New York

Where there was slavery, there was resistance, escape, and rebellion. The Transatlantic Slave Trade (1400s to 1800s) was a global enterprise that transformed the four continents bordering the Atlantic, and that engendered the formation of a multifaceted and international Underground Railroad resistance movement. The broad geographic nature of this freedom struggle is the theme of the 2011 UGR Public History Conference. We invite proposals that address capture, enslavement, and resistance within and across borders in Africa, Europe, and the Americas, historically and contemporarily, as well as proposals that address the preservation of the voices of the past and their relationship with us today.

Possible questions to be considered:

- What were the similarities and differences among the slave systems created by Europeans in the Americas?
- How did the enslaved and their allies engage in resistance, rebellion and revolution in the four continents and the Atlantic Ocean?
- What were the forms that global abolitionism took?
- What roles were played by escaped slaves, including those who crossed national borders?
- What is the range of experience captured by slave narratives and testimonies in various countries and on different continents?
- How did Africans and people of African descent involve themselves with indigenous peoples in the countries and colonies of the Americas and the other continents?
- What are contemporary manifestations of this international freedom struggle?
- How can we preserve the voices of the past and relate them to us today?

Proposals on related questions, not directly on this theme, are also welcomed.

Proposals may be for a 60-minute panel session, workshop, cultural/artistic activity, media production, poster, or other exhibit that addresses these questions and this theme. When possible, activities should encourage audience interaction. Proposals should include: title, content description, type of presentation, names and contact information of presenters, target audience, and technology needs.

Proposals should be submitted by June 30, 2010

Via postal mail to URHPCR, PO Box 10851, Albany NY 12201 or via email to urhpcr2011@gmail.com

For more information, see <www.ugrworkshop.com> or call 518-432-4432

“The gold standard of Underground Railroad conferences...bringing together an extraordinary spectrum of attendees, ranging from noted scholars and authors to large numbers of interested laymen, in spirited and informative workshops which both bring history alive and open new avenues of research.”

-- Fergus M. Bordewich, author, Bound for Canaan

Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc.

researches, preserves, and retells New York's regional history of the Underground Railroad, highlighting the role of African-American freedom seekers and local abolitionists

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