



2026 CONFERENCE ON HISTORICAL AND UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

JANUARY 7-10, 2026

DETROIT MARRIOTT ■ DETROIT, MICHIGAN

June 23, 2025

Dear Colleague:

The organizing committee of the 2026 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology invites you to Detroit, Michigan, for the 59th annual SHA conference. The 2026 SHA conference will be held at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, located on the riverfront in downtown Detroit, just across the Detroit River from Windsor, Canada. The conference hotel's prime location in downtown Detroit provides direct access to public transportation and world class restaurants, museums, architecture, cultural institutions, and archaeology that speak to the city's vibrant history of innovation, industry, and creativity.

Our conference theme of "Mobility" is inspired by Detroit's coastal location, industrial heritage, diverse cultural communities and history as a city of movement(s). Central to the Great Lakes region, Detroit's history has been shaped by Anishinaabeg, Wendat/Wyandot, and French-Canadians who traversed the Detroit River in canoes, by African Americans who self-emancipated via the Underground Railroad, by laborers who made Detroit the "Arsenal of Democracy" building tanks and planes during WWII, by generations of local activists who led national Civil Rights and labor movements, and now by automotive companies developing self-driving/electric cars in an increasingly revitalized city. Detroit's livelihood has long depended upon its successes (and failures) in moving people, ideas, and goods from one place to another across the Great Lakes and the world.

The year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, as well as the 325th anniversary of the French settlement of Detroit by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac. The year will not only be a monumental time for the city as it reflects upon its storied past, but an opportunity for historical archaeology to speak to the public and intersect with commemorative celebrations.

Michigan is home to a longstanding, vibrant, and collegial tradition of collaborative and community-engaged historical archaeologists who have made important contributions to the development of the field over the past sixty years. Michigan archaeologists were at the forefront of organizing the SHA in 1967 and the society has deep roots in Detroit. Arnold R. Pilling of Wayne State University was one of the SHA's founders, served as its first Secretary/Treasurer and conducted urban historical archaeology in downtown Detroit during the 1960s. Equally well represented in the first generation of the SHA were individual members whose scholarship established the field's theoretical and methodological practices (e.g. David Brose, Ira Butterfield, Charles Cleland, James Fitting, George L. Miller, Vergil Noble, Lyle Stone). Educational institutions across the state, especially Western Michigan University, Wayne State University, Michigan State University, and Michigan Technological University, have been at the forefront of public, urban, contact-period and industrial archaeological scholarship since the 1960s (producing at least three Harrington Medal recipients in the process).

Michigan boasts more than 20,000 archaeological sites. Among the most prominent is Fort Michilimackinac, an eighteenth-century fortified trading village at the northern tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, that is home to the longest continuously operating historical archaeological excavation project in the United States. Fort Michilimackinac, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, River Raisin National Battlefield Park, and other heritage sites operate exemplary archaeological research and interpretive programs. Archaeologists working in Detroit and across the metropolitan region continue to be at the forefront of cutting-edge archaeological scholarship, with their current focus on sites associated with the Civil Rights movement, Underground Railroad, Native American boarding schools, music heritage, and post-industrial urban transformations.

The organizing committee is proud to host the first SHA conference to be held in the upper Midwest of the U.S. since 1973, and we look forward to showcasing the phenomenal archaeology and cultural heritage of the city of Detroit, the state of Michigan and the Great Lakes region.

Formed in 1967, the Society for Historical Archaeology is the largest scholarly group concerned with the archaeology of the modern world (A.D. 1400-present). The main focus of the Society is the era since the beginning of European exploration. The SHA promotes scholarly research and the dissemination of knowledge concerning historical archaeology. The Society is specifically concerned with the identification, excavation, interpretation, and conservation of sites and materials on land and underwater. Geographically, the SHA emphasizes the New World, but also includes European exploration and settlements in Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

In addition to presentations by archaeologists from around the world, the 2026 Conference will feature a Book Room with exhibits of products, services, and publications from companies and other organizations in the archaeological community. The SHA welcomes exhibitors who share its mission and agree with its Ethics Principles (<https://sha.org/about-us/ethics-statement/>), the SHA Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy (<https://sha.org/about-us/sha-sexual-harassment-discrimination-policy/>), and the Conference Code of Conduct (<https://sha.org/conferences/>).



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The 2026 Book Room will be in Ambassador I. The Book Room hours are as follows:

Wednesday, January 7, 2026.....Set-up: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday, January 8, 2026.....8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Friday, January 9, 2026.....8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday, January 10, 2026.....8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Dismantle: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Each manned display will receive one (1) 6 foot skirted table and two (2) chairs. Unmanned tables will receive one (1) 6 foot skirted table. Each exhibit should be installed so as not to obstruct the view of, or interfere with, other exhibitors.

The fees for the 2026 Book Room are as follows:

Manned Tabletop Displays

Companies/Publishers/For Profit Organizations.....\$575 per table
(includes one full conference registration and one exhibitor staff registration*)

University Presses/Sister Organizations/Museums/Government Agencies/Non-profits.....\$350 per table
(includes one full conference registration and one exhibitor staff registration*)

Unmanned Browse Tables

Companies/Publishers/For Profit Organizations.....\$275 per table

University Presses/Sister Organizations/Museums/Government Agencies/Non-profits.....\$175 per table

*Please note that the exhibitor staff registration is intended for an individual who will be manning the Book Room table full-time. Exhibitor staff registration does not include attendance at education sessions. **If you are presenting a paper at the conference, you cannot take an exhibitor staff registration.** Exhibitor staff are invited to participate in complimentary social events at the Conference.

All interested exhibitors must complete an Exhibitor Contract and indicate their agreement with the SHA Ethics Principles (<https://sha.org/about-us/ethics-statement/>), the SHA Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy (<https://sha.org/about-us/sha-sexual-harassment-discrimination-policy/>), and the Conference Code of Conduct (<https://sha.org/conferences/>). Please be aware that *space is limited* and will be assigned on a first come/first served basis, once a completed Exhibitor Contract and payment have been received. In the event your preferred space is unavailable, SHA staff will contact you to discuss alternate locations. Full payment must accompany your completed Exhibitor Contract to ensure processing.

A confirmation packet will be sent to all contracted exhibitors after November 7, 2025. This packet will include conference registration and exhibitor staff registration forms as well as shipping and electrical forms. **Registration forms must be completed and returned to the SHA office by November 21, 2025.**

If you have any questions, please contact the SHA:

E-mail.....hq@sha.org



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EXHIBITOR CONTRACT Deadline: Monday, November 3, 2025

Email form with credit card information to: hq@sha.org

Questions: Contact SHA Headquarters at (301) 972-9684 or hq@sha.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization	Contact Name		
Address			
City	State	Postal Code	Country
Telephone <small>include country code</small>	Fax	E-mail	

REQUIRED All exhibitors must indicate their agreement with the SHA Ethics Principles (<https://sha.org/aboutus/ethics-statement>), the SHA Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy (<https://sha.org/about-us/sha-sexual-harassment-discrimination-policy/>), and the Conference Code of Conduct (<https://sha.org/conferences/>).

☐ I agree

PERSON(S) MANNING DISPLAY

Complimentary Full Registration _____

Exhibitor Staff Registration _____

Please provide a short description of your organization (50 words or less) to be included in the 2026 Conference Program:

SPACE ASSIGNMENT: MANNED TABLES ONLY — see attached floorplan. Please indicate your preferred location(s).

1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ 3rd choice _____ 4th choice _____

	Per Table	# Tables	Total
Manned Tabletop Displays			
Companies/Publishers/For Profit Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> US \$575	#	\$
University Presses/Sister Organizations/Museums/Government Agencies/Non-profits	<input type="checkbox"/> US \$350	#	\$
Unmanned Browse Tables			
Companies/Publishers/For Profit Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> US \$275	#	\$
University Presses/Sister Organizations/Museums/Government Agencies/Non-Profits	<input type="checkbox"/> US \$175	#	\$
Total			

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ ☐ Check Enclosed – *made payable to SHA (US funds only)* ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Amex

Account No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Authorizing Signature _____

*Cancellations must be received in writing by the SHA by Monday, November 3, 2025 and will be subject to a 25% cancellation fee. Cancellations received after Monday, November 3, 2025 will receive no refund.

Ambassador I Floorplan

