



Society for Industrial Archeology

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CALL FOR PAPERS

SIA 54th Annual Conference, Norfolk, Virginia

The Society for Industrial Archeology invites proposals for presentations and poster displays at the 54th Annual Conference in Norfolk, May 28-31, 2026. The presentation sessions will be held at the conference hotel, the Hilton Norfolk The Main, on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

We invite presentations on all topics related to industrial archeology, industrial heritage, history of technology, social change related to industry, and historic industrial structures and bridges. Papers about regional industries and transportation in the Hampton Roads area and Southeast are particularly encouraged – including shipbuilding, maritime heritage, and defense industries. Recognizing that 2026 marks the Semiquincentennial of the United States, we welcome submissions that explore colonial industries within this broader historical context. We also encourage presentations on challenges facing industrial heritage and on the contributions made to our field by industrial museums. Poster displays are also encouraged and may present works in progress or finished projects. All presentations and poster displays should offer both interpretation and synthesis of data.

The deadline for proposals is January 10, 2026.

<https://www.sia-web.org/2026-sia-annual-conference-norfolk-virginia/>

Presentation Formats:

Proposals may be for individual presentations 20 min. in length, a group of three or four presentations on a common theme filling a 90-min. session, a 90-min. panel discussion with 2–5 discussants (a formal moderator is encouraged though optional), or a poster presentation. SIA will provide laptop computers, data projectors, screens, microphones with speakers as needed in each presentation room. Posters will be on display all day Saturday with a dedicated time in the afternoon for poster presenters to be present for discussion.

Proposal Formats:

Proposals should be submitted online unless special arrangements have been made. Each proposal must include:

1. The presentation title (you will indicate the type of presentation—single paper, session proposal, or poster—on the submission form).
2. A 300-word abstract that outlines the scope, findings, and conclusions of the presentation.
3. Contact information, including name, affiliation (if appropriate), email address, mailing address, and telephone number for each presenter.
4. A brief biographical statement of 150 words for each presenter.
5. The software (incl. version) used to create your presentation and any additional audio-visual requests beyond the standard equipment listed above.

For 90-min. themed sessions or panel discussions, the organizer should submit a session title and a brief description of the theme, along with all above information, together as a group, as prompted on the online submission form. If any of these items is missing, the proposal cannot be considered. Note that the above word counts apply separately to each presenter in a group.

All speakers are expected to pay the registration fee (for either the full conference or one-day rate).

For questions please contact:

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