

# Call for Proposals

## *Early/Modern Connections: Academic and Applied Humanities*

### CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

On April 8–9, 2027, The Huntington will host a conference to explore the essential—yet often misunderstood—relationship between specialized academic scholarship and public-serving applied humanities work. Centered on the early modern period (ca. 1400 to 1800), the two-day event will highlight original research that has enabled, supported, or shaped specific public humanities or public interest projects. Like many cultural institutions, The Huntington is actively reflecting on its founding mission “to promote the public welfare,” including how to balance supporting deep, collections-based research with expanding access, engagement, and education for a broader public. This conference offers space to explore how such priorities work in concert.

Beyond asserting that past events apply to our present moment, speakers will demonstrate how they have translated their own scholarship into active public engagement in the form of art, activism, media, site-specific encounters, digital projects, or other collaborative efforts. We anticipate submissions highlighting smaller-scale individual work as well as collaborations between scholars and performers, educators, activists, writers, artists, and public-serving institutions. Collaborative applications should be limited to two participants, due to funding restrictions.

Proposals will be considered for inclusion in the conference, as well as for possible publication in the *Huntington Library Quarterly's* new Early/Modern Connections section. For a successful recent example (but only one of many possible approaches), see Amanda Herbert and Kevin Dawson, “[Black Aquatics: Early Modern Past, Present, and Future.](#)”



### PROPOSALS

Please send a 200-word abstract and a 100-word bio for each applicant to [Brett Rushforth](#) and [Shannon McHugh](#) with the subject line “Early/Modern Connections Abstract.” The Huntington will cover airfare and lodging for those selected to present at the conference.

**Submission Deadline: June 1, 2026**

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