

Call for Proposals

Putting Preservation on the Road: Protecting Our Overlooked Automotive Heritage in the Twenty-first Century

Date: October 20-22, 2016

Location: Historic Vehicle Association Research Laboratory, Allentown, Pennsylvania, USA

The Historic Vehicle Association (HVA) and the Historic Preservation & Community Planning Program at the College of Charleston are pleased to announce the following international call for papers for a conference on the preservation of automotive heritage.

For much of the twentieth century, heritage preservation primarily focused on immovable objects (i.e., 1906 Antiquities Act in the United States, 1919 Historic Sites and Monuments Board in Canada, etc.). While some countries have studied and documented vehicles for preservation and/or conservation, their official recognition as landmarks or listing on registers of official distinction has rarely happened. Individual automotive vehicles are not listed as contributing elements – only immovable buildings and sites. The newly created National Historic Vehicle Register (NHVR), is now being used as a tool to carefully and accurately document the most historically significant automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, and commercial vehicles, as well as recognize the dynamic relationship among people, culture, and transportation needs.

Suggested presentation topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Case studies of regional and local automotive culture and heritage, including those viewed through the lens of ethnic/regional studies (American studies, Canadian studies, material culture studies, studies of nomadic peoples, etc.)
- Considering if there is a world automotive heritage, and whether UNESCO or ICOMOS should be encouraged to get involved, and the role of FIVA (Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens) as part of this.
- Innovative ways to add the preservation of automotive heritage to the educational curriculum within colleges/universities, high schools, and technology schools.
- Using HAER/HABS techniques for studying and documenting historic vehicles as artifacts, as well as exploring innovative techniques and tools through the use of new technologies
- Reevaluating listed historic places and sites, as well as considering new places where buildings and landscapes (etc.) are tied with vehicles and people, in a more comprehensive designation that ties together the NHVR and NRHP, where both building/structure and car/vehicle elements are equally contributing.

The program committee invites proposals from people of all backgrounds and professions to participate – from senior professionals to students with innovative ideas – for the following:

1. Panels: We prefer to receive proposals for complete three to four paper panels but will consider individual presentations as well. You are welcome to include a chair and/or moderator or the conference committee will appoint a chair. The entire panel presentation should span no more than 60 minutes.
2. Individual Papers: If accepted, we will place your individual presentation in session selected by the committee. Paper presentations should span no more than 20 minutes.
3. Roundtables: Discussions facilitated by a moderator with three to five participants about a historical or professional topic or issue. Roundtables should span no more than 60 minutes.
4. Workshops/Demonstrations: Interactive presentations led by facilitators to encourage learning about a professional topic or issue. Workshops/demonstrations should span no more than 60 minutes.
5. Posters/Short Film: Interactive presentations produced and facilitated to encourage learning about a professional topic or issue. Poster presentations and short films should span no more than 10 minutes.

Please submit proposals of no more than 300 words and a brief CV/resume (two pages maximum) in a PDF or MS Word format to Barry L. Stiefel at stiefelb@cofc.edu. Deadline for proposals is May 15, 2016. Proposals should include the name(s) of presenters, affiliation/position and contact information. The official language of the conference will be English. Decisions on proposals for the conference will be made by June 1, 2016.

Selected conference papers will be published in an edited volume.

For participants traveling more than 100 miles to Allentown, Pennsylvania (50 miles for students), assistance with travel and accommodations for the conference will be considered. Please submit a travel budget along with your proposal, as well as a summary of what if any additional support you anticipate receiving. Registration fees will come with a one-year membership with the HVA. Details regarding registration will be posted on the conference website shortly.

Conference Organizers:

Barry L. Stiefel, Assistant Professor, College of Charleston, stiefelb@cofc.edu
Mark Gessler, President, Historic Vehicle Association

Academic Committee:

Casey Maxon, Historic Vehicle Association
Nathaniel Walker, College of Charleston
Amalia Leifeste, Clemson University

Nancy Bryk, Eastern Michigan University
Jeremy Wells, Roger Williams University
Amanda Gutierrez, McPherson College
Richard O'Connor, Chief for Heritage Documentation Programs, Dept. of Interior
Alex Gares, Canadian Automotive Museum

The Historic Vehicle Association and the College of Charleston actively encourage the support of historical/heritage and education-related institutions and organizations on the topic of automotive heritage preservation. Please contact Barry L. Stiefel at stiefelb@cofc.edu for sponsorship options for this groundbreaking international conference.