

Writing the Record: Expressing History Through Writing

Writing threads its way through nearly every aspect of history. From the way we share and interpret it, to the way record and preserve it.

This year's Local History Workshops focus on sharpening writing skills for those looking to share and preserve their history. From technical writing for better grant applications and National Register nominations to better interpretive writing for exhibits and web content. Good writing makes for good history. As always, you will have the opportunity to network with history colleagues from across the state and learn their tips and techniques.

8:30 to 9:00	Registration, coffee, refreshments
9:00 to 10:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks
	<p><i>100 Years of Local History Services</i> David Grabitske</p> <p>In September of 1916, the Minnesota Historical Society began offering what is today known as Local History Services. David Grabitske will share how this century of service began and look at the changes that took place with it over the years, including how the local organizations that it serves have had an impact on its mission to serve local history.</p>
10:00 to 10:30	Break
10:30 to 12:00	Concurrent Sessions
	<p><i>Grant Writing and Rewriting Skills</i> John Fulton (Minnesota Historical Society)</p> <p>An organization's staff, board members or volunteers can write grant applications and reports. But there is a process to this and it's not always easy. We'll provide helpful tips and ideas to overcome uneasiness and to write a strongly competitive application. We'll cover how to write the initial application, what to do if you have to reapply and some general ideas about writing. Improving your writing skills will help to obtain a grant and successfully complete a grant-funded project.</p>
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	<p><i>Writing for the Web</i> Linda Cameron (Minnesota Historical Society)</p> <p>Writing historical content for a website can be challenging. Web users tend to be in a hurry, skimming articles quickly and moving on to the next. You must catch the attention of your reader, but do so concisely, with a minimum of words. This presentation will share some helpful tips for streamlining content to best meet the needs of your website visitors while achieving your goals of making important history accessible.</p>
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch
1:00 to 2:30	Concurrent sessions
	<p><i>Writing a National Register of Historic Places Nomination</i> Denis Gardner or Ginny Way (Minnesota Historical Society)</p> <p>Properties that are placed in the National Register are exceptional—they have both historic physical integrity and historic significance. Crafting a scholarly document that appropriately expresses both of these aspects can be daunting. This is your opportunity to learn more about crafting a successful National Register nomination. This workshop will examine best practices for content and organization as well as provide clarification on the technical aspects of the form and listing process.</p>
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	<p><i>Writing Exhibit Content</i> Kate Roberts (Minnesota Historical Society)</p> <p>A well-crafted exhibit label can jog a memory, start a conversation, or change an opinion. But finding the time and resources to hone your exhibit writing skills can be a challenge. In this session—part presentation, part conversation, and part workshop—we'll discuss how to organize text within an exhibit, how to write concise, informative, and readable labels, and how to counter writer's block with some inspirational examples.</p>
2:30 – 3:00	Discussion on Partnership Grants and Wrap Up