

*Call for Papers:*

“History in Unexpected Places –  
Rethinking and Reimagining History in the Early 21st Century”

46th Annual Conference  
Saturday, April 11, 2026  
Indiana University East – Richmond, Indiana, USA

The 46th annual meeting of the Indiana Association of Historians (IAH) will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Indiana University East in Richmond, Indiana. This year’s conference theme, “History in Unexpected Places – Rethinking and Reimagining History in the Early 21st Century,” encourages scholars, educators, students, and public historians to explore where and how history is discovered, interpreted, and shared.

In an era when archives are digital, landscapes convey environmental stories, and community narratives emerge through unconventional means, historians are increasingly challenged to find and interpret the past in unexpected places. This conference invites explorations of the overlooked, the unconventional, and the invisible — histories that question what qualifies as a source, an archive, or even a site of memory.

We invite participants to consider questions such as:

- How do microhistories of individuals or small communities reshape larger historical narratives?
- What can unconventional archives — attics, barns, storefronts, or social media — reveal about the human experience?
- How do landscapes, artifacts, or virtual spaces serve as living records of the past?
- In what ways can public history thrive in nontraditional venues and platforms?

Possible paper and session topics include (but are not limited to):

- Microhistories of overlooked communities, neighborhoods, or individuals
- Histories found in unconventional archives (attics, barns, storefronts, social media, etc.)
- Landscapes and environments as historical records
- Hidden labor histories in factories, farms, and service industries
- Indigenous, immigrant, and underrepresented narratives in unexpected contexts
- Public history projects in nontraditional spaces
- Material culture and artifacts that challenge dominant state narratives

- Digital storytelling and virtual spaces as sites of history
- The politics of memory and the power of 'unmarked' places

The IAH invites submissions for papers, panels, roundtables, lightning sessions, and workshops on any historical topic. Proposals are encouraged from college and university scholars, K–12 educators, public historians, archivists, librarians, graduate students, and independent researchers. All presenters must be present at the conference.

Panels typically consist of three paper presenters, a chair, and (optionally) a discussant. Each proposal should include a one-page abstract and a brief one-page CV for each presenter. However, individual papers will also be considered.

Please complete the cover page template below and submit proposals (preferably in Word or PDF format) by Friday, January 16, 2025, to: [iahconference2026@gmail.com](mailto:iahconference2026@gmail.com)

Conference participants must be members of the Indiana Association of Historians in good standing at the time of the conference. Membership is free for students and available via the IAH website:

<https://indianahistorians.org/membership/#join>

Proposal Cover Page Template

Session Title: (Panel, Roundtable, Session, if applicable)

Name(s) of Participant(s): (As to appear on badge)

Institutional Affiliation: (Independent scholars may list that designation)

Email Address(es):

Title of Paper(s):

Abstract for Proposal:

*IAH is the professional organization for members of Indiana's historical community and professions. The annual conference and membership are open to more than just historians who focus on Indiana; we welcome scholars from the state working on any period or geographic region. Questions may be directed to IAH President Justin M. Carroll at [justcarr@iu.edu](mailto:justcarr@iu.edu)*

*Richmond, Indiana, sits along the Indiana–Ohio border and features a vibrant downtown, historic architecture, and cultural sites such as the Richmond Art Museum, Earlham College, the Model T Museum and Whitewater Gorge Park. Indiana University East provides an ideal setting for this year's gathering, combining intimate academic exchange with opportunities for public engagement.*